

## Reasons to Start Geocaching

- Explore a new town
- Make an old town, new
- Get outside/hike/explore
- Go on a personal nature tour
- Family-friendly
- FREE
- Find treasure
- Exercise
- Meet new people
- Be creative
- Set & reach goals/challenges
- Learn about history & geography
- Hide from Muggles/be a spy
- Start a new collection



**Learn more about  
geocaching and share in all  
my family's adventures!**

Blog: [GeocachingJangie.com](http://GeocachingJangie.com)

Instagram: [@GeoJangie](https://www.instagram.com/GeoJangie)

Twitter: [@GeoJangie](https://twitter.com/GeoJangie)

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**Ready, Set,  
GO FIND A  
GEOCACHE!**

Join millions on adventures  
around the world!

Go explore!



**Geocaching:** the recreational  
activity of hunting for and finding a  
hidden object by means of GPS  
coordinates posted on a website.

**Follow these 10 simple steps and you'll be adventuring in no time!**

### 1. GO TO GEOCACHING.COM

Geocaching is FREE! Click "Sign Up" to start basic membership. If you find you really love the game, want to support the community, and would like access to more features and geocaches, sign up for a premium membership (\$30/year).

### 2. CHOOSE YOUR GEO-NAME

Create your (user) name you'll write on log sheets and how other geocachers will know you. Your name is your secret identity that can always be changed.

### 3. DOWNLOAD A GEOCACHING APP

If you have a GPS, you can use that too. A few apps exist, but my favorites and the ones most commonly used on iPhone are the free geocaching app and the \$4.99 Cachly app.

### 4. SIGN INTO THE APP AND SEARCH FOR GEOCACHES

Boom! Hopefully you get to choose from a plethora of geocaches for your first adventures, maybe right across the street or at your favorite park.

### 5. GRAB THE REQUIRED GEOCACHING TOOLS

You'll need a smartphone (or GPS) and a pencil/pen for sure. If you plan to trade objects inside the container (swag), make sure you take those too. Good swag consists of small kids' toys to keychains and other knick-knacks. No food.

### 6. SELECT A GEOCACHE

As a beginner, you want your first outing to be successful and fun. To narrow down your search results for an easier geocache, use the following information, as well as read the description, hint, and recent logs. I suggest choosing a difficulty of 1 to 2, medium to extra-large traditional container.

- **Type:** various types of geocaches exist, but the most common is the traditional cache, a green icon on the app (the upper left picture). Traditional geocaches are a one-stop container: you load the coordinates and follow the map to the geocache. Check out the photos below if you'd like to see the other kinds.



- **Difficulty:** the level of difficulty of the geocache's camouflage or if special equipment is required; 1 (easiest) to 5 (most difficult)

- **Terrain:** the level of difficulty to access the geocache, the physical terrain of where a geocache is located, which could include a long hike or low-maintenance road; 1 (easiest) to 5 (most difficult)

- **Size:** the size of the geocache; the following image gives an idea of how large each container is. Keep in mind that geocaches can be anything, a hollowed out log, a fake bolt, a sprinkler head, etc.



### 7. GET WITHIN 30 FEET OF THE GEOCACHE

Use your app to travel within 30 feet or so and start looking for possible hiding spots, like a pile of rocks or sticks. One other hint, if you're in an urban parking lot, those light post skirts can usually lift up!

### 8. SIGN THE LOG SHEET

Once you find the geocache, grab your pen or pencil and sign your geo-name! You can also trade swag and discover or drop trackables.

- Trade for equal or greater value
- Take trackables you can help on their missions (on the app)
- "Discover" a trackable (leaving it to be picked up by someone else) and "Grab" a trackable (taking it with you to help it on its mission) are two different actions

### 9. LOG THE FIND

Write your log on your app, stating you found the geocache (or perhaps you scored a DNF and will have to return; it took me 3 times to find my first geocache!).

### 10. PLAN YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE!