

GeoScouting™!



*“Something hidden. Go and find it.
Go and look behind the Ranges-
Something lost behind the Ranges.
Lost and waiting for you. Go!”*

-Rudyard Kipling, The Explorer, 1898, as quoted in the BSA Fieldbook, 2004 edition

- **What is GeoScouting™?**

GeoScouting™ is a subset of the sport of geocaching, which is an entertaining adventure game for GPS users, with hundreds of thousands of active members in 204 countries. It is a modified treasure hunt using GPS coordinates to locate the “prize” or cache.

What could be a more natural partnership – Scouting and Geocaching! Both programs love and support the outdoors, and both get us all away from the TV and video games!

GeoScouting™ = *Geocaching to Promote Scouting*

GeoScouting™ can be used in many ways to support and enhance the Scouting Program.

Benefits to Scouting

- Fun – can be coupled with advancement and team building exercises
- Recruitment – Older youth love the sport!
- Retention of youth members
- Sponsors
- Public Relations – great way to showcase Scouting to the public

**Example: Cache to Eagle Series – posted on the public website www.geocaching.com
(see www.GeoScouting-info.com for more information)**

These series of caches highlight another component of Scouting: **Service**. Caches are hidden at the site of an Eagle Project, which is described in detail on the geocaching.com website. All who read the posting and visit the sites are reminded of the countless hours of service provided to the community by Scouting

*In the first week alone, these caches had over 100 visits and positive logs keep pouring in.
ALL comments about Scouting were positive!*

GeoScouting- Get the Patch!



Sample of logs posted on the public www.geocaching.com website:

Nearly 25% of logs have gone out of their way to acknowledge the service by Scouts and/or leave a positive reference for Scouting.

“Wow what an inspired theme. With a boy scout and a cub scout as part of the gang, we immediately decided to begin looking for this series of caches. This first one was in our neighborhood so it was the logical starting point. TNLNSL.
Thanks for the cache.....we're looking forward to finding them all.”

“Nice and easy find. Area looks like a great place to live! Great work by the Scouts!!!”

“Boy, I drive by a lot of the Scout's projects every day and never knew it. Good work lads!”

In general it's great to have a 6 year old, especially when geocaching. No one questions the odd looking about and exploring that kids do. In a way scouting helps foster that curiosity and channels it into respect for the world and others. -BigdaddyJ (former scout) and Kershmoles (future scout?)

Found it. We love this new series of caches. Found this one after the badges event. TFTC.

Thanks Scouts! What a nice construction project.

Eagle scouts did that stuff? Cool - thanks for the cache!

Since I'm a old Eagle myself I felt a proud seeing where the Boy Scouts are still serving the community and giving boys a way to learn citizenship and leadership skills. I left a mini-micro container. Thanks for the cache and thanks for the trip down memory lane.

This is my last cache in the series. When they first appeared, I thought they would give me a week of two of searching during work. I guess I got a little more than that, including a great tour of some cool Eagle projects. You scouts keep up the good work! I found the cache to be under the guard of herd of six deer and was a little worried I might startle them into the road, but they're smarter than that!

This is a great facility and organization. I am glad the Scouts can help out such great service organization in our community.

It amuses me that I can still recite all twelve virtues without thinking.

Our third cache of the day by mousewiz. We really enjoyed seeing projects taken on by the Eagle Scouts. They are doing some really great work and should be applauded for it. This was a well done hide and we were able to grab a nearby benchmark at the flagpole.
TNLNSL. TFTC!

My son is an Eagle Scout and know how much work the scouts do and what it takes to become an Eagle Scout. Keep up the good work. Took a mico contanier and left a saftey lock. Thank you for hiding.

Very interesting bit of information about those fish. My 5 year old is always pointing those out. Perhaps a seemingly small thing has given him a greater awareness of how we impact the earth. -Thanks, BigdaddyJ and Kershmole

My 300th find! B and K and I came here, and we really enjoyed the gardens (more than was necessary). Thanks scouts- what a great resource for the community. As usual, I slowed things down by looking for a "clever" hiding place, but B was adamant that we find it, so that she could retrieve another mouse. They also had fun running up and down the wood-chip piles. We took a mouse and marbles and left some ladybug things. Thanks! -T

I admit that when I came here, I was a little grumpy (or preoccupied) because of issues I need to finish working on for my job. But finding this made me a little more cheerful.

This park looks much nicer than the last time I was here (thanks scouts!), although I always went straight to the beach. I didn't follow directions well, so I had to circle around to find the trail. I lost signal in the cache area, but had a general idea where to look and found it in the second logical spot I checked. Took a button and left some ladybug things. Thanks! -T

I was visiting a friend in the area and took the opportunity to check out all the scouting accomplishments in Marinwood. Took dog magnet, left pez and ladybug stuff. Thanks! -T

“Coordinates gave us some fits but the final location was "obvious" to geocachers -- and there it was. Nice park with great improvements by the Scouts.”

“Can't believe that it took me so long to find this one. It was in the first place that I looked but I managed to not see it. Only found it on a second scan of the area. The Scouts do nice work!”

