

Waypoint Name	Easy-Hard 1-5	Latitude North	Longitude West	Comments
Flagpole		42.666476	76.871566	Always set a "home base" waypoint. Here is one for you to pre-program, if you wish.
Hermit Cabin	2	42.665211	76.874078	The stone foundation east of this location is the last remains of the farm that was here before Camp was opened in 1937.
Bigfoot Falls . . . and gets up!!	2	42.667056	76.870588	Legend has it that when Bigfoot fell, creating the falls in the ravine between the Memorial Lodge and Cayuga, he put his hand here to get up, causing these hand prints!!
Patch Trading Paradise	4	42.662096	76.865869	Come trade a patch with your fellow cachers in a place where few Scouts go. Between you and the lake is a section of Babcock-Hovey known as "The Garden of Eden, because, if you go there, you can almost imagine yourself being the first person to ever set foot here!!!!
Picture Perfect	3	42.667002	76.859688	The Smith Family were the first settlers of camp, after the Iroquois. The first Smith received it as payment for fighting in the Revolutionary War. If cameras had been invented then, do you think the Smiths might have taken pictures here? Take a picture of you and your fellow geocachers! Maybe you'll see your picture posted in camp the next time you come!!!



Geocaching at Babcock-Hovey

Geocaching is a high-tech treasure hunting game played throughout the world by adventure seekers equipped with GPS devices. The basic idea is to locate hidden containers, called geocaches, outdoors and then share your experiences online. Geocaching is enjoyed by people from all age groups, with a strong sense of community and support for the environment.

Here is a short movie clip to give you an idea about geocaching:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1FxrMY91jJU&feature=related>

Geocaches at Camp Babcock-Hovey are private, and not listed on the geocaching.com website. They are intended for our campers ONLY. Within a short drive of camp, there are public caches that anyone can look for.

Before You Go

- Select a geocache that will meet your immediate goals. Are you looking for a difficult hike or an easy adventure?
- If you're headed out on the trail, pack any needed supplies such as water, food and extra clothing. Bring both a map and a compass. Check geocache terrain and difficulty ratings. All the rules apply as with any hike in the woods.
- For safety, let someone know where you are going.
- Do not forget your GPS and extra batteries.

Get Out and Play

- Mark your campsite as a waypoint to ensure your safe return.
- Be mindful of the environment, and practice Cache In Trash Out.
- Remember that distances can be deceiving. A geocache can take longer to find depending on trails, rivers and other obstacles.

Share Your Experience

- If you take something from the geocache, leave something of equal or greater value.
- Write about your experience in the geocache logbook.

If you wish to place a cache at camp, contact the Ranger or Campmaster at camp, or in the community, consult the geocaching.com website.

Geocaching Merit Badge Requirements

1. Do the following:
 - a. Explain to your counselor the most likely hazards you may encounter while participating in geocaching activities and what you should do to anticipate, help prevent, mitigate, and respond to these hazards.
 - b. Discuss first aid and prevention for the types of injuries or illnesses that could occur while participating in geocaching activities, including cuts, scrapes, snakebite, insect stings, tick bites, exposure to poisonous plants, heat and cold reactions (sunburn, heatstroke, heat exhaustion, hypothermia), and dehydration.
 - c. Discuss how to properly plan an activity that uses GPS, including using the buddy system, sharing your plan with others, and considering the weather, route, and proper attire.
2. Discuss the following with your counselor:
 - a. Why you should never bury a cache.
 - b. How to use proper geocaching etiquette when hiding or seeking a cache, and how to properly hide, post, maintain, and dismantle a geocache.
 - c. The principles of Leave No Trace as they apply to geocaching.
3. Explain the following terms used in geocaching: waypoint, log, cache, accuracy, difficulty and terrain ratings, attributes, trackable. Choose five additional terms to explain to your counselor.
4. Explain how the Global Positioning System (GPS) works. Then, using Scouting's Teaching EDGE, demonstrate the use of a GPS unit to your counselor. Include marking and editing a waypoint, changing field functions, and changing the coordinate system in the unit.
5. Do the following:
 - a. Show you know how to use a map and compass and explain why this is important for geocaching.
 - b. Explain the similarities and differences between GPS navigation and standard map reading skills and describe the benefits of each.
 - c. Explain the UTM (Universal Transverse Mercator) system and how it differs from the latitude/longitude system used for public geocaches.
 - d. Show how to plot a UTM waypoint on a map. Compare the accuracy to that found with a GPS unit.
6. Describe the four steps to finding your first cache to your counselor. Then mark and edit a waypoint.
7. With your parent's permission*, go to www.Geocaching.com. Type in your zip code to locate public geocaches in your area. Share the posted information about three of those geocaches with your counselor. Then, pick one of the three and find the cache.
8. Do ONE of the following:
 - a. If a Cache to Eagle® series exists in your council, visit at least three of the 12 locations in the series. Describe the projects that each cache you visit highlights, and explain how the Cache to Eagle® program helps share our Scouting service with the public.
 - b. Create a Scouting-related Travel Bug® that promotes one of the values of Scouting. "Release" your Travel Bug into a public geocache and, with your parent's permission, monitor its progress at www.geocaching.com for 30 days. Keep a log, and share this with your counselor at the end of the 30-day period.
 - c. Set up and hide a public geocache, following the guidelines in the *Geocaching* merit badge pamphlet. Before doing so, share with your counselor a six-month maintenance plan for the geocache where you are personally responsible for the first three months. After setting up the geocache, with your parent's permission, follow the logs online for 30 days and share them with your counselor.
 - d. Explain what Cache In Trash Out (CITO) means, and describe how you have practiced CITO at public geocaches or at a CITO event. Then, either create CITO containers to leave at public caches, or host a CITO event for your unit or for the public.
9. Plan a geohunt for a youth group such as your troop or a neighboring pack, at school, or your place of worship. Choose a theme, set up a course with at least four waypoints, teach the players how to use a GPS unit, and play the game. Tell your counselor about your experience, and share the materials you used and developed for this event.

