



Dog Scouts of America Evaluation Criteria

GeoScenting

PURPOSE: GeoScenting is an activity designed to build upon skills that the dog has learned when earning the Geocaching 1 and Scent Discrimination badges (prerequisites). It is a fun activity for the dog and handler to do together and is a way to enhance the dog's enjoyment of geocaching.

DOG REQUIREMENTS: The dog must demonstrate good trail manners and appropriate behavior when GeoScenting and must be able to demonstrate a "leave it" to the standard of the Dog Scout Test. The dog is required to locate a scented geocache with a minimal amount of direction by the handler when placed in the vicinity of the cache and provide the handler with a strong indication of the geocache and its location.

HANDLER REQUIREMENTS: The handler is responsible for applying the knowledge gained when working with the dog to earn the Geocaching 1 and Scent Discrimination badges including always following the "Leave No Trace" principle of outdoorsmanship, ensuring that the dog behaves appropriately on the trail and doesn't harass wildlife or others using the trail for any purpose, maintaining a gear bag with all items required for geocaching, using GPS coordinates to navigate to a cache. Handler must work with the dog to find a minimum of 3 geoscented caches. Finds must be logged at geocaching.com unless they are on camp property. Handler and dog must place at least 2 geoscented caches. Any caches placed on MI camp property must follow the special rules that apply including making sure that the cache is not placed in the camp proper and is behind the tree line, having a knowledgeable individual check that the cache is placed properly and can be found using the GPS coordinates provided, and pay the required \$5 fee. Caches at camp must be maintained by the owner or they will be pulled.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED: Standard geocaching equipment is required along with a ½" piece of a tongue depressor and clove oil, contained in a small tin or plastic container that can be placed inside or attached to the cache. A second option would be a small plastic clove-scented sticker that can be affixed to the cache container*. "GeoScent Tag – Do Not Remove" should be written on the tongue depressor container before it is permanently affixed to the cache. GeoScented caches placed by Dog Scout handlers must be at minimum, the size of a small lock and lock box in order to affix scent directly to the cache. The naming convention of "GSC: <name of cache>" must be used when entered into geocaching.com. If cache sizes hinder affixing scent directly on the cache, stickers must be used next to the cache within one foot of where it is hidden. If this is inappropriate due to local, state, or federal guidelines/laws, do not scent the cache.

PROCESS: Handler and dog must find and place the required number of geoscented caches. Caches placed anywhere other than Dog Scout camp property must be listed on geocaching.com. Caches on camp property must have coordinates that are posted as directed. The evaluator must observe the dog completing a training puzzle, indicating a find and completing a "leave it" exercise. This can be done in person or by video. If by video, the handler must face the camera and explain any required knowledge as per the check off sheet. Finds must be documented using photos and a log as with the Geocaching badges.

ALLOWED:

- Long line in the vicinity of the cache
- Flat collar or harness

NOT ALLOWED:

- Pinch, choke or electronic collars
- Rough handling of the dog
- Any indication that disturbs the environment
- Failing to keep the dog's physical and mental health a top priority or putting the dog in danger