

Activity 1: As Girls Arrive

Time Allotment

10 minutes

Materials

Small notebooks, 1 for each girl (Can also fold or staple paper into a DIY notebook, one for each girl)

Pens and pencils

Colored markers

Stickers

Glitter

Glue

Steps

As girls arrive, have girls decorate a notebook for their Letterboxer toolkit.

SAY:

You are about to go on special search for letterboxes. I'll tell you more about them soon. One thing you'll need in your toolbox is your "Letterboxer Logbook" so you can collect stamp imprints.

Take a notebook and decorate the cover only. Make sure to put your name on it!

[Volunteer: collect notebooks until girls need them again in meeting two.]

Activity 2: Opening Ceremony

Time Allotment

10 minutes

Materials

PDF of Girl Scout Promise and Law

Inkpad

Various rubber stamps for imprints

Steps

Gather girls in a circle. Welcome them to the first Letterboxer meeting.

Girls say the Girl Scout Promise and the Girl Scout Law together.

SAY:

Has anyone ever heard of Letterboxing?

If you haven't, it's a real-life treasure hunt where you look for a hidden box—a letterbox—usually with a logbook, a stamp and inkpad inside.

When you find one, you make an imprint of their stamp in your Letterboxer Logbook. Just like the one you just decorated when you arrived.

[If girls aren't sure what imprint means, demonstrate by pressing a rubber stamp onto an inkpad and paper.]

Then you leave an imprint of your personal stamp in their logbook. You'll get a chance to make your personal stamp!

People from all over the world send each other clues and try to find these letterboxes so they can

collect and leave their stamp imprints.

There are thousands and thousands of letterboxes hidden around the United States. Maybe even some are hidden near you right now!

Want to start on your letterboxing adventure? Let's get going!

Activity 3: Find Me!

Time Allotment

15 minutes

Materials

Small objects (or candy) to hide around room

Index cards with clues

Magnifying glasses (optional)

Steps

Girls split into two groups and hunt for objects around the meeting room.

SAY:

Letterboxing is a real-life hidden treasure hunt.

I've hidden a bunch of objects around the room.

I'll give each of you a set of cards with clues about where the objects are. [Give one group half the cards, the other group the other half. Make sure they aren't looking for the same objects.]

[When girls are done]

What was it like working with a group to find the objects? Did you all agree on what the clue was and how to find the objects?

What's the hardest part about finding something?

What kind of clues would have been better to help you find the objects?

Activity 4: Hide Me!

Time Allotment

15 minutes

Materials

Pens and pencils

Paper

Steps

Girls look for ten hiding places around the meeting room.

SAY:

When you go on a letterboxing adventure, you'll want to know how to hide and find things, and even read a map.

Look for 5 hiding places in this meeting room where you can hide a letterbox. Then draw a map and show where those five places are.

Activity 5: Snack Hunt Break

Time Allotment

10 minutes

Materials

Water or Juice
Snacks in a container hidden inside the room
Clue to find snacks

Steps

Girls use clues to find where box of snacks is hidden.

SAY:

Now you'll use the clue I give you to find your snacks. They are hidden in a box somewhere in our meeting room.

[While girls are enjoying snacks...]

Do you know where the term "letterbox" came from? That's what they call a mailbox in England. The story is that letterboxing started when an English hiking guide left a bottle on a trail so hikers could write and leave postcards addressed to themselves, friends or family. When other hikers on the trail discovered the bottle, they would take the postcards and mail them out.

What do we use today instead of bottles? [Boxes or closed containers.]

What do you do with the box? [Hide it and come up with clues about where it is.]

What should you do when you find a letterbox? [Take the special stamp from inside and make a print in your own notebook. Then leave your print in their notebook before wrapping up the box and returning it to its hiding place.]

Activity 6: Stamp Making!

Time Allotment

25 minutes

Materials

Scissors
Ink pad
Paper
Craft foam or pre-cut foam shapes
Jar lids or small pieces of wood
Glue (if foam is not self-adhesive)
Colored markers and crayons

Steps

Have groups of girls make their own stamps.

SAY:

Stamps are the most important part of letterboxing because you use your own stamp to make a special book in the letterboxes you visit. And you mark your own notebook with a stamp from inside the box.

Start by making your own stamp!

Crate a shape from a craft foam or use a shape that's already created for you. Pick your favorite!

*Glue to foam to a jar lid or piece of wood to make your stamp sturdy. I'll help you.
Test your stamp by pressing it on an inkpad and then pressing it on a piece of paper.
How does it look? Do you want to make changes to it?
Now, as a group, let's make a troop stamp together. What do you want it to look like?*

[After girls brainstorm and create their troop stamp...]

Do you like your personal stamp?

How do you like your troop stamp? Did you all work together to come up with it?

Activity 7: Closing Ceremony

Time Allotment

5 minutes

Materials

Lyrics to "Make New Friends"

Steps

Girls sit in a circle to sing "Make New Friends."

SAY:

Today you started your Letterboxing adventure by practicing how to hide things and how to find things. You used clues to find objects in our meeting room and came up with some pretty cool hiding places. You also got to make your own Letterboxing Logbook and your own stamp!

Next meeting you'll continue your Letterboxing adventures. Goodbye until next time!

Ask a girl to end the ceremony by starting the friendship squeeze.