

JUNIOR GEOCACHER BADGE – MEETING 2

Badge Purpose: When girls have earned this badge, they will know how to have a geocaching adventure.

Activity Plan Length: 1.5 hours

Time	Activity	Materials Needed
15 minutes	Getting Started <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls recite the Girl Scout Promise + Law. 	<input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Girl Scout Promise and Law poster
30+ minutes	We're Geocaching! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls go on a geocache adventure. 	<input type="checkbox"/> GPS receivers, smartphones with GPS apps, or printouts from Google Maps based on coordinates <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of coordinates
10 minutes	Pack Up Your Travel Bug <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls take part in a travel bug's travels. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Travel bug, with keychain or token <input type="checkbox"/> Info on what travel bugs are in the caches you will be visiting <input type="checkbox"/> Pen and paper, or smartphone and geocaching.com account to record finds
10 minutes	Snack Chat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls enjoy a healthy snack while discussing what they have learned. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Healthy snack
15 minutes	Wrapping Up	<input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Make New Friends lyrics poster

Getting Started

Time: 15 minutes

Materials Needed: (Optional) Girl Scout Promise and Law poster

Welcome everyone to the meeting, recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

Activity #1: We're Geocaching!

Time: 30+ minutes

Badge Connection: Step 4 – Go on a geocache adventure

Materials Needed: GPS receivers, smartphones with GPS apps, or printouts from Google Maps based on coordinates; copies of coordinates

Prep Needed:



- Choose a site for geocaching based on the information you looked up at the last meeting. Plan for information on 3 caches for most trips, though you may not get to them all. Have maps printed, or if possible, have geocache coordinates loaded into GPS receivers.
 - If other family members are bringing receivers or smart phones, make sure all have the right type of coordinates, and everyone can find the appropriate screen on their device. (If you are using typical geocache receivers and learned to use them at the last meeting in Activity #2, just follow those directions.) Coordinates may be in UTM form, or some sort of latitude/longitude form.
 - UTM : 15T E 493276 N 4975587
 - Lat/Lon Decimal: 44.93368 -93.08522
 - Lat/Lon DDD MM.MMM: N 44° 56.021 W 093° 05.113
 - Lat/Lon DDD MM SS.SSS: N 44° 56' 01.248" W 93° 5' 06.792"
 - Check that everyone has the correct coordinates before heading out. Websites such as <http://gsrv.gs/1EndYhm> can convert between coordinate forms.
 - Send permission slips for the field trip, get appropriate drivers and chaperones, and tell families where you will be and for how long.
1. See the information on travel bugs in the second activity below, if you are hunting for bugs already in caches.
 2. Go over some basic etiquette and hiking safety before heading out. Tell the girls the boundaries of where they can go, and assign groups and chaperones. Say that, since everyone wants to find the cache, we want to give others in the group a chance to spot it on their own. If you think you see the cache, stop your group and wait until the other groups have caught up. When it looks like everyone has seen it, you will choose a group to show where they think it is.
 3. If your group brought a trade item, you can trade one for one in the cache, if there are any. Most caches are not big enough to have trade items for a whole troop (check the “size” icon before choosing a cache, if possible); you can’t take more items than you leave, but you can choose to leave more than you take. Record what you left, so you can enter that into the website when you return.

Activity #2: Pack Up Your Travel Bug

Time: 10 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 5 – Take part in a travel bug’s travels

Materials Needed: Travel bug with keychain or token, info on what travel bugs are in the caches you will be visiting, pen and paper, or smartphone and geocaching.com account to record finds

Prep Needed:

- Check geocaching.com to see if any of the caches you are going to will have a travel bug. If so, find out what the goal is for each one.
 - If you won’t have a travel bug in your area, order one from www.geocaching.com’s store and follow the instructions on the website for starting your own bug.
 - Gather materials and supplies.
1. Gather the girls together before they start hunting for caches. “A travel bug is a small object that geocachers move from cache to cache to help it complete a journey. You don’t keep them, like a trade item or swaps, and the official ones each have a special code number on them so people can track where they are using a geocache website. But each one has a goal, such as getting to Switzerland and back, or visiting all 50 states, or getting to as many national parks as possible in one year. You only take the bug if you can move it along its journey. If you can’t help it along, leave it for another cacher to find.”
 2. Let the girls know what bugs will be in the caches they are hunting for. Make sure that they show the bug to the group when they find it, and get everyone’s opinion on whether they can help move the bug on its way.
 3. If you are starting a travel bug, have the girls discuss what their bug’s goal will be. Once they’ve decided, record their answer and the bug’s activation code, and place it in one of the caches.
 4. Afterwards: If one of the girls or their families already have a geocaching.com account or want to be owners of the bug, let them go to the website and activate your bug with the code on the website. Otherwise, go back to geocaching.com and activate the bug yourself.



Activity #3: Snack Chat

Time: 10 minutes

Badge Connection: Questions link to multiple badge steps

Materials Needed: Healthy snack

While enjoying snack, here are some things for girls to talk about:

- We used maps to help us find “hidden treasure.” What other things do we use maps for? How are some of those maps different from one another?
- Tell about a time when you were looking for one thing, and were surprised by something else.
- What is one place you’ve never been, either near or far, where you would really like to go?
- What’s one place you know so well that you could draw an expert guide map of it?

Wrapping Up

Time: 15 minutes

Materials Needed: (Optional) Make New Friends lyrics

Close the meeting by singing Make New Friends and doing a friendship circle.

More to Explore

- Field Trip Ideas:
 - Visit one of the Minnesota State Parks that is a geocache demo site, and learn more about caches in the park.
 - Try other hiking and exploring activities that use maps or clues of other kinds.
 - Visit a store that sells GPS units and ask about the different types and their best uses, or attend a camping gear expo or demonstration.
- Speaker Ideas:
 - Invite someone who uses GPS-related equipment for work and have them tell the girls about the equipment and how it’s used. Examples include wildlife field biologist, EMT dispatcher, delivery driver, landscape architect, environmental engineer, airline pilot, and forester.
 - Invite someone who has tried geocaching, orienteering, and letterboxing, and ask about the similarities and differences.

