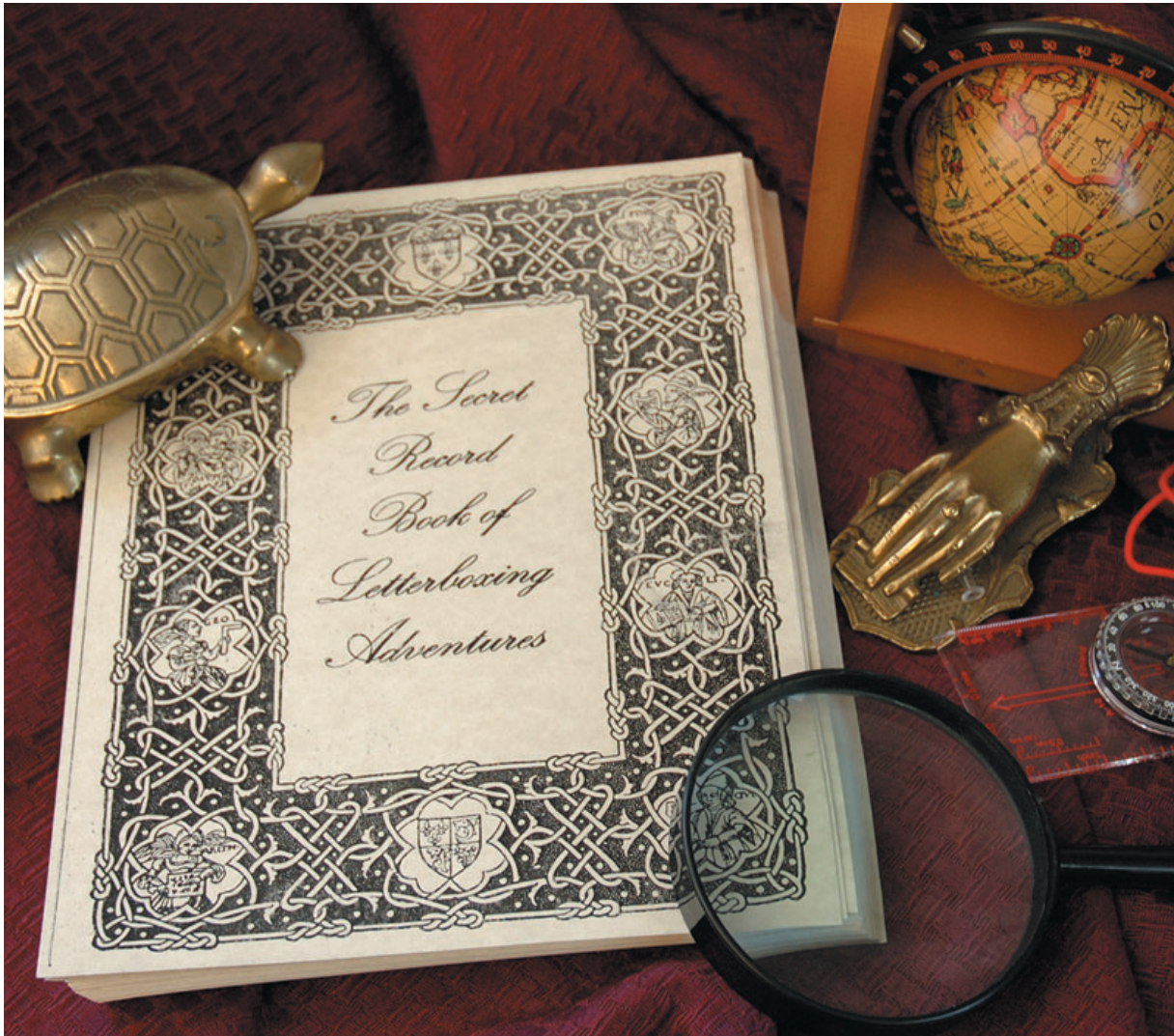


National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Letterboxing Adventures at Sagamore Hill

A Junior Ranger Activity in which you are the detective in search of a hidden letterbox using clues in this booklet



Junior Ranger Program

Sagamore Hill National Historic Site Junior Ranger Activities

*“The nation’s
most valuable asset
is the children;
for the children
are the nation of
the future.”*

—*Theodore Roosevelt*
at the Jamestown Exposition, VA
June 10, 1907

Sagamore Hill National Historic Site is offering our young visitors a special opportunity to visit President Roosevelt’s Summer White House and to have fun in the process by taking part in a number of different Junior Ranger Activities on site.

These activities will teach children about the Roosevelt family and their home while earning a Junior Ranger **badge** and **certificate**. These programs also introduce *Ranger Activities*, the concepts of conservation and stewardship to young people.

