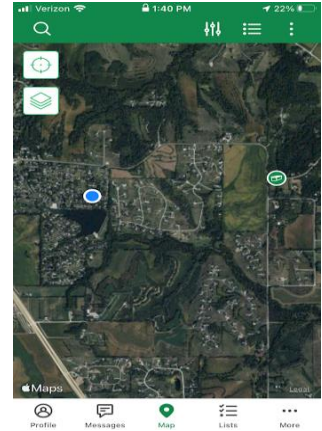# Geocaching Adventures

Geocaching is the recreational activity of hunting for and finding a hidden object by means of GPS coordinates posted on a website. If you like to go treasure hunting or scavenger hunting, this activity is for you! By completing the requirements for this activity, you will learn about what geocaching is and how to find geocaches. Watch this video to learn more about what geocaching is. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xE-zMPhiAi0 (Or, search, "What is Geocaching," on Youtube and click on the video by the user "I Am Your Target Demographic")

Instructions: Go to the specific section for your Girl Scout level and follow the instructions to earn your geocaching patch. Once you complete all of the steps for your Girl Scout level, you will go to this link to order your geocaching patches. The patch you are ordering is the same one at the top of this page. https://www.advantageemblem.com/fun-patches/S-4400-geocaching.asp

General instructions for downloading the geocaching app and using the app: **Look at this after you have completed the required steps for your specific Girl Scout level and if you plan on using the app to find a geocache to complete the non-required steps.** Download the geocaching app. A troop leader, troop volunteer, or other adult will be the person to download the app onto their electronic device unless the instructions for your level say otherwise. The app that you should use has a green logo. The logo is also located at the top of this activity page so you know what the logo looks like. After that, you will have to create a free account. Then, look at the map and try to find a green circle, which is a geocache, near you. The blue circle on the map is where you are. To the right is a picture of what the blue and green circles look like. The green circle is a traditional geocache. There may be other colored circles that you see, but you should find a traditional geocache first. Tap on a green circle that is closest to where you are. If it is

really close to you, you can walk there. If you want to drive to it, the leader or another adult may drive you there. Read the information about that certain geocache, and then push navigate. There might be a hint on the app if you need help finding that certain geocache. When you find the geocache, sign the geocaching username that you are using for your app in the logbook or on the paper and write the date that you found it. On the app, push the "log" button and push the "found it" button to let your app know that you found the geocache. By pushing those buttons, you will leave a comment. If you take something from the geocache, you will have to leave something in its place. After you are done with the geocache and with logging it on the app, you will place the geocache back where you found it. If you couldn't find a certain geocache, you should put "log" and push "did not find." You could try to find another geocache after that. If you find a geocache that is damaged or needs attention from the geocache owner, scroll down to the bottom of the page of that certain geocache and push "report a problem with this geocache." You will then push "owner attention requested" and report what's wrong with the cache.

Daisies

*Complete the **required** steps and pick **two** of the non-required steps to complete.*

1. **Required**- Have everyone watch this short video about geocaching. You can use a phone, computer, or other electronic device to watch the video. https://youtu.be/vuFiLhhCNww (Or, to see the same video, you can search "What is Geocaching?" on youtube and it will be the first video at the top with a green geocaching symbol near it.)

2. **Required**- Watch this short video about finding geocaches. https://youtu.be/K-4q6sYuyfY (Or, you can search "Finding a Geocache" on youtube and it will be the video with the green geocaching symbol near it.)

3. **Required**- Watch this short video about geocaching etiquette or search "Geocaching Etiquette" on youtube and click on the one with the green geocaching logo. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GXzIu7p82jg

4. Non-required- Find and watch a video online that shows a person finding a geocache.

5. Non-required-Research online to find out what a "muggle" is when it comes to geocaching.

6. Non-required- Find <u>at least one</u> geocache as a troop-Have an adult download the free geocaching app by following the instructions on the first page of this activity. There are also steps on how to use the app on the first page of this activity. The girls in the troop and the troop leaders/volunteers will all work together to find the geocache. Or, if it's easier, the girls can split off into smaller groups and go with an adult to find geocaches. Once a geocache is found, someone in the group will sign the logbook or paper with the date and with the username that is used on the geocaching app. Someone will also push the button on the app to say that they found the geocache. Depending on the size of the geocache, there may not be any items inside of it for you to take if the geocache is too small. You might find a bigger geocache with items, such as toys or coins, inside. The girls may take an item out of the geocache to keep if they want, but they would have to replace the object they take with an object that they brought. The girls may bring or buy small objects to bring geocaching. (Examples of things to bring: Small toys, coins, small jewelry, stickers..)

