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Geocaching FUNdamentals

by

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Outline



- Finding a cache
- Logging a cache
- Caching jargon
- Hiding a cache
- Resources

Finding - Ground Zero



- Honor seasonal and year-round trail use designations
- Don't give away the cache location to muggles (stealth)
- Apply a lift, look, replace search technique. Cache owners should consider environment before placing a needle in haystack hide
- Cache finder should be cache replacer. Hide cache where/how you found it
- Trade up/trade even/or don't trade
- Be kind to containers and logs
 - Bisons & nanos: roll log, insert into lid, then reassemble. Initials only for nano and micro logs to reduce maintenance. Use pencil or indellible ink.
 - Decon containers: four corner "snaps"
 - Ammo cans: Keep out rain/snow






Logging - Types



- 🍌 Found it: found the cache *and* signed log
- 📄 Note: Logged a "found it" previously, for other information associated with another log type, post a comment, or add text to long "found it" logs
- 😞 Didn't Find it: looked, didn't find it, sometimes more than one time on the same day if separate attempts were made
- 🛠 Needs Maintenance: Found cache (or part of it) and it needs help of some sort. Sometimes used in conjunction with a found it or DNF, depending on whether the log could be signed

Logging - Types (con't)



-  Owner Maintenance: Use this log to record maintenance and to clear the “needs maintenance” icon from your cache page
-  Needs Archived: Used to bring a cache to a cache reviewer’s attention when a cache has been deactivated or needing maintenance for an extended time period, or is in violation of the guidelines
-  Webcam Photo Taken: Write a log *and* post the photo as directed
-  Will Attend: RSVP for an event to help the Event Host(s) plan
-  Attended: Equivalent to a “found it” log, but for events

Logging – Cache Types



- Physical Caches (Traditional, Multi-, Mystery/Puzzle):
 - If you signed the log book/sheet/scroll, log a “found it!”
- Virtual Caches, Earthcaches
 - Meet the cache owners requirements or risk log deletion or cache archival
- Webcams
 - Post the webcam photo, not a photo from your own camera. Log a DNF if you can't get the webcam photo or Needs Maintenance if the camera is out of service

Logging - Content



- Share your experience (TFTC by itself is insulting to the cache owner, unless that's really all you care to say about your visit)
- Don't give hints (spoilers) about the hide (leave that for the cache owner)
- Be polite. You can comment on private property, yellow jackets, etc., without being offensive
- Fuzzy Coordinates. If you comment on them, provide an alternate set for the benefit of the owner and future catchers

Logging - Content (con't)



- Limit use of abbreviations, but if you must:
 - TFTC/TFTH: Thanks for the Cache/Thanks for the Hide
 - TNLNSL: Took nothing, left nothing, signed log
 - FTF: First to Find
 - FTFAP: First to Find After Publication
 - STF/2TF: Second to Find
 - FTL: First to Log
 - BYOP: Bring your own pen
 - PAF: Phone a Friend
 - GZ: Ground Zero
 - UPOS/R: Unnatural Pile of Sticks/Rocks
 - TOTT: Tool of the Trade

For more TLAs, FLAs, SLAs and other terms, visit Prime Suspect's GeoLexicon: <http://geolex.locusprime.net/>

Hiding - Permission



- Cache Listing Requirements/Guidelines
 - <http://www.geocaching.com/about/guidelines.aspx>
 - “By submitting a cache listing, you assure us that you have adequate permission to hide your cache in the selected location.”
 - Alaska Land Manager/Permit information:
 - <http://www.geocachealaska.org/landmanagers.htm>
 - Questions? Contact Advocacy Committee Chairperson, Stacy Byas (Saidbystacy)

Hiding - Exclusions



- National Parks and National Wildlife Refuges (Earthcaches permitted with Land Manager approval)
- Schools, Railroad ROWs, Military Installations, Public Structures that could be terrorist targets (highway bridges, government buildings, dams, airports)
- Buried

Hiding - Considerations



- Environment
 - Will the location support sustained visits from cachers or will social trails form? Are there designated trail uses? Will a needle in a haystack hide result in destruction of moss, rootstock, foliage, bark, etc?
 - Does the location have merit?
 - Don't hide a cache just for the sake of hiding a cache...the location should be the reason a cache is placed
- Commitment – Are you willing to take care of the cache indefinitely?
- Container
 - Log book, sheet, scroll at a minimum
 - All season compatibility (water, snow, cold tolerant)
- D/T – Rate accurately using Clayjar's tool on gc.com
- GPS – Use an “appropriate” unit. iPhones, Nüvis, etc. are not accurate enough
- Hints – Leave field blank unless you provide a meaningful hint

Resources



- Geocaching.com Resources:
<http://www.geocaching.com/resources/default.aspx>
- Geocaching Glossary of Terms:
<http://www.geocaching.com/about/glossary.aspx>
- Geocaching Knowledge Books:
<http://support.groundspeak.com/index.php?pg=kb.book&id=1>
- Geocaching.com Forums
<http://forums.groundspeak.com/GC/>
- Geocacher University: <http://www.geocacher-u.com/>
- GeocacheAlaska! Related Links:
<http://www.geocachealaska.org/relatedlinks.htm>
- GeocacheAlaska! Forums:
<http://geocachealaska.proboards.com/index.cgi>