Geocaching, An Adventure Sport for Any Age

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Avid Geocacher

Program Contents

- Introduction to the adventure sport of geocaching
- The history of geocaching; how it started and where it stands today
- Technology used to participate in the sport
- The tools to help you retrieve cache containers
  - TOTTs
- Review a geocache page
  - Cache Name/Cache owner/Published Date/Location
  - Type of cache (regular, virtual, multi, letterbox, earthcache, wherigo)
  - Difficulty/Terrain
  - Size
  - Cache attributes
  - Logs
- The community of geocachers – events (CITO, Mega, Giga)

History of Geocaching

- May 2, 2000 Blue Switch Day
- May 3, 2000 First "geocache"
  - Matt Stumm
  - Black bucket
  - Beavercreek, OR
  - Original cache stash
- N 45° 17.460 W 122° 24.800
- May 30, 2000 coined the word geocaching

- Headquarters called Groundspeak
- Located in Seattle, WA
- September 2, 2000
  - 75 caches located around the world
- Currently 3 million active caches in the world

How to get started Geocaching

- Go to geocaching.com

- Create a user name and password, user names have to be unique

- Decide if you want to be a premium user

- Select device you want to use
  - Phone (iPhone or Android)
  - GPS handheld device

- Download an App to your phone
  - Paid apps
  - iPhone prefer Cachly
  - Android C:geo

- Geocaching headquarters maintains a free app called Geocaching and is free for everyone

GEOCACHING

Types of Geocaches

Traditional Cache

Unknown Cache

Lab Cache

Multi-cache

Virtual Cache

Letterbox Hybrid

Event Cache

Earthcache

Wherigo Cache

Cache In Trash Out Event

Webcam Cache

- Have a physical container
  - Traditional
  - Unknown
  - Multi-cache
  - Letterbox Hybrid
  - Wherigo
- No Physical container
  - Lab
  - Virtual
  - Earth
  - Event/CITO
  - Webcam

Difficulty/Terrain

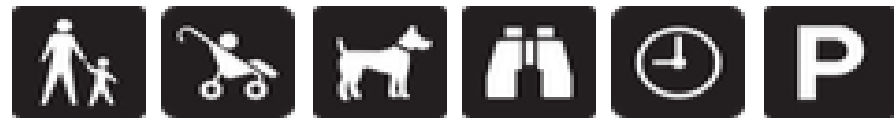| Rating	Difficulty	Terrain
	Effort needed to solve and find the cache and logbook at GZ.	Physical effort needed to arrive at coordinates.
★☆☆☆☆	Easy to find or solve within a few minutes.	The hike is less than 0.5 mile (0.8 km) and wheelchair accessible (attribute required). Most likely paved and flat.
★½☆☆☆	Easy to find or solve within 10-15 minutes.	The hike is less than 0.5 mile (0.8 km). Most likely flat but may not be wheelchair accessible.
★★☆☆☆	Relatively easy to find or solve within 30 minutes	The hike is less than 2 miles (3 km) along well-defined paths with no significant elevation change or overgrowth.
★★½☆☆	A mild challenge, but relatively easy for an experienced geocacher.	Terrain may have small elevation changes or moderate overgrowth.
★★★☆☆	A somewhat challenging puzzle or hiding spot.	The hike may be more than 2 miles (3 km) on varied terrain - too difficult to ride a bike due to elevation changes or significant overgrowth.
★★★½☆	Quite difficult. Be prepared for a mental challenge.	Quite strenuous, extended hike on widely variable terrain.
★★★★☆	Very difficult and may take special knowledge, advanced preparation, or multiple trips.	Very strenuous movement that may include significant distance, overgrowth, swimming, or elevation changes.
★★★★½	Extremely difficult. Most likely requires special knowledge or skills.	Extremely demanding movement over potentially hazardous terrain.
★★★★★	The most extreme mental challenge. Requires specialized knowledge, skills, tools, or significant effort to find, solve, or open.	Requires specialized equipment such as scuba gear, a boat, rock climbing gear, or similar.

Container Sizes

- Micro : less than 4 oz
- Small : 4+ oz to 4 cups
- Regular : 4+ cups to 5 gallons
- Large : More than 5 gallons
- Other : a container that is creative and often highly camouflaged

- Attributes
  - Communicate what to expect at a cache location. Cache owners may identify attributes before submitting a cache listing for review. Identified attributes will appear on the right side of a cache listing page.

Attributes

What are Attributes?

The Cache Page

At Last...

