



NEWSLETTER

JULY 2026

Geocaching News Around Texas



TXGA
Celebrating
25
Years of
Texas Challenge

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*Join us in November for Roundup!
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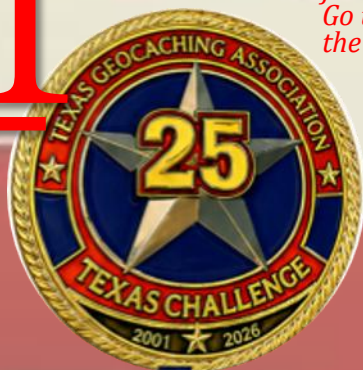
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25 Years of Texas Challenge

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Mission Statement

The Texas Geocaching Association (TXGA) is a volunteer organization. We strive to be the foremost advocate for Geocaching in Texas and to promote the family-oriented activity of geocaching through a central website, social media, workshops, events and information displays, while encouraging responsible stewardship of public lands. TXGA is committed to celebrating the diversity of our membership in all regions of Texas and beyond. From finders to hidiers, veteran to novice geocachers, our differences allow us to serve and support each other while building a dynamic geocaching environment in Texas and the greater community.

TXGA Board Members

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East

Wanda Risner (Jacks86)

North

Michael McKinney (McKsix)

South

Cheri Tummelson (CrazyChickC)

Southeast

Elisa Reynozo (georeyna)

West

Alicia Mullins (BigDaddy_BabyDoll)

[Click here to join](#)

Become a Member!

Story Board

TXGA Board President, Kevin Boatman (K13)

Happy Birthday USA! 250 years and counting!!

I was thinking about Independence Days over the years, and a couple very memorable ones came to mind. First was the Bicentennial celebration 50 years ago when our small town went all out with a huge festival. A buddy and I won the greased pig chase, after about 45 minutes of chasing that little sucker all over town.

The second one was in 2016. I was working in Midland and had planned to go out to Guadalupe Peak on Friday, to climb, camp and geocache for the weekend. The rental car was packed, and I was almost to Odessa when the phone rang. The Client needed some information verified in Pecos. No big deal, since I was headed that direction anyway. Unfortunately, it took until they closed the Courthouse for me to get the answers.

I headed down to the WalMart for some snacks and drinks. The late hour meant that I'd be setting up my tent in the dark, once I made the 3 plus hours over to the mountain. My phone dinged with a notification for a new cache, and when I looked on the app, something reminded me about GeoWoodstock in Denver on Saturday. I decided to flip a coin to choose where to go: Heads, Guadalupe Peak or Tails, GeoWoodstock. Tails it was, so I headed North toward Denver.

I spent the night in Roswell...and was lucky to find a motel room due to the "Alien Festival" and grabbed a couple caches before heading on toward my Saturday goal of attending an event atop Pike's Peak. I made it to the top just in time for the group photo.



In addition to the Event, I found 6 other Geocache Types, all above 14,000 feet elevation. There's probably a Challenge cache that could come from an achievement like that. It was a good day, except for the slight altitude sickness I experienced, and the mid-30s temperature. My shorts and t-shirt weren't the proper attire for this day, but my rain jacket helped.

After caching my way down the mountain with some other geocachers I met along the way, I headed on toward Denver for the night. I didn't realize how difficult it would be to find a hotel for the Saturday night of Independence Day Weekend. I made multiple calls as I drove on through the evening. After striking out on getting a motel in the area of the event, I decided to sleep in the car. I looked for a quiet parking lot that wouldn't be busy before 8 am and that was fairly close to morning food and not too far from the Chatfield Botanical Gardens, the location of GeoWoodstock. Sports Authority fit the bill and I parked there. The rental car was just large enough with the rear seat folded for me to stretch out (sort of, anyway). I had found a negative of the "Travel-on-a-Whim" program.

Sometime around 3 am I was awakened by a burglar alarm. I noticed the lights in the parking lot were also out, so I wasn't concerned, and dozed off again. Just as I got back to sleep, the police came knocking on my window. That was a surprise! They had questions, so I explained my presence, proved my identity and told them about the alarm that awakened me. After about 30 minutes, they were done with me, and I crawled back into the car and tried to get back to sleep.

Story Board (cont'd.)

