

Names of Participants:

Phone Number:

Gnomes in the Park

Sponsored by Decorah Parks & Recreation

Welcome to the Gnome hunt! During Nordic Fest when the nordic spirit is high, gnomes like to come out of hiding. They love to go downtown and experience the sights of Nordic Fest; however they aren't supposed to be seen. So instead they hang out in the parks so that they can easily hide away. But with these special clues you might be able to find 10 sneaky little gnomes!

When you find a gnome, write the secret word found on the back of the gnome on this sheet of paper. **Do not remove gnomes from their locations, leave them for others to find!**

Phelps Park (613 Park Street, Decorah) - This park includes a playground, picnic shelters and scenic overlooks. A wonderful location that the entire family is sure to enjoy!

- Clue #1: Gnomes are curious creatures, and all over Decorah there are signs that give information about Decorah to curious visitors! Can you find the place where the gnomes can read about the history of Phelps Park? Secret Word: _____
- Clue #2: Gnomes are playful and love to have fun, so you can usually find one near the playground! Search high and low to find the gnome having a grand time in the park. Secret Word: _____
- Clue #3: Gnomes love live music, and are often disappointed about missing all the great performers downtown, but luckily there is one place where music can still happen in Phelps Park. Can you find this musical place? Secret Word: _____
- Clue #4: As the gnomes hide away underground they often don't get to experience the natural beauty that is the driftless region. Whenever they get a chance to sneak out they love to look out over the city of Decorah, the community prairie, and the flowing river. Where might a gnome go to do this? Secret Word: _____

Dunning Springs (Ice Cave Road, Decorah) - The notable waterfall is one of Decorah's biggest attractions! With many hiking trails and an amazing stone bridge, this park will definitely be worth the trip!

- Clue #1: Dunning Springs is very popular with tourists and locals alike! The information about the waterfall and the new stone bridge is very interesting. Where might you find a gnome fascinated by Dunning Springs history? Secret Word: _____
- Clue #2: Gnomes are very resourceful and create cool things out of rocks and stones, so it is no surprise the gnomes enjoy the amazing stone structure at Dunning Springs! Can you find the gnome admiring the stone mason's work? Secret Word: _____
- Clue #3: Gnomes like to stay cool on hot days and the crisp, cool water is just the place for gnomes to splash! Can you find the gnome watching the brisk water flow right out of the crack in the bluffs? You might have to climb the steps! Secret Word: _____

Carrie Lee Playground (210 Vernon St, Decorah) - The local elementary school playground can provide a nice area for children with plenty of greenspace nearby.

- Clue #1: Gnomes are no strangers to climbing through difficult terrain. Can you find the gnome that just started his difficult rock climb? Secret Word: _____
- Clue #2: Just like we do, the gnomes enjoy the famous Decorah Eagles! Head to the place where children and gnomes can fly like the eagles. Secret Word: _____
- Clue #3: The Upper Iowa River bobs up and down and cuts around the bluffs, and gnomes just love to stop for a swim! Where on the playground might there be a structure that replicates the movement of the flowing river? Secret Word: _____

Bonus Hunt! Gnomes on the Trail

Sponsored by Winneshiek County Conservation

If you're up for some bonus adventuring, below is an additional challenge. Please note, the activities below do not need to be completed to be entered for a drawing prize at the Decorah Chamber of Commerce.

Three mischievous gnomes are hiding along the Trout Run and Freeport trails, enjoying the scenery and spying on passing bikers and walkers. Look for the gnome statues as you adventure along the paved trails around Decorah and Freeport. To learn more about the county trails and parks, visit winneshiekwild.com.

These gnomes aren't hiding any secret words, but they do love photoshoots with whoever can find them! Send your best gnome photos to education@winneshiekwild.com for a chance to be featured on Winneshiek County Conservation social media pages. Submission of photos grants Winneshiek County Conservation to use submitted photos in public relations materials, social media posts, articles, and/or press releases. **Please re-hide the gnomes as you found them** to help protect them from damage and to keep the game fun for everyone!

Trout Run and Freeport Trails (Bike trails around Decorah) – Bikers and hikers will love the scenic views that can be found along the bike trails around Decorah and Freeport. The bike trails connect parks all around Decorah, including the Trout Run Park, the Freeport Park, and the Decorah Fish Hatchery.

- Clue #1: You'd be surprised to find that gnomes enjoy fishing in the trout streams around Winneshiek County! Can you find the gnome who is trying to catch some big metal fish over the bike trail near Trout Run Park?
- Clue #2: Gnomes are amazed by the handiwork of the famous Decorah Eagles! For a fun adventure, find the gnome near the Decorah Fish Hatchery who is spying on the eagle's nest.
- Clue #3: Gnomes love to play too! The new playground at the Freeport Park is looking pretty tempting for this little gnome. See if you can find his hiding place - and his stash of books!