



Treasure Hunting While Hiking at Camp

LETTERBOXING

How to do Letterboxing at Camp Sacajawea

1. You don't need anything, but your own two feet and the "*Camp Sacajawea Letterboxing Directions & Stamp Log*." Make sure that each girl has her own letterboxing stamp log—found in the leaflet boxes located at the two camp map kiosks—across from Gay Lodge and in Bowen Playing Field. Each letterbox you find will have a pen, logbook, rubber stamp and ink pad.
2. This is a **Letterbox Series** which means that each letterbox can be found in *sequential order*. The treasure hunt begins and ends at **Gay Lodge**. It takes you onto each hiking trail and to different areas around camp. You'll be walking in somewhat of a loop-style hike for **2.64 miles**, but with a little back-tracking up some trails.
3. You can find all of the letterboxes in **2 to 3 hours** depending upon the size and/or age of your troop/group. Look for a few or go for all 11 letterboxes—it's up to the troop/group!
4. Once you locate a letterbox, take out the contents and then:
 - Stamp each girl's letterboxing log sheet (using the enclosed stamp and ink pad).
 - Have the girls sign either their first names or camp/trail names to the logbook (using the enclosed pen & mini-notepad).
5. Put back everything within the plastic bags. Keep the logbook separate from the rubber stamp and ink pad.
6. **Close the box tightly—make sure it is completely closed!** You don't want the next troop/group to find a wet letterbox.
7. Hide it again! Make sure it is returned back to its original location. Re-hide it as well as or better than you originally found it. **Cover it up completely—hide it!**

Can't find a letterbox? Is the letterbox damaged? Is it missing something—logbook, stamp, ink pad? Please contact Jennifer for help at 540-521-2136. Thank you!

What is Letterboxing?

Letterboxing is an intriguing mix of treasure hunting, art, navigation, and exploring interesting, scenic, and sometimes remote places. It takes the ancient custom of placing a rock on a cairn upon reaching the summit of a mountain to a new art form. Here's the basic idea: Someone hides a waterproof box somewhere containing a logbook, pen, rubber stamp and ink pad. The hider then writes directions to the box (clues or a map). Next the hunters use the clues in an attempt to find the box. When the hunter successfully deciphers the clues and finds the box, she stamps the logbook in the box with her personal stamp or signs her trail name, and stamps her personal logbook with the box's stamp. The box's logbook keeps a record of all its visitors, and the hunters keep a record of all the boxes they have found, in their personal logbooks.

Letterboxing Directions & Stamp Log @ Camp Sacajawea

These letterboxes are setup to do in SEQUENTIAL ORDER. Depending upon the ages/abilities of your girls, finding all 11 could take anywhere between 2-3 hours. The total mileage of the entire letterboxing trip is 2.64 miles. After finding a letterbox, RE-HIDE IT as well as or better than you

#1: The River Letterbox—James River Trail

Start at the trailhead located next to Gay Lodge. Stop to read the "James River Nature Trail Stop, Look & Listen" wooden sign. Find the Sacajawea placard and read. What year was she born? Take the year numbers and add them up together. Then starting on the trail at the "Poplar" tree sign and walk that many steps on the trail. Stop and look to your right for a small tree stump surrounded by rocks. The River Letterbox is hidden in a hidey-hole on the backside.

STAMP HERE

#2: Make Your Mark Letterbox—Pavilion Unit

Continue down the James River Trail and under the bridge until you get to the Pavilion Short-cut Trail intersection. Take a right onto the short-cut trail and walk this to the end. Once off the trail, head to the campfire circle. Kneeling down within the circle, face the picnic shelter and look up and under. Go the place where you "Make Your Mark" at Camp Sac. It's a place where you would have to look up to see your troop's mark. Locate the largest troop marker/placard—it's the color of the sun. Grab a bench and let an adult search between "Marim Douglas" and "Becky Hodges." The Make Your Mark Letterbox is hidden here.

#3: Leap to It Letterbox—Bowen Playing Field area

Head to the road and take a left to follow the road down to the Bowen Playing Field. Find the "House of Balls" - it's a small red building that houses all the sporting equipment for use on the playing field. Enter the building, stand in the center facing the field—then look up to find the Leap to It Letterbox.

