

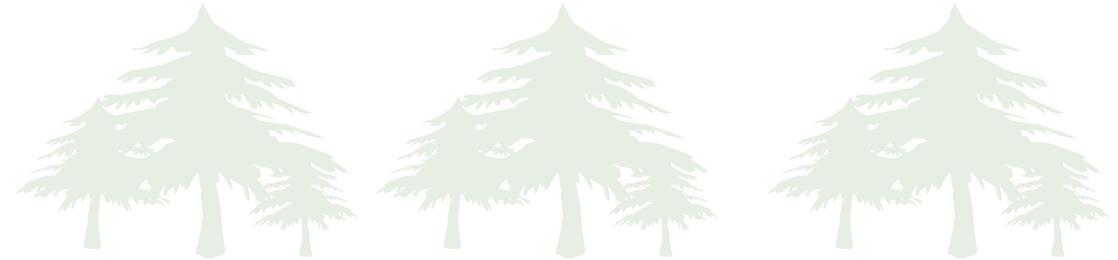


Use this space to place the stamp you have found.

Don't forget to stamp the book in the letterbox with your thumbprint and the date you found it. And, be sure to put all the items back in the box and hide it in its original spot.

Did you like this activity?
You may want to check one of the letterboxing
websites for more information.
Try <http://www.letterboxing.org/>.

Letterboxing at Prince William Forest Park



What is it?

Letterboxing is a fun family activity that combines hiking, treasure hunting, navigation and even a little bit of arts and crafts.

What do you do?

Follow the clues inside the booklet. They will lead you to the hidden letterbox, somewhere in the Piedmont Forest Trail.

What's in the box?

The letterbox contains a logbook, a rubber stamp representing the box, and a stamp pad.

What next?

Stamp logbook that you find in the box with your rubber stamp and the date you found it. Then stamp the back of this booklet with the stamp you found in the box. Hurray--you're done!

Welcome to the Forest Letterbox Clues

Difficulty: Easy

Walking Conditions: Grassy area and hiking trail

Type: Forest, Natural

1 Pace = 2 steps

1 Start at the Pine Grove Picnic Pavilion, at the end closest to the water fountain and spigot.

2 Walk straight ahead, to the Bulletin Board and read about camping at Prince William Forest Park. How many different kinds of camping are available here? Remember that number for later. Also, notice on the park map what color the blazes are for the Laurel Trail.

3 Turn around and walk back the same way that you came, until you reach the sidewalk. Turn left and follow the sidewalk until it ends. (Hint: It might be kind of smelly there.)

4 Look around and walk to the sign for the Laurel Trail. Turn right (your left shoulder should be touching the sign). Walk 20 paces until you reach the concrete pad.

5 Walk to the electrical outlet and look to the right. You will see a grouping of three picnic tables. Walk toward them, making sure to walk between the 1st and 2nd from the left. This will take you to a manhole cover with the words "Capitol Foundry, Virginia" on it.

6 Place your feet on the "V" that is formed underneath the words and begin walking about 65 paces. (Hint: please watch out for cars.) Read about what a forest is.

7

Now look around and spot two large, blue things. Walk over to them and notice the symbol that has three green arrows that sort of form a triangle. What does it mean?

8

From here, go over to the nearby "island" and sit on the large, cool rock that is on the far end of it. Look across to the open field as you sit on the rock and imagine that it is the face of a clock. There are four small holly trees planted around the clock. Walk to the one that is at 12 o'clock.

9

Take the footpath to the right and follow until you reach the trail-head (concrete post with metal band around the top.) Read the markings on the post.

10

Notice the blazed tree at the beginning of the trail. If it is yellow, then you must be at the Laurel Trail. Begin walking on the trail, counting the blazed trees as you go. Take a look at blazed tree #3. What do you notice about it? The smooth bark of beech trees often encourages people to vandalize them.

11

Go to the blazed tree whose number corresponds with the answer from clue #2. Walk 4 paces and turn right. You will see a very long log. Walk 7 paces along the log toward the end and you will find what you seek. Before uncovering or reaching for the box, poke with a stick to make sure there are no spiders or snakes. Stamp the book inside with your stamp and use the stamp found in the box to stamp the square at the bottom of this page. Congratulations, you are now a letterboxer! Also, please be sure to reseal the box carefully so that the contents stay dry and rehide the box in its original location, completely hidden from view.