

Forest Service Contact Information:

PISGAH NATIONAL FOREST Grandfather Ranger District

109 East Lawing Drive
Nebo, NC 28761
828-652-2144

Appalachian Ranger District
P.O. Box 128
Burnsville, NC 28714
828-682-6146

Pisgah Ranger District
1001 Pisgah Highway
Pisgah Forest, NC 28768
828-877-3265

NANTAHALA NATIONAL FOREST:

Cheoah Ranger District
1070 Massey Branch Road
Robbinsville, NC 28771
828-479-6431

Nantahala Ranger District
90 Sloan Road
Franklin, NC 28734
828-524-6441

Tusquitee Ranger District
123 Woodland Drive
Murphy, NC 28906
828-837-5152

CROATAN NATIONAL FOREST
141 E. Fisher Avenue
New Bern, NC 28560
252-638-5628

UWHARRIE NATIONAL FOREST
789 NC 24/27 East
Troy, NC 27371
910-576-6391

Popular Geocaching Websites:

- www.ncgeocaches.org
- www.geocache.com
- www.navicache.com
- www.terracing.com
- [www.ncfoothillsgeocachers](http://www.ncfoothillsgeocachers.com)

National Forests in NC Website:

- www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc/



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Geocaching

On the
National
Forests
in
North
Carolina



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Southern Region

What is Geocaching?

Geocaching is an activity that uses GPS (Global Positioning System) devices to locate specific points that are referenced by riddles, puzzles or other sources. The caches can be real (a physical item left at a site) or virtual (referencing an existing feature).



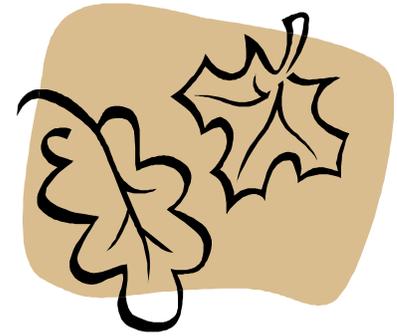
Geocaching Regulations for the National Forests in NC

To protect our valuable natural resources and keep users safe, please abide by the following rules when visiting their national forest:

The following are required for leaving a cache:

- You must obtain prior approval before placing a cache. To do this, contact the local Ranger District Office and tell them:
 - 1) Your contact information (name, address, email, and phone);
 - 2) A description of the cache and contents;
 - 3) The coordinates of the proposed cache Location (Lat/Long's or UTM's);
 - 4) The date the cache will be placed, and when it will be removed.
- Forest service personnel will verify the proposed site is appropriate for placing a geocache and approve its placement. Advertising locations for "virtual" caches such as geologic features, scenic views or existing structures do not require prior permission.

- Leaving a cache is permitted in most general forest areas, but is not allowed in designated Wilderness, Research Stations (like Bent Creek or Coweeta), or sensitive natural areas (District Rangers will identify if there are other areas on the district where leaving a geocache is prohibited due to resource concerns).
- No soil disturbance or cutting of vegetation is allowed when placing or hiding a cache. To protect fragile resources, cache locations and the primary access routes to caches must avoid areas such as rockshelters, caves, bogs, wetlands, steep slopes, historic structures, or areas otherwise closed to the public. It is preferable to stay close to developed trails.
- A cache must be temporary – it cannot be left at a given location any longer than one year. Caches that will be in place longer than a year require a formal special use permit.
- A cache should be no larger than 12"x 12"x 12" in size. It must have an external label designating it as a geocache and be permanently marked with the owner's name and contact information. **DO NOT** use cartridge boxes or any containers that might be mistaken for explosives or hazardous materials.
- Caches must not contain food, alcohol, weapons, fireworks, or any sort of hazardous materials.
- A special use permit is required and a fee will be charged for caches associated with a commercial event.
- The owner must remove a cache if high activity at the site is causing resource damage to natural resources. The Forest Service may remove caches found to be causing resource damage.



If you're hunting for a cache:

- Be mindful that caches are not placed where digging or vegetation removal will be required to find them – stay light on the land.
- If it appears that people locating a cache are causing resource damage to soils or other natural resources, notify the nearest Forest Service office.
- Please observe the safety rules all users should follow when out in the forest – a good list can be found at: www.twohikers.org/TenEssentials.htm

