

GEOCACHING MERIT BADGE CLINIC

This is a single session, intensive learning clinic on scheduled Saturday's (see the Council calendar) to meet certain requirements for the Geocaching Merit Badge. Classes are held at the LowerGear Backpacking Center in Tempe. This session is led by Dallas Shewmaker, owner of LowerGear and a Geocaching Counselor. He is a veteran of hundreds of hours in GPS field use and training of others. Clinic starts promptly at 10:00am and typically ends a bit after 2pm.

Geocaching is one of the more recent Merit Badge opportunities so not many Scouts have yet earned this Badge. Be one of the first! This course program greatly enhances the Scouts' navigational skills while learning about geocaching and using a GPS. This class is a great introduction to a lifetime of fun and adventure with geocaching!

Prerequisites:

- Read the entire Geocaching merit badge pamphlet. Print out the Merit Badge Workbook from meritbadge.org/wiki/images/1/17/Geocaching.pdf
- Open a free account at www.geocaching.com and explore the basics
- Using the workbook, **write down the answers to the following requirement discussion points** and be prepared to discuss with the counselor in class:
 - 1b and 1c
 - 2a, 2b and 2c
 - 3 - all
 - 4 - the four steps to find your first cache

Bring with you:

- BSA Geocaching Merit Badge Pamphlet
- A copy of the Geocaching Merit Badge Workbook with above answers added
- Your BSA Merit Badge Application (blue) card
- Snacks for frequent breaks
- 2 Pens or pencils

During this clinic, you will learn a lot about geocaching; map reading; GPS navigation; fun geocaching events; and how to do everything safely. You'll meet most of the requirements to earn your badge in one day, but will have some fun projects to complete on your own and with your troop to finish up. The counselor on Saturday can only sign off on those requirements met that day. Here are all eight requirements (see the workbook and pamphlet for full details) and what you'll need to do to meet each:

#1 Hazards, prevention and safety – You must do 1b and 1c ahead of class. We'll then discuss and satisfy this requirement in full at the clinic.

#2 Geocaching techniques - You must do all of #2 ahead of class. We'll then discuss and satisfy this requirement in full at the clinic.

#3 Geocaching terms - You must do all of #3 ahead of class. We'll then discuss and satisfy this requirement in full at the clinic.

#4 GPS use - We will have training units at the clinic to satisfy the requirement in full

#5 Map and compass – We will have hands-on experience and demonstrations at the clinic to satisfy this requirement in full.

#6 Steps to find first cache - You must do all of #6 ahead of class, except the gps portion. We'll then discuss and satisfy this requirement in full at the clinic.

#7 Identify 3 nearby caches – You will have to do this on your own with your parent or troop after the clinic to satisfy the requirement. We will discuss how you can do this

#8 Geocaching project options - You will have to do one of these options on your own in coordination with your troop leader after the clinic to satisfy the requirement. We will discuss how at the clinic

The LowerGear Backpacking Center is located on the NE corner of University and McClintock, right next to the Circle K. Call 480-348-8917 for more information.