



Signal, the geocaching frog

Geocaching in Six Easy Steps*

1. Go to www.geocaching.com and register for a free account.
2. Click “Hide & Seek a Cache.”
3. Enter your zip code and click “Search.”
4. Choose any cache name from the list and click on it.
5. Enter the coordinates (waypoints) of the cache into your GPS receiver.
6. Follow the direction arrow on the receiver until you find the hidden cache.

*Source: [Groundspeak A Guide to Geocaching](#)

Geocoins

A geocoin is a special coin geocachers use as a kind of signature item or calling card. They are placed in caches to travel from cache to cache. Because they are uniquely numbered, and registered online, the owner always knows in what cache the geocoin was placed. It is a lot of fun to watch your coin travel!



Travel Bugs

Travel Bugs are very much like geocoins in that they travel from cache to cache and are tracked by the owner. However, a travel bug can be something you already own, as long as it is small enough to fit in a cache! To create a Travel Bug out of your object, you simply purchase travel bug dog tags and attach the tags to your item. Register the tag number and place your travel bug in a cache to start its journey!



Introducing Geocaching

A World-wide Treasure Hunt



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What is Geocaching?

Geocaching is a high-tech game of hide and seek. It began in September of 2000, and can be played by people of any age. It is a world-wide activity as there are hundreds of thousands of caches to be found all over the world.

Individuals, known as geocachers, hide containers or caches, and using a global positioning system (GPS), determine the latitude and longitude of the hidden location. The position of the cache is called its coordinates, or its waypoint. The cacher then posts these coordinates to the internet at the site www.geocaching.com. To find out where there are hidden caches in your area, you register for free at the site, enter your zip code, and a list of caches within a 20 mile radius appears. After entering the coordinates into your GPS, you can then go and find the cache.

Caches come in all sizes! The tiniest are called nanos, and are the size of a pencil's eraser. Micros are a bit larger, but no bigger than a film canister. Other caches can be small, medium, or large, depending on the container size. While you can purchase special cache containers, most people use what is available around the house, as long as it is not glass. A coffee can, for example, may be used if the cover is a screw top. Containers need to be waterproof to protect its contents.



Inside every container is a log book. Cachers sign the log with the user name they use at the geocaching site as proof of having made the find! Sometimes there are trinkets such as pencils, bracelets, coins, or dice. Some cachers carry a signature item that they always leave in caches they find. If you leave a trinket, you may take one! It is very important that you re-hide the cache exactly as you found it for future cachers!

When you return home, you log your find online at the geocaching site. Even if you cannot find the cache, you still log the attempt. The individual who hid the cache may send you a hint as to its location so you may try again. Of course if several people post that they are unable to find the cache, it may have been found and removed by a non-cacher. The owner always checks the site if it can't be found by several cachers.

It is fun to keep track of your finds! After you have made lots of finds, then you are ready to hide your own cache!

Some Helpful Terms

Muggle- someone who does not cache
DNF - did not find
SL - signed the log
TNLN - Took nothing, left nothing
TFTC - Thanks for the cache
BYOP - Bring your own pen/pencil

For more information, log onto www.geocaching.com

Types of Caches

Traditional:

The original cache type consisting of a container and log book. The coordinates listed at the website are for the exact location of the cache.

Multi-cache:

A multi-cache has two or more locations. The coordinates at the website are for the first location, where hints or additional coordinates are found. The final location is often a traditional cache container.

Puzzle Cache:

Before you may search for a puzzle cache, you must solve a puzzle. The solution to the puzzle gives you the coordinates you need to find the cache. Some puzzle caches are easy, while others are complicated!

Event Cache:

Often geocachers plan events to meet other cachers. The time and date are given, but to find out where to meet, you must use the given coordinates! Events are often held at restaurants or public parks.

Virtual Cache:

A virtual cache is often the site of an historic event. The coordinates will take you to the site where you will find what you need to answer questions posed by the cache owner. You email the answers to the cacher owner rather than signing a log book.

Credits: www.geocaching.com

Groundspeak: [A Guide to Geocaching](http://www.groundspeak.com)

Photos: <http://shop.groundspeak.com>