

**“Life is either
a daring
adventure
or nothing
at all.”**

—Helen Keller,
author and activist

Developed in partnership with Groundspeak, Inc.

Geocacher

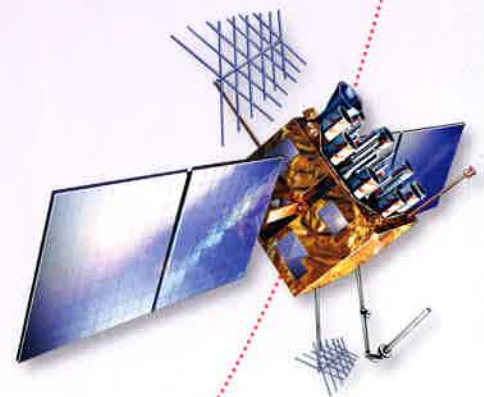
Geocaching is your chance to be part global explorer, part detective. You'll search for treasure chests, known as “geocaches,” using a device called a GPS receiver to find each chest's secret hiding place. Get ready for a thrilling adventure!

Steps

1. Prepare for your adventure
2. Learn to use a GPS receiver
3. Make a trade item
4. Go on a geocaching adventure
5. Take part in a bug's travels!

Purpose

When I've earned this badge, I'll know how to have a geocaching adventure.





What to Find Out about Geocaching

Get ready to learn how to be a modern-day treasure seeker. Once you can truly imagine what's hidden just under your nose, the world will never look the same!

- What should I expect on my adventure?
- What do I need to carry with me?
- What are three basic rules I need to follow?
- What will I find in a cache?
- How will I stay safe on my adventure?

Fun FACT

"GPS" stands for Global Positioning System.

Tips Before Takeoff

You need a GPS receiver to do this badge. Many geocachers use a smartphone with a built-in GPS receiver. It shouldn't be hard to find or borrow a receiver if you don't have one!

Every step has three choices. Do ONE choice to complete each step. Inspired? Do more!

STEP

1 Prepare for your adventure

The goal of a geocaching adventure is to find a geocache, or hidden treasure box. You'll use GPS "clues" to uncover treasures that most people don't know exist. There are over one million hidden geocaches all over the world! Before you get started, get expert information. See the sidebar for good questions to answer.

CHOICES – DO ONE:

- With an adult, visit an official geocaching site.** It might be www.geocaching.com or www.navicache.com.

FOR MORE FUN: Get the geocaching slang! Find out what these different terms mean: FTF, waypoint, CITO, TFTC, terrain rating.

OR

- Invite a geocacher to talk to you about their adventures.** Perhaps you can ask an older Girl Scout?

FOR MORE FUN: Brainstorm new activities that would use a GPS receiver. Make a cool ad that describes your new sport and encourages others to join up.

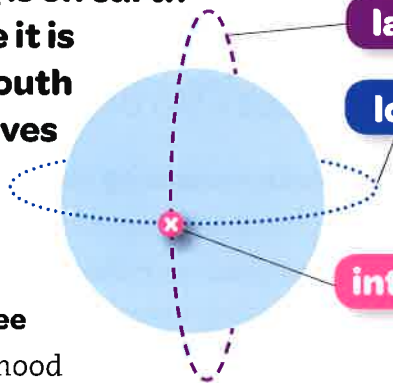
OR

- Attend a geocaching event.** Talk to the adventurers themselves. You might ask, What's the coolest thing you've ever found in a geocache? How long have you been geocaching?

STEP 2 Learn to use a GPS receiver

To find your way to a hidden geocache, you need to zero in on its “coordinates.” Coordinates are measurements called longitude and latitude.

Longitude is where something is on earth east to west. Latitude is where it is between the North Pole and South Pole. Where these two meet gives an exact location. Practice!



latitude: north / south

longitude: east / west

intersection: where points meet

CHOICES – DO ONE:

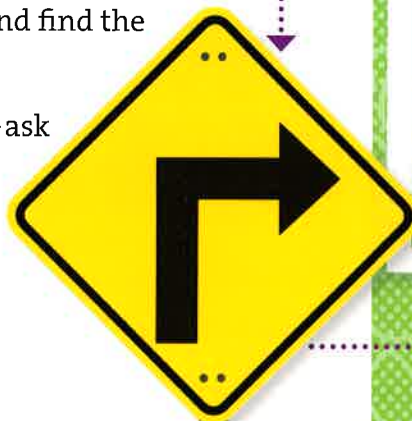
Find the GPS coordinates of three things. They could be a neighborhood stop sign, a mark on the sidewalk, and your favorite tree.

OR

Hide an item for a friend to find. Give them the GPS coordinates of the item, and help them if they get stuck. Then have them hide an item for you to find.

OR

Go on a photo hunt. Ask an adult to take photos of three things along a safe route—perhaps a mailbox, a flower, and a street sign. The adult should give you the photos in the order they appear along the route plus the coordinates for each. With your Girl Scout friends, go out and find the things in the photos!