#4: Shooting Stars Letterbox—Archery Range area

Travel to the playing field and look for our plastic "outhouse" and camp map kiosk. This is where you'll find the beginning of the Sweetheart Tree Trail. Head down the trail looking out for the green netting of the archery range. On the left side of the trail near the archery range is a very long downed tree. Go to the every end of it and then look to your right and walk over to the right-hand side of the trail. Look into the woods to locate a stump shaped like a shark's fin. That "fin" stump points to a small dead tree that has a "rock house" circling it, where the letterbox is hidden. **DO NOT REMOVE THE ROCKS!** The Shooting Stars Letterbox slides right out the backside of the "rock house."

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#5: I♥U Letterbox--Sweetheart Tree Trail

Get back on the Sweetheart Tree Trail and head down the trail. Stay on the Sweetheart Tree Trail at the intersection to the Great Excursion Trail. The trail will start to go down the hill. Once the trail levels out and passes the intersection with the Judith Creek Trail, start looking to the left-hand side of the trail to locate the Sweetheart Tree (for which the trail was named). It's a beech tree with smooth bark. It is two trees grown into one. It does have sweetheart carvings on it (PLEASE DO NOT CARVE ON THE TREE!). The letterbox can be found between the two trees. It's easiest to access the letterbox from the backside of the tree.

STAMP HERE

#6: Fly on the Water Letterbox--Judith Creek Trail

Get back on the Sweetheart Tree Trail and head down towards the creek to find the Judith Creek Trail. At the 3-way intersection of the Sweetheart Tree, James River and Judith Creek trails, take the Judith Creek Trail. At the large rock outcropping over the creek, stand with your back to the large tree there (facing away from the creek). Look up to find a mama tree with a baby tree growing out of it. The Fly on the Water Letterbox is hidden on the backside of this tree.

#7: At a Snail's Pace Letterbox--Great Excursion Trail

Continue forward on the this trail and hike the entire length until it comes back out onto the Sweetheart Tree Trail. (Don't cheat and go back out the way you came in--this trail along the creek is a truly gorgeous one!) Once you are back at the Judith Creek-Sweetheart Tree trails intersection, take a left onto the trail and continue on to find the Great Excursion Trail (on your left). Start down the Great Excursion Trail. Look on your left for an uprooted tree mound then look across from it. Seek the holey stump with a rock roof. Remove the rock and check inside to locate the At a Snail's Pace Letterbox.

#8: The Griz Letterbox--Amphitheatre

Turn around and head back the way you came--returning to the Sweetheart Tree Trail. Once at the trail intersection, take a left onto the Sweetheart Tree Trail heading back towards Bowen Playing Field. Head to the left-hand side of the field. Enter "The Griz" Amphitheatre. Starting at the top, look for the two trees with birdhouses on them. Remember where they are located. Next head down to the stage and stand on it to the left-side on the front. Looking back-up between those two birdhouse trees, center yourself. Then bow down on stage to look underneath it. It's located between the big rock and the middle stage beam. Tah-dah! You found The Griz Letterbox!

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#9: Little Fishies Letterbox—Skinny Dip Hole Trail

STAMP HERE

Go back up to the Bowen Playing Field. Then head towards the road. Take a left and go up to the main road. Next take a left onto the main road and follow it to the start of the Skinny Dip Hole Trail which will be on your left. You will pass the Chapel Trail on your right. A wooden kiosk can be seen from the road denoting the beginning of the Skinny Dip Hole Trail. Head down the trail. Look ahead for the pink tagged tree. Once you see it, then start looking on your right for the creepy-crawly caterpillar tree. Once you find it seek your treasure in the third stump back.

If it's a hot day, you may want to continue down this trail for less than $\frac{1}{4}$ mile in order to take a dip in the cool waters of Judith Creek. It's a beautiful area to wade in the creek or just explore the natural wonders of water life.

If you want to find the next letterbox, then head back up the trail to access the road you came in on.

#10: Daisy's Place Letterbox—Chapel Trail

At the main road take a right and travel down to meet up with the Chapel Trailhead (on your left). Take the steps up. At the next set of stairs, walk up to the 10th step, then look to the right to find an up-side down "L" tree. Next go out to this tree and look for the open-holed stump on your left to find the Daisy's Place Letterbox.

#11: The Paw Letterbox—Animal Tracker Trail

This is your last letterbox in the Camp Sacajawea Letterbox Series!!

Continue up the stairs on the Chapel Trail. As you reach the meditation area, the trail changes to the Animal Tracker Trail. Start hiking this new trail. Look out for the orange markers so you stay on the trail. Find a large "V" shaped tree with lots of holes on one side. From where the holey tree side leans, walk 30 to 40 steps. Watch out for another "V" shaped tree. This one has a notch at the center of the "V." Look behind this tree to find your last letterbox—The Paw Letterbox! Congratulations!