7. Non-required-Find <u>at least one</u> geocache with a parent or guardian on their own-Each girl's parent or guardian will download the geocaching app. The parent or guardian will take their girl geocaching on their own time (their own time meaning whenever they want; it wouldn't be with the Girl Scout troop). The girl and their parent or guardian will find at least one geocache. If a girl wants to take an item out of the geocache to keep, they will have to bring an item to trade. Make sure to log your find on the geocaching app. The geocaching app will be proof that everyone found at least one geocache, because on the app, it says how many geocaches you have found. All of the girls must find at least one geocache for this step to count.

Brownies

*Complete the **required** steps and pick **two** of the non-required steps to complete.*

1. **Required**- Have everyone watch this short video about geocaching. You can use a phone, computer, or other electronic device to watch the video. https://youtu.be/vuFiLhhCNww (Or, to see the same video, you can search "What is Geocaching?" on youtube and it will be the first video at the top with a green Geocaching symbol near it.)
2. **Required**- Watch this short video about finding geocaches. https://youtu.be/K-4q6sYuyfY (Or, you can search "Finding a Geocache" on youtube and it will be the video with the green geocaching symbol near it.)

3. **Required**- Watch this short video about geocaching etiquette or search "Geocaching Etiquette" on youtube and click on the one with the green geocaching logo. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GXzIu7p82jg

4. Non-required-Find and watch a video online about someone finding a geocache.

5. Non-required-Go to the geocaching youtube page (the one with the green geocaching symbol) and watch a geocaching video from that page.

6. Non-required-Search online what a "muggle" is in geocaching and talk about why you shouldn't let muggles see you find a geocache. Talk about what might happen if a muggle sees you find a geocache. Talk about what might happen if a muggle sees you putting a geocache back in its spot.

7. Non-required- Find <u>at least one</u> geocache as a troop-Have an adult download the free geocaching app by following the instructions on the first page of this activity. There are also steps on how to use the app on the first page of this activity. The troop and the troop leaders/volunteers will all work together to find the geocache. Or, if it's easier, the girls can split off into smaller groups and go with an adult to find geocaches. Once a geocache is found, someone in the group will sign the logbook or paper with the date and with the username that is used on the geocaching app. You will also push the button on the app to say that you found the geocache. Depending on the size of the geocache, there may not be any items inside of it to keep if the geocache is too small. You might find a bigger geocache

with items, such as toys or coins, inside. The girls may take an item out of the geocache if they want, but they have to replace the object they take with an object that they brought. The girls may bring or buy small objects to bring geocaching. (Examples of things to bring: Small toys, coins, small jewelry, stickers..)

8. Non-required-Find <u>at least one</u> geocache with a parent or guardian on their own-Each girl's parent or guardian will download the geocaching app. The parent or guardian will take their girl geocaching on their own time (their own time meaning whenever they want; it wouldn't be with the Girl Scout troop). The girl and their parent or guardian will find at least one geocache. If a girl wants to take an item out of the geocache to keep, they will have to bring an item to trade. Make sure to sign the logbook/paper and to log the find on the geocaching app. The geocaching app will be proof that everyone found at least one geocache, because on the app, it says how many geocaches you have found. All of the girls must find at least one geocache for this step to count.

Juniors

*Complete the **required** steps and pick **three** of the non-required steps to complete.*

1. **Required**- Have everyone watch this short video about geocaching. You can use a phone, computer, or other electronic device to watch the video. https://youtu.be/vuFiLhhCNww (Or, to see the same video, you can search "What is Geocaching?" on youtube and it will be the first video at the top with a green Geocaching symbol near it.)

