THE
T.A.P.S.
METHOD
The very first thing we do before any investigation is to get permission from the person who owns the house or location.

You should also get permission from your parent or guardian before any Ghost Hunt, so they can make sure the place is safe for you to investigate in the dark.

They call us Ghost Hunters, but eight times out of ten, we don’t find ghosts. Most of the time we find logical reasons for the strange sounds and unusual sightings people report. And that’s fine with us.

Of course, it is exciting when we do find evidence of the paranormal. How do we do it? We have a secret method. **When we investigate a site, we try to prove that the place is NOT haunted.**

We try to find logical reasons for the spooky things people tell us about the house we’re investigating.

If someone feels a cold draft in a room without a window, we look for a loose wall panel that lets the cold air in.

If someone reports banging in the night, we examine the pipes. Old pipes often make banging sounds.

We call these reports of noises and visions the **claims**. And when we can prove that the claims are not paranormal, we say we have **debunked the claims**.
We always start out by trying to debunk the claims. We want to be absolutely sure that we have looked at every logical explanation. Then we can say that something paranormal is going on. We want to be scientific and examine the evidence. As Jason once said:

“If you set out to prove a haunting, anything will seem like evidence. If you set out to disprove it, you’ll end up with only those things you can’t explain away.”
A woman complained that she saw weird spirits all over her house, but her husband never saw any. We thought something was strange. We investigated the whole house. We even looked in her medicine chest. We found out that she was taking two medicines that shouldn’t be taken together. The medicines made her see things that weren’t there.

DEBUNKED!

A man complained about noises, banging, growling, and a very bad smell. He was convinced his apartment was haunted. We investigated, and the banging turned out to be raccoons outside his apartment. But what about the growling and the smell? It was his dog. The dog had, you know, stomach problems. He growled, made some bad sounds, and then let out a very bad smell. Got it?

DEBUNKED!

DEBUNKING CAN BE EXCITING TOO!
You can read all about them in the back of GHOST HUNT.

STEP 1: THE INTERVIEW
We start our investigation by getting information. We ask questions to find out what people claim they saw and heard.

GHOST HUNT TIP
Ask short fact questions.
Don’t say: So what happened?
Say: Where were you when you saw the shadow?
STEP 2: THE SWEEP

Take a walk around the whole site in the day light.
Look for logical reasons for strange sounds and sights.

GHOST HUNT TIP

Always check out the pipes. Pipes can be really important. They can make the most amazing noises. (And we're not just saying that because we are plumbers!)
Check out the Ghost Hunt Guide for a cool checklist for your Sweep!

STEP 3: SETTING UP THE COMMAND CENTER

We always set up one place where your team can meet.
You should too. It can be the kitchen table, but it's your home base.

GHOST HUNT TIP

We never investigate alone. Always have someone with you—otherwise you will never know if that thing you saw was really there... but if your friend sees it too, then you might have something cool.
STEP 4: COLLECTING EVIDENCE

This is where we use all our fancy equipment, but you don’t need a lot of equipment to collect evidence. An audio recorder and a video recorder are the most useful gear.

GHOST HUNT TIP

We use an EMF meter to tell us if there has been a change in the Electro Magnetic Field. That’s important because a change could mean a spirit has entered the area. You don’t need an EMF meter like ours to detect spirits. A compass will work. If there is a change in the Electromagnetic Field the compass will spin around like crazy.

STEP 5: RESEARCH

This is where you find out as much as you can about the site you are investigating. We both love history and often the history of a house gives us a big hint about what is happening.

GHOST HUNT TIP

We always do our research AFTER we investigate the site. If you do it before... you’ll have ideas in your head which will make you draw conclusions. You need an open mind!
STEP 6: ANALYZING THE EVIDENCE

This is our favorite part. We look at all the video. We listen to the audio. We review everything and try to figure out what is happening.

GHOST HUNT TIP

Be very careful when you look at photographs. Lots of things look like ghosts. See that white thing in the corner. It looks ghostly... If you are somewhere cold, it's probably just someone's breath.

STEP 7: CONCLUSIONS

Here's where the whole team discusses the evidence. Sometimes we conclude that there is paranormal activity. Sometimes we debunk the claims. But a lot of the time, we say there isn't enough evidence to decide one way or the other.

GHOST HUNT TIP

Even if you can't come to a definite conclusion, it's still awesome to investigate the paranormal. Happy Ghost Hunt!