

High-Tech Treasure Hunting



Geocaching started as a high-tech game of treasure hunting. If you like to go treasure hunting, you'll like geocaching. Remember to bring food, water, and a first aid kit on your hunt. Also bring some friends and an adult. This makes it more fun and safe too!

Before you go, complete the two starred activities and two others of your choice to earn this Try-It.

- *1.** Read and sign the online safety pledge located at the end of these requirements.
- *2.** What is geocaching? Visit www.geocaching.com to learn what geocaching is and find the answers to some of the following frequently asked questions:
 - How do you pronounce *geocaching*?
 - What are the rules in geocaching?
 - What is usually in a cache?

Finally, decide what you'd like to put in a cache. You should have one item for each of the troop members who will participate in the search.

- 3.** Learn the meaning of the two starred terms and at least two others: GPS, CITO, FTF, Geomuggle, *latitude, *longitude, spoiler, Travel Bug, and virtual (cache).
- 4.** Learn what a GPS unit is and how to use it. Learn to plot points and recall plots that others have entered.
- 5.** Visit www.geocaching.com to find a nearby cache to search for as a troop. Plot the coordinates on your GPS unit. Review in *Safety-Wise* what you'll need to do before you go on the trip.
- 6.** Make your own miniature first aid kit to take with you when you go treasure hunting. You can make a container for your first aid kit from an empty film canister, two beads, and a piece of string or yarn long enough to tie around your neck. Place a bandage, a gauze square, and a small package of first aid cream inside.
- 7.** Many geocaches include a coded message. Pretend to be a spy and decode the following message by using the decryption key below:

Juvyr fngryyvgrf ner yvaxvat, tvey fpbhgf ner guvaxvat.

Decryption Key

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

The letter above equals the letter below and vice versa.

Example: A = N, B = O, C = P

Now make your own message using the same decryption key.

Continued →

8. Make your mark! Geocachers usually create fun codenames and special marks to use when they write in the logbooks found in the cache boxes. Create your own codename and, if you'd like to make a special mark in the logbooks for the caches you find, bring along a stamp and an inkpad as well.
9. Seek out a nearby cache and, with your GPS unit in hand and cache items in your backpack, go on your high-tech treasure hunt.

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Developed by: Junior Girl Scout Troop 3137
Greene Service Unit
Leaders: Terry Karnes and Rhonda Carpenter
(Approved by board of directors: December 2007)
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My Online Safety Pledge

Traveling through cyberspace can be fun, but as for any trip you take, you have to “Be Prepared” for unforeseen things. So, read this before you go on any more Internet trips and then discuss it with your adult partner — mom, dad, troop leader, grandparent, guardian, teacher, etc. Also, don’t forget to sign your pledge for safety online!



- ✓ I will not give out personal information such as my address or my telephone number, my parents’/guardians’ work addresses or telephone numbers, or the name and location of my school or troop meetings without first receiving permission from my parents/guardians.
- ✓ I will tell an adult right away if I come across any information that makes me feel uncomfortable.
- ✓ I will never agree to get together with someone I “meet” online without first checking with my parents/guardians. If my parents/guardians agree to a meeting, I will be sure that it is in a public place and bring my parent/guardian along with me.
- ✓ I will never send a person my picture or anything else without first checking with my parents/guardians.
- ✓ I will not respond to any messages that are mean or in any way make me feel uncomfortable. It is not my fault if I get a message like that. If I do, I will tell my parents/guardians right away so that they can contact the online service provider.
- ✓ I will talk with my parents/guardians so that we can set up rules for going online. We will decide upon the time of day that I can be online, the length of time I can be online, and appropriate areas for me to visit. I will not access other areas or break these rules without their permission.

Girl Scout’s Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Adult Parent/Guardian’s Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____