In order to earn the Junior Ranger badge, the young person must complete *any one* of several activities. These are the activities currently offered:

1. Theodore Roosevelt and His Sagamore Hill Home
2. The Theodore Roosevelt Museum History Hunt
3. Letterboxing Adventures at Sagamore Hill
4. The Wonderbook of Nature:
Exploring Natural History at Sagamore Hill

Those completing three or more of the activities are entitled to the special Sagamore Hill Junior Ranger Patch. (You must show the certificates or the completed booklets to receive the patch.)

Letterboxing Adventures at Sagamore Hill

Letterboxing is an activity that mixes **treasure hunting, navigation, orienteering** and **puzzle-solving** all in one. This game originated in England around 1854 and since then it has been a popular pastime throughout Europe and the United States.

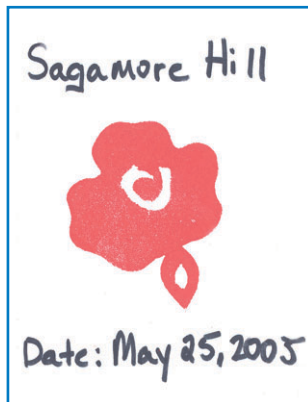
At Sagamore Hill, letterboxing links the past to the present through a series of clues that help you learn about the history of the site. Note that we have slightly modified the activity so we are not disturbing the natural and historical areas of the park.

This activity is particularly good for families with several children. The older kids and mom and dad can help teach the younger ones so that every one gets involved.

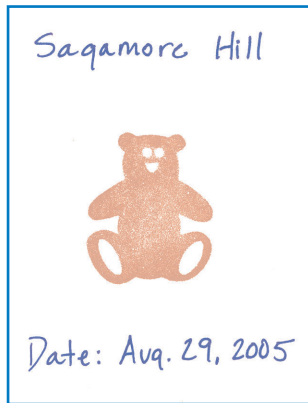
For many people this is an introduction to Letterboxing as a family activity. You may wish to check out this website <http://www.letterboxing.org/> for other similar activities. These range from fairly simple to very involved and complex. Many families find letterboxing an interesting addition to their travels.

Please note that this booklet contains several letterboxing activities, so depending on the time you have you may want to do more than one. Plan about twenty minutes to complete one activity. The completion of any or all of these activities entitles the participants to the Junior Ranger Badge.

Waterproof containers are hidden in secret areas on site. Each container contains the prize: a logbook, rubber stamp and an inkpad. Your job is to find a container by following clues on the activity sheets provided. Be aware that following these clues can be tricky. Some clues may require the use of a compass while others include looking for certain landmarks. Some word puzzles are included as well.



Here's How You Play



Here's What You Need

How to Follow Clues

Respect Your National Park

When you find the letterbox, **stamp your logbook** with the rubber stamp that's in the container, and then get your own rubber stamp and stamp the log book in the container. People usually sign and date each entry. When you're finished, put everything back in the container and close it. Put it back where you found it. Other letterboxers will be looking for that container.

Letterboxers carry their own compass, personal rubber stamp, inepad, pen and personal logbook.

We provide these materials if you are just getting started. We also have the materials to make your own personal stamp that you can take away with you on your next letterboxing adventure. One fun part is designing your own stamp. It's artistic, clever and it's a mark that you leave behind in every letterboxing logbook. Directions are provided to make your own stamp!

The clues may be simple or tricky. Some clues ask you to "to turn and face a bearing of a certain numerical degrees." This requires the use of a compass. Directions are provided in this booklet. Other clues ask the finder to look for landmarks and trees. **It's important to know that the clues and letterboxes are in safe areas on site property.** They are not near major roads and parking lots.

Please leave Sagamore Hill the way you found it.

Throw away all trash, bottles and cans in the receptacles by the Visitor Center or in the parking lot. The letterboxes hidden on site are considered government property. Do not take any of the items found in the containers and please leave the containers in the exact spot where you found it. As part of the National Park Service, we ask you to leave no trace and be considerate of others.



Know the Rules and Regulations of the Game

Letterbox Orientation Checklist

Before you embark on your letterboxing expedition, here are the rules and safety regulations you need to follow:



Borrowed supplies must be returned at the end of the activity.

Do not walk on major streets. There are no clues that will take your group across Sagamore Hill Road.

Avoid any area that has safety cones and caution tape.

Be careful of poison ivy. All letterboxes are placed in hidden areas not in contact with poison ivy.

Be aware of ticks, and flying insects that sting and bite. After walking in wooded areas always check yourself for ticks.

Watch out for yellow jackets, wasps, and hornets.

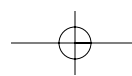
Collection of plants is prohibited.

Feeding and/or harassing animals is prohibited.

No littering. Please throw away any refuse in the proper trash receptacles.