When the sun rose, I readied for the day and headed to my first GeoWoodstock. I wasn't sure what to expect, but when I arrived about two hours before the start, I was surprised to find myself about 30 cars back in the line of geocachers waiting to enter the parking area. I got out of the car and walked to a few geocaches that were close. That's when I saw some friends from Tyler were almost first in the line.

GeoWoodstock was a fun day of finding several geocaches in the Botanical Gardens, including a "Traveling Cache". Do you remember those? The Q&A session with the Lackeys & Reviewers was interesting. When I tried to buy an Event t-shirt, the only ones left were 3XL. Another negative of the "Travel-on-a-Whim" program. As I was paying for it, a cacher walked up wanting to exchange a shirt that was too small. It was my size, and the one I'd just bought was what they needed. Blessings can happen anywhere and at any time.

I made a plan to get Mingo on the way back to Midland and headed to Limon for the night. It wasn't the Hilton, but I had a bed and a shower before finding a cache or two and leaving Colorado, toward Mingo, Kansas. A few hours across the plains, and the exit appeared. I made a point to find the other few caches close by and had another cacher take a photo of me with Mingo. I appreciated the history but wasn't overly impressed with the geocache itself. Now to get back on the road toward Midland.



I made a point to grab a cache or few each time I crossed a state line to net finding a geocache in four states in one day. Once back in Texas, I did the usual thing of getting a cache in each county that was blank on my map. I finally made it back to Midland sometime around 2 am. What an adventure! When I returned the rental car on Tuesday, I had driven over 1800 miles and amassed 65 or so Smileys along the way.

Sometimes a fun adventure can happen without a plan. The "Travel-on-a-Whim" program had some negatives, but the positives outweighed them by miles. The 2016 Independence Day Weekend took me to the "Purple Mountains Majesty" and through the "Amber Waves of Grain". I couldn't imagine a better way to celebrate Uncle Sam's Birthday.

May all your Smileys bring you a Smile.

K13

Do you have an adventurous story to share? Send it to newsletter@texasgeocaching.com.

Cacher of the Month

North Texas



Meet Cacher of the Month – TheMtns (Jennifer Mountain) from the North region of Texas.

1. How did you choose your geonic and what does it mean?

Upon commencing Geocaching, I anticipated it would be a family-oriented activity. I chose *TheMtns* as the name to include all of my family members, as both “Mountain” and “Mountains” had already been claimed. However, my children and husband expressed a lack of enthusiasm for Geocaching.

2. Where is your home area?

When I first got into Geocaching, I was living near Decatur, TX. Now, I’m near Wichita Falls, TX.

3. How did you get started in geocaching?

I stumbled upon Geocaching online when my kids were little, and I immediately thought it would be a fantastic way to get them outside. Back then, I didn’t know anyone else who was into it, so I had quite a few unsuccessful attempts to find my first cache, but once I got the hang of how most geocaches are hidden, I was hooked!

4. What was your first find?

My first find was Play Ball! ([GC1AZRJ](#))

5. What is your favorite geocaching experience?

I’ve had some fantastic Geocaching adventures, visiting places I might not have explored otherwise. However, the highlight was definitely the 20-Year Celebration in Seattle, Washington. I got to visit with so many Geocaching friends and found caches in Oregon, Washington, and Vancouver.

6. How many finds and hides do you have?

I have 8,145 finds and 83 hides.

7. What are some goals you have?

I would like to complete the Texas County Challenge, but work keeps interfering with my play.

Cache of the Month

West Texas

GC Code:	<u>GC90NKN</u>
Name:	Hole in One
Cache Type:	Traditional
Region:	West
County:	Kent
Cache Owner:	Spooky64
Hidden:	09/28/2020
Favorite Pts:	4

I think everyone has or has had, or will have, an elusive hide and ours was a point of contention for quite a while:

GC90NKN Hole in One

It all began on Nov. 22, 2024. We had been to Lubbock for a family dinner and as always, we did some geocaching along the way there and back. Hole in One was not on our list but on the way home I was looking at caches we were passing along the way. It was very dark - VERY dark. I casually mentioned we just passed one called Hole in One and we should plan to get it at some point because the name appealed to the golfers in us. Micheal decided that "point" should be right then, so we turned around and went back. Did I mention how dark it was? It was so creepy even though it was at a rest stop. Maybe that made it creepier?... Anyway, it was decided that I would stay in the car and he would go on the hunt while we stayed on the phone with each other. He spent a good 10-15 minutes going up a hill and rooting around with his flashlight to no avail. We decided not to DNF it because it was dark and it could easily be missed due to that. We put it on our list to revisit in the future. We finally made it back in Sept. of 2025 and were ready to add that smiley. It was not to be. We both scoured that hillside. Nothing. We DNF'd it, contacted the CO, and vowed to come back again. The CO checked it and sure enough it was missing, so they replaced it. Fast forward to May of 2026: We packed a lunch and headed out to specifically find it. This time we came away with the smiley. It is a great hide and a definite favorite. If you happen to find yourself in the middle of nowhere just off TX 208 on TX 380 stop and grab it.

