

Geocaching Merit Badge Workbook

<http://www.MeritBadge.Org>

This workbook can help you, but you still need to read the **merit badge pamphlet**.
No one can add or subtract from the Boy Scout Requirements #33216. Each Scout must do each requirement.

These requirements are effective: April 9, 2010 • This workbook was updated: June 15, 2010.

Scout's Name: _____

Unit: _____

Counselor's Name: _____

Counselor's Ph #: _____

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Do the following:

- a. Explain to your counselor the most likely hazards you may encounter while participating in geo-caching activities and what you should do to anticipate, help prevent, mitigate, and respond to these hazards.

| Hazard | Prevent | Mitigate | Respond |
|--------|---------|----------|---------|
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- b. Discuss first aid and prevention for the types of injuries or illnesses that could occur while participating in geocaching activities, including cuts, scrapes, snakebite, insect stings, tick bites, exposure to poisonous plants, heat and cold reactions (sunburn, heatstroke, heat exhaustion, hypothermia), and dehydration.

| | First Aid | Prevention |
|-----------------------|-----------|------------|
| Cuts & Scrapes | | |
| Snakebite | | |
| Insect & Tick bites | | |
| Poisonous plants | | |
| Heat & Cold Reactions | | |

- c. Discuss how to properly plan an activity that uses GPS, including using the buddy system, sharing your plan with others, and considering the weather, route, and proper attire.

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|----------------|--|
| Buddy System | |
| Trek Plan | |
| Weather, Route | |
| Proper Attire | |

2. Discuss the following with your counselor:

- a. Why you should never bury a cache?

- b. How to use proper geocaching etiquette when hiding or seeking a cache, and how to properly hide a geocache.

Etiquette: _____

Hiding: _____

- c. The principles of Leave No Trace as they apply to geocaching.

3. Explain the following terms used in geocaching: waypoint, log, cache, accuracy, difficulty and terrain ratings, attributes, trackable.

Waypoint: _____

Log: _____

Cache: _____

Accuracy: _____

Difficulty: _____

Terrain: _____

Attributes: _____

Trackable: _____

Choose five additional terms to explain to your counselor.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

4. Explain how the Global Positioning System (GPS) works.

Then, using Scouting's Teaching EDGE, demonstrate the use of a GPS unit to your counselor. Include marking and editing a waypoint, changing field functions, and changing the coordinate system in the unit.

5. Do the following:

- a. Show that you know how to use a map and compass and explain why this is important for geocaching.

Notes: _____

- b. Explain the similarities and differences between GPS navigation and standard map reading skills and describe the benefits of each.

Notes: _____

- c. Explain the UTM (Universal Transverse Mercator) system and how it differs from the latitude/longitude system used for public geocaches.

Notes: _____

- d. Show how to plot a UTM waypoint on a map. Compare the accuracy to that found with a GPS unit.

Notes: _____

- e. Describe the four steps to finding your first cache to your counselor. Then mark and edit a waypoint.

Notes: _____

- 6. With your parent's permission*, go to Geocaching.com. Type in your ZIP code to locate public geocaches in your area. Print out information about three of those geocaches and share this with your counselor.

*To fulfill this requirement, you will need to set up a free user account with Geocaching.com.
Ask your parent for permission and help before you do so.

One: _____

Two: _____

Three: _____

7. Do ONE of the following:

- a. If a Cache to Eagle series exists in your council, visit at least three of the 12 locations. Describe the projects that each cache you visit highlights, and explain how the Cache to Eagle program helps share our Scouting service with the public.

One: _____

Two: _____

Three: _____

Explain: _____

- b. Create a Scouting-related travel bug that promotes one of the values of Scouting. "Release" your travel bug into a public geocache and, with your parent's permission, monitor its progress at www.geocaching.com for 30 days. Keep a log and share this with your counselor at the end of the 30-day period.

(See attachment for sample log.)

- c. Set up and hide a public geocache, following all the www.geocaching.com guidelines. With your parent's permission, follow the logs online for 30 days and share them with your counselor.

(See attachment for sample log.)

- d. Explain what Cache In Trash Out (CITO) means, and describe how you have practiced CITO at public geocaches or at a CITO event. Then, either create CITO containers to leave at public caches, or host a CITO event for your unit or for the public.

Notes: _____

- 8. Plan a geohunt for a youth group such as your troop or a neighboring pack, at school, or your place of worship. Choose a theme, set up a course with at least four waypoints, teach the players how to use a GPS unit, and play the game. Tell your counselor about your experience, and share the materials you used and developed for this event.

Notes: _____

Online Resources: *(Use any Internet resource with caution and only with your parent's or guardian's permission.)*

- Boy Scouts of America:**
- ▶ Scouting.org ▶ [Guide to Safe Scouting](#) ▶ [Age-Appropriate Guidelines](#)
 - ▶ [Safe Swim Defense](#) ▶ [Safety Afloat](#)
 - ▶ [Scout](#) ▶ [Tenderfoot](#) ▶ [Second Class](#) ▶ [First Class](#)
 - ▶ [Rank Videos](#) ▶ [Safety Afloat](#)

Merit Badge Phamplets: www.scoutstuff.org

Requirement Resources

Boy Scout Merit Badge Workbooks: meritbadge.org -or- usscouts.org

General Resources

<http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Geocaching>

Attachment 1

Travel Bug or Geocache 30-day Logsheet

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