2. **Required**- Watch this short video about finding geocaches. https://youtu.be/K-4q6sYuyfY (Or, you can search "Finding a Geocache" on youtube and it will be the video with the green geocaching symbol near it.)

3. **Required**- Watch this short video about geocaching etiquette or search "Geocaching Etiquette" on youtube and click on the one with the green geocaching logo. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GXzIu7p82jg

4. Non-required-Find and watch a video online about someone finding a geocache.

5. Non-required-Go to the geocaching youtube page (the one with the green geocaching symbol) and watch a geocaching video from that page.

6. Non-required- Search online what a "muggle" is in geocaching and talk about why you shouldn't let muggles see you find a geocache. Talk about what might happen if a muggle sees you find a geocache. Talk about what might happen if a muggle sees you putting a geocache back in its spot.

7. Non-required-Research online how the type of container a geocache is in is important. Read an article or watch a video about what containers are good for being used as geocaches. Have a discussion afterward about how and why different types of containers would or wouldn't be good for being used as geocaches.

8. Non-required-Each girl finds <u>at least one</u> geocache- Each girl's parent or guardian will download the geocaching app. The parent or guardian will take their girl geocaching on their own time (their own time meaning whenever they want). The

girl and their parent or guardian will find at least one geocache. Or, if the troop doesn't want the girls to each do it separately, the girls can group up and carpool together to find geocaches. Either way, each girl will have to have the app on a device. If the girls are working together, their parents or guardians could go with them so each girl would be able to use a phone with the app. If some of the girls do have their own phones, with their parents/guardians and troop leader's permission they can get the app on their own device and just use their own device. If the girls want to take an item out of the geocache to keep, they will have to bring an item to trade. Make sure to sign the logbook/paper and to log the find on the geocaching app. The geocaching app will be proof that everyone found at least one geocache, because on the app, it says how many geocaches you have found. All of the girls must log on the app that they found at least one geocache for this step to count.

Cadettes

*Complete the **required** steps and pick **three** of the non-required steps to complete.*

1. **Required**- Have everyone watch this short video about geocaching. You can use a phone, computer, or other electronic device to watch the video. https://youtu.be/vuFiLhhCNww (Or, to see the same video, you can search "What is Geocaching?" on youtube and it will be the first video at the top with a green Geocaching symbol near it.)

2. **Required**- Watch this short video about finding geocaches. https://youtu.be/K-4q6sYuyfY (Or, you can search "Finding a Geocache" on youtube and it will be the video with the green geocaching symbol near it.)

3. **Required**- Watch this short video about geocaching etiquette or search "Geocaching Etiquette" on youtube and click on the one with the green geocaching logo. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GXzIu7p82jg

4. Non-required-Search online what a "muggle" is in geocaching and talk about why you shouldn't let muggles see you find a geocache. Talk about what might happen if a muggle sees you find a geocache. Talk about what might happen if a muggle sees you putting a geocache back in its spot.

5. Non-required- Search online what these common geocaching acronyms stand for and what they mean: BYOP, DNF, TFTC, FTF, TNLN, SWAG

6. Non-required-Research and learn about the history of geocaching. Find out about who created geocaching, when they created it, and where the first geocache was hidden.

7. Non-required-Each girl in the troop finds <u>at least three</u> geocaches- Either the girls or the parents or guardians of the girls will download the geocaching app. The girls will use the app to find at least three geocaches. The girls can work with their families or with their friends and troop members to find the geocaches. The troop can choose if they want to work together with the girls in the troop, or if they want to each work with their own families. If they work together, they will have to each use their own device. If they have their own phones, they may get the app on their

phones with permission from their parents/guardians and the troop leader. The apps will be proof that they found the geocaches, because on the app, it tells you how many geocaches you have found. Each girl in the troop will have to have at least three geocaches marked down as being found on their own app for this step to count. Don't forget to sign the logbook/paper and to log the find on the geocaching app.

