



## GSOFACT Letterboxing Patch

**Who:** Girl Scout Daisy, Brownie\*, Junior, Cadette, Senior and Ambassador

**Purpose:** To discover more about the fast growing hobby of Letterboxing. An outdoor activity that may require skills such as map reading, orienteering and puzzle solving and can be done by the whole family while enjoying scenic places. \*Note, there is also a GSUSA Brownie Letterboxing Badge

### Guidelines:

Must complete starred activities: one (\*1) and two (\*2) should be completed before starting the remaining requirements, ten (\*10) after learning more about Letterboxing.

#### Girl Scout Daisy and Brownie:

Complete 5 requirements, including \*1, \*2 and \*10

#### Girl Scout Junior:

Complete 7 requirements, including \*1, \*2 and \*10

#### Girl Scout Cadette, Senior and Ambassador:

Complete 9 requirements, including \*1, \*2 and \*10

### Requirements:

\*1. Find out the history of Letterboxing. When and where did it start? How did it get to the United States? Look at a map of England. For more information, with the help or permission of a parent/guardian visit: [www.atlasquest.com/about/history/](http://www.atlasquest.com/about/history/)

\*2. Learn what supplies are needed to hunt for letterboxes. What would you find in a box already hidden?

3. Are there any rules to Letterboxing? (**see** [http://www.letterboxing.org/GettingStarted/getstart\\_finding.htm](http://www.letterboxing.org/GettingStarted/getstart_finding.htm) and the Code of Conduct on AtlasQuest at <https://www.atlasquest.com/about/rules/>) this is also a good resource when starting Letterboxing <http://www.letterboxing.org/GettingStarted/Letterboxing101.pdf>

What is the Waiver of Responsibility and Disclaimer? Why is this important? (note: This link to this can be found at the bottom of each clue on AtlasQuest.com and Letterboxing.org)

4. Learn about stamp making and make your own stamp. Experiment with different types of materials.

5. Learn about what hazards you might encounter where you will be hiking: poison ivy,

snakes, rocky or muddy trails. What precautions would you take? What is the definition of minimal impact (Leave No Trace)? This is very important to letterboxing. Practice Leave No Trace on your letterbox search.

6. Discuss with your troop or an adult, what to do in an emergency and how to get help while on a letterboxing trail. What would you include in a first aid kit, and what your “lost” plan would be if someone were separated from the group? What would you do in case of rain, wind, lightning or any sudden change of weather?

7. Many letterbox clues use compass readings and paces. Learn how to read a compass to help you find your way and use degree settings. Pacing helps you measure distances as you walk. Find out what your pace is.

8. Talk to someone in your area that has been Letterboxing. Find out how they first learned about it, how many boxes they have searched for. Ask them to show you their Letterbox Stamp Book. Have they hidden their own letterbox for others to find?

9. Create your own Letterboxing Kit to use while hunting for clues. You may use a pre-made stamp or one you make yourself.

\*10. Check out your state and town (or county) on [www.letterboxing.org](http://www.letterboxing.org) or [AtlasQuest.com](http://AtlasQuest.com) for Letterboxes hidden in your area. Complete one.

11. Contact the GSOFCT at [customercare@gsofct.org](mailto:customercare@gsofct.org) to obtain clues to letterboxes hidden at Girl Scouts of Connecticut properties. Make proper arrangements to use the camp and try to find them.

12. Look online for Letterboxes in other states. How different would the clues be, for example in Hawaii, versus Connecticut? In a city versus a wooded area? While on vacation visiting another area, look for a Letterbox.

13. Create a Letterbox of your own for others to enjoy. Make sure you have permission of the owner of the property. Write the clues, buy or make the stamp and “plant” it.

14. What are Bonus Boxes, Hitchhikers, Personal Traveler, Mystery Boxes or a Microbox? What is Geocaching and is it like Letterboxing?

The Letterboxing Council patch may be obtained through the Girl Scouts of Connecticut Shops. You may shop online at [www.gsofct.org](http://www.gsofct.org) > Shop.

**Note: Covid -19 Times - in addition to following current community standards, please review and follow these guidelines.**

- Go before your go! As of this posting, the DEEP has closed visitor centers and restrooms at parks, but trails are generally open. Check their website for updates.
- Check any site’s website or call before heading out. Be sure that the site is open for outdoor use.

- If the parking lot at a trail head is full - move on to another spot.
- Maintain social distances on the trails (from other groups). When letterboxing remember your stealth - you should not be approaching a letterbox unless no one is around.
- If wearing gloves, remember to dispose of properly. Be safe and Leave No Trace.