

## Groundspeak Reviewer FUNdamentals

by  
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## Outline



1. Introduction
2. What's the difference between GeocacheAlaska! and Groundspeak?
3. How does one get selected to be a reviewer?
4. What does a reviewer do?
5. Helping your local reviewer
6. Questions from the floor

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## GeocacheAlaska! vs Groundspeak???



- A member of the GeocacheAlaska!, Inc., Board of Directors, is committed to geocacher education and land manager advocacy to assure access to local, state, and federal public lands for local geocachers
- A Groundspeak Reviewer reviews submitted caches for compliance with Groundspeak's guidelines following a well-defined process and performs administrative cache maintenance

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## GeocacheAlaska! vs Groundspeak???



- Establishing local policies with Land Managers is the accountability of the GeocacheAlaska! Advocacy Committee
- Assuring compliance with local policies prior to publishing a cache is the accountability of the local Reviewer
- The local reviewer may be asked to intercede on a noncompliant cache by a land manager, land owner, or an individual in the local caching community
- Groundspeak is only a listing service. Ultimately, the Cache Owner and the local caching community have accountability for compliance with local land manager policy

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## Local Organization Involvement



- Of reviewers who responded to an August/September poll:
  - 26% currently serve as officer of their local organization
  - 12% serve as a member at large
  - 5% serve as officer at chapter level
  - 16% serve in other capacity
  - 30% do not serve local organization
  - 12% do not review in area with local organization

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## How is one selected to be a reviewer?



- From the Groundspeak Knowledge Books:
  - 13.8. Volunteer Cache Reviewer**
  - How do I become a volunteer cache reviewer?**
  - Geocaching.com asks geocachers to become volunteer cache reviewers based on an identified need in the local area. Qualifications include experience level (most volunteers have hidden dozens of caches and found hundreds or thousands), reputation within the local geocaching community, involvement with any local geocaching organizations, demonstrated ability to work with land managers, communications skills, and knowledge of the geocache listing guidelines.*
  - The best thing you can do if you'd like to become a cache reviewer is to work on each of the qualifications described above. Then, when you least expect it, you might be asked!*
  - [https://support.groundspeak.com/index.php?pg=kb\\_page&id=278](https://support.groundspeak.com/index.php?pg=kb_page&id=278)

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## Reviewer Roles



- Comply with the Groundspeak Code of Conduct
- Review and publish caches
- Respond to land manager and cacher concerns
- Review long-standing disabled caches and caches needing maintenance
- Some reviewers moderate gc.com forums
- Plays the game

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## Reviewer Roles – Code of Conduct



- Volunteers shall support the position and direction of Groundspeak management.
- Volunteers shall maintain professional decorum, ethics, language, and respectfulness while representing Groundspeak.
- Volunteers shall avoid even the appearance of dishonest behavior or use of their position and authority for personal advantage.
- When writing, speaking or acting as an individual geocacher, Volunteers must recognize that their words and actions reflect upon Groundspeak and the rest of the volunteer team.

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## Reviewer Roles – Review and Publish Caches



- Conformation with Groundspeak guidelines
  - Proximity to other caches, schools, railroad, government buildings, etc.
  - Noncommercial – cannot promote commercial entity, charities, political or social agendas in cache name or body of text
  - Adequate permission/permits
  - Distance from home coordinates
- New ideas may be tested by
  - Asking other reviewers
  - Using the Groundspeak appeals process via [appeals@groundspeak.com](mailto:appeals@groundspeak.com)

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Reviewer Roles –  
Respond to Cache Concerns



- Direct contact from cachers or land managers
- “Needs Archived” log

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Reviewer Roles –  
Review Disabled & Needs Maint.



- Periodically runs pocket queries for Temporarily Disabled caches or caches with the “Needs Maintenance” flag
- Posts reviewer note requesting a response within 30 days
- Will archive if cache is not replaced/repared or no maintenance plan is provided

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Reviewer Roles –  
Forum Moderation



- Some moderators are reviewers and some moderators only moderate
- Read forums to verify threads stay on topic, remain family friendly, comply with Groundspeak forum guidelines, etc.
- Move threads to appropriate category
- Modify thread titles or close threads

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## Reviewer Roles – Playing the game



- Hunting caches and FTFs, puzzles, multis

### "USE OF UNPUBLISHED INFORMATION: BEING FIRST TO FIND"

Volunteers will not use unpublished information supplied for cache review to their advantage in finding caches, nor will they intentionally share this information with others. Unpublished information includes, for example, the intermediate and final waypoints of multicaches, and the solutions to puzzle caches. Volunteers may be first to find any traditional cache after it is published on the Geocaching.com website. To avoid the appearance of impropriety, Volunteers will refrain from seeking unfound caches of other types which they have published, for a period of seven days from the date when such a cache is published on the Geocaching.com website."

--Code of Conduct for Groundspeak Volunteers

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## Reviewer Roles – Playing the game



- Hiding caches
  - May publish own cache and events in compliance with the guidelines
  - May ask another reviewer to review and publish

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## Helping your local reviewer



- Read and understand the guidelines before submitting a cache
- Read Section 4 of the Groundspeak Knowledge Books <http://support.groundspeak.com/index.php?pg=kb.chapter&id=22>
- When you e-mail your reviewer about a cache, reference the "GC" number
- Add waypoints for multi-, Wherlgo and mystery caches
- Check the proximity to other caches
- Use the "needs archived" or an e-mail the Reviewer to raise a concern about a cache

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## Resources



- Geocaching.com Resources:  
<http://www.geocaching.com/resources/default.aspx>
- Geocaching Glossary of Terms:  
<http://www.geocaching.com/about/glossary.aspx>
- Geocaching Knowledge Books:  
[http://support.groundspeak.com/index.php?pg=kb\\_book&id=1](http://support.groundspeak.com/index.php?pg=kb_book&id=1)
- Geocaching.com Forums  
<http://forums.groundspeak.com/GC/>
- Geocacher University: <http://www.geocacher-u.com/>
- GeocacheAlaska! Related Links:  
<http://www.geocachealaska.org/relatedlinks.htm>
- GeocacheAlaska! Forums:  
<http://geocachealaska.proboards.com/index.cgi>

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