



# 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.

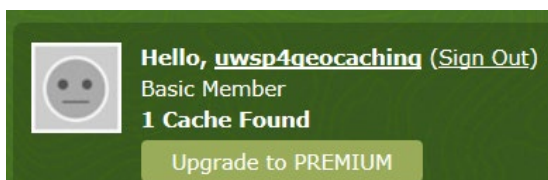


- No geocaching container should ever be buried, but they can be hung from trees or covered with sticks and leaves. Geocaches in open spaces such as a city street or park are generally more difficult to find and smaller in size. Reading the geocache description, recent logs and hints can help!
- There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



## Create a Geocaching Account

- The most popular website used for creating a geocaching account is: [www.geocaching.com](http://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. 

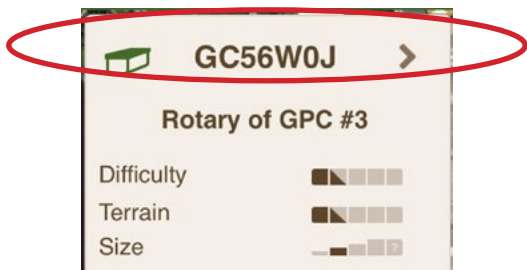
## ***What is a Travel Bug?***

- 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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