

Get in the Game! with Geocaching

For our 100th Anniversary Celebration, the BSA is tapping into the fun and excitement of geocaching and inviting you along. Through **Get in the Game!** geocaching events, Scouts and non-Scouts alike will search for prizes in this fast-paced outdoor quest.

What is geocaching?

Put simply, it's a high-tech treasure hunt. Players hide containers, called "caches" or "geocaches," outdoors and then share the coordinates at www.geocaching.com. Then, other players seek them out using GPS navigation devices. It's fun, challenging, and interesting for individuals, families, and groups.

What do you need?

- To find a cache you will need either a GPS receiver or an iPhone or similar cell phone with available geocaching apps. You will also need an account on www.geocaching.com.
- To build a cache, all you need is a piece of paper to serve as a log book, Scouting goods like patches and photos, and a watertight container.

Get in the Game! Activities

The Tukabatchee Area Council will be participating in several geocaching activities for the **Get in the Game!** program.

- **Pillars of Scouting** — "Travel Bugs®" that go from cache to cache around the nation to highlight core Scouting values. Through Travel Bugs® and trackable items like coins, the message of our 100th Anniversary Celebration will travel the nation. The descriptions of these items on Geocaching.com will celebrate Scouting's legacy and reaffirm our commitment to inspire and prepare the next generation.

Leadership — Our country will never outgrow the need for thoughtful leadership, and so the values and lessons of Scouting will never go out of style.

Service — For a century, Scouting has been helping the youth of America find — in themselves and in the world around them — more than they thought possible.

Achievement — The Scouting experience is learning valuable skills and achieving meaningful goals. A century of building confidence and character is worth celebrating.

Character — The essence of Scouting has been and is family: generations joining hands to build healthy relationships and strengthen communities. Scouting's lessons last a lifetime.

Outdoors — Working, playing, and living Outdoors, and learning to appreciate our world and our place in it remains essential to the Scouting experience.

Finding the Pillars of Scouting Travel Bugs

The Get in the Game! team has created five custom Travel Bugs — one for each pillar — for each BSA local council. They each have unique identification numbers that can be tracked on Geocaching.com. Players will pick up the item from one cache, move it to another, and log the movement online. Trackable items move tens of thousands of miles and pass through hundred of hands.

Travel Bugs are a moving target. They will go from cache to cache around the country. To find them, go to Geocaching.com and choose “Trackable Items.” Type in the search term “Pillars of Scouting” to find out if there is one in your area. If you find it, be sure to move it along.

- **Cache to Eagle®** — BSA districts across America are hiding caches to showcase some of Scouting's great gifts to America, Eagle Scout service project sites.

Cache to Eagle is a partnership between Geoscouting, the BSA, and Geocaching.com to highlight Eagle projects across the nation. Through the program, participants set up normal public caches at Eagle project sites that also happen to be good cache spots.

Getting to see the pinnacle of Scouting achievement, in a fun way, is highly meaningful for young Scouts. This program can also provide a tremendous source of pride for Scouters and Scouting alumni, and it helps to show the larger community Scouting's contributions.

Cache to Eagle is a great way to show Scouting's commitment to service. If each district sets up a series, we will have over a million visitors seeing—first hand—the impact of Scouting on our communities every year.

Finding a Cache to Eagle Series

We will be hiding twelve caches in our council. To find them, go to Geocaching.com and choose “Hide and Seek a Cache.” Type in the search term “Cache to Eagle” and “Tukabatchee”. These twelve caches will each contain unique coded cards. The first twenty Scouts or Scouters who find all twelve and turn them into the Council office will receive a unique Cache to Eagle patch.

Setting up a Cache to Eagle cache

If there is an exceptional Eagle project that you would like to highlight in the series contact Karl Ward at scouter@knology.net.

- **Treasures of Scouting** — Caches around the country that showcase Scouting people and programs: Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venturing, Scouting

Alumni, and Volunteers.

Cache to Cub Scouts: The Cub

Scouting program is uniquely designed to meet the needs of young boys and their parents, offering fun and challenging experiences that inspire confidence and teach important values.

Action! Boy Scouts: In the Boy Scout program, boys (ages 11-17) learn and grow through the experiences of camping, hiking, building projects, and community service. Scouting fosters self-esteem, a sense of value and belonging, a sense of accountability, and teamwork. It's also fun!

AdVenturing Crew: The Venturing program is unique because it uses extreme outdoor adventure as the method for building character, peer-to-peer bonds, and independence. It's open to young men and women between the ages of 14 and 20.

Volunteer Quest: Scouting volunteers come from a variety of backgrounds and experiences, but all are committed to one thing — leading youth to become responsible, caring, and competent citizens.

BSA Alumni Connection: If you are—or have ever been—active in Scouting, we invite you to reconnect at www.BSAalumni.org. You were there for the first 100 years, now join us for the next century of Scouting!

Finding Hidden Treasures

The council will post cache locations on Geocaching.com. To find them, search “TAC, Treasures of Scouting”. Find all five, fill out the entry form located on cache web page, and return it to the Council office to be eligible for the monthly drawing for an unactivated “Get In the Game” geocoin. Two of these coins will be given away each month for the next year. Participants are allowed only one entry but your name will stay in the drawing until all coins have been given out.

- **A Shining Light Across America** — Geocaching will be a highlighted activity at the celebration on July 31st at Blount Cultural Park. A series of Scouts-only caches will be hidden so bring your GPS receiver and join in the fun! In addition, registered caches will be added that will draw Scouters and non-Scouters alike to this Cache Event. Boy Scouts, this will be an excellent opportunity to work on the new Geocaching Merit Badge.

How can you help?

Adult leaders, if you are a geocacher and wish to help with the **Get in the Game!** Program please contact Karl Ward at scouter@knology.net. There are plenty of activities and the **Get in the Game!** Committee needs your help.

