



Geocaching Merit Badge Workbook

SCOUTMASTER BUCKY

Scouts participating in a Scoutmaster Bucky merit badge opportunity, whether online or in person, should consider using the Geocaching merit badge pamphlet for discovery and knowledge, along with the class preparation pages for clarifications, insights, and expectations.

<https://scoutmasterbucky.com/merit-badges/geocaching/geocaching-pamphlet.pdf>

<https://scoutmasterbucky.com/merit-badges/geocaching/geocaching-cpp.pdf>

REQUIREMENTS 7, 8b, and 8c REQUIRE PARENT / GUARDIAN PERMISSION.

REQUIREMENT 1a: 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 #1

Description:

Anticipate:

Help Prevent:

Mitigate:

Respond:



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HAZARD #2

Description:

Anticipate:

Help Prevent:

Mitigate:

Respond:



HAZARD #3

Description:

Anticipate:

Help Prevent:

Mitigate:

Respond:



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HAZARD #4

Description:

Anticipate:

Help Prevent:

Mitigate:

Respond:



HAZARD #5

Description:

Anticipate:

Help Prevent:

Mitigate:

Respond:



HAZARD #6

Description:

Anticipate:

Help Prevent:

Mitigate:

Respond:



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REQUIREMENT 1b: 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:

Prevention:

Symptoms:

Treatment:

SCRAPES:

Prevention:

Symptoms:

Treatment:



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SNAKEBITE:

Prevention:

Symptoms:

Treatment:

INSECT STINGS:

Prevention:

Symptoms:

Treatment:



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TICK BITES:

Prevention:

Symptoms:

Treatment:

EXPOSURE TO POISONOUS PLANTS:

Prevention:

Symptoms:

Treatment:



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SUNBURN:

Prevention:

Symptoms:

Treatment:

HEATSTROKE:

Prevention:

Symptoms:

Treatment:



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HEAT EXHAUSTION:

Prevention:

Symptoms:

Treatment:

HYPOTHERMIA:

Prevention:

Symptoms:

Treatment:



DEHYDRATION:

Prevention:

Symptoms:

Treatment:

REQUIREMENT 1c: Discuss how to properly plan an activity that uses GPS.

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 1c: Discuss how to properly plan an activity using the buddy system.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 1c: Discuss how to properly plan an activity sharing your plan with others.

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 1c: Discuss how to properly plan an activity considering the weather.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 1c: Discuss how to properly plan an activity considering the route.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 1c: Discuss how to properly plan an activity considering proper attire.

Notes:



REQUIREMENT 2a: Why you should never bury a cache.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 2b: How to use proper geocaching etiquette when hiding or seeking a cache.

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 2b: How to properly hide, post, maintain, and dismantle a geocache.

Hide:

Post:

Maintain:

Dismantle:



REQUIREMENT 2c: The Leave No Trace Seven Principles and the Outdoor Code as they apply to geocaching.

THE 7 PRINCIPLES

of Leave No Trace

1. Plan Ahead & Prepare
2. Travel & Camp on Durable Surfaces
3. Dispose of Waste Properly
4. Leave What You Find
5. Minimize Campfire Impacts
6. Respect Wildlife
7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors

Notes:

Outdoor Code

As an American, I will do my best to-

- Be Clean in my outdoor manners,
- Be Careful with fire,
- Be Considerate in the outdoors, and
- Be Conservation-minded

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 3:

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

Waypoint:

Log:

Cache:

Accuracy:



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Difficulty and Terrain Ratings:

Attributes:

Trackable:

REQUIREMENT 3: Choose five additional geocaching terms to explain to your counselor.

Consider any of the following or discover your own:

ALR, ammo can, bug, challenge-cache, collectible, coordinates, datums, DNF, earth-cache, FTF, geocoin, ground zero, inventory, letterbox hybrid, micro, muggle, multi-cache, mystery cache, nano, power trail, ROT13, spoiler, SWAG, TFTC, TFTH, TNLN, virtual cache



Term #1 and Definition:

Term #2 and Definition:

Term #3 and Definition:

Term #4 and Definition:

Term #5 and Definition:



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

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 4: Explain how the Global Positioning System (GPS) works. Then, using Scouting's Teaching 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.

Consider using the [Geocaching Merit Badge Pamphlet](#) for preparation assistance

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

BE PREPARED!

REQUIREMENT 5a: Show you know how to use a map and compass.

Consider using the [Geocaching Merit Badge Pamphlet](#) for preparation assistance

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

BE PREPARED!

REQUIREMENT 5a: Explain why using a map and compass is important for geocaching.

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 5b: Explain the similarities and differences between GPS navigation and standard map-reading skills.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 5b: Describe the benefits of GPS navigation.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 5b: Describe the benefits of standard map-reading skills.

Notes:



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

STEP #1:

Description:

STEP #2:

Description:

STEP #3:

Description:

STEP #4:

Description:



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REQUIREMENT 6: Mark and edit a waypoint.

Consider using the [Geocaching Merit Badge Pamphlet](#) for preparation assistance

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

BE PREPARED!

REQUIREMENT 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 for permission and help.

PARENT/GUARDIAN PERMISSION: IS REQUIRED.

Parent's / Guardian's Name

Phone or Email

Parent's / Guardian's Signature

Date

☐

permission

Notes:



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DO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING (8A, 8B, 8C, or 8D) FOR REQUIREMENT 8

REQUIREMENT 8a: 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.

CACHE #1:

Notes:

CACHE #2:

Notes:

CACHE #3:

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 8a: Explain how the Cache to Eagle® program helps share our Scouting service with the public.

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 8b: 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.

PARENT/GUARDIAN PERMISSION: IS REQUIRED.

Parent's / Guardian's Name

Phone or Email

Parent's / Guardian's Signature

Date ☐ *permission*

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 8c:

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.

PARENT/GUARDIAN PERMISSION: IS REQUIRED.

Parent's / Guardian's Name

Phone or Email

Parent's / Guardian's Signature

Date ☐ *permission*

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 8d: Explain what Cache In Trash Out (CITO) means.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 8d: Describe how you have practiced CITO at public geocaches or at a CITO event.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 8d: Either create CITO containers to leave at public caches, or host a CITO event for your unit or for the public.

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 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.

Theme:

Notes: