

## BROWNIE LETTERBOXER BADGE – MEETING 2

**Badge Purpose:** When the girls have earned this badge, they will know how to have fun adventures by finding and hiding letterboxes.

**Activity Plan Length:** 1.5 hours

Time	Activity	Materials Needed
15 minutes	Getting Started <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Girls recite the Girl Scout Promise + Law and sing the Brownie Smile song.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Girl Scout Promise and Law poster <input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Brownie Smile song lyrics poster
15 minutes	Group Letterbox <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Girls will create a letterbox as a group.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Small waterproof containers <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Small notebooks <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Stamps <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Ink pads <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Labels <input type="checkbox"/> Stickers <input type="checkbox"/> Markers <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic sandwich bags
20 minutes	Letterbox Hiding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Girls will hide their letterbox and create clues to lead others to it.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Paper <input type="checkbox"/> Pens or pencils <input type="checkbox"/> Creating Clues Idea sheet (one per group) <input type="checkbox"/> Clipboard (one for each group)
10 minutes	Letterbox Hunt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Girls will find a letterbox that another group hid.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Stamp (one per girl) <input type="checkbox"/> Notebook (one per girl)
15 minutes	Snack Chat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Girls enjoy a healthy snack while talking about their letterbox hunt.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Healthy snack
15 minutes	Wrapping Up	<input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Make New Friends song lyrics poster

### Getting Started

Time: 15 minutes

Materials Needed: (Optional) Girl Scout Promise and Law poster and (optional) Brownie Smile song lyrics poster

Welcome everyone to the meeting, recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law, and sing the Brownie Smile song.



Time: 15 minutes

Materials Needed: Small waterproof containers\* (like Rubbermaid); small notebooks\* (that fit inside the container); stamps\*; ink pads\*; labels\*; stickers; markers; plastic sandwich bags [\* Denotes at least two.]

1. Divide the girls into two groups and tell them to think of a group name. Explain that they will be making their own letterbox as a group and hiding it for the other group to find.
2. Give the girls 5 minutes to decorate their letterbox and cover of the log-book. Have one girl write the following on a label and stick to the outside of the box:
  - **[Group Name] LETTERBOX. PLEASE DO NOT DESTROY.** Enjoy the contents, and replace where found, hidden from view. To learn more about Letterboxing, visit the Letterboxing website.
3. Have girls place the log-book, stamp, and ink pad into a plastic baggie and put inside the letterboxes.

Time: 20 minutes

**Materials Needed:** Paper; pens and pencils; Creating Clues Idea sheets; clipboards (one for each group)

Prep Needed:

- Print out Creating Clues Idea sheets (one per group).
1. In the same two groups as before, explain to the girls they will now be hiding their group's letterbox. If possible, have the girls go outside to hide their letterboxes. If your meeting area is smaller, have groups hide their letterboxes one at a time.
  2. When girls find the location where they want to hide their letterbox (make sure the other group can't see them!), they will need to write 3-5 clues that will lead the other group from the troop meeting space to their letterbox.
  3. Check to make sure the girls have hidden their letterbox well and their clues make sense.

## Time: 10 minutes

**Materials Needed:** Stamps (one per girl); notebooks (one per girl)

Prep Needed:

- Make sure that girls have their stamp and notebook from previous meeting.
1. Ask the two groups to exchange clues with each other.
  2. As a team, have girls work together to solve the clues and locate the letterbox.
  3. When the girls find the letterbox, make sure they stamp their logbook with the stamp they found in the letterbox, as well as use their personal stamp in the letterbox logbook.
  4. If there's time, compare the stamps that the girls have collected.

## Time: 15 minutes

**Materials Needed:** Healthy snack

1. While enjoying snack, here are some things for girls to talk about:



- Was it difficult finding the other group's letterbox?
- Which did you enjoy more, hiding your letterbox and writing clues or searching for the other group's letterbox?
- What are some other ways to write clues?

## Wrapping Up

Time: 15 minutes

Materials Needed: (Optional) Make New Friends song lyrics poster

Close the meeting by singing Make New Friends and doing a friendship circle.

## More to Explore

- Field Trip Ideas:
  - Look on the internet for letterboxing locations near you and go on an adventure.
- Speaker Ideas:
  - Invite an older Girl Scout or adult volunteer that has done letterboxing to talk about her experiences.



# Creating Clues Idea Sheet

(Adapted from Step 3 – Practice Solving Clues in Brownie Skill-Building Badge set for the It's Your Story – Tell It! Letterboxer Badge.)

**Create a fill-in-the-blank clue.** Write a hint, then replace a word with a blank. Then write a question that will help the letterbox seeker figure out the missing word.

**Example:** Look \_\_\_\_\_ the slide at the park.

**Question:** What is the opposite of over?

The seeker answers under, and the clue is done: Look under the slide at the park.

**Create a scramble.** Scramble the letters of the words in each clue. For example, the last letter of every word could become the first.

**Example:** Kool rndeu eht elids ta eht karp = Look under the slide at the park.

**Create a number code clue.** Each number in the hint becomes a letter. Use the code below to help you write and solve your clue. Each letter of the alphabet is a number.

## Secret Code

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

**Example:** Use the secret code give to solve this number code puzzle.

12-15-15-11 21-14-4-5-18 20-8-5 7-1-18-4-5-14 16-15-20

**Keep it simple.** Write clues that tell the person what to do but not where to go. Ambiguity is key! For example, find the big, red slide. With you back to the slide, look for three small trees in a row. Take four steps forward and turn right.

