



GEOCACHING

MAY HAC - MERIT BADGE FOR SCOUTS BSA

MERIT BADGE TRACKING



The tracking tool below is simply for your own tracking of completion of requirements.

Scouts are encouraged to find a local merit badge counselor to meet, discuss, and sign off on completion of the merit badge, however the HomeScouting Adventure Club will offer limited counseling sessions for Scouts needing a counselor.

Requirement	Completed?
1. Do the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> a. Explain the most likely hazards you may encounter while participating in geocaching activities, and what you should do to anticipate, help prevent, mitigate, and respond to these hazards. <input type="checkbox"/> b. Describe 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. <input type="checkbox"/> c. Describe 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. 	
2. Describe the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> a. Why you should never bury a cache <input type="checkbox"/> b. How to use proper geocaching etiquette when hiding or seeking a cache, and how to properly hide, post, maintain, and dismantle a geocache <input type="checkbox"/> 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.	
4. Explain how the Global Positioning System (GPS) works. Then, using Scouting's Teaching EDGE, demonstrate the use of a GPS unit. Include marking and editing a waypoint, changing field functions, and changing the coordinate system in the unit.	
5. Do the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> a. Show you know how to use a map and compass and explain why this is important for geocaching. <input type="checkbox"/> b. Explain the similarities and differences between GPS navigation and standard map-reading skills and describe the benefits of each. 	
6. Describe the four steps to finding your first cache. Then mark and edit a waypoint.	
7. With your parent's permission*, go to www.geocaching.com . Type in your city and state to locate public geocaches in your area. Share with your counselor the posted information about three of those geocaches. Then, pick one of the three and find the cache.	

*To fulfill this requirement, you will need to set up a free user account with www.geocaching.com. Before doing so, ask your parent for permission and help.

MERIT BADGE TRACKING

Requirement	Completed?
8. Do ONE of the following:	
a. If a Cache to Eagle® series exists in your council, visit at least three of the locations in the series. 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.	
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.	
c. Set up and hide a public geocache, following the guidelines on the Trail for this month. Before doing so, write down a a three-month maintenance plan for the geocache where you are personally responsible for those three months. After setting up the geocache, with your parent's permission, follow the logs online for 30 days and share them with your counselor. You must archive the geocache when you are no longer maintaining it.	
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.	
9. 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.	



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MERIT BADGE WORKSHEET



Through exploring The Trail inside the ClubHouse for the HomeScouting Adventure Club, complete this worksheet to demonstrate your knowledge of geocaching. This worksheet will not be turned in and for your own use to demonstrate knowledge.

Explain the most likely hazards you may encounter while participating in geocaching activities and what you should do to anticipate, help prevent, mitigate, and respond to these hazards.

Hazard: _____

Anticipate & Prevent: _____

Mitigate & Respond: _____

Hazard: _____

Anticipate & Prevent: _____

Mitigate & Respond: _____

Hazard: _____

Anticipate & Prevent: _____

Mitigate & Respond: _____

GEOCACHING WORKSHEET

Hazard: _____

Anticipate & Prevent: _____

Mitigate & Respond: _____

Hazard: _____

Anticipate & Prevent: _____

Mitigate & Respond: _____

Describe first aid and prevention for the following types of injuries or illnesses that could occur while participating in geocaching activities.

Injury/Illness	First Aid & Prevention
Cuts / Scrapes	
Snakebite	
Insect Stings	
Tick Bites	
Exposure to poisonous plants	
Sunburn	

GEOCACHING WORKSHEET

First Aid (continued)

Injury/Illness	First Aid & Prevention
Heatstroke	
Heat Exhaustion	
Hypothermia	
Dehydration	

Describe 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.

Why should you never bury a cache? _____

How would you use proper geocaching etiquette when hiding or seeking a cache?

GEOCACHING WORKSHEET

How do you properly hide, post, maintain, and dismantle a geocache?

Select two Leave No Trace Principles and explain how they apply to geocaching.

Principle #1: _____

Principle #2: _____

Explain the following terms:

Term	Definition / Explanation
Waypoint	
Log	
Cache	
Accuracy	
Difficult Ratings	

GEOCACHING WORKSHEET

Explain the following terms (continued):

Term	Definition / Explanation
Terrain Ratings	
Attributes	
Trackable	

Now choose five additional terms and define them.

Term	Definition / Explanation

Explain how the Global Positioning System (GPS) works.

GEOCACHING WORKSHEET

Demonstrate the use of a GPS unit to an adult. Include marking and editing a waypoint, changing field functions, and changing the coordinate system in the unit. Have your adult sign below stating that you demonstrated the use of your GPS unit.

