

# Conducting Ghost Hunts

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Arrive early with your necessary ghost hunting equipment and give yourself plenty of time to set everything up. Some of the equipment that you might want to use is a video camera, EMF detector, 35mm cameras loaded with brand-new film and thermometers. Always remember to bring along plenty of flashlights. Don't forget to bring along some patience. Conducting a ghost Hunt is a lot like fishing. You have to use patience.

Start by selecting a private room or a general area for a main base of operations. This space is where all monitoring should be done and it should not be an area where ghost activity is high. After the base has been selected, do a complete walk-through of the general area. Check out every room and in graveyards walk around the tombstones in a fifty-yard radius. Videotape the walk-through if you are using video cameras. Make sure that you know the layout before you begin the ghost hunt. Become familiar with the area. The investigation will go much better if everyone feels comfortable with the surroundings.

Use the EMF detectors to search for anything out of the ordinary. If you do not pick up EMF distortions or if you feel that there is an unearthly presence nearby take more photos. Just be aware that in cemeteries smooth glossy tombstone faces will reflect light from the flashlights or the cameras own flashes could create strange light patterns in the pictures. Glass objects and mirrors will reflect light inside houses

During the initial walk-through or at any other time during the investigation try not to unnecessarily touched or move objects. You should leave the natural environment alone. If there are all objects or pieces of furniture that have been reported to move put a chalk line or sticker on the floor next to these objects. If the objects happened to move you'll have a marker to judge and measured the exact distance.

Everyone participating in the investigation should always know where the others are so that there is not any confusion or misinterpretations. Sometimes handheld or headset radio communicators are good devices to stay in contact with the other ghost hunting members.

Always log every event that seems out of the ordinary, doors that lock, electrical problems, chandeliers swaying, strange lights, etc. Videotape everything for proof.

You can attach glow in the dark or reflective tape to objects to help you with the layout or to mark special areas. They will be easier to see in the dark with the tape on them.

Unless you are surveying the area within infrared camera you do not need to turn off the lights inside of the location to have goes up year unless it is vital to that particular ghost's

appearance.

Do not be afraid to experiment on investigations. Ask the ghost to appear. Put the video cameras on different settings. Use anything that you think might have an effect on the ghosts.

### **Other Ghost Hunting Techniques**

These are a few simple ghost-hunting techniques that can be used to uncover the work of the fraud. They can also be used to help prove that someone is not falsely creating the activity. Many of these techniques are easy to perform and the materials are cheap.

**Talcum powder:** If suspicious ghost activity is centered in one room try using this technique. Just after dark take some plain talcum powder and spread a light layer over the floor. Don't tell anyone outside of your own group that you have done this. In the morning check to see if anything in the room has been disturbed. Look at the layer of talcum powder on the floor and see if it has been disrupted. Sometimes you'll be able to find human footprints or animal paw prints that can shed some light on the haunting activity. If the honking continues in the power is not disturbed it is further evidence points toward supernatural origins. You can also put the talcum powder on window seals and near doorways.

**Cotton balls:** You can use cotton balls to put in the top of door hinges between the wall and the door. Close the door with the cotton ball hidden in the doorframe. If someone should attempt to enter the room that was not supposed to, the cotton ball will fall out of place when the door opens. Cotton balls can also be placed underneath doors and in Windows seals, anywhere you want to detect movement.

**Florescent powders and gels:** These powders and gels are visible to the naked eye. You can rub them on objects to find out if a living person is manipulating the haunting environment. You can conduct easy experiments smearing the florescent gel onto a magic marker and laying it next to some blank sheet of paper, out in the open where ghosts can use them in order to communicate. Later, if there is something written on the paper, pull out the black light. The florescent material can be seen under the black light. It glows brightly. Any person that tried to commit a fraud by riding the message for the ghosts would be caught. The florescent material will transfer from the magic marker or object to the frauds hands without them even knowing. Under the black light their glowing hands will give them away.

**Use Chalk marks:** Put chalk marks or outlines next to objects that are moving. If the object does happen to move you can measure the exact distance that the object has traveled. It is also important to take note of which direction the object is moving.

### **Step-by-Step Ghost Hunting: A Quick review**

1. You hear or find out about a ghost.

2. First, conduct an interview with all the witnesses. Get the facts and stories.
3. Proceed to the site with a minimal amount of ghost hunting equipment. (Notebook, EMF detector, still and video cameras). Look for any dangerous obstacles. Map out the area. Make notes. We call this a "RECON" investigation.
4. Review findings and make a plan for a follow-up investigation.
5. Begin researching. Get records; conduct outside interviews with neighbors and others who have had supernatural experiences. Find newspaper reports, do spirit profiles, make lists of past occupants and dig up folklore and other ghost stories on the location.
6. Conduct the first Investigation. Use all necessary equipment and record the entire event.
7. Review your work. Go back and study each of your steps. Did you do everything correctly? Did you find all the information that you could? Is your research valid? If you do find a mistake in your work try to determine how it affected the outcome up to this point.
8. Do a second, third, fourth...investigation. Conduct, as many investigations needed to gather the physical evidence required completing your theory or hypothesis.
9. Complete a third follow-up witness interview. Has anything in the witnesses report changed over the course of the investigation? Did they remember anything new? Has anything happened to them since the investigation began, any new sightings?
10. Begin to work on the final written report. Include stories, facts, evidence, theories and conclusions and any other information prudent to the final report. Be sure to include maps and historical information.
11. Double and triple check all of these steps and your work involved in them. Look for any area in your investigation that could be considered incomplete and then go back and do your best to fill in that area. Have you done as much as possible in this investigation?
12. Publish your results. Always include copies of all your evidence and findings so that it can be thoroughly reviewed. Be prepared to defend your investigation's discoveries and conclusions.