

# Letterboxing 101 *Answers & Notes*

## 1. HIDDEN

Explain that you will teach them about a "treasure hunting game" called letterboxing. There are at least 60,000 of them hidden in the US and around the world! And there happen to be \_\_\_\_ of them in this park/location. Later, you'll get to find one! If there is time, explain a brief history about how it got started.

## 2. STAMP, LOGBOOK

Show a sample box, stamp & logbook. Explain the significance of hand-carved stamps and tell a story about a neat one that you have found. Show your logbook and how now you have a collection of memories from all the places you have been. Give the agenda (learn about letterboxing here, make a stamp, then go in groups to find a letterbox.)

3. TRAILNAME - comment on what a weird name someone has in a sample logbook and then talk about trailnames and get them to start thinking of their own.

4. CLUES - I have a printout from both sites mounted as a poster that they can view later to see the difference between the two sites, as well as how many are in the area.

5. FOUND Explain how to check the last finds on both AQ and LBNA and why.

## 6. READ

Some clues require other supplies or that you solve a code or puzzle first.

7. Explain what supplies you are giving them today (i.e what they will use as a logbook). I give them 4x6 index cards and tell them they can put it in a photo album later. Explain "clock" directions vs. compass directions depending on the clues they will be following.

## 8. TWO STEPS

Ask them what they think a pace means. When they get it wrong, demonstrate. Demonstrate clock directions and how to use a compass, if applicable.

## **RULES ("Code of Conduct")**

STEALTH – move away, pretend to take a photo, tie your shoe, have a snack, use phone

SAFETY – poison ivy, snakes, spiders, using sticks, partner, cell phone

RESPECT– for nature: leave the area better than you found it:

for people: take good care of the stamp, reseal and rehide well (not upside down!)

9. LEAVE THE TRAIL If everyone does, you have just made a new trail.

## 10. MUGGLES

Ask if there are any Harry Potter fans out there. What are the people called who don't know about Harry's secret world? Remember to keep this a secret!

11. Explain and demo the stamping in process. Most don't "get it" until you show them.

Stress that they should not take up an entire page in the logbook with their stamp!!

I enlarged an image from a logbook and showed them what it would look like - trailname, stamp, date, where from.

12. BABY WIPE (depends on audience)

13. HITCHHIKER (depends on audience)

I only explain this if necessary; mostly because I don't want them to find one and remove it.

14. BACK OF THE BOOK - explain bonus boxes and where you might find clues to them.

15. REHIDE well, just like you found it. Not upside down!! Make sure lid is on and baggies are not caught in it.

16. LOG (depends on audience)