

Girl Scout Letterboxing ([Badge](#))

This will teach Girl Scouts how to follow codes and clues. They will make their own stamps for letterboxing. They will assemble a letterboxing kit. They will hike and find one or more letterboxes. A Girl Scout badge is available for letterboxing.



They will go on hikes to discover local letterboxes at this [link](#).

What is Letterboxing?

[Intro:](#) [Video: \(4 minutes\).](#)

What We Did:

We performed this as a **two-meeting** project with an additional **Saturday hike** to track down one or more letterboxes. Our troop had Daisy and Brownie levels when we earned the badge but this is very suitable for older level of scouts as well.

Meeting 1: At a meeting, we introduced Girl Scouts to direction finding and secret code puzzle solving.

Directions.

Leaders grab a few small hand sized toys from home. We used a unicorn, a gnome, and a small stuffed fish.

Prior to your meeting (or at a prior meeting), find a good hiding place for your small hand sized toys and mark out directions. We meet in a school library. An example direction form is [bookmarked](#) and included at the end of this document as *Bookmark 1*.

We did three different routes for teams of scouts in our school library.

Codes.

Make a simple alpha numeric code. (i.e., A=1, B=2, C=3, etc. – scramble the number order for older scouts)

Give the girls a code sheet that shows letters and corresponding numbers.

Write out a phrase in numbers that the girls can decode. An example code is [bookmarked](#) (at the end of the document as *Bookmark 2*) and solver sheet is [bookmarked](#) (at the end of the document as *Bookmark 3*).

Meeting 2: Scouts make their own stamp out of simple materials.



Make your Stamp. Materials:

Either [two-inch wood blocks](#) (easier for small hands to work with) or [1 ½ inch round wheels](#)

[Foam letters](#) (better for Daisies) or [thin foam pad](#) (for Brownies and above to cut stamp elements).

[Wood glue](#).

Scissors.

From the supplies above, our scouts produced the pictured stamps.

Daisies used the square block and pre-cut letters and shapes to glue a stamp surface.

The types of stamps Brownies and above made with thin foam pad and scissors are pictured on the round wooden stamps. Glue cut outs to surface of stamp with wood glue. If you are doing letters, glue them to the stamp surface in reverse so when you ink it to make a stamp it will read correctly (see the “G” above).

For your scout’s letterbox kit, each scout will want to have a [stamp record book](#), used to record stamps for scouts to keep track of letterboxes found and a [Field Bag](#) (which our scouts enjoyed decorating with [paint pens](#)) to hold their stamp record book and stamp.



A scout leader should purchase an [ink pad](#). We brought these with the troop on our group letterboxing hike to avoid the mess likely with young scouts and ink pads. Individual letterboxers will want an inkpad to mark their record book and leave their stamp image in the letterbox stamp log.

Letterboxing Hike:

Now your scouts are ready to hike! When they find a letterbox, mark the log in the box with the stamp they made and stamp their record book with the stamp from the letterbox.

Find New Castle County, Delaware Letterboxes. Go to the letterboxing [web site](#).

In the box *Search by letterbox name*, type in 327. This will return the area letterboxes planted by Troop 327. Choose one or more of the boxes planted by our troop and go on your hike!

Make sure after your scouts are finished stamping, they seal the box and put it back exactly where they found it for the next searchers. If there are trinkets in the box, each searcher should take only one to leave some for the next group.

Bonus: Have Your Troop Create and Hide Boxes

It would be great if other troops made letterboxes, hid them, and posted the clues at the letterboxing web site. You'll need to register a screen name (no cost, really easy), make your box, hide it, record directions or clues and post same on the letterboxing site.

This way we'll keep letterboxing growing for scouts in our area to enjoy into the future.

The only additional supply you will need to make a box (in addition to another stamp for the box and a log book are [weatherproof boxes](#). We added [trinkets](#) to our boxes for finders to take a memento. Trinkets are not necessary, but nice to do.

