

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOREST SERVICE GEOCACHE GUIDELINES

1. **You must receive approval** from the State Forest and Park Service (SFPS) **prior to placing a cache**. To obtain the approval you must submit the [Cache Approval Form](#) to the appropriate park office. In most cases, you will be advised of a decision within three (3) business days or less.
2. In cases where a cache is not approved, the SFPS will recommend a more appropriate location for placement.
3. **A transparent container is required. DO NOT** use PVC pipe, Ammo Cans or any other Military looking containers that may cause alarm should an unsuspecting person happen upon the cache. (Tupperware, Gladware, Pretzel Barrel, etc) *NOTE: Ammo cans may be allowed in various Western Region Maryland State Parks. Please discuss this with the Ranger prior to hiding a cache if you would like to use one.*
4. **DO NOT** dig any holes or disturb the surrounding environment. DO NOT attach caches to live trees or structures of any kind.
5. **DO NOT** place your cache in plain view. Attempt to conceal the cache to minimize the chances that a non-participant will spot it, which could cause worry, theft or vandalism. Try to hide the cache off the beaten path by at least a few yards to provide the finder some measure of privacy to sign the log without arousing undue alarm.
6. **Clearly mark the container** with the appropriate identification, such as "Geocaching.com" and the name of the cache. Place a [stashnote](#) inside explaining the sport to any non-participant who may discover the cache.
7. Think Safety when hiding and/or seeking a cache. Use common sense!
8. As a cache seeker, or cache owner, **you must abide by park hours and all other rules and regulations**. Carry documentation such as the cache detail sheet, so that you can explain your activity to anyone who may ask.