Helping people enjoy their visit with 3 simple words

Introduction to what3words

what3words is a really simple way to communicate precise locations.

what3words has divided the world into a grid of 10ft x 10ft squares and given each square a unique combination of 3 random words: a what3words address. This means every park bench, parking spot, pitch on a campsite, and remote spot on a hiking trail has its own what3words address. For example, ///independent.journey.asserts is the what3words address for the exact entrance to the Jedediah Smith Redwoods SP Campground.

///plays.fanatical.sweetly

Across the globe, the technology has been successfully used by emergency response teams, including LA Fire Department, for everything from reporting fires and rescuing pets to locating injured hikers, stranded sailors and lost walkers with pinpoint accuracy.

The app is free to download, and you can access it via the online map at what3words.com. The technology also works offline, making it ideal for use in areas with an unreliable data connection. Watch this video to learn more about using the app offline.

California State Parks now uses what3words

Following the recent announcement that California State Parks can use what3words, there are two main ways that it has been adopted:

1. **For park safety:** State Park Peace Officers and Communications Centers have recently been trained to accept a what3words address. People can now provide a what3words address to California State Parks in an emergency, the dispatch team will be able to pinpoint where help is needed, and the response team will know exactly where to go.

2. **For park navigation:** The official CA State Parks app, Outerspatial, now displays what3words addresses for every POI, including trailheads, and picnic areas. what3words addresses are also now available for the entrances to all parks and campgrounds in CA State Parks on the internal and public GIS. Having the ability to communicate exactly where to find key locations makes navigation seamless for visitors.

Start using what3words

Download the free app, on your iOS or Android device and learn how to use the what3words app by reading this website, or by watching this video series. Then, put what3words to the test:

- Get route navigation to the viewpoint at ///funds.riser.bigger (watch this video for help!)
- Find and share your current what3words address (watch this video for help!)

The are so many ways to use what3words! If you would like extra support to take advantage of this tool within your role, please reach out to penny@what3words.com.