

Franklin County Conservation October Geocaching Competition: Gameplay, Rules, Guidelines, and More.

Competition Dates

October 1st - October 31st

*coordinates to caches will be posted Oct 1st around 8am

Registration

Registration is required so we can receive contact info for each player and if you use a team name or code name. The winners will be contacted. Registration can be done by visiting

<https://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Franklin/Park/Maynes-Grove/Events/25593/Geocaching-in-the-Parks-October-Competition.aspx>

Details

During the whole month of October, Franklin County Conservation is holding a geocaching competition. There are 24 geocaches hidden within 24 our county parks; 1 for each selected park.

The goal for participants is to find as many of these caches before October ends and the top 3 participants that find the most caches, will win prizes. **There may be other geocaches set up by other players, please note that only the geocaches that say “Franklin County Conservation” will count towards this competition.**

Equipment Needed

- A GPS enabled device such as a handheld GPS or a GPS app on a smartphone.
- A PEN: There are NOT any writing utensils in the caches. Per normal geocaching, you should always bring a pen with you to sign the logbook. **If you don't sign the logbook, it doesn't count towards the competition.**
- Item: Trading items is not required but if you take an item from a geocache, please replace it with another item.
 - *Refer to item guidelines for appropriate items to place in the caches.*

Game Set Up

As mentioned there are 24 caches set up at various parks and wildlife areas. FCCB has more than 24 parks and wildlife areas but some will not have geocaches due to difficulties in accessing the areas (ex. Land locked by private lands), please refer to the geocaching locations to know which parks and areas have geocaches, this will be on the same page as the coordinates.

The majority of caches will be slightly off trail for the areas with trails. Parks and areas without trails will have caches no more than a half mile from the parking areas. Please practice caution when geocaching in parks and do not travel more than a half mile to find the cache.

Once the competition ends all caches will be collected by FCCB and the visitors logs will be counted to see the number of caches each participant/teams found. The top three participants and/or teams will be contacted by FCCB to announce what place they obtained (1st, 2nd, or 3rd), what prize they will receive, and coordinate a pick up time and location for the prize. Winners' names/codename/team names will only be announced on Facebook if permission is received by the winners to respect privacy.

- Playing as a team: If you are playing with multiple people as a group, please create a team name when registering. Only one person is required to register. Please only use this team name when signing the visitors log. **If it is a name that wasn't registered, it will not be counted.**
- Playing solo: If you are playing by yourself, you can either use your name or choose a code name for privacy. Just make sure your code name matches what you registered with. **If it is a name that wasn't registered, it will not be counted.**
- *When registering if you want to use a code name use that name instead of your actual name.*

How to Play

Referring to the geocaching locations document, enter the coordinates to the cache into a GPS enabled device. Once you arrive at the coordinates, search for the geocache. Once the geocache is found, sign the log book with the name/code name/team name you registered with. If you don't sign the log book there is no way to tell that you visited that cache and it won't be counted towards the competition. It is optional to trade an item from the cache with an item that you brought; if you do take an item from the cache, please add another item back into the cache. Once you are done with the cache, please put it back exactly where and how you found it so other players can look for it and so they can be collected easily after the competition.

Item Guidelines

- Items SHOULD NOT be: illegal, dangerous in any way, edible or scented, or has the ability to melt or expand in cold weather.
 - Examples: lip balm, food, alcohol, liquids.
- Items SHOULD BE: appropriate for all ages, hold little to no value, not controversial, random/fun.
 - Examples: stickers, bouncy balls, key chains, pins, cards.

Rules and General Guidelines

- Always place the cache back exactly where and how you found it. If it is in a different location other players may not be able to find it and this may also prevent it being found when all caches are collected after the end of the competition and those who visited to cache will not get credit for the cache.
- No posting hints or instructions to a cache anywhere.
- Leave no trace by not leaving footprints, disturbing natural areas, or leaving trash.
- Obey all laws and regulations such as park hours.
- Don't trespass onto private land. Normally there are fences between the county parks and private lands.
- Researching the general area ahead of time is a good idea. Using google maps or google earth to find the parking area and potential barriers such as streams or private land to plan your route to the geocache accordingly.
 - *Please Note: not all the listed addresses will take you to the parking areas.*

Contact Info

If you have questions or if there is ever an issue with one of the caches such as its broken or placed far from the posted coordinates, please contact FCCB Naturalist, Aubrey Brown at:

naturalist.franklin.wright@gmail.com

641-531-9475.