Hungry Valley SVRA

Geocaching Policy

Overview:

The purpose of the Hungry Valley SVRA Geocaching Policy is to successfully manage the popular activity of geocaching within the park (see www.geocaching.com for a description of geocaching activities).The term *geocaching* represents similar activities such as letter boxing and bench marking, in addition to geocaching.

It shall be the policy of Hungry Valley SVRA to encourage positive use of its parks and resources. Geocaching can be a positive recreation activity when practiced under established conditions and procedures.

Authority:

Hungry Valley SVRA reserves the right to remove any caches that have been determined to be inappropriate because of location, content or has an adverse impact on wildlife, vegetation, visitors, or natural or cultural resources. If the park removes a cache, the park will attempt to contact the owner. Hungry Valley SVRA will handle the cache as lost property as described in Department of Parks and Recreation Lost and Found Policy. Hungry Valley SVRA retains the right to remove a cache that it feels for any reason is deemed inconsistent with the mission and/or statutes of the California State Park System.

Procedures:

A permit is not required for the placing or searching for geocaches in Hungry Valley SVRA. Placing and searching for geocaches must only take place during normal park hours, in park areas open to the public.

Cache Placement

1. Caches shall be registered on the internet with Geocaching.com at www.geocaching.com and comply with the guidelines found on that site.
2. Caches must not be placed so as to encourage the development of new "volunteer" trails.
3. Caches shall not be placed in locations that will encourage trail damage or cause erosion.
4. Cache owners shall not cut or modify vegetation, geographical/geological features, park signs, fences, posts, trails, trail markers or park buildings/facilities in order to hide a cache.
5. Caches shall not be placed on or near a potentially hazardous location.

6. Caches shall not interfere with wildlife or visitors.
7. Caches must be maintained by the owner. Caches that have been abandoned and not maintained will be considered litter and removed.
8. Caches shall not be placed within designated historic or cultural resources areas, or cause any travel near natural, historically and/or culturally sensitive areas.

Cache Containers and Contents

1. All caches must be clearly labeled on the exterior as a "geocache." All caches shall include contact information and a standard geocache "cache-note" inside, explaining the activity to an unintentional finder.
2. Contents shall be of a family friendly nature and shall not contain inappropriate, hazardous or illegal materials such as: flammables, explosives, controlled substances, pornography or food.
3. Containers shall be capable of withstanding the various environmental conditions present at Hungry Valley SVRA.
4. Containers must be capable of remaining secure in a fashion that would not allow any wildlife to access the contents of the cache.

Off-Highway Vehicle Provisions

1. Geocaches shall be placed where there is ample space for vehicles to pull off of the trail to avoid a collision.
2. Geocaches shall not be placed in hazardous locations (i.e. on the trail, around a blind corner, on steep embankments, near busy intersections, etc.).

Hungry Valley SVRA encourages all participants to practice the "Cache In, Trash Out" (CITO) policy described on the website: www.geocaching.com

Procedures for Hungry Valley SVRA Staff:

1. If Hungry Valley SVRA staff discovers a compliance issue regarding a cache that is an immediate hazard to life, property, vegetation, or wildlife species, they are authorized to immediately remove the cache, and notify the appropriate staff.

2. If Hungry Valley SVRA staff finds a compliance issue regarding a cache that does not require immediate resolution, they should notify the appropriate staff without delay. Necessary actions should be taken to resolve the issue promptly.