



Get in the Game! Hiding and Seeking Caches

Take Membership Recruitment High-Tech

Rule #1: Be safe.

In their excitement to find a cache, players may not be as careful as they should. Take care that you don't place a cache in an area that may lead them into a dangerous situation.

- Stay far from road traffic and railroad crossings.
- Don't place a cache higher than six feet or require any dangerous climbing to reach a cache.
- Don't require players to swim to reach a cache.
- Don't put public caches in magnetic containers stuck onto electrical switch boxes. It's a fairly common practice among geocachers, but we don't recommend it.
- Always use the buddy system.

Rule #2: Respect the environment.

Scouts and environmental stewardship go hand-in-hand. Use this event to teach non-Scouts how to have fun, but "leave no trace."

- Hide a cache, but never bury one in the ground. (Placing a pile of sticks or rocks over it is OK, though.)
- Avoid sensitive ecosystems. Remember that players will often make a beeline for the cache, trampling vegetation in the vicinity. Place caches so that they can be reached through existing trail access.
- Don't place caches in archeological or historic sites.
- Don't deface any object, natural or manmade.
- Avoid hiding caches in light post bases, sprinkler heads, and other similar objects to keep them from being torn apart.

Rule #3: Respect private property.

While the universe of possible cache sites is large, there are some limitations. Make sure you communicate with property owners before you set your course and begin to hide caches.

- Get permission from land managers to use parks, Scout camps, etc. for your events.
- Don't put caches on National Park land or National Wildlife refuges. These are currently not allowed. Local laws vary, so check with your local agencies.
- Do not place caches in or near military installations. It is not allowed.
- Don't place caches on elementary or secondary school property. It is not allowed.
- Avoid sites that could be deemed potential or possible targets for terrorist attacks. Officials will not allow suspicious packages to remain in place. These include, but are not limited to, highway bridges, dams, government buildings, and airports.

Rule #4: Be a positive ambassador for Scouting.

As with everything we do, cache using the Scout Oath and Law.