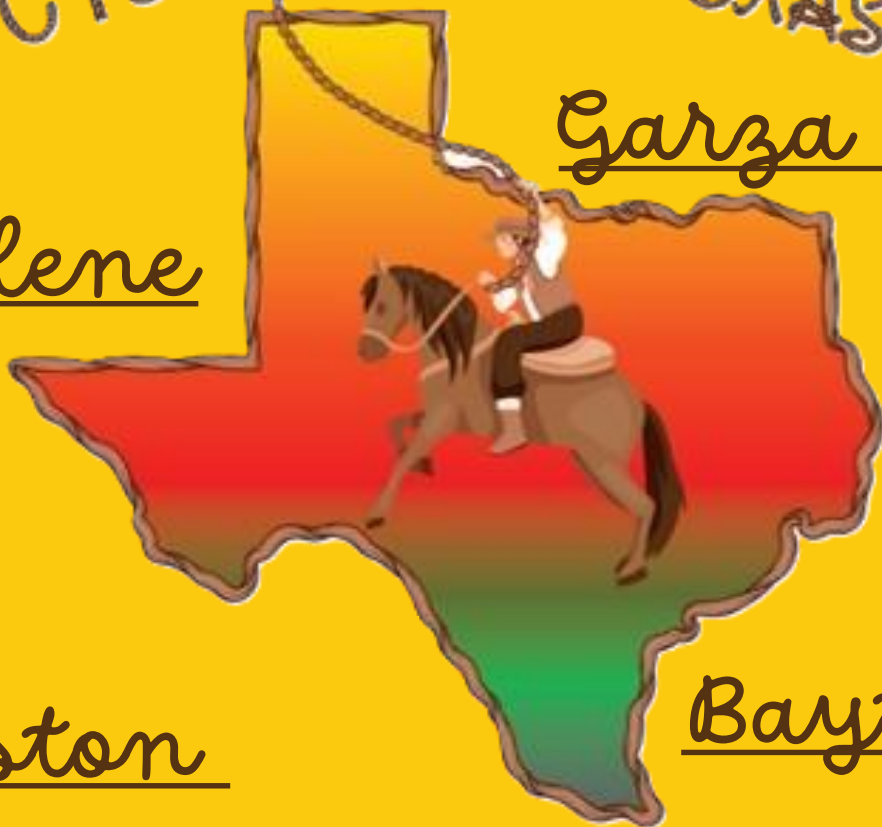
~Alicia Mullins, West Texas Rep



CITO ACROSS TEXAS

Garza Dam

Abilene



Houston

Baytown

Saturday, September 19, 2026

These CITO's have already published
in the North and Southeast regions!
Where's yours?

Let's get some representation in our other parts of our
state (East, South, West, Central, the Panhandle, the
Valley and the Gulf)!

Email CITOAcrossTexas@TexasGeocaching.com
with your contact info and proposed coordinates!

2026 LONESTAR ROUNDUP HAS PUBLISHED! GCBKXQC

Adventure Lab
Poker run?

New geocaches
in the area!

G'all, log your "will attend" today!



Click here 
to "Will Attend"!

Click here 
for more info
on Jacksonville

**SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 14, 2026
9:00AM – 2:30PM**

Meet geocachers
from around
the State!

Fun and Games!

**JACKSONVILLE, TX
NICHOLS GREEN PARK**



Get to know San Angelo



Visit the Fort Concho National Historic Landmark



Immerse Yourself at the San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts



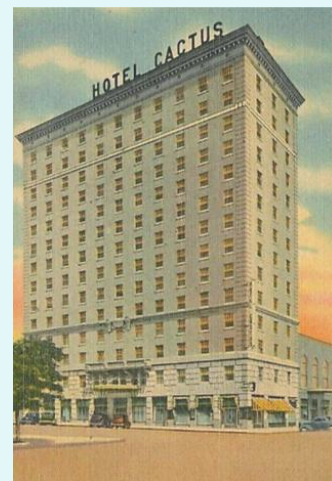
Enjoy the International Water Lily Collection for Free!



