

Geocaching Badge



Geocaching is one of the most exciting and quickly growing games in recent history. It is also a relaxing and scenic activity that families as well as troops can participate in. You will need a Global Positioning Satellite to complete this badge.

Requirements: Brownies must complete 6 activities including the starred # 1, 2, and 3 activities. Juniors must complete 8 activities including the starred # 1, 2, 3, 4 and 8 activities. Cadette, Seniors, and Ambassadors complete 10 activities including the starred # 1, 2, 3, 4, 8 and 11 activities.

- 1.* Learn what the term "geocaching" means. Geo means _____ and caching means _____.
- 2.* Find out when geocaching started and how it is used.
- 3.* Find out what G.P.S. stands for and how it is used in geocaching, and write it down. A long time ago, what did people use to find their way? Write your answer down.
- 4.* Geocachers have their own lingo (words) for things. What do the following words mean in geocaching?

A. eureka	E. cache box	I. geocoin
B. geo-lingo	F. travel bug	J. golf ball
C. navigation nuggets	G. chromes	K. way point
D. dead batteries	H. force	
5. Latitudes and longitudes are big words but are very important for GPS units. What do they mean? How are they used in geocaching?
6. Go to www.geocaching.com to learn more about geocaching after you complete the Cyberspace Safety Pledge and have your parent/guardian sign it. Find the three basic rules of geocaching and share them with your troop or family.
7. Find out what the term "benchmark" means in geocaching. Look up two general types of benchmark control points and learn what they mean.
- 8.* Learn about geocaching games. Find out about two geocaching games and play one of them with your troop or family and friends.
9. Research the following types of geocaches and learn about them:

A. The Standard	C. Multicache	E. Virtual Cache
B. Microcache	D. Webcache	F. Benchmark Cache
10. Think about the future! What kind of job could you get where you could use a GPS unit? How would using a GPS make that job easier or harder? Write down your answers and share them with an adult.
- 11.* Geocachers usually create a fun code name and a special mark to use when they write in log books found in geocaches. Create your own code name and special mark to use when you go geocaching or when you write friends. (You can use an ink pad and stamp for your mark. You can even make your own stamp by cutting out foam and gluing it to a small block of wood for this activity.)
12. Make a list of at least 10 good geocache items (good swag) and a list of at least 5 bad geocache items (bad swag) for a cache.
13. Learn what basic gear you need to become a geocacher. Make a list of at least 8 items you need to take with you on a geocache trip. Share this information with your troop or family and friends.
14. Batteries are the lifeline of geocaching. You always need extra batteries! Research the following types of batteries to learn more about what type of batteries you can use for geocaching.

A. Alkaline	C. Lithium	E. Nickel metal-hydride (NiMH)
B. Alkaline rechargeable	D. NiCad	

 Discuss with your troop or family and friends the benefits and downfalls of each type of battery used for geocaching.
15. Many geocachers use the saying, "Cach in, trash out." This means bring an extra bag with you when you go geocaching. Girl Scouts always "leave it better than they found it". Collect trash when you go geocaching and carry it back out.
16. Learn how to use a GPS unit. Each unit will have instructions. Go to www.geocaching.com and locate a cache near you. Enter the coordinates in your GPS unit. With an adult, go find the cache. Be sure to write down in the log book what you take and what you put in the cache.