You are visiting a National Historic Site administered by the National Park Service. It is important to understand that collecting artifacts is prohibited by federal law. Also prohibited is destruction of any historic artifact or structure.

Leave this site better than you find it!

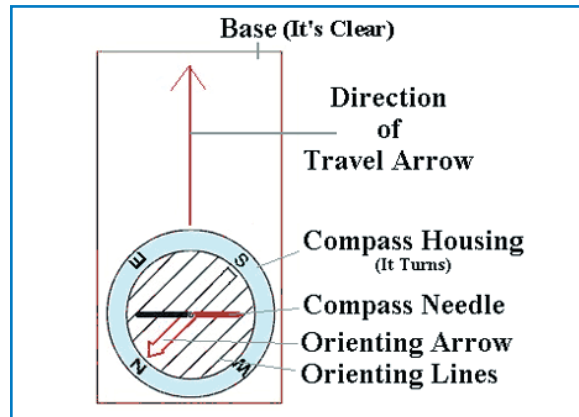


How to Use a Field Compass

What is a Pace?

The dictionary defines a pace as a single step. When you are asked to walk 25 paces, you should take 25 footsteps to the next position. Each person's pace may be different, so 25 footsteps is an approximate figure depending on each person's length of pace.

Understand directions. **North, South, East** and **West**.



Look at the figure. North is the most important direction to help orient yourself.

Compass Needle: This is the needle (**red**) that always points to the magnetic north pole.

Compass Housing: This can be turned from the base of the unit. On the housing will be marked letters N, S, E, and W for North, South, East and West. There are numbers on the housing. This is a scale from 0 to 360 and represents the degrees around a circle.

Direction of Travel Arrow: This is the long red arrow on the base plate. Arrow begins at the compass housing and points in the direction you want to follow.

Example: To follow a bearing of 220 degrees, twist the housing so 220 lines up with direction of travel arrow on the base and hold it flat. Turn your body so you can establish magnetic north by lining the red part of the compass needle with the red arrow in compass housing. The direction arrow on the base plate now points to 220 degrees southwest. Align yourself with the direction of travel and that's the direction you need to go.

How to Create a Rubber Stamp

Materials Needed:

- Adhesive or non-adhesive foam paper
- Pencil or pen
- Scissors
- Glue
- 2-1/2" x 2-1/2" wood block

1. Trim the piece of foam paper to the size of one side of the woodblock provided.



2. With a pencil or pen draw an image with wide bold lines. This image can be anything you want. For example if you draw a flower, have it look like the flower in the picture. The lines should be sketched a few times to instill a good image on foam paper. Remember to reverse the image if there are words involved. Then, using the scissors provided, cut out the image following the drawing you have created.

3. Now attach your cut out image to a wooden block. This is done by peeling off the backing paper on the adhesive foam or gluing the foam paper to the block.

4. With a stamp pad and paper you are ready test your new rubber stamp. If it looks good then you are ready to letterbox.

Test Your Stamp Here:



Activity 1 – Meet the President

Start at the door next to the public telephone outside the Visitor Center. (Visitor Center is to your back.)

Use this space to place the stamp you have found.

Don't forget to stamp the register in the letterbox and inscribe with your name and date. Be sure to put all the items back in the box and replace it in its original spot.

1. Head in a southwest direction along the paved walkway.
2. Walk along the pathway until you get to the large sign on your right.
3. Face a bearing of 280 degrees and head in a westerly direction.
4. Look for the object that promised water from the power of the wind.

Name that tall object:
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

5. Go around that object and with your back to that tall object walk west up the hill towards the house. You will be following a course of 270 degrees. (Walk approximately 50 paces just passing the small eight-sided house.)

6. Turn left on the brick path. Face the house and look for:

“A door that guests would never use, only those who cooked and cleaned and shined the shoes.”

Who used this entrance?
9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

7. Continue on the brick path to the other side of the house.

This path is between the main house and the

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

(Find the answer at the sign along the path.)

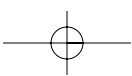
You're almost there! Turn right and pass the main entrance of the house. To find the box stand by the southwest corner of the porch. **Hint: Do not look up!**

Use the letter bank above to help you solve the following word puzzle.

Theodore Roosevelt used Sagamore Hill as the first

9 22 5 5 19 11 1 20 17 15 10

20 21 22 9 19





Activity 2 – A Humble Stone

1. Start at the sign for the carriage house and head north across the walkway on to a grass and gravel path.

2. As you continue on the path, to your right you will see a section where some of Mrs. Roosevelt’s favorite flowers flourished. This is part of what was once the vegetable and flower _____ . (Stop at the sign for the answer.)

3. Face a bearing of 280 degrees and head in a northwest direction.

4. Head to the little building. What was this building used for? (Answer on the sign.)

5. Branching off in a northwest direction walk approximately 25 paces to a big, tall and oldest living thing on the property. At this point you should be directly under this tree.

