



What is Geocaching?

In the Spring of 2000, the US government granted public consumers access to higher resolution reception of the Global Positioning System (GPS). Handheld GPS receivers collect data from several of twenty-four satellites orbiting the earth at an altitude of 12,000 miles. By processing the signals, the receiver can determine its location with an accuracy of 10'. Using the new reception capabilities, some tech-heads started hiding containers in Oregon and posting their coordinates on the internet so other people could find them. This quickly grew into Geocaching. Now, there are over 700,000 caches hidden around the world, with www.geocaching.com being the source for registering and identifying where they are hidden.

Caches are containers of various sizes from as large as a 5 gallon bucket to as small as your finger tip. They can be hidden in parks, forest preserves, shopping malls, anywhere that a creative mind can come up with a good hiding spot.

To find a cache, a "player" goes to the website and enters a zip code or a location using geographic coordinates. The website will provide a list of caches hidden near that location and provide the coordinates to a registered user. Using a gps receiver with the coordinates programmed into it, the user then sets out to find the cache. The cache could be hidden in a tree stump, under a fallen log, hanging from a tree, hidden a bush, under a park bench, etc. Once the cache is found, the player signs their name on the log sheet kept inside the cache, and also registers the find on the Geocaching website. Many caches are large enough to hold "trading items," which are small trinkets, toys, and collectables. To take an item, you need to leave an item of similar value.

Caches are always replaced in their hiding spot so future players can find it

Geocache Lakota

The Geocache Lakota course is part of Tony Skiroock's Woodbadge Course Ticket (C-25-07, Bobwhite). Geocachers, beginners to expert, from all over Northwest Suburban Council, have hidden caches starting in April of 2008. The work of these Scouts and Scouters is the core of the Geocache Lakota course. There are 24 caches (and growing) hidden in all reaches of the camp. Containers include 35mm film canisters, mint tins, coffee cans, etc. Participants will enjoy a great nature hike through our beautiful Camp Lakota while learning how to navigate using GPS technology. The hunt is addicting and learning to Geocache at Lakota will introduce boys and adults to an activity that can be done in nearly every city across the country.

GPS receivers were purchased with money donated during various Geocaching activities held in 2008. They are programmed with the Lakota geocaches and are available for check out. Please contact Tony Skiroock for details.

Coordinates and a gpx file are available for those who have their own gps receivers.

Please respect fellow campers and others using camp facilities while you are looking for the Caches. Do not enter occupied camps without permission. Do not intrude on program activities that may be in progress at any of the program areas (archery, BB guns, climbing tower, training sessions, events, etc).

Geocaching Responsibilities

Use the Buddy System

Be respectful of location, property and people nearby

Be discreet. Don't draw attention to what you are doing and what is hidden.

Be respectful of nature and the environment

Leave No Trace and Geocaching

Know before you go. Clothing, maps, GPSr, batteries, trading items. Tell someone!

Stay on the trail. Avoid Bushwhacking. Follow existing foot paths, deer trails, etc. Don't tramp down ground plants, break limbs, etc.

Trash your trash. Cache In Trash Out. Take trash out with you. Leave it better than you found it.

Respect Wildlife. Don't approach animals and be careful around their homes.

For more information on the course, gps receivers, coordinates, gpx file, and introductory classes, contact Tony Skirock at geocachelakota@sbcglobal.net.