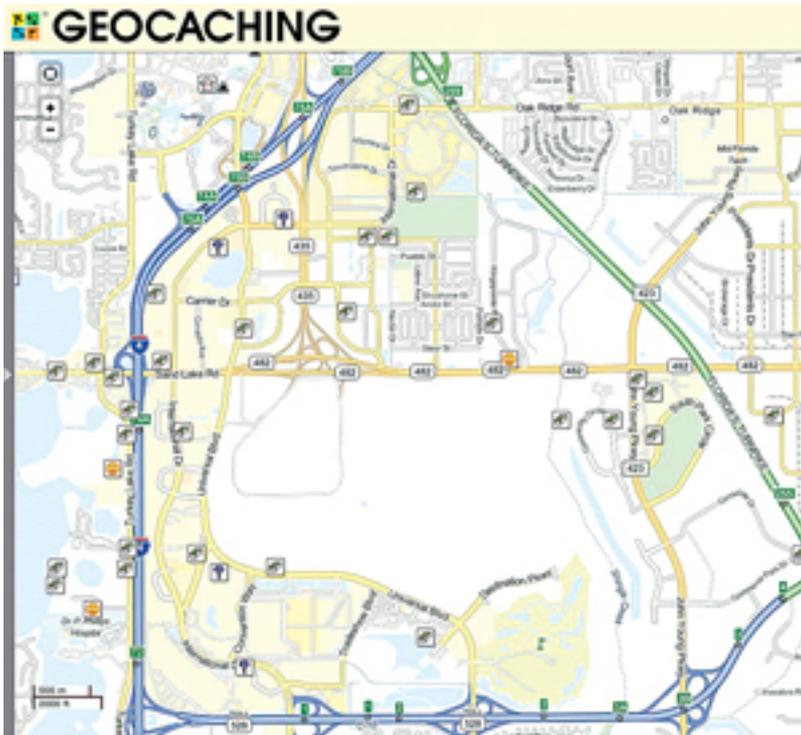


The Hidden World of Geocaching

Written by Diana Mainieri

Lending a hand up to the homeless of west Orange County; lending a hand where we can, connecting resources and people. — Matthew's Hope Ministries' motto



Interactive maps online at www.geocaching.com show users where geocache containers are hidden.

A s any 8-year-old will attest, there are few things more fun

What Is Geocaching?

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Founded in May 2000, geocaching is a GPS-based game, where participants navigate to a set of coordi

hiked, traveled and enjoyed exploring the outdoors. There are currently more than 1.8 million geocaches

Wesmere residents Steve and Corinne Adams are avid geocachers who discovered the underground w
Around the same time, Corinne learned about geocaching from her family.

“My dad actually read an article about it in a news magazine and wanted to find out if there were any ‘tre

What Does a Geocache Look Like?

A geocache, or cache, is a hidden container of any size or appearance that holds a paper scroll with the

Since geocaches can be tiny or very large, they can be hidden almost anywhere. However, the majority
“I’ve left trinkets for others to find,” Corinne said. “I tend to leave little beads from a broken bracelet I hav

How Does Someone Find a Geocache?

The website www.geocaching.com serves as the headquarters for the game. Participants create a free c

Once the user has decided to find a geocache, he enters the coordinates into a GPS device or cellphone
After entering the coordinates of the geocache into a cellphone or GPS device, one simply follows the di

“I love the hunt,” Corinne said. “There’s nothing better than figuring out where something is hidden. You

“I like having to be creative to solve the riddles,” Steve added. “A lot of times there are cyphers, so you f

However, because of technical limitations, a device will only get a player close to a geocache — never d

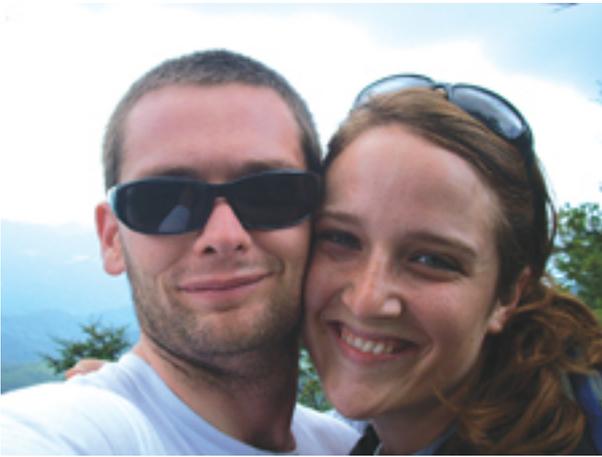
“There is a cache near the Winter Garden Village,” Corinne said. “I knew I had the coordinates correct, a

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What Happens After a Geocache Is Found?

Once a geocache has been found, the player writes his name and the date on the log sheet inside the container. “It’s a great way to connect to neighbors, strangers and people from all over the world,” Corinne said. “Y



Steve and Corinne Adams of Wesmere love the challenge of finding geocaches in remote outdoor locations.

Advanced Geocaching

Once a geocacher has mastered the basics, there are numerous ways to expand upon the game and increase the challenge. After perfecting the hunt or exhausting the geocaches in one zip code or area, a player may decide to hike. Hiking trails, interesting views and concealed areas make great geocache hiding spots. One must keep

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“There is something to be said about being a part of a global community that not everyone knows about. Once the geocache has been stocked with a log sheet and small items, if desired, and hidden in a secluded spot. Geocachers may also decide to pursue a Trackable — a geocache game piece that has a unique code for tracking its location and history.”

Geocaching & Southwest Orlando

A search for geocaches within 25 miles of the zip code 32819 yields more than 2,700 results. Their titles range from “Hidden Treasure” to “Secret Spot.” Searching for geocaches also allows residents to get out and explore the area they call home. Even those who don’t like to hike or go to the park can find a geocache nearby. “Geocaching is a great way to get people out into nature,” Corinne said. “You don’t have to be a nature lover to enjoy it.” “It’s great getting to see things not a lot of other people get to see,” Steve said. “You have to go off the beaten path.” The rules of geocaching are fairly simple. Using GPS technology and creative clues, one inconspicuous geocache can be found. “It’s like an underground community of people who want to preserve nature and are doing it in a fun way,” Corinne said. “You may not find that first, or second or third,” Corinne said. “But once you do, you’ll want to keep looking for what you do.”