8. Non-required- Make geocaching presentations- If the girls all have phones, with parent permission they will download the geocaching app. If not, then a parent or guardian of the girls could get the app. Then, the girls will be given a certain day to have their projects completed by. They will try to find geocaches. The parents or guardians could drive the girls around to find the geocaches, or they could walk to the geocaches. They will also have to have pictures taken of themselves finding the geocaches or holding the geocaches. After that, they will make a presentation and add the pictures to the presentation. If they have chromebooks or computers, they can make an electronic presentation using google slides or another website. If they don't want to use a computer or they don't have one, they could use a poster and print and tape/glue the pictures onto it. They will add information onto their projects. Some examples of information they could add are where they found the geocaches, the dates they found the geocaches, how many geocaches they found, and more. At the end, all of the girls will present their projects to the troop. Each girl will make and present their own presentation. Optional: To make the presentations more fun, it could be a competition to see who found the most geocaches, and the winner would get a prize.

Seniors

*Complete the **required** steps and pick **four** of the non-required steps to complete.*

1. **Required**- Have everyone watch this short video about geocaching. You can use a phone, computer, or other electronic device to watch the video. https://youtu.be/vuFiLhhCNww (Or, to see the same video, you can search "What is Geocaching?" on youtube and it will be the first video at the top with a green Geocaching symbol near it.)

2. **Required**- Watch this short video about finding geocaches. https://youtu.be/K-4q6sYuyfY (Or, you can search "Finding a Geocache" on youtube and it will be the video with the green geocaching symbol near it.)

3. **Required**- Watch this short video about geocaching etiquette or search "Geocaching Etiquette" on youtube and click on the one with the green geocaching logo. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GXzIu7p82jg

4. Non-required- Either by themselves or together as a group, the girls will research and learn about the different kinds of geocaches. They can either use the internet or the geocaching app, because the geocaching app also has information about the different types of geocaches. Then, they can discuss what they found out about each type of geocache.

5. Non-required- Each girl in the troop finds <u>at least six</u> geocaches- The girls or someone in their families will download the geocaching app on a device. The girls will find at least six geocaches. They can go with their families, or with their troop members. Each girl will have to do this, so if they want to work with their troop members, they can. Or, they can choose to work with their own families and not with the other members of the troop. Either way, they will have to each have a phone with the app on it. They will have to mark which ones they find on the app. It doesn't matter where the geocaches are that they find; they just have to find at least six. This step only counts if every girl in the troop marks down at least six geocaches on their own app as being found.

6. Non-required- Find <u>at least one</u> geocache in another state-Depending on where you live, it may take longer to travel to another state, so only <u>at least half</u> of the

girls in the troop will have to do this step for it to count. If everyone wants to, then they can all do it. The girls will download the geocaching app. They will have to find transportation or a way to get to another state. They will find at least one geocache in another state. They can work with their families to find a geocache. Or, if the whole troop wants to carpool and work together to find the geocache, they can also do that. They'll have to mark on the app which geocache they found. If the girls are doing this separately, they will have to each mark down on their own apps which geocache they found. If they are working together, at least one person will have to mark down on the app that they found the geocache.

7. Non-required- Make presentations about the history of geocaching- Have the girls split off into even groups. If there aren't enough girls for groups, then they can do the presentations by themselves. Assign a group or a girl a topic to research. Topics: who created geocaching, when geocaching was created, and where the first geocache was hidden. If other topics related to geocaching are wanted, then the girls can add them. The girls (in groups or by themselves) will research and learn about the topic they chose. Then, the girls will make presentations about the information they learned. They can do whatever they want for their presentation; they can use google slides or another website, make a poster, or write paragraphs or an essay. Lastly, they will present their presentations to the troop.

8. Non-required- Make geocaching presentations- The girls will each download the geocaching app. Then, the girls will be given a certain day to have their projects completed by. They will try to find geocaches. Their parents or guardians could take the girls around to find the geocaches, or they could walk to the geocaches. The girls may also drive themselves places if they are allowed to. They will have to have pictures taken of themselves finding the geocaches or holding the geocaches. After that, they will make a presentation and add the pictures to the presentation. If they have chromebooks or computers, they can make an electronic presentation using google slides or another website. If they don't want to use a computer or they don't have one, they could use a poster and print and tape/glue the pictures onto it. They will add information onto their projects. Some examples of information they could add are where they found the geocaches, the dates they found the geocaches, how many geocaches they found, and more. At the end, all of the girls will present their projects to the troop. Each girl will make and present a presentation.