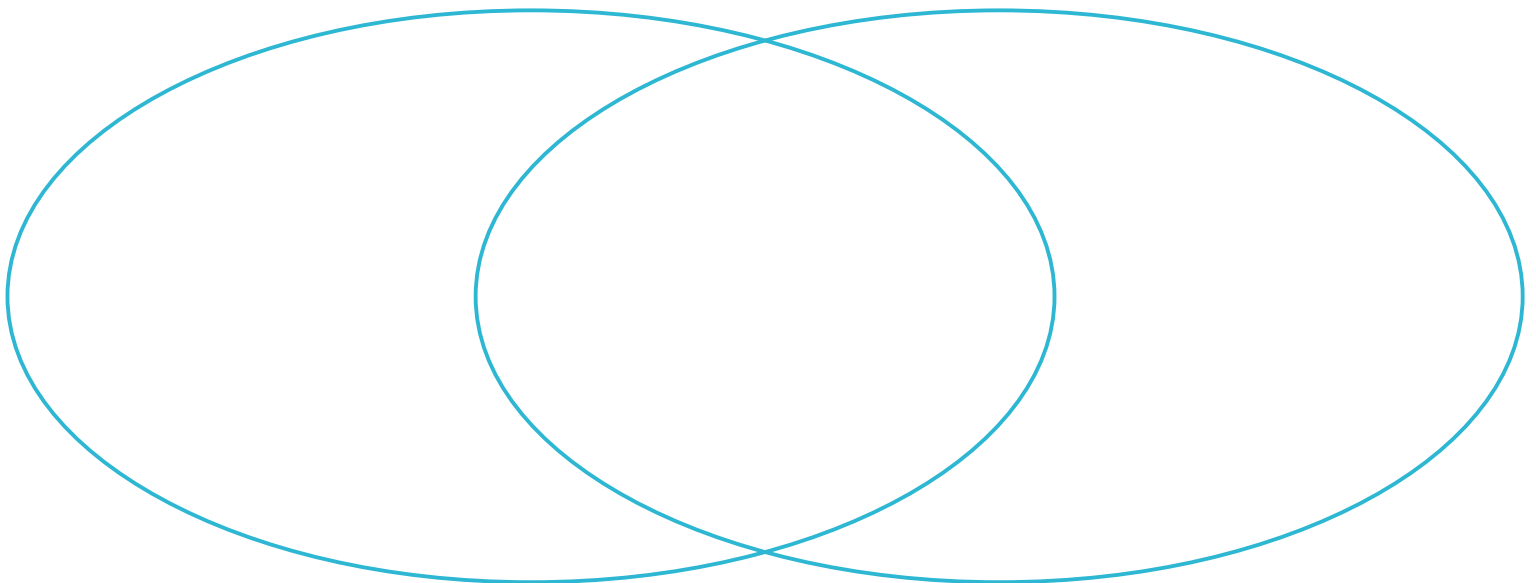
I, _____ (adult name) verify that
_____ (Scout name) demonstrated the use of a
GPS unit on _____ (date).

Also show this adult that you know how to use a map and compass. Why is this skill useful for geocaching?

Use the venn diagram below to show the similarities and differences between GPS navigation and standard map reading skills and describe the benefits of each.

GPS Navigation

Standard Map Reading Skills



GPS Navigation Benefits:

Map Reading Benefits:

GEOCACHING WORKSHEET

Describe the four steps to finding your first cache.

Step 1: _____

Step 2: _____

Step 3: _____

Step 4: _____

Then mark and edit a waypoint.

Go to www.geocaching.com. Type in your city and state to locate public geocaches in your area. List the information you find below.

Cache #1: _____

Cache #2: _____

Cache #3: _____

Pick one of the three and find the cache!

GEOCACHING WORKSHEET

Do **ONE** of the following:

A. If a Cache to Eagle® series exists in your council, visit at least three of the locations in the series. 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.

Location #1: _____

Location #2: _____

Location #3: _____

How does the Cache to Eagle program helps share our Scouting service with the public?

B. Create a Scouting-related Travel Bug® that promotes one of the values of Scouting.

- “Release” your Travel Bug into a public geocache
- 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.

GEOCACHING WORKSHEET

C. Set up and hide a public geocache, following the guidelines on the Trail for this month.

- Before doing so, write down a three-month maintenance plan for the geocache where you are personally responsible for those three months.
- After setting up the geocache, follow the logs online for 30 days and share them with your counselor.
- You must archive the geocache when you are no longer maintaining it.

Use the space below to take notes.

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.

GEOCACHING WORKSHEET

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.

Theme: _____

Set up your course

Teach the players how to use a GPS unit

Waypoints:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Play the game

How was this experience? What tools and materials did you use/develop for this event?
