

What is Geocaching?

Geocaching is a fun way to merge technology and outdoor exploration. Folks hide a *cache*, typically a small container with a log book, somewhere, and people use a GPS receiver or their phone to find it. When a cache is found, the finder goes to www.geocaching.com to log the visit, maybe upload a photo and read what others said about it. Participants visit that website also for lists of caches and coordinates for the GPS-based hunts.

Geocaching Safety

When geocaching in the park, here are some important safety measures to keep in mind:

- Before you stick your hand into a dark hole to check for a geocache, use a stick to check for snakes
- Remember that the GPS receiver gives you straight line directions...ignoring lakes, rivers, ravines, and mountains
- The actual mileage you have to walk may be much longer than what is shown on the GPS receiver due to obstructions
- When geocaching in the woods, consider all the hazards that you would if you were going hiking; including ticks, mosquitoes, snakes, chiggers, poison ivy, black widow spiders, and getting lost

How Does it Work?

Sign the log inside the cache with your name! Next take an item of your choice out of the container and replace the container where you found it!

Fairy Stone State Park has 21 geocaches. They range from simple *quick grabs* easily reached from a trail to challenging *multi-caches* that require collecting information at one site before moving on to the next. We also have 2 *earth caches*, which have no cache box; geocachers usually must log visits to this type of cache by providing information obtainable only by visiting the site.

For more information about Earth Caches visit www.earthcache.org



While you're geocaching, why not take part in **Trail Quest**, too? Log park visits and earn special prizes.

You'll earn five unique and attractive pins. Get one for your **first park** visit and others after visiting **5, 10, 20** and **all parks**. The whole family can participate so each family member can sign up for Trail Quest and start earning pins now.

Visit a Virginia State Park and, after the visit, log into the **State Park Adventures** page, select the name of the park you visited, pick "Trail Quest" and record the date of the visit.

Earth Caches Located on Fairy Stone State Park

*Nature's Holy Cross

N 36° 45.540 W 080° 05.520

To claim this Earth Cache, do one of the following:

- Find a fairy stone and take a picture of it in your hand
 - Take a photo of yourself in front of the Fairystone Pit Stop
- Also, answer these questions:
- 1) Although most fairy stones are grey due to exposure to elements, what 5 colors are possible?
 - 2) Name 3 other places staurolite crystals can be found

*Little Mountain Falls

N 36° 47.143 W 080° 05.888

To claim this Earth Cache, answer the following questions:

- Based on the lesson, what type of waterfall are you observing?
- Describe the appearance of the flow of water over the falls.
- How do you think the weather has influenced the rate of flow?
- Do you observe a plunge pool? If so, describe it and how deep you think it may be.
- Based on the lesson, describe the type of rock that makes up this falls.
- Post a photo at or near the falls. This is your log signature. You do not have to appear in the photo.



Fairy Stone State Park
967 Fairystone Lake Dr
Stuart, VA 24171
Phone 276-930-2424

Virginia State Parks

Fairy Stone State Park

Geocaching



I
LOVE
Virginia State Parks

www.virginiastateparks.gov

Geocaches Located on Fairy Stone State Park

*Welcome to Fairy Stone State Park

N 36° 47.450 W 080° 07.138

Micro capsule, easy difficulty - need pen
Park Entrance

*Adam Wants to be a BARK Ranger

N 36° 47.552 W 080° 06.999

Medium traditional, easy difficulty - need pen

Park Office

Hint: Adam says there are many steps to becoming a good BARK ranger. Adam loves visiting Fairy Stone State Park as often as he can

*The Little Fairy, PJ's Forest Friend

N 36° 47.455 W 080° 06.848

Medium traditional, medium difficulty - need pen

Oak Hickory Trail

Hint: PJ's Friend, Lizzy the Lizard, will be watching your every move from her home

*Racky's Picnic Surprise at FSSP

N 36° 47.654 W 080° 07.084

Magnetic hide-a-key, easy difficulty - need pen

Picnic Area

Hint: Racky says "look under"

*Are We at the Beach Yet?

