

Groundspeak Reviewer FUNdamentals

by

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Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Difference between GeocacheAlaska! and Groundspeak?
3. How does one become a Reviewer?
4. Role of the Reviewer
5. Open Forum

Introduction

- Reviewer since 2010 (Alaska, Hawai'i)
 - Erik88l-r
- GeoawareUSA4 (Alaska, Hawai'i, Greece)
- Player – Ladybug Kids since 2004
- Muggle wife
- Junior Ladybugs

GeocacheAlaska! vs Groundspeak???



- A member of the GeocacheAlaska!, Inc., Board of Directors, is committed to geocacher education and land manager advocacy to assure access to local, state, and federal public lands for local geocachers (educate, advocate, recreate)
- A Groundspeak Reviewer reviews submitted caches for compliance with Groundspeak's Guidelines and documented local stipulations following a well-defined process and performs administrative cache maintenance

GeocacheAlaska! vs Groundspeak??? (con't)



- Establishing local policies with Land Managers is the accountability of the GeocacheAlaska! Advocacy Committee
- Assuring compliance with local policies prior to publishing a cache is the accountability of the 1) player and 2) local Reviewer
- The local reviewer may be asked to intercede on a noncompliant cache by a land manager, land owner, law enforcement or an individual in the local caching community
- Groundspeak is only a listing service. Ultimately, the Cache Owner and the local caching community have accountability for compliance with local land manager policy

How to Become a Reviewer

- No set process
 - Strong knowledge of the Geocache guidelines.
 - Activity in the geocaching community as a geocacher, geocache owner, and event organizer.
 - Consistency in geocache ownership, such as well-maintained geocaches that adhere to the guidelines.
 - Positive reputation within the local geocaching community.
 - Involvement with local geocaching organization(s).
 - Participate in Geocaching.com forums
 - Ability to communicate effectively online and in person.
- Work on the skills described above. When you least expect it, you might be asked!
- “The Publish Button” (TBB0N89)

Reviewer Roles – Review Caches

- Conformation with Groundspeak guidelines
 - Proximity to other caches (528' including physical stages of mystery and multi-caches), schools, railroads (100' in Alaska), government buildings, etc.
 - Noncommercial – cannot promote commercial or charitable entity in cache name or body of text
 - Necessary permission/permits
 - Distance from home coordinates
 - No agenda – don't tell cachers how to feel about something
 - Light and fun – cache pages shall not contain content that is negative about other cachers
- New ideas may be tested by
 - Asking other reviewers
 - Using the Groundspeak appeals process via an e-mail sent from the Help Center at <http://support.groundspeak.com/index.php?pg=request>

Reviewer Roles – Playing Field Upkeep

- “Reviewer Attention Requested”
- “Low Health Score”
 - Multiple DNFs
 - “Owner Maintenance Requested”
 - Time since last find
 - How long disabled
 - D/T considered up to a point
 - Owner not recently logged in
- Respond to Land Owner/Manager Concerns
- Disable/30-day/Playing Field Refresh/Archive

Reviewer Roles – Playing Field Upkeep

- Communication is key!!! A cache will not be archived if the Cache Owner maintains communication with the Caching Community and the Reviewer with Notes to the cache page
- Cache Owners may request unarchival of a cache if they perform maintenance. Unarchival requires review against current guidelines

Reviewer Roles – Administrative Maintenance

- May consult with other Reviewers through Forums
- May refer an issue to Geocaching HQ
-  “Owner Attention Requested”
- Appeals via the Help Center at <http://support.groundspeak.com/index.php?pg=request>

EarthCache Reviewer Roles – Review and Publish Caches

- Conformation with Groundspeak *and* Geological Society of America (GSA) Guidelines
 - Geology/EarthScience lesson. NOT botany, archeology, oceanography, history, etc.
 - Solid logging task relating to the geology lesson
 - Answer(s) to logging task in Reviewer Note on cache page
 - Land Manager permission and contact information or explicit reason why permission is not required in Reviewer Note
 - Cache page content source attribution (footnotes)
 - Written at junior high school reading level, not copy and paste of highly technical journal article or Wikipedia



Helping your local reviewer

- Read and understand the Guidelines and the Help Center articles
- Use the “Reviewer Attention Requested” log or e-mail/message the Reviewer through his/her profile to raise a concern about a cache. Always provide GC#
- Do not use an “Owner Attention Requested” log to record a DNF. If a cacher has not physically seen/touched the cache, you don’t know if it needs maintenance. Using an “Owner Attention Requested” log rather than a DNF log messes up the Health Score calculation
- Respond to Reviewer Notes written to your cache page (wellness checks after several DNFs, Disabled, or “Owner Attention Requested” attribute showing after extended period of time, etc.)
- Request a coordinate checks by creating a cache page and submit with coordinates of interest
- Place caches in uncached areas and show cachers someplace new

Search Locations

out potential geocache locations. Note: Before submitting a geocache, you will need to visit the location and [obtain the coordinates](#).

