# **Gimbal Proximity Beacons**

### 1. Introduction



Inside each beacon is a processor, memory, Bluetooth Smart module and 4 AA replaceable batteries. The beacons has an ON/OFF switch located inside the casing and a status indicator button on the cover.

## 2. Beacon Range and Battery Life

Each beacon contains an omnidirectional antenna with a range, up to 50m (~160 feet). The signal however, can be diffracted, interfered with, or absorbed by water (including the human body). In real world conditions you should expect range of about 30–40 meters (130 feet). Indoors, the range may be limited even further.

At default factory settings, battery life is approximately 18 months transmitting continuously but often allows for 22+ months. Once the batteries are exhausted they can easily be replaced with any AA alkaline battery type.

Pressing the external button will activate the LED light for battery status. See the online manual for more details (<u>http://docs.gimbal.com/manuals/S21.html</u>)

#### 3. Location and Storage

Beacons can be permanently mounted in both indoor or outdoor locations. See the **Best Practices** section for more information.

## 4. Assigning Beacons to Events and Interventions

The purpose of beacons is to use them at school events/interventions and allow attendees to "check-in" using their own smart phone or tablet. Each beacon has a unique identifier that can be assigned (and re-assigned) to a 5-Star Students event.

Individuals running the mobile Student App on their device will be able to detect nearby beacons and view the associated event. Once detected, they can opt to check into the event or ignore the option.

To assign a beacon to an event, log into the 5-Star Students web application (<u>http://app.5starstudents.com</u>). Navigate to your event or intervention on the calendar.

Select the **Check In Schedules** button. Select "Add new schedule" and choose "Beacon" as the type. After that, select which beacon you would like to assign from the available list of beacons; then set the begin and end date/time for the schedule. Multiple beacons can be assigned to the <u>same</u> event if needed.

Make sure you know which beacon you've assigned to which event. Beacons are named based on their label. Once you've assigned a beacon it will be ready for use at that event/intervention during the scheduled times.

The actual beacon does not have to be physically nearby or available during the scheduling process.

#### 5. Best Practices

Make sure the beacon is at the event location prior to the scheduled check in time. Once a beacon is detected by Student App users, the beacon *should not* be re-scheduled to another event for a period of 2 hours. After 2 hours, the mobile app can rediscover the same beacon and search for a new assigned event, if available.

Student App users must have Bluetooth turned ON and have opted to ALLOW location access. The app does NOT track the user's location; however, these permissions are required to detect nearby beacons registered with the school.

For maximum signal range, place the beacon at an elevated position above the intended audience. This will generally help to minimize interference with people and objects.

Make sure students or other individuals are instructed to open the Student App and navigate to the **Check In** page. They will click **"Find Events"**. This will enable to app to search for nearby beacons and notify the user if an event is available for check-in. Once the event is displayed for the user, the same beacon will be ignored if detected again by the app for a period of 2 hours.

More information about the Student App is available at <a href="https://support.5starstudents.com/hc/en-us">https://support.5starstudents.com/hc/en-us</a>