



# YMCA Camp Sloper

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

# LETTERBOXING PROGRAM





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## OVERVIEW

**LETTERBOXING** at YMCA Camp Sloper is a fun way to enjoy your walk or hike. It combines navigational skills and rubber stamp artistry in a charming "treasure hunt" style outdoor quest. A wide variety of adventures can be found to suit all ages and experience levels. Letterboxers hide small, weatherproof boxes in publicly-accessible places and distribute clues to finding them.

**What to Do:** By using this Letterboxing Guide Packet, choose the trail that you'd like to start on. Follow the clues to help lead you to each box. Most boxes are hidden so that you can't see them from the trail itself, so you will have to venture off trail occasionally. Our letterboxes contain a "Visitor's Notebook", an ink pad of the same color trail, and a rubber stamp. If you find the Letterbox, using your own notepad or Letterboxing "Passport", take our rubber stamp and ink pad and stamp your Passport. In the "Letterboxing Visitors Log Book", sign your name and date it for proof of discovery! Replace our items back into the box, if you moved the box please replace it to where you found it so that others are able to find it as well. In your personal notebook, you may want to journal special details about your adventure that day.

*The YMCA Camp Sloper Outdoor Center Letterboxing Program was made possible by the hard work and efforts of the 2020/2021 Southington YMCA Leaders Club Program. This program consists of dedicated middle and high school volunteer students looking to build themselves into better community members and people through teambuilding, leadership training, and stewardship. The members of this club built all of the Letterboxes, designed the clues, and physically hiked and hid all boxes on the trails. Thank you Southington YMCA Leaders Club for your hard work and dedication. This project and activity will be used by any and all of Sloper's many members and visitors for years to come!*

To find out more, visit [www.letterboxing.org](http://www.letterboxing.org) or [www.atlasquest.com](http://www.atlasquest.com)

**'Good Luck...And Happy Exploring!'**

- YMCA Camp Sloper Staff



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## Black Trail Letterbox

**START:** From McLeod Family Pavilion, walk towards the power lines at the base of the mountain. The Black Trail path starts to the right of the Trail Map sign.

1. Proceed up the gravel/rocky path way towards the mountains peak, keeping the power lines above you.
2. Continue straight past the Yellow/Black trail intersection.
3. Follow the Black Trail past the Blue/Black trail intersection.
4. Cross over a foot bridge continuing on the Black Trail.
5. Continue on the Black trail until you reach another foot bridge, heading North-Northeast. Continue to follow the black trail blazes on the ground.
6. Follow the black trail blazes underneath the power lines until you reach a stone and boulder path, starting your vertical ascent to the summit of the cliff side.
7. Carefully traverse upwards following the black trail blazes, when you reach a small open stone hillside, traverse up the hill to the left. Follow the black trail blazes painted on the rocks.
8. Continue to follow the black blazes up the mountain side until you reach a very narrow rock cliff face with a narrow pathway in between them. Climb in between the rocks continuing up the mountain
9. When you reach the top of the rock climbing portion, continue up the mountain and turn right to go back underneath the power lines. You should be heading South-South West at this point. Head towards the wood line continuing south bound. The Black trail continues through a wooded path (this path also leads to Hubbard Park and Castle Craig!)
10. Continue along the path in the woods until you get to the Black Trail turn back down the mountain. Stop and face away from the Black Trail (do East) and look for a tree with one full tree trunk and one broken tree trunk. The Black Trail letterbox is behind that tree.

### Black Box Location





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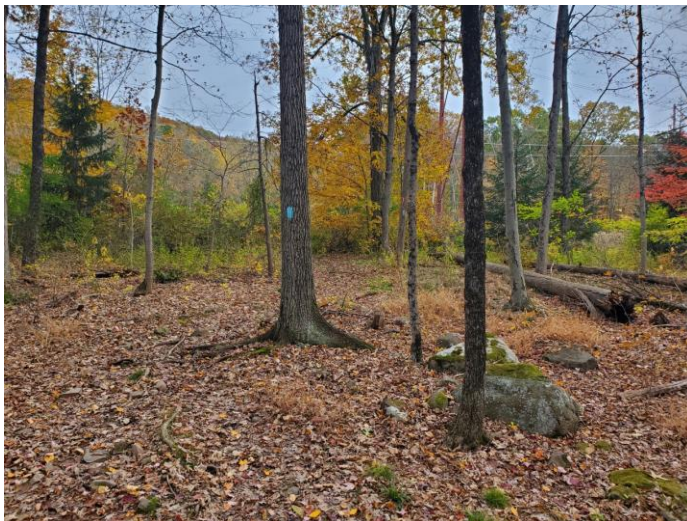
## Blue Trail Letterbox

START: From McLeod Family Pavilion, walk toward Amphitheater and Pooler Pavilion.