Search by Address, City, or Zip Code

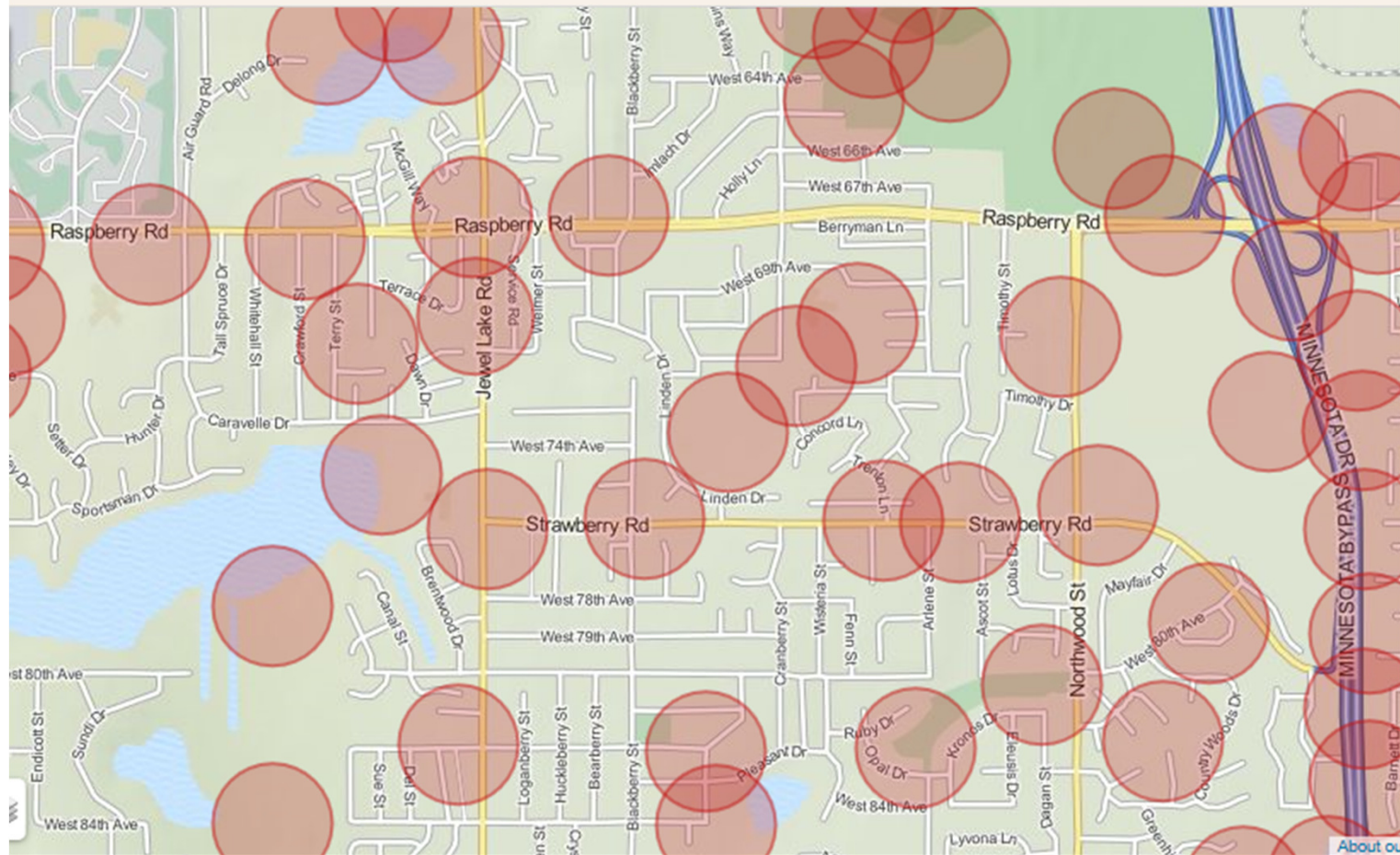
Search

Already Know Your Hiding Spot?

If you've already visited the location, obtained exact coordinates or received land manager permission, you're all set to submit your geocache.

Continue

Geocaches should be a minimum of 528ft/161m away from each other. The map below displays visible locations that are already taken by existing geocaches. This map does not display hidden waypoints and some other potential obstacles to hiding a geocache. Your location must still be reviewed by a community volunteer before it is submitted.



Resources

- GeocacheAlaska! Forums:
<http://geocachealaska.proboards.com/board/56/alaska-reviewers-corner>
- Regional Geocaching Policies Wiki:
<https://gcwiki.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/GEO/pages/526814/Alaska>
- Geocaching Knowledge Books:
<http://support.groundspeak.com/index.php?pg=kb.book&id=1>
- Geocaching.com Forums
<http://forums.groundspeak.com/GC/>
- Geocaching.com Help Center:
<http://support.groundspeak.com/index.php?pg=request>
- Geocaching.com Resources:
<http://www.geocaching.com/resources/default.aspx>

Open Forum