

Girl Scouts of Montana and Wyoming Geocaching Patch Program



Geocaching is an exciting and growing game throughout the world. It can be relaxing and scenic but also fast-paced and competitive. To complete this patch, you will need a hand-held GPS device or a smart phone with an updated Geocaching or GPS application. You will also need access to the internet.

Requirements:

- Brownies must complete six activities including the starred #1, 2, 3, & 6 activities.
- Juniors must complete eight activities including the starred #1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 activities.
- Cadette, Seniors, and Ambassadors complete ten activities including the starred #1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8 & 11.

1. * Learn what the term "geocaching" means. Break the word down into the meanings of "Geo" and "Cache".
2. * When did geocaching start, and how do people use the activity for recreation?
3. * What does each letter of "G.P.S." stand for, and how do people use GPS in geocaching? Before GPS existed, what did people use to find their way? Write your answer down.
4. * Geocachers have their own lingo (words) for things. Find and write the definition for at least eight of the following geocaching terms:

A. eureka	B. cache box	C. geocoin
D. geo-lingo	E. travel bug	F. golf ball
G. navigation nuggets	H. chromes	I. way point
J. dead batteries	K. force	L. log book
5. Latitudes and longitudes are big words but are very important for GPS units. What do they mean? How are latitudes and longitudes used in geocaching?
6. * After you complete [GSUSA's Internet Safety Pledge](https://www.gsusaweb.org/Internet-Safety-Pledge), have a parent or guardian sign the pledge, and go to www.geocaching.com. On the page, click on "Video: What is Geocaching", and watch the 75-second video. You may choose to download the "Goecaching" app to your phone from this page. Find three basic rules of geocaching, write them down, and share them with your troop, group, or family.
7. Find out what the term "benchmark" means in geocaching. Look up two general types of benchmark control points and learn what they mean.
8. * On a geocaching app or web page (i.e. www.geocaching.com), locate a geocache near your home, and attempt to find it with your GPS or geocaching app. Take this adventure with a trusted adult.
9. Research the following types of geocaches and learn about them:

A. The Standard	B. Microcache	C. Multicache
D. Webcache	E. Virtual Cache	F. Benchmark Cache

10. Think about the future! What kind of job could you get where you could use a GPS unit? How would using a GPS make that job easier or harder? Write down your answers and share them with your troop, group, or family.
11. * Geocachers usually create a fun code name and a special mark to use when they write in logbooks found in geocaches. Create your own code name and special mark to use when you go geocaching or when you write friends. (You can use an inkpad and stamp for your mark. You can even make your own stamp by cutting out foam and gluing it to a small block of wood.)
12. Make a list of at least ten good geocache items (good swag) and a list of at least five bad geocache items (bad swag) for a cache.
13. Learn what basic gear you need to become a geocacher. Make a list of at least eight items you need to take with you on a geocache trip. Share your lists with your troop, group, or family.
14. Batteries are the lifeline of geocaching. You always need extra batteries! Research the following types of batteries to learn more about what type of batteries you can use for geocaching.
 - A. Alkaline
 - B. Alkaline Rechargeable
 - C. Lithium
 - D. NiCad
 - E. Nickel metal-hydrideDiscuss with your troop, group, or family the benefits and downfalls of each type of battery used for geocaching.
15. Many geocachers use the saying, "Cache in, trash out." This means bring an extra bag with you when you go geocaching. Girl Scouts always "leave it better than they found it". Wearing proper personal protective equipment, collect trash when you go geocaching, and carry it out.