



Geocaching

Before completing this charm, girls should have completed the Be Wild, Be Free patch

Geocaching is a fun way to get yourself outdoors and investigate your neighborhood. Geocaches are hidden all over the world, so there is most likely one near you. But how do you find them? The first thing you will need to do is download a geocaching app onto your smart phone. Most apps are free and you should be able to complete this charm.

Part 1: Download a geocaching app onto your smart phone. Geocaching.com is a reputable site with a connected app. Learn the rules and etiquette of geocaching. You can do this by visiting the help center on geocaching.com. Some basic rules are as follows

- You should never tell anyone exactly where you found the geocache; part of the fun is in the hunt!
- Don't let anyone see you when you are looking for geocaches. Search with a buddy, so one of you can act as lookout.
- Be sure to sign the log in the geocache, if it has one.
- Only take an item out of the cache box if you've put one in of equal or greater value
- Always put the geocache back as you found it. Be sure it is hidden from muggle eyes

Part 2: Create a SWAP or swag to leave in the caches you find. Make it something simple, small and fun. Be sure that your SWAP doesn't have your personal information on it.

Part 3: Learn the different types of geocaches.

- traditional
- CITO
- Earthcache
- Mystery
- Virtual

Part 4: Search for geocaches within 5 miles of your residence.

- Remember:
 - stay safe when finding geocaches. Some may be hidden near busy roads or private residences.
 - Always have a buddy or parent with you.
- Juniors: find at least **2** geocaches near you.
- Cadettes: find at least **4** geocaches near you
- Seniors; find at least **5** geocaches near you
- Ambassadors find at least **6** geocaches near you

Part 5: Find different types of caches. Use your app to find different types of caches near you. Search for caches that are non-traditional. They can be CITO, mystery, earthcache, virtual, etc.

- Juniors: find at least **1** non-traditional geocache
- Cadette: find at least **2** non-traditional geocaches. These can be at 2 different locations or in the same area
- Seniors: find at least **3** non-traditional geocaches. These can be at different locations or in the same area
- Ambassadors: find at least **4** non-traditional geocaches. These can be at different locations or in the same area

Part 6: You may choose one or both of the following activities.

- With your troop or on your own, create a travel bug and release it. To do this you will need to visit geocaching.com and register your travel bug. You can release your bug and see where it travels or you can request it get to a specific destination. Maybe you want your travel bug to get to one of the girl scout world centers. Just put a note on it and see how long it takes to get there. You can check your travel bug's progress on geocaching.com website
- If you find a travel bug in a cache, follow it. See where it ends up. To do this you will need to log it in on the [geocaching](http://geocaching.com) website and place it in a new cache. Then you can watch its progress.