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## A Virtual Treasure Hunt in Yosemite



What's the latest, greatest way to get a different perspective on Yosemite? It's geocaching, a "high-tech treasure hunt" that can reveal interesting facts about the Park even to veteran visitors.

Ready to try it? Get out your Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver or your topo map and go to this location: N 37° 43.372' W -119° 37.192'. Now look for the following information: What kind of feature here is made from the hardest, most weather-resistant granite?

When you've answered that question, you will have successfully found your first "virtual geocache."

Congratulations! Send your answer to [info@yosemitefund.org](mailto:info@yosemitefund.org) with Geocache in the subject line. In an upcoming issue of our e-newsletter, we'll print the correct location and answer, and let you know how everyone did!

What is geocaching? This hobby began a few years ago when GPS enthusiasts started hiding small containers filled with goodies and posting the coordinates on the Internet so that other GPS users could look for them. The [Geocaching.com](http://Geocaching.com) website now lists more than 100,000 caches in over 200 countries. Most geocaches contain logbooks you sign to prove you were there, but the game uses virtual geocaches in U.S. national parks and other places where hiding physical containers would be inappropriate. These typically require finding certain information about the location's natural or cultural history, then checking your answer with the cache owner to verify your find.

One of the great things about geocaching is that the whole family can play. Many caches are easy enough for young children to find, while others can challenge the mental and physical skills of the most intrepid outdoors aficionados.

Visit [Geocaching.com](http://Geocaching.com) to learn more about this rapidly growing game. While you're there, be sure to look for geocaches in the Yosemite area that you can try to find the next time you visit the park. (Our virtual geocache came from "Stories in the Rocks: Yosemite Valley Geology", which was created by Yosemite Fund supporter Patty Winter.) Be sure to let us know about your geocaching adventures in Yosemite!