Troop 327

Middletown, Delaware

Follow Direction 1

Start at the _____

Walk _____ steps toward the _____

Turn toward the _____

Continue for _____ steps

Turn _____

Look behind the _____ where the librarian keeps warthogs.



Follow Direction 2

Start were used napkins, crumpled papers and Mr. Smith's crossed out mistakes end up after our meetings.

Look where you look when your hand is over your heart and face that way.

Walk to there.

Turn to where you would go if you went to the bathroom and walk toward there-----but stop where you have to stop because no parent is with you

Elephants can't fly so look for me in a place that could fit an elephant.



Follow Direction 3

I'm a man with a dog but without any hair,

Oh, where could you find me, do you know where?

I was looking for information on my favorite pet

I found a good book and I am there yet. Come find me.



Bookmark 1

Troop 327

Middletown, Delaware

Code Sheet:

A	1		I	20		Q	7		Y	6
B	19		J	21		R	22		Z	4
C	15		K	8		S	16			
D	17		L	9		T	23			
E	2		M	3		U	5			
F	24		N	10		V	14			
G	26		O	11		W	13			
H	18		P	25		X	12			

Bookmark 2

20-10 **1** 3-11-14-20-2 **6-11-5** 18-1-14-2 **16-2-2-10**,

Innovie

23-18-2 **5-19-15-9-2** 20-16 16-11 **14-2-22-6** 3-2-22-6.

15-5-19 **23-1-8-2-16** 1 **23-22-20-25** 19-5-23 **19-6** 15-1-22,

23-11 **2-16-15-1-25-2** 23-18-2 **15-1-9-9-2-17** 16-15-1-22.

23-18-2-22-2 **23-18-2** 16-23-11-22-6 **1-9-3-11-16-23** 2-10-17-16

19-5-23 **15-5-19** 20-16 **22-2-16-15-5-2-17** 19-6 **18-20-16**

24-22-20-2-10-17-16

13-20-23-18 **23-5-16-8-16** 11-10 **3-6** 16-10-11-5-23 **20**

9-11-11-8 **9-20-8-2** 1 **17-11-26**,

19-5-23 **20-3** 1 **16-20-10-26-20-10-26**, 17-1-10-15-20-10-26,

13-1-22-23-18-11-26.

Who am I?

Troop 327

Middletown, Delaware

Code Sheet:

A	1		I	20		Q	7		Y	6
B	19		J	21		R	22		Z	4
C	15		K	8		S	16			
D	17		L	9		T	23			
E	2		M	3		U	5			
F	24		N	10		V	14			
G	26		O	11		W	13			
H	18		P	25		X	12			

Bookmark 3

Note: words
are joined by
dashes
between
numbers.

20-10 1 3-11-14-20-2 6-11-5 18-1-14-2 16-2-2-10,

In a movie you have seen,

23-18-2 5-19-15-9-2 20-16 16-11 14-2-22-6 3-2-22-6.

the uncle is so very mean.

15-5-19 23-1-8-2-16 1 23-22-20-25 19-5-23 19-6 15-1-22,

Cub takes a trip, but not by car,

23-11 2-16-15-1-25-2 23-18-2 15-1-9-9-2-17 16-15-1-22.

to escape from the one called Scar.

23-18-2-22-2 23-18-2 16-23-11-22-6 1-9-3-11-16-23 2-10-17-16

There the story almost ends

19-5-23 15-5-19 20-16 22-2-16-15-5-2-17 19-6 18-20-16 24-22-20-2-10-17-16

But cub is rescued by his friends.

13-20-23-18 23-5-16-8-16 11-10 3-6 16-10-11-5-23 20 9-11-11-8 9-20-8-2 1 17-11-26,

With tusks on my snout, I look like a dog,

19-5-23 20-3 1 16-20-10-26-20-10-26, 17-1-10-15-20-10-26, 13-1-22-23-18-11-26.

But I'm a singing, dancing warthog.

Who am I? Answer, *Pumbaa*.