

# Houselog Creek, Colorado

**Date:** Saturday, August 13, 2022      **Meeting Time:** 9:30 am

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**Meeting Location:** Meet at the parking lot of the U.S. Forest Service Ranger Station just west of Saguache, Colorado on CO-114. Saguache can be reached by taking Highway 285 to Buena Vista, then South on Highway 285. It takes about 3.5 hours to get to Saguache from Denver, but leave early because there may be heavy traffic on Highway 285. The Ranger station will be on the right and please arrive at 9:30 a.m. so we can fill out the liability forms and depart promptly at 10:00 a.m. Note: There are not any public restrooms at the ranger station.

**Houselog Creek Logistics:** Houselog Creek is about 21 miles SSW of Saguache, Colorado at an elevation of about 9,200 feet. The road from CO-114 to the parking lot is a good dirt road that any vehicle can handle. At the base of the collecting hill, the parking area can hold at least 10 vehicles. A tenth of a mile south of the main area is another collecting area close to a forest service road, but with extremely limited parking. From the main parking lot to the main collecting area is about a 100 yard steep uphill climb.

**What to collect:** Geodes and thundereggs are reddish brown on the outside and contain jasper or agate. Geodes are hollow and thundereggs are solid inside. They typically range from golf ball to grapefruit size, and most of the centers fluoresce green. It's best if you have your finds cut, since if you try to break them you'll probably just end up with a bunch of shards. There are normally lots of broken pieces on the ground, if that's what you want. The limit per person is 50 pounds daily (one 5 gallon bucket) and 250 pounds per year. Please fill any holes you dig.

**Tools needed:** Anywhere on the site you'll need a bucket or bag to put your finds in. South side: You'll be digging in dirt and may have to move some rocks. A combination pick/mattock works very well in this area, plus a shovel to move dirt. You may want an old screwdriver or perhaps a small pry bar might be useful to get the geodes/thundereggs out. North side: Hammer and chisels, pick, since you may have to break geodes/thundereggs out of rock.

**Hazards:** Sun, thunderstorms, bad footing, dehydration, possible snakes and bugs (although I've never encountered a snake there), high walls and deep pits that could possibly collapse. People will be close to their vehicles if they need water or supplies.

**Note:** Kids are welcome on this trip, but need to be closely supervised, especially on the north side slope. Even if they get tired of digging, they can find plenty to take home just by surface collecting.



Thundereggs and Geodes from Houselog Creek