“No need to unlock gates! Vicki had the right idea and I found it. Didn't have time to do any more exploring but it looks like another great project.”

“Back for the last four of these puppies today. Was a bit concerned about doing this one on a Sunday but no problems at noon! Nice job, Scouts.”

“First of the 12 caches. Used to be a scout. Helped me refresh old memories on the 12 of the Scout Oath, or was that Be Prepared?”

“I went by yesterday with my two kids. we really had fun looking all the birds.. thanks for this cache and the series!”

“My dog liked this one. She is not much of a Scout, though. I was thinking about that the other day when I was hiking around Warner Falls and slipped on a rock in the creek. If I had seriously injured myself, I doubt if the dog would have heroically gone for help. Maybe I should take a Scout with me instead.”

“The first time I was here, I was wearing my Crushers hat and T-Shirt. How did that happen? A young man asked if I was a fan and told me that there were articles about a new team in the Press-Democrat. It turns out that there is a group that is hoping to build a ball field big enough to attract a Class A team. I have no idea if the kid was a Scout, but he was acting in the best Scouting tradition of knowledge and helpfulness.”

“A quick bike ride from our home. Our son Nathan is a scout in Troop 48 so we love the meaning behind this series of caches. This is our first find in this series”

“The Scouts did a great job on this garden but they might want to recheck the coordinates of this cache. I found it about 60 feet from where I zeroed out!”

“Ended up coming back here at the end of the day because I left my walking stick behind earlier. Not a problem though because the area is so beautiful and the Scouts helped build a nice oasis here.”

“(;) Found it

Met a lady taking her grandson down to the creek here, it is a nice and peaceful spot. nice to know the Scouts had a hand in doing this.

I will have to come back here again...”

“Did not realize that the messages were painted by the scouts. That is great! I used to play in the creek that these drain into, and have been planning on taking my young one there so he can see the tadpoles. Maybe he will join scouts when he is old enough.”

“2nd find for the morning and another FTF! Lots of cool trade items in there. I like the GPS Scout patches, are the Scouts supposed to come by and get them?

Also, I did not know the Scout did that much work around the community”

“The camouflage made this one obvious. Nice gardens – good work! Left a 5 cent coin of Singapore.(6th of the series for me) Thank you for the cache, BKip”

“The closest I got to scouting was a year as a Cub. It was a big thing in those days to wear our uniforms to school. I remember hiking to waterfalls and learning how to use flint -- and putting cookies I did not like to eat in my pockets much to my mother's irritation. But the den mother moved away and I changed schools. The knots we practiced were soon forgotten. Years later, some friends talked to me about joining the scouts. But by then, the counter-culture had started to bloom and my interests soon led me elsewhere. I have loved taking the kids to see Wild Care -- and we even brought an animal there once. This cache has the added advantage of seeing the ball field at Albert Park -- breathe deep and smell the start of baseball! And for all the barn owls -- good work scouts! “

“Found with Fremont Claassens.

left: metal puzzle and Halloween hacky sack

took: "cache to eagle" card and geocaching to promote scouting patch for my patch jacket”

“Found it with my Cub Scout (SSMike). He is so excited about this. I took the Lance Armstrong travel bug and left a Black Belt Club patch.”

wow, another one, those eagles are busy. I was really, really going in circles.. had no print out.. didn't know the cache size.. little muggle group had me head back to the truck.. searched some more with only co-ords then called a lifeline for the hint and easy find.. thanks! left blue sword!

“Being an X-scout I will now have to find them all. Great idea!”

“We have some of these markers in my neighborhood. When I see water running into the drains, I always hope that people who are washing their cars are using something that is biodegradable. On the way back home, I saw a group of vultures sitting on fence posts. I am not sure what this has to do with this cache, but the vultures also perform a community service. So perhaps we can all find ways to contribute.”

“It is always amazing to me to note the degree that people do not pay attention to others doing odd things. A scout might have looked at me a lot more carefully.”

“Awhile back, Bric told me about the nearby memorial. Since I was nearby, I decided that the courteous thing to do was to visit it and pay my respects.”

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“This was the first of a few caches for Easter morning before family stuff. Seems like the gps was trying to wake up for this one to. First I was out side the fence, then inside, then I got it. Did a tour of Marin and a few FTF's.”

“BTW, It's nice to see all the service done for our community by the kids. I didn't know they did so much work. Could I get them to come over and clean out my garage?”

“This Life Scout didn't read the info about these caches until after making his 1st FTF! Took Tip Top TB, left Neil Armstrong TB & airplane. Be prepared, bring a pen. Neil wants to go to other caches where no person has been before. Thanks, Mousewiz, for making this an Easter Egg Hunt to remember.”

“FTF! We did our usual trick of turning a 1 terrain into a 3, and found all the poison oak that way! [:o] We don't recommend that approach! We were woefully unprepared (spied these on our way out our Sacramento door) so when we took the travel bug we left a heart and a magnetic lizard, not very Scout-ish.

Mr. Codger was a Scout leader forever, and we have a Life Scout and an Eagle Scout. Thanks for the cache!”

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