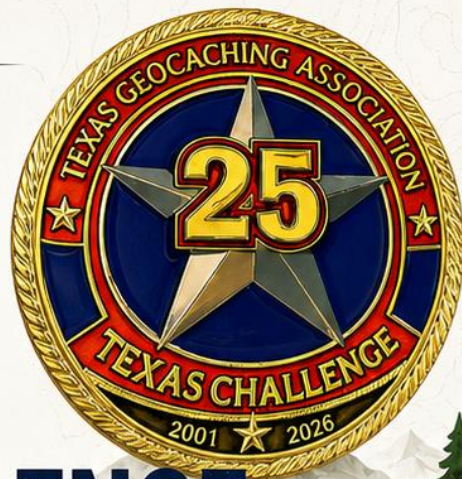
Explore the Bordello!



See the Historic Cactus Hotel



CELEBRATE 25 YEARS OF TEXAS CHALLENGE



A new statewide cache series is helping build excitement for the 25th Texas Challenge in San Angelo.

This month marks a historic anniversary in America—but there is also a major milestone approaching in the Texas geocaching community. In March 2027, TXGA will host the 25th Texas Challenge in San Angelo. For a quarter century, thousands of geocachers from across Texas and beyond have traveled the state to celebrate our favorite hobby.

To honor that legacy, TXGA has launched a special cache series: **'25 Years of Texas Challenges.'** The project places a special ammo can cache near each of the past 25 Texas Challenge locations. Inside each cache, geocachers will find a passport and a unique punch.

The first 25 people to complete their passport will receive a free commemorative coin, to be awarded at the 25th Texas Challenge in March 2027. Once you complete your passport, email a photo of it for validation to 25yrsOfChallenges@TexasGeocaching.com.

Be sure to pay close attention to the cache pages and the contents of the ammo cans—both include clues that can help you win additional prizes. Each cache page also lists the full series and the publication status of every cache.

The series begins at Fort Parker State Park, site of the first Texas Challenge in 2001, with the first cache in the series: **GCBJXJ7**.

★ HOW TO JOIN THE FUN ★



Pick up a passport from one of the series caches



Collect punches from caches at past Challenge locations



Email your completed passport photo for validation



First 25 finishers earn a commemorative coin



LEARN MORE on the cache pages for the 25 Years of Texas Challenges series.





TXGA 25 Years of Challenge



9
caches
posted



108
total
Found It logs



73
unique
geocachers



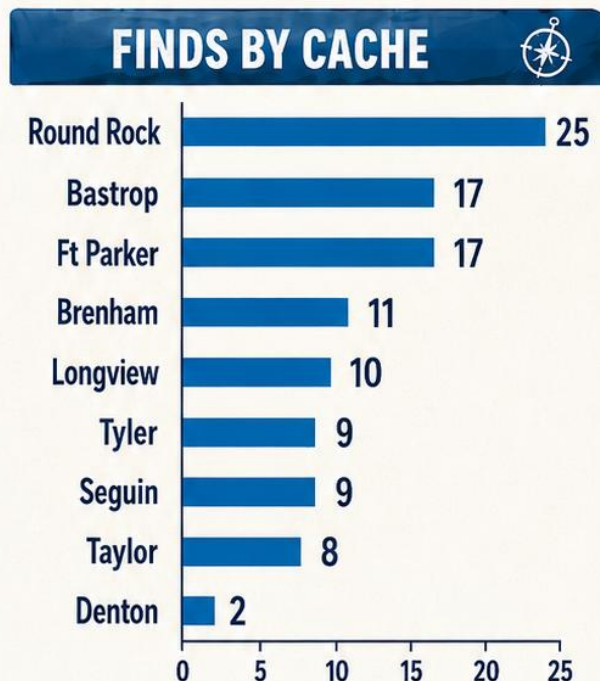
15
cachers
found 2+ caches



6
caches
to post this summer

MOST POPULAR STOPS

-  **Most finds:**
Round Rock – 25
-  **Least finds:**
Denton – 2
-  **Tied for second:**
Bastrop and Ft Parker – 17 each
-  **Top 3 caches**
generated 59 finds





