

GEOCACHE ALASKA! Inc.

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Cache LOCATION FUNdamentals

by

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(Greatland Reviewer/GeoawareUSA4)

Introduction by Wes Skinner / GeocacheAlaska! Inc.

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Why we were formed:



- ▶ **Advocacy with Land Managers**
(Permission to place geocaches)



- ▶ Promote Environmental Stewardship (**CITO**)
- ▶ Present Educational **Events** (GCAK Eduvent)
- ▶ Host Member Social **Events**
- ▶ Provide Other **Member Benefits** (Bling / Media)

Advocacy...



GeocacheAlaska! Inc. Bylaws Article II: **PURPOSES** The purposes of GCAK are to:

- **Promote** geocaching as an exciting, family-oriented outdoor activity that increases awareness and use of Alaska's public parks and trail systems.
- **Provide** opportunities for the geocaching community to enjoy geocaching in Alaska and to meet and socialize with other geocachers.
- **Increase** awareness of geocaching issues in Alaska through interaction with other outdoor activity groups, clubs, organizations, and the public.
- **Educate geocachers** on proper geocaching methods and promote stewardship of our natural resources through low impact geocaching activities
- **Educate other outdoor enthusiasts and user groups** about geocaching.
- **Represent** geocaching interests in public forums and to **recreation land managers**.
- Actively promote the "Cache In - Trash Out" (CITO) program to help in the maintenance of public parks and trail systems and **foster good working relationships with land managers**.

All of the above are ADVOCACY efforts by GeocacheAlaska! Inc.

Areas of Responsibility:



- **GeocacheAlaska!, Inc volunteers** are committed to geocacher **education** and land manager **advocacy** to assure access to local, state, and federal public lands for local geocachers (permission to play!)
- A **Geocaching HQ Reviewer** reviews submitted caches for **compliance** with Geocaching HQ's guidelines following a well-defined process and performs administrative cache maintenance
- **Geocachers are personally responsible for assuring PERMISSION TO PLACE at their selected geocache location**



Geocaching HQ Policy



- By submitting a cache page, you agree that you have all necessary permissions from the landowner or land manager to hide your geocache at that location.
 - Public
 - In the case of public property, you must get permission from the agency or association that manages the land. As the cache owner, you are responsible for determining who to contact to get permission.
 - Even if you are certain that geocaching is permitted on particular public property, make sure that you follow any requirements established by the landowner or land management agency before you place the cache.
 - As community volunteer reviewers become aware of geocache placement policies for a certain location, they may add them to the [Regional Geocaching Policies Wiki](#).
 - Private
 - If you have permission to place a geocache on private property, indicate this on the cache page for the benefit of the reviewer and those seeking the cache. A community volunteer may ask you to provide contact information of the person giving permission.

How do I know...?



- Here's the question **YOU** the individual geocacher **MUST** ask yourself before placing a geocache – **Am I absolutely sure I have permission to place here?**
- Tonight we'll demonstrate what tools and maps are readily available to answer this question...



Why Now?



- GeocacheAlaska! Inc. Advocacy Committee members recently approached Eklutna Inc. to discuss geocaching on Eklutna-owned lands *(with more than 157,000 acres in southcentral Alaska, Eklutna Inc. is Anchorage's largest private landowner)*
- **All Eklutna land holdings are generally closed to geocaching, with major exceptions**
- **How do you know where is open or closed to geocaching on Eklutna lands?**
- *We'll show you how to know the answer tonight!*

Location Tools:



GeocacheAlaska! is pleased to present an expert geocacher and instructor who is a master at using Location Tools:

- **Mike Malvick** – experienced geocacher, founding member of GeocacheAlaska! Inc. (and past officer in nearly every position on the Board of Directors), currently serving the Alaska geocaching community as both **Greatland Reviewer** and **GeoawareUSA4**

Resources



- GeocacheAlaska! geocachealaska.org
- Geocaching HQ Guidelines: geocaching.com/play/guidelines
- Geocaching HQ Geocaching Policies Wiki wiki.groundspeak.com/display/GEO/Home
- Geocaching HQ Knowledge Books: support.groundspeak.com
- GeocacheAlaska! Land Manager webpage: geocachealaska.org/landmanagers
- Muni of Anchorage GIS (map) Page: muni.org/Departments/OCPD/GIS2/Pages/default.aspx