

GEOCACHING IN THE PARKS



blm.mn/parksrec



WHAT IS GEOCACHING?

The word **geocache** (Gee-oh-cash) comes from two words; *geo*, meaning "Earth" and *cache*, which is a safe place for hiding or storing something.

Geocaching is a modern day treasure hunt using GPS technology. The goal is to locate containers (geocaches) that are hidden around the world using coordinates, which can be found on geocaching.com.

Geocaching is beneficial for the whole family. It's a great way to get outside, explore new places, and exercise at the same time. Cachers learn map skills, outdoor safety, how to help the environment, problem solving, and more!

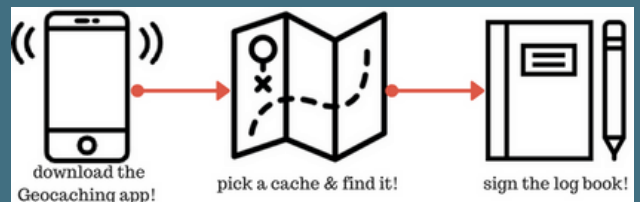
TOOLS

- GPS device or smart phone
 - portable charger if using phone
- geocaching.com membership
 - basic is free, \$30/yr for premium
- writing utensil (pencil is best)
- SWAG to swap
 - Happy Meal toys, keychains, small trinkets, foreign coins, etc.
- Sunscreen and/or bug spray
- ROT-13 Encryption Key (see below)
 - Replace the letter with the one directly above or below it (M=Z, Z=M)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

HOW TO GEOCACHE

1. Pick out the geocache you want to find
2. Enter the coordinates into your GPS device
3. Follow the coordinates until you reach your destination (Will be within 10-30 feet generally)
4. Time to start looking!
5. Once you locate the geocache, sign the logbook with your name
6. If there are any swag items, feel free to take one, but remember to try and leave an item that is of equal or greater value than what you took
7. Put the geocache back where you found it so that geocachers after you will be able to locate it
8. Record your find on geocaching.com



TYPES OF GEOCACHES

TRADITIONAL CACHE: the original cache type which will be at least a container and a logbook

MULTI-CACHE: a geocache that involves two or more locations, with the last one being a physical cache

MYSTERY/PUZZLE CACHE: the catchall of caches, these caches can involve intricate puzzles that need solving in order to determine the coordinates of the cache

EARTH CACHE: a special place for cachers to visit to learn unique things about Earth

EVENT CACHE: an event where geocachers can to to talk about and celebrate geocaching

Each geocache will have a size, ranging from micro to large, and a difficulty/terrain rating, each from 1-5. 1 being the easiest, 5 being the hardest.

CACHER SLANG

BYOP (BRING YOUR OWN PEN/PENCIL): A way to let others know to bring a pen/pencil with them

CITO (CACHE IN TRASH OUT): picking up any trash you find while geocaching

DNF (DID NOT FIND): used by geocachers to notify others they can't find a cache

FTF (FIRST TO FIND): written in a logbook by the first finders of a cache

GZ (GROUND ZERO): the point when your GPS device shows that you have reached the cache location or are within 15 feet of the cache

LPC (LAMP POST CACHE): A geocache, usually a micro, placed under the skirt of a lamp post

TFTC (THANKS FOR THE CACHE): a way to sign the logbook

TNLN (TOOK NOTHING, LEFT NOTHING): Sign the logbook with this if you didn't take or leave any swag items

TOTT (TOOLS OF THE TRADE): used for any tools needed to search, find, and retrieve a cache

GLOSSARY

CARDINAL POINTS

the primary compass points: N, S, E, and W;
Intercardinal points are NE, SE, SW, and NW

GC CODE

a unique identifier associated with every geocache listing

GEOCACHE

a hidden container that includes at least a container and a logbook

GEOCACHING

a global treasure hunt using GPS technology

GEOSENSE

the uncanny ability to know instinctively where a geocache is hidden when with proximity

GPS (GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM)

the global, satellite-based navigation system operated by the US government

MUGGLE

a non-geocacher

ROT-13

the encryption method utilized by the encrypted hints or logs on geocaching.com

SPOILER

text or photo that gives away too many details of a cache, spoiling the experience for the next cachers who want to find it

STATUTE MILE

a standard ground mile with the distance of 5,280 feet

SWAG (STUFF WE ALL GET)

the trade items left in caches by geocachers

WAYPOINT

a reference point for a physical location on Earth, defined by a set of coordinates that include longitude, latitude, and sometimes altitude

**WANT
TO
LEARN
MORE?**

Official Geocaching Website (geocaching.com)

MN Geocaching Association (Mngca.org)

MN Geocaching Association
(MnGCA) Facebook Page

Geocaching's Official YouTube Page
(youtube.com/user/GoGeocaching)

The Complete Idiot's Guide to Geocaching
(3rd edition) (ISBN: 9781615641949)

The Geocaching Handbook (3rd Edition)
By Layne Cameron
(ISBN: 9781493027910)

The Joy of Geocaching
by Paul and Dana Gillin
(ISBN: 9781884956997)