



Dog Scouts of America
Merit Badge Check-Off Sheet

Geocaching 1

Items **bolded** below are requirements that must be demonstrated to the Evaluator. Non-bolded items are training steps that may be introduced in class and are helpful for achieving the requirements. All behaviors must have been taught or re-taught to the dog (preferably using a new cue), using only positive reward-based methods.

- Handler understands and can explain the history, purpose and rules of geocaching**
- Handler understands and can describe how to stay safe and legal when searching for geocaching**
- Handler always goes geocaching with a buddy or notifies someone as to his/her location and time of return**
- Handler ensures that the dog always displays good conduct according to the Dog Scout Laws and acts as a model citizen when on trails; dog never chases wildlife or creates any disturbance while geocaching**
- Handler is always prepared with at least 3 clean up bags to clean up after the dog; handler consistently cleans up dog waste and disposes of it appropriately**
- Handler always contributes to the cleanliness of the area where he/she is geocaching with the dog by helping to pick up any trash discovered along the trail**
- Dog always carries all of his own supplies including the required equipment for backpacking as well as his own tradable items**
- Handler has purchased or made his/her own supply of items to trade as well as some for the dog**
- Handler knows how to obtain coordinates and clues to geocaches in area where he/she wants to search**
- Handler has mastered the use of a GPS unit and can program in coordinates, waypoints and other information**
- Handler understands and abides by the 'leave no trace' principles of outdoor etiquette**
- Dog and handler have used a GPS to find at least 5 geocaches in at least 3 different areas/parks separated by driving distance; handler provides photos of the caches found along with the log identifying the names and locations of caches (multipart caches count as one cache)**
- Handler has demonstrated how to make a geocache, including all required components and has placed and taken coordinates for the cache; waypoints have been submitted to geocaching.com for publishing and a printout for the listing is enclosed for verification (caches placed at camp follow special rules)**
- Handler can explain what items are acceptable for placement in a geocache and knows that items traded should be of equal or greater value to maintain well stocked and desirable caches**



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- Handler has had an appropriate witness accompany him/her and the dog while geocaching to verify the dog's good behavior and the handler's preparedness to geocache; the witness must sign the log sheet**
- If a cache owned by the dog/handler team is moved or goes missing, the handler will update or remove the posting as soon as possible after the problem is brought to the handler's attention**

Special rules that apply to any geocaches planted at the DSA Michigan camp property:

- No geocache may be placed closer than 100 yards from the lodge or behind the line of the trees if the woods are closer than 100 yards
- A \$5 fee is charged for every geocache placed
- Clues and coordinates must be typed into the computer in the lodge, saved in the geocache folder, and a copy must be printed and placed in the geocache notebook
- An experienced geocacher must find the cache using the clues/coordinates provided before the cache can be counted
- Caches placed on the property may NOT be posted as available to the general public
- Any caches which fail to follow these rules or are found to be deficient will be removed and returned to the handler for replacing if they were counted towards one of the geocaching badges