TOP PASSPORT HUNTERS



Electric Water Boy
8 caches



Texas Ladybug
7 caches



Angellissa
5 caches



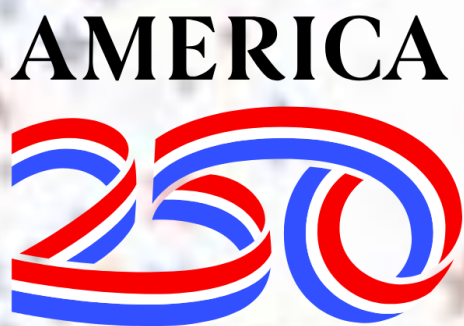
ExploreGrl
4 caches



TX2st3p
4 caches



More of myrthman's (Sean Rackley's) comics can be found at <https://myrthman.blogspot.com>.



**Have you found
these patriotic
geocaches?**



Geocache Name	GC Code	Type	Region
America	GCATT79	Traditional	C
America 250: 1776 • 1976 • 2026	GCBRW6J	Traditional	C
America 250: A Letter from the Alamo	GCBRWP4	Traditional	C
America 250: Our Flag Was Still There	GCBRWAC	Traditional	C
America Celebrates 250 Years	GCBHJ7A	Traditional	SE
America the Beautiful	GC62YAC	Traditional	SE
America the Beautiful	GCB2WEE	Traditional	SE
America the Beautiful GeoArt - Bonus Cache! (one in the series)	GC97J1C	Mystery	C
As American as Mom, Baseball, and Apple Pie	GCAAH48	Mystery	C
Celebrating America's Semiquincentennial in 2026	GCBHA27	Multi	C
Semiquincentennial	GCBJHMM	Traditional	SE
Semiquincentennial Dedication	GCBJ4QZ	Virtual	SE
United States Challenge	GCAXXFN	Mystery	S

Don't forget to subscribe to our channel on YouTube for the latest videos on geocaching.



Click
here and
subscribe!



Mark your
calendar!

