Geocaching Rules and Etiquette

Rule No. 1: Keep Safe
- Stay far away from road traffic and railroad crossings.
- Don't place a cache higher than 6 feet or require any dangerous climbing to reach it.
- Don't require Scouts to swim to reach the cache.
- Public caches are often magnetic containers stuck onto electrical switch boxes. Common sense says to avoid these as well!
- Always enforce the buddy system.

Rule No. 2: Respect the Environment
- Never bury a cache in the ground.
- Avoid sensitive ecosystems. Place caches so that they can be reached by existing trail access
- Don't place caches in archaeological or historic sites.
- Don't deface any object, natural or manmade.
- Don't hide caches in lightpost bases, sprinkler heads, etc.

Rule No. 3: Respect Private Property
- Get permission from land managers to use parks, Scout camps, etc., for your events.
- It is unlawful to put caches on National Park land or national wildlife refuges.
- Local laws and policies vary so check with any relevant agency before placing caches.
- Caches in or near military installations are not allowed.
- Caches are not allowed on elementary and secondary school property.
- Avoid sites that could be deemed potential or possible targets for terrorist attacks, including but not limited to highway bridges, dams, government buildings, and airports.

Rule No. 4: Be a Positive Ambassador for Scouting
As with all else we do, cache using the Scout Oath and Law.

Etiquette
- Practice cache-in-trash-out (CITO). Always carry a trash bag and remove litter along your route.
- Follow Leave No Trace guidelines in the natural environment.
- Be careful of the area around the cache—don't trample the grounds, rip up sprinkler heads, etc., in your frenzy to find the cache.
- Follow all laws and regulations. Never enter private property without permission.
- Write an entry in the logbook at the cache.
- Cache items are there for fun and for trade. Try to leave something of equal value to what you take for yourself.
- Respect other visitors around the area.