



How to...



RECORD QUEST

The world's largest scavenger hunt took place in South Korea in 2023 and consisted of 3,040 participants looking for 200 items.

Have a scavenger hunt

Build teamwork—and create fun summer memories—with this classic challenge.

The long days of summer are a great time to host an outdoor scavenger hunt. In this game, players try to find specific items within a certain time limit. You'll want to ask a parent for permission before you get started. Maybe they'll want to do the scavenger hunt with you! Here's how you can organize one for your family or a group of friends.

Set the ground rules

First, establish the boundaries for where you'll have your scavenger hunt, whether in a backyard, on your street, or at a nature trail, park, or playground. (For more location ideas, see the box at right.) Plan the hunt during daylight hours and determine how long it will last, such as 30 or 60 minutes. Make sure everyone stays safe by pairing up in teams of two or more, and have adult chaperones present.

Make a list

Think about items you're likely to see and make a list. (You can ask friends to help you brainstorm possibilities.) For example, you could write down a specific kind of plant or flower that might be found

growing in your neighborhood, such as a sunflower. Other items for your scavenger hunt could be a Little Free Library, a red car, a spider web, wind chimes, a ladybug, and a bird's nest. A more challenging option: Instead of creating a list of things to find, write down a clue for each item without revealing the answer. For example, one clue could be "I stand on the street, lighting the way." (Answer: a lamppost.)



A Little Free Library could be on your list of items.

Start the game

Once you've created the list of items to find, give a copy of it to each team. Hand out pencils or pens so participants can check off items as they locate them. If everyone has access to a camera, they can also take photos of their finds. Pick a meeting place where everyone can gather at the end of the hunt. Set your timer and go!

Distribute prizes

After the time is up, compare results to see how many items each team found. Hand out small prizes like pencils, candy, or bouncy balls to the winners. Be sure to take a group photo to remember the day!

Places to look



These destinations could be fun locations for a scavenger hunt!

Beach Select a designated area—such as between two lifeguard chairs—and plan to look for things like a shell, a seagull, or a sandcastle.

City Before your visit, research a city's top landmarks. Add them to your checklist, along with other typical sights, such as a statue, a fountain, or a double-decker tour bus.

Zoo Set a goal of checking off as many animals as you can find in one exhibit or in a day. If the zoo features a map in its app, you can use it as your scavenger hunt map.