



## Geocaching Tips & Guidelines

There are a LOT of guidelines for Geocaching, so we recommend going to [https://www.openspace.org/sites/default/files/Geocaching\\_District\\_Guidelines.pdf](https://www.openspace.org/sites/default/files/Geocaching_District_Guidelines.pdf) to get the complete list and descriptions. Here, we give you the main ideas to get started. You will also need that site if/when you plan on hiding your own cache- we will not cover here.

### Getting Started:

**1. Open the app-** Download and open the Geocaching® app to see geocaches near you. Then, select a geocache to find! Create a creative username.

**2. Navigate to the geocache-** Once you select a cache, go outside, and use the app to **navigate** to it. And don't forget to bring a pen so you can sign the logbook inside the geocache.

**3. Look for the geocache-** Once you navigate to the location, look at the recent activity and the hint for clues. Geocaches come in all shapes and sizes!

**4. Find and log the geocache-** Sign your username in the geocache's logbook and place the geocache back where you found it. Log your find in the app or on Geocaching.com to see your find count increase!

### Tips:

- Start off easy for your first cache. Check out the cache page to find the cache type, size, and difficulty rating.
- Caches are never buried. Knowing this little tip will save you both time and frustration from searching in the wrong place.
- If you get in a bind, check the hint.
- Keep an eye out for **muggles**. Muggles are non-geocaching folk. Curious muggles will often come across a cache and, whether intentional or not, will interrupt the game by removing the cache. With this in mind, it is good practice to exercise caution when inspecting a cache. Don't get caught by a muggle!
- Try to leave swag when you can. It's half the fun!
- Know what is not appropriate to leave in a cache. Never leave gross, dangerous (weapons, sharp objects), or edible things (candy, sports bars) in a cache. Families with kids frequently search for caches as do nosy animals sniffing around for food.

## **Leave no trace**

It's important to be conscious of your surroundings when geocaching so we can preserve the world around us and the geocaching game board! When geocaching, be sure to stick to designated trails and don't cut across switchbacks when navigating to the cache. Doing so might disturb and destroy flora and fauna along the way.

## Common Types Of Caches

- **Traditional Cache** – These are the most common and the recommended place to start for Geocaching newbies.. The size will range from micro (which contains only a logbook) to large (which might be filled with SWAG and Travel Bugs.)
- **Multi-Cache** – This type of cache involves at least two locations whereby the first stage contains a clue for the next stage and so forth. The final location will contain the physical cache along with a log sheet for recording your find.
- **Mystery Cache** – For a true sleuthing adventure, the mystery cache is for you. This cache type involves some sort of puzzle that you will need to solve in order to uncover the location of the final container.

## Know Your Acronyms

- **BYOP – “Bring your own pen”** – While every cache has a logbook, some are too small to fit a pen inside. Even if the larger caches have a pen, they don't always work so it is better to come prepared!\
- **DNF – “Did not find”** – It happens. No shame in not finding a cache. Just mark it as DNF and you can always try again!
- **CITO – “Cache in Trash Out”** – a friendly motto shared by the caching community to pick up garbage while you search
- **FTF – “First to Find”** – The lucky person who finds a cache first earns bragging rights and claims this title in the cache's logbook. Sometimes there is even a special SWAG item marked FTF.
- **TNLN – “Took Nothing, Left Nothing”** – Exchanging swag is not a rule. Feel free to mark the logbook with TNLN.
- **TFTC/TFTH – “Thanks for the cache/hide”** – It is common to write this in the logbook for the cache owner as a token of appreciation
- **SWAG – “Stuff We All Get”**- SWAG is otherwise known as the trade items left in caches by geocacher

<https://www.lovicarious.com/geocaching-for-beginners/>

<https://forums.geocaching.com/GC/index.php?topic/354002-five-unwritten-rules-of-geocaching-you-shouldn%E2%80%99t-break/>