



Geocaching

Merit Badge Workbook



This workbook can help you but you still need to read the merit badge pamphlet.

This Workbook can help you organize your thoughts as you prepare to meet with your merit badge counselor.

You still must satisfy your counselor that you can demonstrate each skill and have learned the information.

You should use the work space provided for each requirement to keep track of which requirements have been completed, and to make notes for discussing the item with your counselor, not for providing full and complete answers.

If a requirement says that you must take an action using words such as "discuss", "show", "tell", "explain", "demonstrate", "identify", etc, that is what you must do.

Merit Badge Counselors may not require the use of this or any similar workbooks.

No one may add or subtract from the official requirements found in Boy Scout Requirements (Pub. 33216 – SKU 637685).

The requirements were last issued or revised in 2010 • This workbook was updated in March 2018.

Scout's Name: _____ Unit: _____

Counselor's Name: _____ Counselor's Phone No.: _____

<http://www.USScouts.Org> • <http://www.MeritBadge.Org>

Please submit errors, omissions, comments or suggestions about this **workbook** to: Workbooks@USScouts.Org

Comments or suggestions for changes to the **requirements** for the **merit badge** should be sent to: Merit.Badge@Scouting.Org

1. Do the following:

- a. Explain to your counselor 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:	

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Hazard:	
Anticipate & Prevent:	
Mitigate & Respond:	

Hazard:	
Anticipate & Prevent:	
Mitigate & Respond:	

Hazard:	
Anticipate & Prevent:	
Mitigate & Respond:	

- 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.

Cuts:

Scrapes:

Snakebite:

Insect stings:

Tick bites:

Exposure to poisonous plants:

Sunburn:

Heatstroke:

Heat
exhaustion:

Hypothermia:

Dehydration:

- 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.

- 2. Discuss the following with your counselor:

- a. Why you should never bury a cache.

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

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

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

Waypoint:

Log:

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Cache:

Accuracy:

Difficulty ratings:

Terrain ratings:

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

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

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

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

- 6. Describe the four steps to finding your first cache to your counselor.

1.

2.		
3.		
4.		

Then mark and edit a waypoint.

7. With your parent's permission*, go to www.geocaching.com. Type in your zip code to locate public geocaches in your area. Share the posted information about three of those geocaches with your counselor.

<input type="checkbox"/> 1.		
<input type="checkbox"/> 2.		
<input type="checkbox"/> 3.		

Then, pick one of the three and find the cache.

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

8. Do ONE of the following:

- a. If a Cache to Eagle® series exists in your council, visit at least three of the 12 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.

1.	
Project	
2.	
Project	
3.	
Project	

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.
- c. Set up and hide a public geocache, following the guidelines in the Geocaching merit badge pamphlet. Before doing so, share with your counselor a six-month maintenance plan for the geocache where you are personally responsible for the first 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.
- 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.

Theme

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Set up a course

Waypoints:

1.

2.

3.

4.

Teach the players how to use a GPS unit

Play the game.

Tell your counselor about your experience, and share the materials you used and developed for this event.

When working on merit badges, Scouts and Scouters should be aware of some vital information in the current edition of the *Guide to Advancement* (BSA publication 33088). Important excerpts from that publication can be downloaded from <http://usscouts.org/advance/docs/GTA-Excerpts-meritbadges.pdf>.
 You can download a complete copy of the *Guide to Advancement* from <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf>.