Upcoming Geo-events by Region*

Click here for
a new interactive
map and event
list

Region	GC Code	Title	Type	Date
Central	GCBRCH2	GeoTex Geocachers Breakfast July 2026	Event	Sat, Jul 4, 2026, 9:00 AM
Central	GCBT2HQ	Lions of July	Event	Sat, Jul 11, 2026, 5:00 PM
Central	GCBQYNB	Just for the FUN of it!	Event	Sat, Jul 18, 2026, 1:00 PM
East	GCBR0AV	Powder Creek Park Cleanup	CITO	Sat, Jul 11, 2026, 11:00 AM
East	GCBR0BR	Welcome To Muddbones, TX	Event	Sat, Jul 11, 2026, 12:30 PM
East	GCBKXQC	2026 TXGA Lone Star Roundup	Event	Sat, Nov 14, 2026, 9:00 AM
North	GCBNFYX	Honoring 250 Years of America – Texoma Style	Event	Sat, Jul 4, 2026, 6:00 PM
North	GCBPXB2	7*06 DAWGS Celebrate Malts and Stuff	Event	Mon, Jul 6, 2026, 7:00 PM
North	GCBRT6Y	Let's Eat and Talk Geocaching - Chicago Style!	Event	Wed, Jul 8, 2026, 6:30 PM
North	GCBT28A	First Friday Breakfast Club - July (Kinda)	Event	Fri, Jul 10, 2026, 9:00 AM
North	GCBT5CM	National Embrace Your Geekness Day	Event	Mon, Jul 13, 2026, 6:30 PM
North	GCBT5AZ	DAWGS host a national event	Event	Mon, Jul 20, 2026, 6:30 PM
North	GCBRM1F	8*03 DAWGS Celebrate National Grab Some Nuts Day	Event	Mon, Aug 3, 2026, 7:00 PM
North	GCBT28D	First Friday Breakfast Club - August (Kinda)	Event	Fri, Aug 14, 2026, 9:00 AM
North	GCBT6P9	TXGA CITO Across Texas - Garza bucket brigade V	CITO	Sat, Sep 19, 2026, 9:00 AM
North	GCBR161	CitoTXGA: Trail to the Swimmin' Hole	CITO	Sat, Sep 19, 2026, 10:00 AM
South	GCBRQD2	Beat the Heat San Antonio	CITO	Thu, Jul 2, 2026, 7:30 AM
South	GCBR6TC	America's 250th 1776-2026 Meet & Greet July 3rd	Event	Fri, Jul 3, 2026, 9:00 AM
South	GCBP41X	Off the wall!	Event	Fri, Jul 3, 2026, 7:00 PM
South	GCBP406	Texas Geocampers @ Lake Corpus Christi State Park	Event	Sat, Jul 4, 2026, 6:30 PM
South	GCBRR4N	Geocaching Roots Meet & Greet – July 10, 2026	Event	Fri, Jul 10, 2026, 9:00 AM
South	GCBT2HJ	July Fun Facts Meet & Greet – July 17, 2026	Event	Fri, Jul 17, 2026, 9:00 AM
South	GCBRWN4	Cooling off Geochat	Event	Sun, Jul 26, 2026, 4:00 PM
Southeast	GCBRERX	Club UFO - InnerSPACE	Event	Wed, Jul 1, 2026, 11:00 AM
Southeast	GCBRAFR	Let's Celebrate with Burritos!!	Event	Fri, Jul 3, 2026, 11:30 AM
Southeast	GCBRFN8	Breakfast with a Geocacher # 15	Event	Sun, Jul 5, 2026, 8:00 AM
Southeast	GCBRVCA	Breakfast in Newton	Event	Mon, Jul 6, 2026, 7:00 AM
Southeast	GCBREYW	Will Cache for Food #187 – Celebrating 250 Years!	Event	Mon, Jul 6, 2026, 6:00 PM
Southeast	GCBR5X2	FIRST MONDAY IN MID COUNTY JULY 2025	Event	Mon, Jul 6, 2026, 6:00 PM
Southeast	GCBT0GZ	Club UFO: USA 250	Event	Wed, Jul 8, 2026, 11:00 AM
Southeast	GCBRAGF	WATPM July 2026 - Back on Track!!	Event	Thu, Jul 9, 2026, 11:30 AM
Southeast	GCBRCEA	Brazos Valley Geocachers Lunch #3	Event	Tue, Jul 14, 2026, 11:45 AM
Southeast	GCBT35J	SE GeoFriends FTF 47 - Dona Chela	Event	Tue, Jul 14, 2026, 6:30 PM
Southeast	GCBT7EW	cLUB uFo - wHaT gOes uP mUsT cOmE DoWn	Event	Wed, Jul 15, 2026, 11:00 AM
Southeast	GCBRPHW	KAWSGE 53	Event	Wed, Jul 15, 2026, 6:30 PM
Southeast	GCBT0D6	365	Event	Fri, Jul 17, 2026, 5:30 PM
Southeast	GCBT3WE	BONUS CLUB UFO: National Get Gnarly Day	Event	Wed, Jul 29, 2026, 11:00 AM
Southeast	GCBT64R	TXGA CITO Across Texas - Baytown 2026	CITO	Sat, Sep 19, 2026, 9:00 AM
Southeast	GCBRXZT	TXGA CITO Across Texas - Houston III	CITO	Sat, Sep 19, 2026, 9:00 AM
Southeast	GCBRY0A	mmmmm donuts - donuts Across Texas III	Event	Sat, Sep 19, 2026, 8:00 AM
Southeast	GCBRT4Y	BB's World Wide Flash Mob (WWFM X) Event!	Event	Sat, Sep 12, 2026, 12:00 PM
Southeast	GCBRD9B	Hey Buddy, Let's Clean Up Another Park CXXV	CITO	Sat, Jul 11, 2026, 8:00 AM
Southeast	GCBRDA1	mmmmm donuts - CXXV	Event	Sat, Jul 11, 2026, 7:00 AM
Southeast	GCBRGZJ	HoustonHerp Hollers He Has to Have a Hamburger!!	Event	Sat, Jul 11, 2026, 12:30 PM
West	GCBT26H	TXGA CITO Across Texas - Abilene III	CITO	Sat, Sep 19, 2026, 9:00 AM
West	GCBR4BD	West Region Meet Up- Midland/Odessa	Event	Sat, Aug 29, 2026, 12:30 PM
West	GCBM0V0	25th Annual Texas Challenge & Geocaching Festival	Mega	Sat, Mar 13, 2027, 8:00 AM