N 36° 47.614 W 080° 06.825

Micro capsule, easy difficulty - need pen
Beach Trail

Hint: GinGin says pay attention to all the signs along the trail

*Get L.O.S.T. at Fairy Stone State Park

N 36° 47.810 W 080° 06.789

Medium traditional, medium difficulty
Amphitheatre/Trail Head

*GinGin Learns about Fairy Stone

Magnetic hide-a-key, medium difficulty - need pen
Multi-Cache

Waypoint #1 - N 36° 47.798 W 080° 06.703

This is your starting point. "Welcome to Fairy Stone State Park". You must read and search sign to lean the missing coordinate numbers for the location of the geocache

AB = the first two numbers of the latitude of Oak Hickory Trailhead just happens to be the last two numbers of the year that Fairy Stone State Park opened to the public on June 15, 19AB

C = second number in the Beach Trail mileage

D = second number in percent grade steepness on trails marked "easy"

E = second number of area code listed for the phone number to Park Office

F = third number of Lower Stuart's Knob trail mileage

Waypoint #2 - N AB 47C.68 W 080 D6.EF0

*We Want to Bee at Fairy Stone State Park

N 36° 47.734 W 080° 06.510

Medium traditional, medium difficulty – need pen

Trail leads to Little Mountain Falls trail head

Hint: Hiking sticks are always good when going uphill. Don't BEE stung by this one (figuratively speaking of course)

*GSA Gold 1 State Parks Series

N 36° 47.892 W 080° 06.326

Small traditional, medium difficulty
Lake Shore Trail

*A Bench with a View #1

N 36° 47.931 W 080° 06.187

Micro capsule, medium difficulty—need pen
Lakeshore Trail

*S'more Fun at Fairy Stone State Park

N 36° 47.835 W 080° 06.222

Medium traditional, medium difficulty
Lake Shore Trail

Hint: S'mores are a deeply rooted camping Tradition

*Fairy Stone State Park Manager, Mr. John Grooms

N 36° 47.590 W 080° 06.378

Small traditional, medium difficulty - need pen

Little Mountain Falls Trail

Hint: Follow road to turn to left leading to trail. "All pets must be on a leash." Third tree with orange blaze on left

*Which Way is the Right Way?

N 36° 46.758 W 080° 06.247

Regular traditional, medium difficulty
Mountain View Trail

Hint: If you start feeling that HOLLOW feeling in the pit of your stomach, have a seat and eat a snack

*Whose Organ Is It Anyway?

N 36° 46.617 W 080° 06.091

Regular traditional, medium difficulty
Mountain View Trail

Hint: Not all fallen stuff is reduced to dirt

*A Hair-Raising Event

N 36° 46.730 W 080° 05.901

Small traditional, medium difficulty
Mountain View Trail

Hint: Look in the obvious place

*Is It Knot Here?

N 36° 46.321 W 080° 05.723

Small traditional, medium difficulty
Goose Point Road

Hint: Does anybody live in there?

*Happy Trails to You, Until We Cache Again

N 36° 47.071 W 080° 07.569

Rock shaped hide-a-key, easy difficulty - need pen

Equestrian Campground

Hint: Did you know that Roy Rogers and his wife, Dale Evans, sang this song, except I'm sure they weren't into geocaching? Happy Trails to you, until we meet again. Happy trails to you, keep smiling until then

*A Bench with a View #2

N 36° 47.846 W 080° 07.056

Micro capsule, easy difficulty—need pen
Boat Ramp

Hint: Hanging around at eye level.

*People of the Parks

N 36° 47.914 W 080° 07.053

Medium traditional, easy difficulty
Stuart's Knob

Hint: Short distance from trailhead

*Bull Mountain Overlook

N 36° 47.953 W 080° 07.05406

X-Large traditional, moderate difficulty
Stuart's Knob

Two mile hike from trail head

Hint: Rock outcrop

*A Bench with a View #3

N 36° 47.963 W 080° 06.920

Micro capsule, easy difficulty—need pen
ADA Fishing Area

Hint: You can see my host from the middle seat slightly uphill.