

Geocaching

Merit Badge Workbook



Merit badges are earned by doing: reading the pamphlet, practicing the skills, and showing your counselor what you have learned.
This workbook gives you a place to organize your notes and track your progress along the way.
Merit badge counselors may not require the use of this or any similar workbook.
You still must satisfy your counselor that you can demonstrate each skill and have learned the information.
Use the space under each requirement to note what you have done and what you want to talk about, not to write out full answers.
When a requirement says discuss, show, tell, explain, or demonstrate, that is what you must do.
No one may add to or subtract from the official requirements found on scouting.org (Guide to Advancement 7.0.4.8).
Scouting America last updated this badge's requirements page on September 19, 2025.
Requirements change from time to time. Double-check scouting.org before you start.

Scout's name: _____ Unit: _____ Date started: _____

Counselor's name: _____ Phone no.: _____ Email: _____

Links marked "Scouting America resources" are the ones Scouting America shares on its official badge page.
Links marked "ScoutSmarts" open the matching part of Cole's guide. This workbook is unofficial and not endorsed by Scouting America.

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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.

Scouting America resources: GeoCaching Safety: 12 Critical Tips to Stay Safe While Treasure Hunting (website)
Surviving the Wild—Essential Hiking Safety Tips (video) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 1a explained

Geocaching hazards

Hazard	How I anticipate and help prevent it	How I mitigate and 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.

Scouting America resources: How to Treat Cuts and Grazes (video) · Poisonous Plants (video)
First Aid for Spider Bites, Tick Bites, and Scorpion Stings (video) · Heat Cramps, Heat Exhaustion, and Heat Stroke (video)
How To Recognize and Avoid Hypothermia (video) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 1b explained

First aid and prevention

Injury or illness	How to prevent it	First aid
cuts		
scrapes		
snakebite		
insect stings		
tick bites		

First aid and prevention (continued)

Injury or illness	How to prevent it	First aid
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.

Scouting America resources: Geocaching Tips and Tricks (video) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 1c explained

Planning an activity that uses GPS

Part of the plan	What I would do
Using the buddy system	
Sharing my plan with others	
Weather	
Route	
Proper attire	

Requirement 1 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

2. Discuss the following with your counselor:

(a) Why you should never bury a cache

Scouting America resources: Don't Bury Your Cache or Attach It to a Tree (website)

Why I should never bury a cache

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

Scouting America resources: Geocaching Etiquette (video) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 2b explained

Etiquette and caring for a geocache

Topic	Key points
Etiquette when hiding a cache	
Etiquette when seeking a cache	
How to hide a geocache	
How to post a geocache	
How to maintain a geocache	
How to dismantle a geocache	

(c) The Leave No Trace Seven Principles and the Outdoor Code as they apply to geocaching

Scouting America resources: How To Geocache the Leave No Trace Way (video) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 2c explained

Leave No Trace Seven Principles

Principle	How it applies to geocaching

How the Outdoor Code applies to geocaching

Requirement 2 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

3. Explain the following terms used in geocaching: waypoint, log, cache, accuracy, difficulty and terrain ratings, attributes, and trackable. Choose five additional terms to explain to your counselor.

Scouting America resources: Geocaching Acronyms and Terms (website) · Geocaching Terms (website)
ScoutSmarts: Requirement 3 explained

Geocaching terms

Term	What it means
waypoint	
log	
cache	
accuracy	
difficulty and terrain ratings	
attributes	
trackable	

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Five more terms I chose

Term	What it means

Requirement 3 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

4. Explain how the Global Positioning System (GPS) works. Then, using Scouting's EDGE, demonstrate to your counselor the use of a GPS unit. Include marking and editing a waypoint, changing field functions, and changing the coordinate system in the unit.