1. Follow the Green trail between Pooler Pavilion and Archery, keeping Sloper Pond on your left.
2. The entrance to the Blue Trail will be on your right next to the camp wide map.
3. Follow the blue trail to the right up the hill
4. At Orange the intersection, stay straight following Blue blazes.
5. At next Orange intersection, stay straight following Blue blazes.
6. Continue following the blue blazes up the hill and pass through an old stone wall.
7. Follow the blue blazes around the bend until you get to a wooden bridge.
8. Cross over the wooden bridge
9. The Blue letterbox is behind a large, long fallen tree 15 paces further to the right.
  - If you are underneath the power lines, you have gone too far

Please make sure to cover the letterbox well when you are finished.

### Blue Box Location





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## Green Trail Letterbox

START: From McLeod Family Pavilion, walk toward the Amphitheater. Walk past the Amphitheater towards the Archery Pavilion. The Green Trail starts just past the Archery Pavilion.

1. Follow the green blazes down the green trail (keeping the pond on your left).
2. Pass by the Blue/Green trail intersection and continue on the Green Trail
3. Continue on the green trail until you get to the Purple/Green trail crossroad. Take a left towards the bridge that crosses over a small stream and cross the bridge.
4. Continue following the Green Trail blazes passing by the Leatherman Rock.
5. Follow the Green Trail blazes and pass by Sunset Point.
6. Continue following the Green Trail blazes until you get to the great pines.
7. Stop at the large pine tree with 4 trunks.
8. The Green Trail Letterbox is behind that 4 Trunk tree (see pictures below for help)

Please make sure to cover the letterbox well when you are finished.

### Green Box Location





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## Orange Trail Letterbox

**START:** From McLeod Family Pavilion, walk toward the Meade Family Library. The Orange trail starts behind and to the right of the Meade Family Library.

1. Follow the orange blazes past the Crystal Mine on the right.
2. Pass over a wooden bridge (the first of 3)
3. At Blue/Orange trail intersection, continue straight following the Orange blazes.
4. Cross 2 more wooden bridges.
5. At the Orange/Purple trail intersection, continue straight on the Orange trail.
6. Follow the Orange blazes as they curve to the right. The main road will be to your left.
7. Continue down this straight-away, keeping the main road to your left
8. After passing two large trees on the path (one with double orange blazes), take 5 paces and stop. Turn left, and you should see two trees that are the same distance away from the path with a much larger tree farther back in between them.
  - If the road is no longer parallel to the orange trail and you have started your ascent up the hill, you have gone too far
9. The Orange Letterbox is behind that larger tree which is roughly 25 paces from the trail (see pictures below for help)

Please make sure to cover the letterbox well when you are finished.

### Orange Box Location





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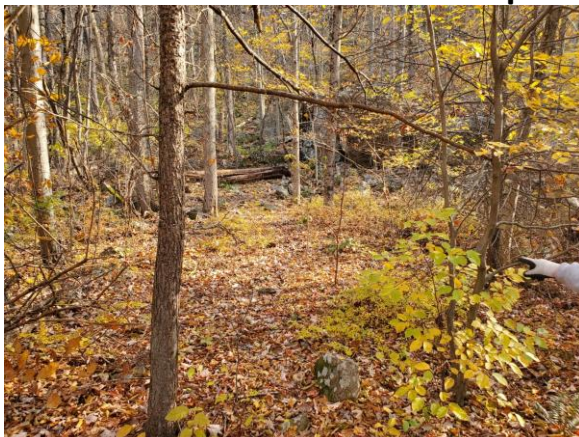
## Purple Trail Letterbox

**START:** From McLeod Family Pavilion, walk toward the Amphitheater heading down the green trail. Follow the green trail down past the far corner of the pond and continue straight. The purple trail starts on the right before you get to Kensington Road.

1. Once at the start of the purple trail, head Northwest up the hill
2. When you reach the Orange Trail/Purple Trail intersection, continue straight following the purple trail blazes
3. Follow the trail continuing up the hill until you get to the next intersection
4. Head straight through the second Orange Trail/Purple Trail intersection, now heading up the hill and south
5. Continue on purple passing by a small neighborhood on your left and the blue trail lurking closely on your right.
6. The trail will bend to the left slightly and narrow until you reach the open power lines area
7. Following the trail blazes passing underneath the power lines
8. Stay straight past the Black trail intersection and head into the opposite section of the woods, continuing to head south.
9. When you reach the second black trail intersection, continue straight.
10. Follow the path for two purple trail blazes. About 10ft past the second purple trail blaze past the black trail intersection, turn left facing the mountain.
11. Looking left into the mountainside, you should see a very large boulder and rocking landscape, head towards the boulder. (there may be a small, slightly identifiable path)
12. The Purple Trail letterbox is behind a fallen tree near, slightly to the left near the very large boulder.

