

# GEO-GAME POLICY AND GUIDELINES

(includes Geocaching, Letterboxing, Geo-dashing, etc.)

This policy may be amended to include other geo-games, as those activities are created.

*As approved by the Mount Nittany Conservancy Board on September 23, 2018*

Mount Nittany Conservancy (MNC) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to acquire and conserve lands on and around Mount Nittany, a symbol of Penn State and the source of its legends. To benefit the public, MNC practices conservation, protection, and management of these lands as historic, scenic, recreational and environmental resources.

**Geocaching** involves the placement of ‘caches’ (usually small containers) in natural areas. The general location and geographic coordinates of these caches are shared on the Internet, i.e. at [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com). Global Positioning System (GPS) users can then use the location coordinates to search for and discover the caches. Caches contain a variety of items and the visitor is asked to leave a new item to replace the one they removed. Cache owners monitor the cache they placed with logbooks in the cache box, as well as on Internet sites.

**Letterboxing** involves the placement of small containers in natural or urban areas that contain a personal stamp (usually a rubber stamp) and logbook. Participants follow clues, sometimes using a compass or maps, to locate the letterbox. The logbook in the box is then stamped with the finder’s personal stamp and the letterbox stamp is stamped inside the finder’s logbook. Information on letterboxing is available at [www.letterboxing.org](http://www.letterboxing.org)

**Geo-dashing** includes the use of GPS unit to participate in a game involving predefined waypoints and does not involve the placement of a physical cache.

Mount Nittany Conservancy welcomes geo-gaming as a healthy physical activity that encourages recreation. The purpose of this policy is to establish management and placement guidelines for geo-gaming so as to minimize the impact on natural and cultural resources on MNC land.

## **GUIDELINES FOR PLACING A GEOCACHE OR LETTERBOX ON MOUNT NITTANY CONSERVANCY LAND:**

1. The Cache/Box Owner is responsible for care and monitoring of the cache/box while on MNC property. MNC is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged items. Cache must be monitored regularly.
2. When choosing a location for a geo-cache or letterbox, owners should be aware of the perception of other visitors and non-geocachers. Caches that interfere with other recreational activities will not be allowed. Also, cache locations should not pose any danger to those searching for the cache or to other visitors. MNC retains the right to remove a cache in the interest of protecting the environment and/or visitor safety.
3. No archaeological, historic, or ecologically sensitive sites should be used for cache locations.
4. No burying or digging is permitted. Cutting trees, shrubs, or plants is also prohibited.
5. Geocaches and Letterboxes must be clearly labeled "Geocache" or "Letterbox" on the outside of the container. Inside the container must be a log book, owner contact information, and a brief information sheet about geocaching or letterboxing for unexpected discoverers to understand the cache process.
6. Cache or Letterbox containers must be common items such as a 35mm film container or plastic kitchen container. No large caches (i.e., buckets) are permitted.
7. No firearms, weapons, ammo, food, alcohol, drugs, explosives, or adult items may be included in the cache. Cache contents must be suitable for all ages.
8. Caches or letterboxes placed on Conservancy managed land must be available to the public via a public website (such as [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) or [www.letterboxing.org](http://www.letterboxing.org)).

Questions?: Please contact the MNC Recreation Committee Chair at [Info@MtNittany.org](mailto:Info@MtNittany.org)