This 150 year-old hardwood is an _____.

(**Hint:** leaves are lobed and smooth, and little critters love to eat the acorns.)

6. Go around tree to its west side and with your back to the tree, turn and face a bearing of 260 degrees and head west. Cross the asphalt and head through the sugar maple patch. Continue west until you see ahead of you a large tree that remains forever green.

7. When you get to the tree turn and face a bearing of 320 degrees and visit the little shrine made out of stone.

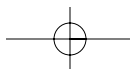
You’re there! Just look behind the Humble Stone of the Family’s Faithful Friends!

What is this area called?

_____.

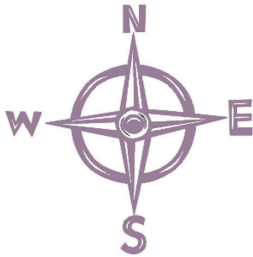
Do not walk on any major roads!

Use this space to place the stamp you have found.





Activity 3 – What Every Roosevelt Must Know



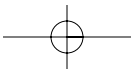
1. Begin by the “Farm Tools” sign next to carriage house.
2. With your back to the “Farm Tools” sign, make a right on the small path then a left on walkway.
3. Proceed west along walkway. (Carriage house sign is behind you.)
4. Walk about 50 paces or until you reach the bench on your right.
5. Face a bearing of 300 degrees northwest. You’ll see a tree with green needles. Walk past the tree.
6. Face a bearing of 320 degrees and walk approximately 30 paces or until you reach a sign to your right.
7. Turn 180 degrees and proceed west across the walkway.
8. Continue walking pass the gray birch (white-barked tree) until you see a gray gravel path. Then head south along the path towards the house.
9. As you approach the house from the path, turn right and walk towards the white bench.

You’re now on a path of blue flagstone. Continue towards the porch.

When you reach the porch steps look up to read the Latin inscription above the side door entrance to your left.

Write the inscription over the door here:

You are in sight of the letterbox. Notice where the lattice meets the bricks. Look for the box by the third column of bricks.





Use this space to place the stamp you have found.

This phrase is the Roosevelt family motto from their coat of arms. Use the following activity to help you translate the Latin text:

Theodore Roosevelt was the 26th U.S. _____ and he had served _____ as an officer the _____ in the Spanish American _____.

TR named this property _____.

TR had a daughter with his first wife, and _____ children with his second wife, Edith.

Fill in the letters using the numbers assigned from above to translate the text.

_____ 21 3 _____ 10 21 18 _____ 21 14 13

_____ 1 23 16 8 9 3 6

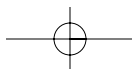
_____ 13 21 11 23 24

_____ 1 2 3 4 3 2 27 3

Don't forget to stamp the register in the letterbox and inscribe with your name and date. Be sure to put all the items back in the box and replace it in its original spot.

Why do you think that the Roosevelts should know this motto? _____

Do you think that this motto was an influence on Theodore Roosevelt? _____





National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Sagamore Hill National Historic Site
Home of Theodore Roosevelt

20 Sagamore Hill Road
Oyster Bay, New York 11771

Explore and enjoy all the Junior Ranger Activities currently offered:

1. Theodore Roosevelt and His Sagamore Hill Home

This activity is completed following a visit to the home of the 26th president. Children may do this when they visit with their families, or it is administered as a take-back-to-class activity for school groups who have visited.

2. The Theodore Roosevelt Museum History Hunt

Be a history detective and test your powers of observation. This activity is administered to young people and their families or during a site visit by school groups. For many children this will be their first Junior Ranger experience.

3. Letterboxing Adventures at Sagamore Hill

An activity in which you are the detective in search of a hidden letterbox using clues in this booklet. Letterboxing is known as The Outdoor Treasure Hunting Pastime and involves use of compass orientation and puzzle solving.



**4. The Wonderbook of Nature:
Exploring Natural History at Sagamore Hill**

This activity book is a field guide to some selected species of plant and animal life found at Sagamore Hill. The activity teaches children to use a printed guide book to identify plants and animals.

Your name(s)

Three vertical lines for writing a name.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Thanks to the Friends of Sagamore Hill for their financial assistance in creating and printing these materials.

The Sagamore Hill Series: Connecting America's Children to Theodore Roosevelt and His Sagamore Hill Home. It is the purpose of this series to use historic photos, artifacts, political cartoons and the like, to tell the story at age appropriate language to reach young people and to serve as a platform and entry point for additional exploration and discovery via print and web-based distance-learning activities.

These materials were developed by the professional and volunteer National Park Service staff at Sagamore Hill NHS, Oyster Bay, New York, to mark the centenary of TR's Presidency in 2006.

