

it's Your Life...
Are You Ready?



Hold a Meteors & S'Mores Party

From July 13th to August 26th, the night sky will play host to the Perseids meteor shower. The meteors are particles released from the Swift-Tuttle comet during its return to our inner solar system. The Perseids shower gets its name from the constellation Perseus, the hero figure who overlooks the section of sky where the meteors most frequently fly through.

The peak of the shower will occur between August 12th and 13th, with a possible 50-75 meteors visible per hour. So why not hold a meteors and s'mores party with your friends to view the shooting stars? After all, that's a lot of wishes to make all by yourself!

For the best viewing party, try and select a location away from the glow of city lights. If your backyard is in the middle of the city, see if a state or city park outside of the city limits is staying open late for people to view the shower (some are). Bring plenty of bug spray, comfy blankets, and even pillows so your neck doesn't get sore looking up at the sky so much.



If you're in a place that allows grills or camp fires, make s'mores. Thermoses filled with coffee are also a good idea. See how many constellations you and your friends can name. Bonus points if anyone knows the story behind a constellation name or if they know multiple names for the same set of stars from different cultures.

Keep count of how many shooting stars you see. The person who sees the most is sure to be lucky!

Geocaching for Beginners

Looking for something to do that doesn't cost a whole paycheck from your summer job? Try your hand at locating hidden items as part of a global treasure hunt. Try geocaching. All you need is a GPS-enabled device (like your smartphone), Internet access, and some gas money if you need to drive to cache locations.



Back in 2000, the coordination of 24 satellites orbiting Earth allowed anyone with access to GPS technology to precisely pinpoint a location on Earth and share it with others. So, of course, a group of fun-loving techies devised a game where people could hide items—which were usually containers filled with knickknacks and a log book—called caches, and then post the location for others to find and log their discovery.

Caches can be hidden everywhere, and boy do people really use their imagination to hide them! Some caches have riddles and clues to other caches, some have items you can swap out so it's an ever-changing treasure horde, some contain puzzles, and others are locations where you can learn about a special geographic feature or environment.

Here's how you can start playing, for free:

1. Register online for a free Basic Membership.
2. Visit the "Hide & Seek a Cache" page.
3. Enter your 5-digit zip code, or the zip code where you want to play, and click "search" to find caches near you.
4. Choose any geocache from the list by clicking on its name.
5. Enter the coordinates of the selected geocache into your GPS device.
6. Use your GPS device to assist you in finding the hidden geocache.
7. Sign the logbook (if there is one) and return the geocache to its original location for the next person.
8. Share your geocaching stories and photos online.
9. Compete with other friends to find the most number of geocaches.