

Geocaching safety

Your Group – Go as a group, stick together, look after each other, work together and be friends!

Sign Out – Make sure that you tell an adult that you are going, have their phone number in case you have a problem and take a mobile phone with you. Your unit may have a hike information sheet that you all sign before leaving and when you return.

On Roads - Take extra care when crossing roads and walking along the side of roads. Make sure that you are sensible and visible to drivers. Stick to footpaths, don't take risks.

Stranger Danger – Never accept a lift or go off with someone. If in doubt call your adult contact or in an emergency call 999.

Be Prepared – Make sure that your group has the right equipment, that everyone is dressed properly for the type of area that you are in. Take a snack and drink.

Geocaching 101 - useful info...
www.geocaching.com/guide

Key Words for Geocaching

BYOP -Bring Your Own Pen/Pencil. (For a Nano / Micro cache)

CITO - an ongoing environmental scheme, geocachers are been cleaning up parks and other cache-friendly places.

Difficulty – How hard / easy a cache is to find.

DNF - Did Not Find.

FTF - First to Find.

GC Code - A unique code 'number' for every geocache. It starts with the letters "GC" followed by other letters and numbers.

Geocache - A container hidden that includes, a logbook for geocachers to sign.

Geocoin - A Geocoin or Travel Bug® is trackable and can travel the world, picking up stories from geocache to geocache.

GPS - GPS stands for Global Positioning System. A system of satellites that work with a GPS receiver to determine your location on the planet.

GPSr - a GPS receiver. Equipment to receive GPS signals for use in navigation.

Ground Zero (GZ) - The point where your GPS device shows that you have reached the cache location. At GZ you are zero feet (or zero meters) away from the cache.

Hint – A clue to help you find a cache sometimes written in code ROT13.

Latitude - is the angular distance north or south from the earth's equator measured through 90 degrees. Think of latitude as rungs on a ladder.

Longitude - is the angular distance measured on a great circle. Think of the long lines running north and south.



What is Geocaching?

It is a high tech type of treasure hunt, a bit like orienteering with the 'treasure' called caches hidden all over the world. You use a handheld GPS, which stands for Global Positioning System, or a GPS enabled mobile phone, to search for the hidden caches.

You will need to read the cach description, any hints or clues provided and notes made by other Geocachers who have logged that they have found the cache to help your search.

Cache size

It's very important to check the 'cache description' so that you know what size of container you are looking for!

Nano - less than 10ml eg. smaller than a £1 coin, it can only hold a small logsheet.

Micro - Less than 100ml eg. a 35mm film canister or a tiny storage box containing only a logbook or a logsheet. A

Small - 100ml or larger, but less than 1 litre eg. A sandwich-sized plastic container or similar.

Regular - 1L or larger, but less than 20 litres eg. a plastic container or metal box about the size of a shoebox.

Large - 20L or larger eg. a large bucket.

Trade Items

Little gifts that you can leave in a cache. If you take a gift you should leave a gift or you can just sign the log book. Don't leave food, sweets or anything smelly that could attract animals who might damage the cache!

Letterbox(ing) - Another form of treasure hunting using clues instead of coordinates. In some cases a container is a letterbox AND a geocache. If there is a stamp inside a Letterbox / Cache, it is not an item for trade; it is to stay in the box so that visitors can use it to stamp their record book.

Lock & Lock - A type of container that has a clip on lid.

Log Book - A small booklet or piece of paper that you sign with your geocaching username, the date and possibly a comment eg TFTC.

Muggle - A non-geocacher.

Multi-Cache - Involves two or more locations. There are many variations, but most have a hint to find the second cache, and the second cache has a hint to the third etc.

Mystery or Puzzle Caches - this form of geocache may involve complicated puzzles that you will first need to solve to find out the coordinates of the final cache.

ROT13 - Hints are in a code format where each of the letters are rotated 13 characters up or down in the alphabet.

Decryption Key (letter above equals below, and vice versa)

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

Terrain – How difficult it is to walk to the cache. Difficult terrain might be steep, rocky etc.

TFTC - Thanks For The Cache.

TFTH - Thanks For The Hide

TNLN - Took Nothing. Left Nothing.

TNLNSL - Took Nothing. Left Nothing. Signed Logbook.

TNSL - Took Nothing. Signed Logbook.

Virtual Cache - a location rather than a container. You may be asked to answer a question, take a picture, complete a task etc to prove that you found it.

Waypoint - A waypoint is a reference point for a physical location on Earth. Every geocache listed is a waypoint.

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