Try This on Your GPS Receiver

As you're learning to use your GPS receiver, learn how to do these useful things. Ask for an expert's help!

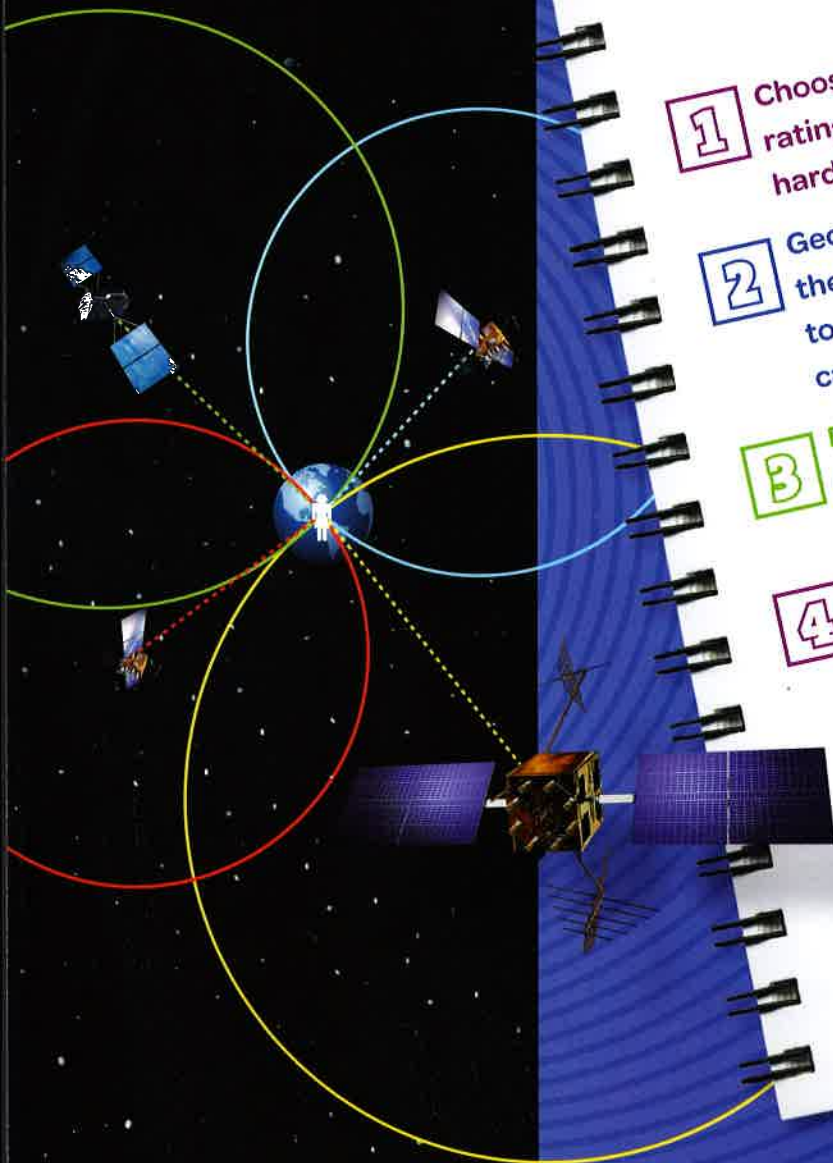
- Mark where you are
- View the coordinates of a location that's already entered
- View a set of coordinates on the map



FOR MORE FUN: Make it a challenge—ask for two sets of photos along the same route, and see who can find all her targets first.

How GPS Works

Over 30 GPS satellites in orbit around Earth transmit their locations at regular intervals. A GPS receiver must calculate its distance from at least four of those satellites to determine a position accurately. The satellites' signals travel at the speed of light!



GEOCACHING

Tips

- 1 Choose a geocache with a low difficulty rating. Even a one-star cache can be quite hard to find!
- 2 Geocaches disappear sometimes, so read the recent logs on the cache details page to make sure that someone has found the cache recently.
- 3 Read the description (and optional hint) on the cache-details page and check to see what size the cache is.
- 4 GPS coordinates aren't always exact, so once you are within about 25 feet of a location, put the GPS receiver away and rely on your eyes! Look for something that doesn't seem quite "right"—perhaps an unusual pile of rocks or sticks. Think about where you might hide a cache!
- 5 The general rule of thumb is, "If you take an item, leave an item, and write in the logbook."



Add the Badge to Your Journey

When you do step 3, try making something that inspires whoever finds it to think about stereotypes that impact girls—and bust them, too! You could make a Dez the spider trade item, and imagine what she would say to those who find her.

Now that I've earned this badge, I can give service by:

- Teaching my friends how to use a GPS receiver
- Creating a photo hunt for younger girls
- Starting a geocaching club at my school



I'm inspired to: