

Geocaching

Geocaching is a high tech game of hide and seek. People all over the world hide things (caches) and post the GPS coordinates to a web site. Others use those coordinates to find the treasures and sign the log book. Often the cache will contain small items, like stickers, toy cars, pins, etc that can be traded. Other times the caches are so small (micro) that you are only able to sign the log book.

Web sites for Geocaching

Geocaching.com: <http://www.geocaching.com/>
Buxley's Geocaching Site: <http://www.brillig.com/geocaching/>
Navicache: <http://www.navicache.com/>
Middle Tennessee Geocachers Club: <http://www.mtgc.org/>
Open Caching: <http://www.opencaching.com/home/news>
Today's Cacher: <http://www.todayscacher.com/>
Great Smoky Mountain Geocachers Club <http://www.gsmgc.org/>

Looking for a Geocache

1. Visit one of the geocaching websites to find a cache. Usually you can enter your zip code to find the closest caches. Read the description of the cache so you know what you are looking for, i.e., micro, type of box etc. Use the hint if necessary.
2. Dress appropriately for the weather, terrain, environment, etc. You may be walking among thorns, in poison ivy, or in mosquito infested areas. You may need hiking boots, and long pants/shirt in some locations.
3. Bring extra batteries, a pen, camera, suntan lotion, mosquito repellent, water and snacks.
4. Enter the coordinates into your GPS unit and follow the GPS to the location. When you arrive start looking around for the cache. Remember to look everywhere, up, down, behind things, etc. As you gain more experience you will be able to pick up slight clues to where the cache is located.
5. Respect the property you are traveling on. When you see trash, take it out with you. There is a saying Cache-In, Trash-Out.
6. Keep your geocaching hidden. There may be people around who may not appreciate geocaching as a game. Others may see what you are doing and vandalize the cache. Be stealthy in all your actions particularly in the more public location.
7. Put the cache back exactly as you found it.
8. Log your cache on the geocaching web site.

Creating a Geocache

1. Decide on a location for a cache. Unique locations without a lot of other caches are best. Obtain permission from the landowner to place the cache.
2. Find a watertight container (Tupperware or ammo cans work best) and fill with items for trade. Include a pen and notebook in a plastic bag.
3. Go to the location and hide the cache. Take the waypoint with your GPS.
4. Register your cache with a geocaching website. Think of a unique and creative name for your cache. Something interesting that may be related to your location.
5. Check the logs for your cache regularly to see who has found it. Note any problems, i.e. vandalism and correct them.