

Geocaching Basics

Geocaching: “Geocaching is a worldwide game of hiding and seeking treasure. A geocacher can place a geocache in the world, pinpoint its location using GPS technology and then share the geocache’s existence and location online. Anyone with a GPS unit can then try to locate the geocache.”

Look inside for more information:

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GEOCACHING

Facts

- In 2014 there were over 2.4 million active geocaches worldwide!
- Geocache containers come in all shapes and sizes. Containers can be small like a bolt, or large like a 5-gallon pail. Some are disguised as rocks, animals, magnets, and more. Others are clearly marked with official geocaching stickers.

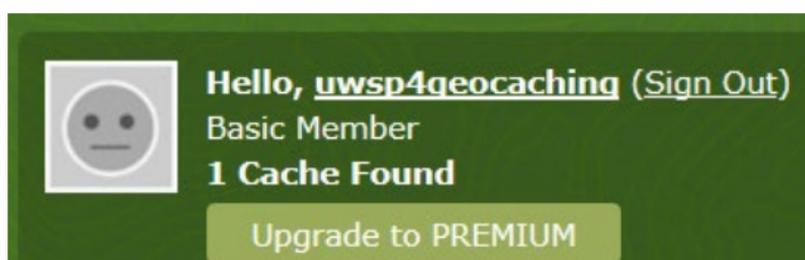


- No geocaching container should ever be buried, but they can be hung from trees or covered with sticks and leaves. Geocaches in open spaces such as a city street or park are generally more difficult to find and smaller in size. Reading the geocache description, recent logs and hints can help!
- There are over 6 million geocachers worldwide!



Create a Geocaching Account

- The most popular website used for creating a geocaching account is: www.geocaching.com.
- A Basic membership is free and does not require you to provide sensitive, personal or credit card information.
- Your username will be your geocaching alias which is used when logging found caches.
- Advanced users can upgrade to a Premium membership to enhance their experience and unlock premium-level geocaches.



The Geocaching App

- There are several geocaching apps available for download onto Apple, Android, Windows, Blackberry, and handheld GPS-enabled devices, tablets, cell phones, and more.
- Groundspeak offers the Geocaching Intro app free of charge to get you started.
- Groundspeak also offers the official, full-featured Geocaching App with additional functionality and geocaching locations.
- Geocaching apps allow you to view and navigate to nearby geocaches as well as log your finds.
- App users can access geocaching information such as size, terrain, difficulty, description, recent logs, hints, and pictures to assist with their adventures.



Different Types of Geocaches

Many types of geocaches exist for users to find. Below is a list of some common geocaches you can expect to find in our area:

- **Traditional Cache:** At minimum, these caches include a container and log book. 
- **Multi-cache:** A cache with two or more locations and at least one final location with a container. 
- **EarthCache:** These are set up for geocachers to learn about a unique place on earth. Notes and questions about the location may be included, but no container is present. 

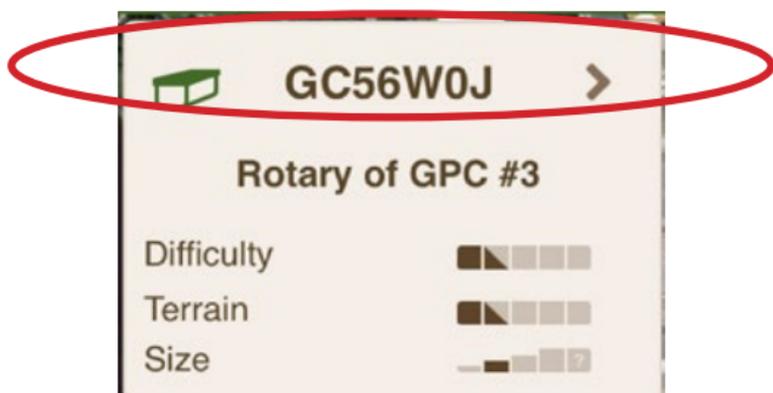
What is a Travel Bug?

- Groundspeak offers a variety of trackable tags or “travel bugs” and geocoins that can be sent on a unique adventure. Travel bugs are often attached to other objects.
- Each travel bug and geocoin has a unique tracking code that is used to track and manage it online through your Geocaching.com account.
- If you find a travel bug or geocoin, you can help it along its journey and/or report its current location to the owner.



Common Geocaching Terms and Definitions

GC Code: The GC code is a unique code that identifies an official geocache listing. Each GC code starts with GC and is followed by additional alphanumeric characters.



Muggle: A non-geocacher. Adapted from the Harry Potter series, a muggle is a non-geocacher who appears confused when crossing paths with an active geocacher, or someone who accidentally finds a cache. Many geocachers attempt to avoid muggles while actively geocaching; others will create a distraction to “cover up” their unusual behavior and maintain privacy of cache locations.

SWAG: *Stuff We All Get*, an acronym describing the items “swapped” while geocaching.

Geocachers can take and leave SWAG throughout their adventures including coins, cards, rocks, pins, charms, and more!



TFTC: *Thanks For The Cache*, an acronym used by geocachers in logbooks and online reports.

Geocache Listing Requirements/ Guidelines

If you are interested in placing a permanent geocache for others to find, you should first read the guidelines at:

<http://www.geocaching.com/about/guidelines.aspx>

Basic Placement Guidelines

- Obey laws and obtain permission from landowners prior to placing a geocache.
- Geocaches must be spaced 0.10 miles apart.
- Place caches respectfully, without harm or damage to property or the environment.
- Choose an appropriate container and size. Be sure to label it.
- Provide accurate GPS coordinates.
- Maintain the cache over time.

All official geocaches posted on Geocaching.com must be reviewed and approved before they are posted.

References

Geocaching.com.

<https://www.geocaching.com/>. Accessed on June 16, 2014.

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