

GEO-CACHING PATCH

The purpose of this patch is to increase the girls' knowledge and understanding of geo-caching or high tech treasure hunting. It can be done at any level of scouting. You will need a GPS receiver to complete this patch and many cell phones have this feature in them.

Check the Girl Scout [Geocaching Safety Checklist](#) before beginning activities.

Do at least 6 activities to complete this patch. **GOAL:** Find at least 10 caches to finish patch. It's the 100th anniversary so a Super Troop Experience might go for 100!

1. The key to utilizing a GPS system is to use "Coordinate". Research what is a "coordinate"? How are coordinates used by a GPS? Using a GPS receiver, practice identifying various locations by using coordinates.
2. Learn what GPS stands for, the history of GPS, who invented GPS and why it was created.
3. Visit www.geocaching.com or www.navicache.com to learn more about geocaching. With an adult, create a screen name for yourself or your troop/group so you can explore different caches in your area. Find out how many caches are marked within 25 miles of where you live or your troop meeting place.
4. Know the rules before you go on your first geocaching trip. Geocaching is only regulated by the people finding and placing caches – which means everyone involved needs to follow the rules. Make a poster of the Geocaching Rules after visiting www.geocaching.com. Add a few new rules of your own so everyone in your troop helps Girl Scouts to remain safe.
5. Get yourself ready and go on your first geocaching expedition! Start by checking out the locations closest to you. Be sure you follow all the rules.
6. Learn about the following: travel bugs, a cache box. What things do you need to go geocaching?
7. Girl Scouts have a motto: Leave a place better than you found it. Geo-cachers use the saying "cache it in, trash it out" which means they take a small bag with them to collect any trash around the cache area when they arrive. You should do this on all your geocaching trips.
8. Look up geocaching terms and their definitions. What is FTF and who is a spoiler?
9. Plant your own geocache in an area where the public can find it. ** Be sure to get permission from the land owner or manager before placing your cache. With permission and guidance by an adult, share it on the geocaching website.
10. People who participate in geocaching create a fun code name and a special mark to use when they write in the logbooks found in the cache boxes. You can create your own code name and own stamp to use when you go geocaching. Optional: Bring an inkpad, and a stamp. Remember to use your new stamp when you write in the logbooks.