



Girl Scouts of Wisconsin - Badgerland Council's

GEOCACHING GIRL SCOUT JUNIOR BADGE



Do at least 6 activities to complete this Junior Girl Scout Badge

Purpose: To increase one's knowledge and understanding of geocaching (high tech treasure hunting)! Please note, you will need a GPS receiver to complete this badge. Many cell phones have GPS receivers in them.

1) Coordinates

Coordinates are the keys to utilizing GPS. Research answers to the following questions. What are coordinates? How do they help a GPS receiver work? Using a GPS receiver, practice identifying various locations using coordinates.

2) When and Why

Learn what GPS stands for and the history of GPS. Who invented GPS? Why was it created?

3) Internet Investigation

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 within a 25-mile radius of where you live or your troop's meeting place.

4) Know the Rules

Geocaching is only regulated by the people finding and placing caches, meaning everyone involved needs to follow rules and guidelines. Using www.geocaching.com, identify the three basic rules for geocaching. Make a poster with these rules, and add a few of your own that will help Girl Scouts remain safe while geocaching.

5) Go Geocaching!

Go on a cache finding expedition. Check out www.geocaching.com for locations near you or find the caches placed at Badgerland Council's Brandenburg property. The coordinates can be found on the Badgerland Council Website (they are only accessible to registered volunteers.) Be sure to follow all local and Girl Scout safety standards.

6) How It Works

Find out how GPS units work. What are the basic ways a GPS can tell you your location anywhere on the earth (hint: it involves 24 satellites).

7) GPS Sports

Geocaching is a relatively new “sport” that uses GPS receivers. Brainstorm other new “sports” that would use a GPS receiver. Make an advertising sign describing your new GPS sport.

8) GPS In Your Future

Think about your future! What kind of job could you get where you could use a GPS unit? How would using a GPS unit make that job easier (or harder)? Write a want ad for a newspaper describing this job.

9) Geo Slang

Look up geocaching terms and vocabulary. What is FTF and who is a spoiler? Find 5 terms that are used in geocaching and their definitions.

10) Cache It

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 a cache. If you put one on public land, think about sharing it on the geocaching.com web site. Set your own benchmarks and have fun!

To order badges and patches from Badgerland Council Contact the Madison Girl Scout Center Trefoil Shop at 608.237.1173.