Please make sure to cover the letterbox well when you are finished.

### Purple Box Location





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## Red Trail Letterbox

**START:** From McLeod Family Pavilion, walk toward the Jacob Family Pavilion on the West Coast. Continue your way past the Jacob Family Pavilion to the West Coast Basketball Courts. The entrance to the Red trail is to the left of the West Coast Basketball Court shed.

1. Follow the red blazes down the path.
2. Pass over a wooden bridge (the first of 2)
3. After crossing over two bridges, at the Old Cement Mill, continue straight on the red trail.
4. Stay straight on the Red trail (moss covered exposed roots on the path) until you get to the entrance of the Wetlands Boardwalk. Head down the Wetlands Boardwalk.
5. Continue on the Wetlands Boardwalk and turn left at the first turn.
6. Walk approximately 15 paces down the boardwalk (towards the sink hole).
7. Stop at the largest tree on the right that is about 4 feet from the boardwalk.
8. The Red Letterbox is behind that large tree (see pictures below for help)

Please make sure to cover the letterbox well when you are finished.

### Red Box Location







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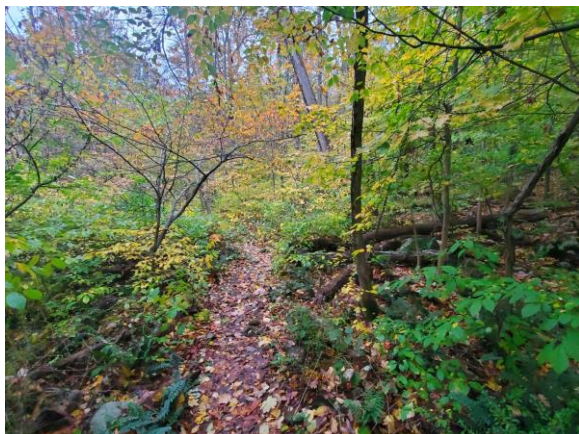
## Silver Trail Letterbox

Start: From McLeod Family Pavilion, walk across field toward power lines heading up the Black Trail.

- Follow the Black trail uphill past both the yellow and blue trail, continuing your climb towards the mountain side
- When you reach the black/purple trail intersection, take a right onto to the Purple trail and follow the purple trail blazes.
- Follow the Purple blazes past the Black intersection on the left.
- Continue along the purple trail passing the "Fish Family Rock", which will be on your left.
- Follow the Purple blazes straight past the White intersection on the right and left.
- Continue on Purple until you reach the Purple/Silver trail intersection.
- Head due west on the silver trail, taking you closer to the mountainside then turning south along the silver trail
- Proceed down the silver trail, making sure to follow all silver trail blazes.
- Continue along the trail which will turn from more open area with large trees to more heavily wooded and wet.
- Once you reach this wet section of the trail, continue until you can see the trail bend to the right, due east towards the Cooper Ridge neighborhood.
- Before the bend and just past a downed tree on your left, face the mountainside and travel roughly 10-15ft into the thicket.
- The Silver letterbox will be behind a large stone. See photos for help.

Please make sure to cover the letterbox well when you are finished.

### Silver Box Location





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## Yellow Trail Letterbox

**START:** From McLeod Family Pavilion, walk toward the Rossini Program Center. The Yellow trail starts on the left side of the Rossini Program Center

1. Take wooden stairs up toward the Fortbuilding Village.
2. Pass through the Fortbuilding Village following the Yellow blazes.
3. Continue uphill following the Yellow blazes as they curve to the left.
4. At Orange/Yellow intersection, continue straight following the Yellow blazes.
5. Pass the Gladiator Village and the clearing which will be on your right, and follow the yellow blazes to the Power Lines
6. Continue following the Yellow trail blazes, past the Black Trail Intersection, to the other side of the power lines and into the woods.
7. When you get to the Blue/Yellow Intersection, stay to the right to follow the yellow trail down the hill
8. Continue down the hill until you get to the Yellow Trail Waterfall (on your left) and you come to a bridge.
9. The Yellow Trail letter box is under the bridge. (see pictures below for hints)

Please make sure to cover the letterbox well when you are finished.

### Yellow Box Location

