



Golden Eagle District Camporee - 2013

Geocaching Merit Badge

Important Information

- Scouts must present a filled-out Merit Badge Application Form (blue card) signed by their unit leader (Scoutmaster). **No exceptions!**

The Scout is responsible for pre-filling-out the following:

- **Front:** Personal information under the “APPLICATION FOR MERIT BADGE”. All items in that section of the card are required.
- **Back:** All sections that require Scout name, Merit Badge name, and unit information.
- In advance of the event, Scouts must obtain the current merit badge book, read and understand it, and then bring it with them to the event.
- The day of the event, Scouts should be prepared to actively participate in discussions and present the material required. The merit badge counselor retains the right to determine if completion of requirements has been met.

The Geocaching merit badge will require work outside of the Camporee weekend in order to fully complete all requirements (see the Prerequisites section below). In addition, some requirements specify a time frame that exceeds that which can be accomplished during the Camporee.

Scouts that have completed all requirements will return home with a completed Merit Badge Blue Card.

However, because of the time commitment that is necessary (see the details for Requirement 8 below), and due to the proximity of the Camporee weekend, it is anticipated that most Scouts will not be able to complete all requirements at Camporee. The Counselor’s contact information will be provided in order to allow for verification of badge completion at a later date.

Recommendation

Though not required, a very good worksheet is available for use and may be downloaded from:

<http://meritbadge.org/wiki/images/1/17/Geocaching.pdf>

In order to expedite the verification of requirements, Scouts are encouraged to complete this worksheet and present it to the counselor at Camporee.

Outside Work (Pre-requisites)

- **Requirement 5:** It will be helpful if Scouts research and understand the UTM (Universal Transverse Mercator) system.
- **Requirement 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. Then, pick one of the three and find the cache.

Verification: Bring a printout from www.geocaching.com showing a listing of the geocaches in your area. At least one of them must show the log entry for your find.

- **Requirement 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.
 - 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.

Verification:

Requirement 'a': Bring printouts of the geocache log that satisfies the number of visited geocaches.

Requirement 'b': Bring printouts of the geocache log showing the 30-day time period

Requirement 'c': Share your maintenance plan and bring printouts of the geocache log showing the 30-day time period

Requirement 'd': Explain CITO practice to the counselor (may be as a written statement), then show adequate proof of CITO implementation (photographs would be most helpful).

If Requirement 8 is not completed before Camporee, it is strongly recommended that at least the work be started before Camporee. Arrangements can be made with the counselor to verify completion afterwards.

- **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.

Verification:

Bring any materials that were used and share you geohunt experience.

Good Resources:

- Geocaching Basics
 - www.geocaching.com
 - www.geocaching-101.com
- Geocaching Requirements
 - Geocaching Merit Badge booklet
 - <http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Geocaching>

Geocaching during Camporee

Depending on demand, there might be a geocaching activity during Camporee for everyone's enjoyment. This will include a learner's activity for novices (GPS receivers optional) as well as a more difficult activity for knowledgeable geocachers (GPS receivers required). **Please make sure to bring your own GPS receiver.**

Geocaching waypoints will be available on the Golden Eagle District website (www.goldeneagledistrict.org).