Scouting America resources: How Does GPS Find Your Location (video) · How To Use a Garmin eTrex 10 GPS Receiver (video)
ScoutSmarts: Requirement 4 explained

How the Global Positioning System works

☐ Marking a waypoint
☐ Editing a waypoint
☐ Changing field functions
☐ Changing the coordinate system

Date I demonstrated _____ GPS unit I used _____

Requirement 4 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

5. Do the following:

(a) Show you know how to use a map and compass and explain why this is important for geocaching.
Scouting America resources: Compass 101 (video) · THIS Is How To Use a Compass and Map (video)

Date I showed my counselor _____

Why map and compass skills matter for geocaching

(b) Explain the similarities and differences between GPS navigation and standard map-reading skills and describe the benefits of each.
Scouting America resources: Using a GPS with a Map and Compass (video)

How GPS navigation and map reading are alike

	GPS navigation	Standard map reading
How they differ		
Benefits		

Requirement 5 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

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

Scouting America resources: 10 Things To Do When Playing Geocaching (video)

The four steps to finding your first cache

Step	What happens in this step
Step 1	
Step 2	
Step 3	
Step 4	

☐ Marked a waypoint

☐ Edited a waypoint

Requirement 6 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

7. With your parent or guardian'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. Note: To fulfill this requirement, you will need to set up a free user account with www.Geocaching.com. Before doing so, ask your parent or guardian for permission and help.

Scouting America resources: Geocaching.com (website) · How To Find Your First Geocache! (video)

☐ My parent or guardian gave permission and helped me set up a free account

Three geocaches in my area

Geocache name	Posted information I shared with my counselor

The one I picked _____ Date I found it _____

How I found it

Requirement 7 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

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.

Scouting America resources: She Created a Geocaching Trail That Links Together 14 Eagle Scout Service Projects (website)

Cache to Eagle series in my council _____ Dates visited _____

Locations I visited

Cache location	The project it highlights

How Cache to Eagle 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 or guardian'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.

Scouting America resources: What Is a Travel Bug in Geocaching (video)

Value of Scouting it promotes _____ Geocache I released it in _____

Release date _____ Tracking code _____

My 30-day Travel Bug log

Date	Where my Travel Bug is	Notes

☐ **(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 three-month maintenance plan for the geocache where you are personally responsible for those three months. After setting up the geocache, with your parent or guardian'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.

Scouting America resources: What To Do (and NOT Do) When Hiding a Geocache (video)

My three-month maintenance plan

Month	What I will check and do
Month 1	
Month 2	
Month 3	

Geocache name _____ Date hidden _____ Date archived _____

Online logs I followed for 30 days

Date	Who logged it	What they wrote

☐ **(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.

Scouting America resources: Cache In Cache Out Geocaching Events (video) · Geocaching Capital of Canada Cleanup (video) Event Caches (website)

What Cache In Trash Out (CITO) means

How I have practiced CITO

☐ I created CITO containers to leave at public caches

☐ I hosted a CITO event

Date _____ Where _____

Requirement 8 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

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.

Scouting America resources: Geocaching—Setting up the Experience (video)

Youth group _____ Theme _____ Date _____

My geohunt course

Waypoint	Coordinates	What players find there
Waypoint 1		
Waypoint 2		
Waypoint 3		
Waypoint 4		

- ☐ Taught the players how to use a GPS unit
- ☐ Played the game
- ☐ Shared my materials with my counselor

My experience

Requirement 9 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

Counselor sign-off

Your counselor signs your blue card or approves the badge in Scoutbook, and your unit records it. This line is for your own records.

Counselor's signature _____ Date completed _____

Official Scouting America resources

Scouting America resources: Geocaching merit badge page (requirements and resources) · Geocaching merit badge pamphlet (free PDF) All merit badges · **ScoutSmarts:** Geocaching Merit Badge Guide

Made by Cole at ScoutSmarts.com, an Eagle Scout who loves helping Scouts.
Spot an error or a requirement change? Tell me at scoutsmarts.com/contact.
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