Ambassadors

*Complete the **required** steps and pick **four** of the non-required steps to complete.*

1. **Required**- Have everyone watch this short video about geocaching. You can use a phone, computer, or other electronic device to watch the video. https://youtu.be/vuFiLhhCNww (Or, to see the same video, you can search "What is Geocaching?" on youtube and it will be the first video at the top with a green Geocaching symbol near it.)

2. **Required**- Watch this short video about finding geocaches. https://youtu.be/K-4q6sYuyfY (Or, you can search "Finding a Geocache" on youtube and it will be the video with the green geocaching symbol near it.)

3. **Required**- Watch this short video about geocaching etiquette or search "Geocaching Etiquette" on youtube and click on the one with the green geocaching logo. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GXzIu7p82jg

4. Non-required- Either by themselves or together as a group, the girls will research and learn about the different kinds of geocaches. They can either use the internet or the geocaching app, because the geocaching app also has information about the different types of geocaches. Then, they can discuss what they found out about each type of geocache.

5. Non-required- Make presentations about the history of geocaching- Have the girls split off into even groups. If there aren't enough girls for groups, then they can do the presentations by themselves. Assign a group or a girl a topic to research. Topics: who created geocaching, when geocaching was created, and where the first geocache was hidden. If other topics related to geocaching are wanted, then people can add them. The girls (in groups or by themselves) will research and learn about the topic they chose. Then, the girls will make presentations about the information they learned. They can do whatever they want for their presentation; they can use google slides or another website, make a poster, or write paragraphs or an essay. Lastly, they will present their presentations to the troop.

6. Non-required-<u>Upgrade the app to premium </u>and find <u>at least two</u> different types of geocaches using the premium membership- At least one girl in the troop will upgrade the app or have someone in her family upgrade the app to premium. This means paying money to upgrade the app. Upgrading the app makes it available for you to find different types of geocaches. Then, all the girls can go geocaching together and find <u>at least two</u> different types of geocaches. Those include multi-cache geocaches, mystery geocaches, earthcaches, and more. For this step to count, the geocaches they find can't be a traditional geocache with a terrain and difficulty of two or less. Traditional geocaches with a terrain and difficulty of two or less are geocaches that anyone can find, because those ones are free. Once you have a premium membership, you are allowed to find traditional geocaches with difficulty and terrain levels higher than two. So, they can find a traditional geocache for this to count as long as the difficulty and terrain levels are higher than two.

7. Non-required- Each girl in the troop finds <u>at least ten</u> geocaches- The girls or someone in their families will download the geocaching app. The girls will find at least ten geocaches. They can go with their families or with the other girls in the troop. If the girls want to work together, then they can. Otherwise, they will work with their families on their own time if they aren't working with other girls. Either way, they will all have to mark down which ones they find on their own devices. It doesn't matter where the geocaches are that they find; they just have to find at least ten. This step only counts if every girl in the troop marks down on their own app as having found ten geocaches.

8. Non-required- Find <u>at least five</u> geocaches in <u>another state</u>-Depending on where you live, it may take longer to travel to another state, so only <u>at least half</u> of the girls in the troop will have to do this step for it to count. If everyone wants to, then they can all do it. The girls will download the geocaching app. They will have to find transportation or a way to get to another state. If they want to work with their families on their own time, they can. If they want to carpool with other girls in the troop, they can also do that. They will find at least five geocaches in another state. They'll have to mark on the app which geocaches they found. If they are working together, at least one person will have to mark down on the app that they found the geocaches.

9. Non-required-Hide a geocache as a troop- Research how to hide a geocache and look at what the steps are that you'd have to take to hide a geocache. Some examples of information the troop would have to know are: how far away geocaches have to be from one another, what containers are good for using as geocaches, what permission you may have to receive to hide a geocache in a certain place, and more. Follow the steps the troop learns about and hide a geocache. In the description of the geocache on the app, you can put that this was a project for Girl Scouts and you can put your troop number. This step only requires the troop to hide one geocache, but if they want to hide more, then they can. This will require a lot more work than the other steps, but if the troop is up for it and wants to do it, then they should do this step.