



"Geocaching 101" classes are held twice a year in conjunction with the St. Louis County Parks Dept. There you will learn about GPS technology, how to use your handheld receiver and techniques for locating and hiding caches.

Picnics, lunches, group hunts and outdoor expos are scheduled during the year. Go to [www.sлага.org](http://www.sлага.org) for up-to-date info about caching in the St. Louis, Missouri Area.

St. Louis Area Geocachers Assn  
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[www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com)

[www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) contains info about caches placed around the world. Visit them to locate or place a cache, get answers to frequently asked questions and other info related to geocaching.

Cache In  
Trash  
Out,  
(CITO)  
Geocach-  
ers show



appreciation for public parks that allow them to place caches on their property by leaving the area cleaner than when they found it. Organized CITO events are planned by geocaching groups for areas that need special attention.

A great way to get started in geocaching is to attend organized group activities, such as picnics and training classes.

Visit [www.sлага.org](http://www.sлага.org) for our calendar



Geocachers are a fun group of people who like the outdoors, have a sense of adventure and like to go to places they have never been before.

# Family Treasure Hunt



# "Geocaching"

For generations, kids of all ages have enjoyed looking for hidden treasure.

Thanks to the availability of inexpensive handheld GPS receivers and access to the internet, you can easily get started on a relatively new hobby called 'geocaching' (pronounced "gee'-oh-cash-ing").

These hidden treasures are called "geocaches". They are hidden all over the world, including St. Louis and surrounding areas, by people just like you and me.



A GPS receiver can be purchased at most outdoor or discount stores for as little as \$100 (additional features will cost more).

These receivers use satellite technology available to the general public to pinpoint locations on the earth to within 20-25 feet.

# How Does Geocaching Work?



Cache containers are typically made of watertight Tupperware and transparent so the contents are visible.



An inexpensive handheld GPS receiver receives signals from the 28 orbiting satellites - 12,000 miles away.

**1** A geocacher carefully searches for an interesting location to hide his cache. The container is filled with family friendly trade items (trinkets) and a logbook.

The geocacher enters the coordinates of the cache on a web page at [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com), along with info like a good place to park, history or other details, and hints on how to find it.

After it has been approved, it is ready to be found by anyone with a GPS receiver and a sense of adventure.

**2** Go to [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) and search for caches in your area. Enter the coordinates of a cache into your GPS receiver.

Using signals from orbiting satellites, your GPS receiver tells you where you are. Then tell it to take you to the coordinates where the cache is!



Once you are in the immediate area of the cache, you will need to use your skills to locate the actual hiding spot of the cache, which may be in a dead log, under a rock ledge, or ???.

**3** When you find the cache, take a trinket and replace it with one you brought with you, of greater or equal value. Remember to always trade family friendly items. The cache has a logbook for you to sign, too. Hide the cache in the same place and try to leave the area as undisturbed as you found it.



Back home, log into [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) to record your find and adventure and make plans for your next geocaching trip!