A cache by AppleFriedPie   ✉ Message this owner   Hidden : 08/19/2024

Difficulty: ★★☆☆☆
Terrain: ★★☆☆☆

Size: ▭▭▭▭ (micro)

♥ 0 Favorites ▼

😃 **Found It!**
Logged on: 08/27/2024

Log a new visit

∿ View all logs (16)
🖼 View gallery (1)
👓 Watch (1)
▮ Add to List ◆
🚫 Ignore ◆

N 45° 10.887 W 093° 23.477 ✏
UTM: 15T E 469258 N 5003181

In Minnesota, United States
▲ N 8.1 mi from your home location

🖶 **Print:** No Logs   5 Logs   10 Logs   ◆ Driving Directions

⬇ **Download GPX**

❗ **Please note** Use of geocaching.com services is subject to the terms and conditions in our disclaimer.

Personal cache note   ⑦

Larger green nano magnetic to top rail of gazebo roof. Used picnic table to reach.

Attributes

🚶 🐕 🐾 🔭 🕐 🅿

What are Attributes?

Geocache Description:

Once upon a time, in a corner of a park where history whispers through the trees, there's a gazebo with a story of its own. Not too long ago (well over a decade ago now), it stood tall and proud as a couple took photos and shared their final quiet moments together before becoming one, embracing the anticipation of their new life. With the nearby pond reflecting their future, and photos on the bridge with one of their favorite dogs, the gazebo silently vowed to hold onto the joy and memories of that special day - and maybe even a little something extra.

Additional Hints (Encrypt)

Heads up, love is in the air!

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

Inventory

View past Trackables
What are Trackable Items?

Geocaching Speak

- TOTTS (tools of the trade)
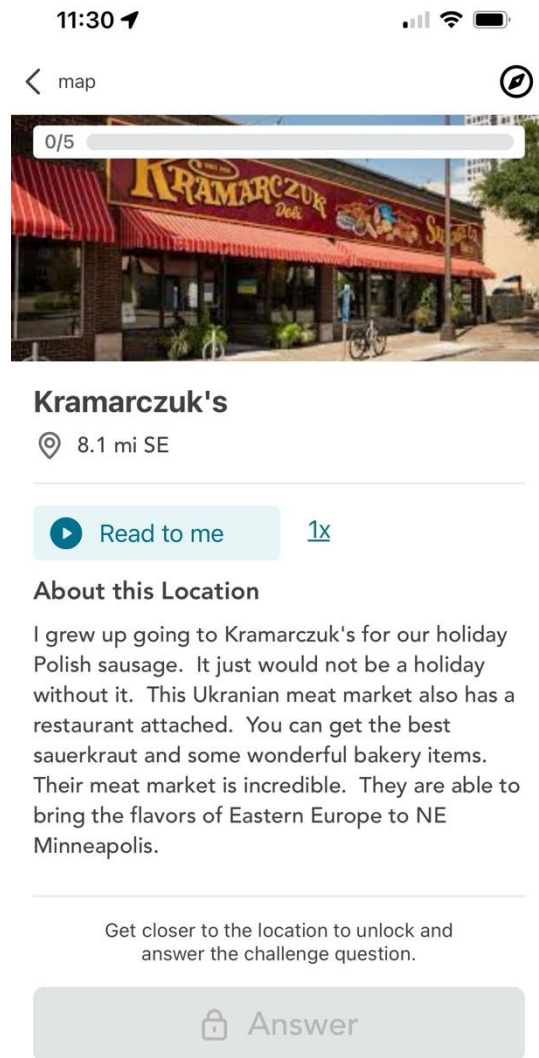 - Pen
  - Tweezer
  - Magnet
  - Flashlight
  - RED (reach extension device)
  - Ladder
  - Boots or waders

- TFTC – Thanks for the cache
- DNF – Did not find
- GZ – Ground zero
- Muggle – non geocacher who might disturb cache location
- Disabled – cache is inaccessible and the owner has disabled it till they can fix it
- Archived – cache has been removed and no longer can be found

Adventure Labs

- Adventure Labs have no container but require you complete an answer to claim the stage

- Most are up to 5 stages

- Answers should be found at the stage

- Can be close together or miles apart

- You rate the AL when you are finished

Stages

- There are guardrails on how close you need to be to open up the answer
- Sequential and non-sequential options
- Sometimes a bonus mystery cache is added, hint to final in the journal entries

Trackables

- Travel Bugs and Geocoins
- Log when you take one from a cache or log when you discover one without taking possession of it
- Can have a mission to travel to particular places
- You can buy trackables online then activate them and drop in a cache
- Watch it travel

Community

Helpful Geocaching Videos

- https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=find+a+geocache

- https://www.youtube.com/shorts/QILxBCWcIpI

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xE-zMPhiAi0