Camp Piperwood Leave No Trace Educational Letter Boxing Course

A Girl Scout Silver Award Project by Alexis Birkemeier and Cyrene Blackley

Welcome to your letterboxing course. During this adventure, you will earn three of the five requirements for the Brownie Letterboxing badge and learn about the 7 Leave No Trace Principles. In this course there will be no hitchhikers, parasites, cuckoo clues, or micro boxes. Please remember to

hide all boxes better than you found them. We hope you have fun!

Definitions:

<u>Hitchhiker</u>: a letterbox hidden within another letterbox (when found the hitchhiker is moved to a third box)

<u>Parasite</u>: a letterbox within a hitchhiker (when found it is moved with the hitchhiker)

<u>Cuckoo Clues</u>: a clue to a letterbox hidden within a different letterbox

Micro boxes: very small letterboxes, great for urban hiding

Box 1: Plan Ahead and Prepare In Leave No Trace Principles, it is important to plan ahead and prepare. Adequate trip planning and preparation helps backcountry travelers accomplish trip goals safely and enjoyably while minimizing damage to the land.

Clue 1: Start in the Florence Fryer Unit. Take the red trail. On your right, there is a cluster of 3 trees together. Wedged in the trunk of the tree that splits into three will be your box.

Box 2: Stay on the Path (Hike and Camp on Durable Surfaces) Damage occurs when plants and other wildlife are trampled. Always stay on the designated trail. Go through the mud, not around it to help prevent the erosion of the path and spread of the mud.

Clue 2: 23 1 12 11 4 15 23 14 20 8 5 8 9 12 12 1 14 4 15 14 25 15 21 18 12 5 6 20 9

19 1 8 21 7 5 20 18 5 5. 15 14 20 8 5 4 15 23 14 8 9 12 12 19 9 4 5 9 19 25 15 21 18

2 15 24 8 9 4 4 5 14 9 14 20 8 5 2 1 19 5.

Box 3: Pack it in/ Pack it out (Dispose of Waste properly) Anything you bring in, you should take out with you. This includes any garbage you made while hiking or camping.

Clue 3:

Where the trunk splits, you will find your box nestled.

Box 4: Take only pictures, leave only footprints (Leave What You Find) Allow others a sense of discovery by leaving rocks, plants, archeological artifacts, and other objects of interest as you find them. Do not pick plants and flowers and leave animal nests alone.

Clue 4: Continue on the red trail. As you walk the trail, on your right, you'll see a number of logs forming the edge to the trail. About half way, one of the logs raises and that is where your box is hidden.

Box 5: Minimize Campfire Impact The most important consideration when deciding to use a fire is the potential damage to the backcountry. Do NOT cut down trees or shrubs. Make your campfire in a designated fire circle/ campfire area and keep it small.

Clue 5: Continue walking on the trail. As you get into a more brushy area, there's a large tree to your left that looks haunted and gnarly, and splits. At the bottom of the front hand trunk, your box is hidden.

*Note: Be careful for any prickers in the brush

Box 6: Respect Wildlife Learn about wildlife through quiet observation. Do not disturb wildlife or plants just for a "better look." Observe wildlife from a distance so they are not scared or forced to flee. Large groups often cause more damage to the environment and can disturb wildlife, so keep your group small. If you have a larger group, divide into smaller groups if possible to minimize your impacts.

Clue 6: Continue down the trail. At the end of the path on the right, there's a tree. This box is shrubs.

Box 7: Be Considerate of Others One of the most important components of outdoor ethics is to maintain courtesy toward other visitors. Excessive noise, uncontrolled pets, and damaged surroundings take away from the natural appeal of the outdoors.

Clue 7: When the path forks, go to the left. This should lead you to the kitchen shelter. In one of the corners, under weeds and rocks is your last box.