

## 30 X 30 Nature Challenge Activity: Try Geocaching!

**What is geocaching?** Geocaching is a real-world, outdoor treasure hunting game using GPS-enabled devices. Participants navigate to a specific set of GPS coordinates & attempt to find the hidden geocache.

### What do I need to go geocaching?

1. GPS device or a GPS-enabled mobile phone so that you can navigate to the cache.
2. Geocaching.com Membership (<https://www.geocaching.com/login/>).

### How is the game played?

1. Register for a free [www.geocaching.com/login/](http://www.geocaching.com/login/).
2. Visit [www.geocaching.com/seek/](http://www.geocaching.com/seek/).
3. Enter your postal code & click "search."
4. Choose any geocache from the list & click on its name.
5. Enter the coordinates of the geocache into your GPS Device.
6. Use your GPS device to assist you in finding the hidden geocache.
7. Sign the logbook & return the geocache to its original location.
8. Log online.

### What are the rules of geocaching?

- If you take something from the geocache, leave something of equal or greater value.
- Log your experience at <http://www.geocaching.com> (recommended)
- Disclaimer: Cache seekers assume all risks involved in seeking a cache.

### Where are geocaches located?

All over the world. It is common for geocachers to hide caches in locations that are important to them, reflecting a special interest or skill of the cache owner. Never buried.

### Are there different types of geocaches?

Here are a few:



#### Traditional Cache

The original consisting of, at minimum, a container & a log book or logsheet. Larger containers may have items for trade. "Micro" caches are tiny containers that only hold a logsheet. The coordinates provide the geocache's exact location.



#### Multi-Cache (Offset Cache)

Involves two or more locations. The final location is a physical container. Most Multi-Caches have a hint to find the 2nd cache, & the 2nd cache has a hint to the 3rd, & so on. An offset cache hints to the actual cache.



#### Mystery or Puzzle Caches

The "catch-all" of cache types, may involve complicated puzzles that you will first need to solve to determine the coordinates.



#### Event Cache

A gathering of local geocachers or geocaching organizations to discuss geocaching. The Event Cache page specifies a time for the event & provides coordinates to its location. After the event, the cache is archived.

## Getting Started

What kind of cache should I look for on my first adventure?

Cache Type: Traditional



Difficulty Rating: 1



Cache Size: Regular or Large



Check to see that other geocachers have recently logged finds on the cache page. This indicates that the geocache is most likely still in place & findable. Find logs are indicated with a smiley face.

## Searching for geocaches

You can search for geocaches by location or by GC Code (a unique code associated with each cache listing) from the homepage, the Hide & Seek page or the advanced search page.

## Loading coordinates onto your GPS device or phone

The method of loading coordinates onto your GPS device varies depending on what type of device you have.

## Inputting Coordinates by Hand

If your device does not connect directly to the computer via an interface cable, you will need to enter coordinates by hand. This process will be different for each device. Check your device's manual.

## Finding Geocaches

What does a geocache look like? Please note that these are just examples; sizes can vary. Small, Regular & Large typically contain trade items.



Micro - Less than 100ml. Examples: a 35 mm film canister or a tiny storage box typically containing only a logbook or a logsheet. A nano cache is a common sub-type of a micro cache that is less than 10ml & can only hold a small logsheet.



Small - 100ml or larger, but less than 1L. Example: A sandwich-sized plastic container or similar.



Regular - 1L to 20L. Examples: a plastic container or ammo can about the size of a shoebox.



Large - 20L or larger. Example: A large bucket.

## What should not be placed in a cache?

Explosives, ammunition, knives, drugs, alcohol, food, or heavily scented items. Respect local laws at all times.

**How do I find the cache & what should I do once I've found it?**

There are many things to know about searching for a cache. For instance, did you know that there is a slight "error" to every GPS device due to technological limitations? Your device can get you close to the cache, but there are a number of things to consider as you get closer to the cache location.

**What should I do if I discover that a cache has gone missing or I can't find it?**

Make sure to log the cache with a "Didn't find it" log so that the cache owner is notified. Cache owners who repeatedly receive "Didn't find it" logs should check to see that their cache has not been removed.

**How do I log my find or DNF?**

1. Visit [geocaching.com](http://geocaching.com) & log in using your username & password.
2. Visit the geocache detail page for the geocache you found.
3. In the top-right corner of the page, click 'log your visit'.
4. From the 'Type of log' drop-down menu, select 'Found it'.
5. Enter the date of your geocache find.
6. Enter any comments you wish to share with the owner &/or community regarding your find.
7. Select any trackable items (from the inventory box) that you dropped off in the geocache with your find.
8. Click 'Submit log entry'.

**Have fun and enjoy the outdoors!**