



# Geocaching the SAFE Way

## **General Rules for caches that are local and close to the car (small parks, drive-ups, etc)**

1. Geocache with a buddy whenever possible. It's safer and more fun.
2. Carry an ID card at all times.
3. Tell someone where you are going, and when you will be back.
4. Carry a cell phone.

## **Rules for woods geocaching and longer hikes (the above rules apply, plus the ones below)**

1. NEVER hike in the woods alone.
2. Stay on the trails. The majority of geocaches (unless otherwise noted) can be found by following trails.
3. Carry a compass, a whistle, and your ID on a lanyard around your neck.
4. Dress appropriately - and in layers - for the weather and terrain. Wear proper footwear!
5. "Mark" the location of the car or main trail before you start each hike.
6. Carry a pack with water, powerbars/Snickers, map, and small first-aid kit for hikes longer than half mile.
7. Wear blaze orange in hunting areas during hunting season.
8. Stay alert and aware of your surroundings. Watch your footing, be aware of others on the trail.
9. If you get lost, don't panic. Try your cell phone first. Use your compass. Use your whistle. STAY PUT!

## **Rules for geocaching with children**

1. Keep children in sight at all times.
2. Each child should have a whistle and ID on lanyard around the neck. Teach child about whistle use.
3. Teach child that if they get lost, they should STAY PUT (in woods) or find ranger (in park).
4. Dress children in bright colors so you can see them easier.

**For other tips, Google "hiking safety," hiking first-aid," "geocaching safety," and similar terms.**