

SECOND EDITION



OFFICIAL ISSUE

LETTERBOXING PASSPORT

ADIRONDACK PARK
WARREN COUNTY NY



THIS
LETTERBOXING
PASSPORT BELONGS TO:

Enjoy Free Historic, Cultural, and
Outdoor Adventures in the Adirondacks'
First Wilderness Heritage Corridor



What is the First Wilderness?

"Wilderness is not a luxury, but a necessity of the human spirit"

- Edward Abbey

The Adirondacks were the first place where Americans realized that wilderness was going to be a distinguishing and permanent feature of their civilization. By the 1890s, the Adirondack Park was created as the largest protected wilderness area east of the Mississippi. Since then, the Adirondack Park has challenged each generation to define the role of wilderness in our increasingly urbanized civilization.

The First Wilderness Heritage Corridor unites communities along the Upper Hudson River in celebrating their shared history along the earliest route into the heart of the Adirondack Mountains.

Learn more at www.FirstWilderness.com

What is Letterboxing?

Letterboxing is a fun treasure hunt activity, incorporating orienteering, art, and puzzle solving.



Letterboxing got its start in 1854 in England, when a National Park guide placed a jar for visitors with his calling card inside, and an invitation for those who found the jar to leave their own cards. After awhile, visitors started leaving postcards or notes in the jar, and the next visitor would return them by mail. (“Letterbox” is the British term for Mailbox.). Eventually, instead of calling or postcards, visitors started using hand-carved rubber stamps to leave their mark in a logbook, which is the current practice today. After an article in Smithsonian Magazine in 1998, letterboxing caught on in the U.S., and there are now over 90,000 active letterboxes in North America.

Letterboxing in the First Wilderness

At each letterboxing site in the First Wilderness, you will search for a hidden, weather-proof box, with a logbook, a hand-carved stamp, and an inkpad. Use the provided clues, which are in the form of a riddle, to help find the box. Once you find the box, use the stamp to mark this passport. Leave a note, along with your own stamp if you have one, in the logbook. Make sure to return all items to the box and hide it back carefully where you found it for the next adventurer. It’s a good idea to bring your own inkpad, if you have one, just in case the one in the box is missing.

Note we have a second letterboxing **Historians’ Challenge** which you can do at the same time as this one, if you’d like. Nearby boxes for the Historians’ Challenge are noted in this Passport. More details can be found at warrencountyny.gov/HC.

Get More Details at www.firstwilderness.com

Visit www.firstwilderness.com for an interactive map with more details about each site, driving directions, and fun things to do nearby each one. There are also a couple of online-only “bonus boxes”. Note that some locations do not have cell service, so visit the website before heading out.

Share the Fun

Post pictures of your First Wilderness letterboxing adventures on social media with the tags [#firstwilderness](https://twitter.com/firstwilderness) and [#firstwildernessletterboxing](https://twitter.com/firstwildernessletterboxing). Please don't post the actual box locations, though. We don't want to spoil the fun for other adventurers!

Complete the Challenge and Receive a Patch

Find at least **18** of the First Wilderness letterboxing sites and receive a free embroidered First Wilderness patch.

Mail your completed passport to:
Warren County Planning Department
1340 State Route 9
Lake George NY 12845

We will return your passport along with a patch.
Or visit firstwilderness.com to learn how to submit your completed passport online.



Letterbox Locations



**finding the letterboxes at events and museums open seasonally is not required to obtain a patch, but we'd love for you to visit them. If you find all 28 letterboxes, you'll earn an additional reward! Visit firstwilderness.com for more details about event dates and museum hours, along with a detailed map and driving directions to each site and things to do nearby.*

- 1. Albert E. Monroe Park
- 2. Horicon Museum
- 3. Bartonville Mountain
- 4. Brant Lake Winter Carnival: annual event held in mid-February*
- 5. Dynamite Hill
- 6. Chester Museum of Local History: open seasonally*
- 7. Kipp Mountain
- 8. Loon Lake Beach
- 9. Ski Bowl Park
- 10. Tannery Pond Center
- 11. Peaked Mountain Trail
- 12. North Creek Depot Museum
- 13. Cod Pond
- 14. Mud Street Maple
- 15. Martin's Tree Farm
- 16. Thurman Station
- 17. Green Meadows Park
- 18. Dean Homestead Museum
- 19. Dean Farm Trails
- 20. Stony Creek Mountain Days: annual event held in August*
- 21. Wayside Beach
- 22. Kinnear Museum
- 23. Adirondack Folk School
- 24. Harris Preserve
- 25. Warren County Fish Hatchery
- 26. Mill District Historic Park
- 27. Veterans' Park
- 28. Grandmother Tree Nature Trail

1. Albert E. Monroe Park



Town of Horicon

Corner of Valentine Pond Road and Johnson Road, hamlet of Adirondack. Note: this clue involves a short walk on the shoulder of the road. Watch for cars. Nearby Historians' Challenge letterbox: Horicon Museum Annex

STAMP

CLUE:

Head to this hamlet that shares its name
with the big New York State park
of much larger fame.

Play baseball or tennis at
Albert Monroe Park;
when you've made it this far,
you're close to the mark.

Walk a bit west,
find Adirondack Honor Roll near the creek;
at the corner of a rock wall
you'll find what you seek.

COMMENTS:

DATE COMPLETED:

RATING:





2. Horicon Museum

Town of Horicon

6696 State Route 8, Brant Lake

note: box is outside and is accessible when museum is closed. Check horiconny.gov for museum open hours.

CLUE:

At this 19th century farmhouse near
the shores of Brant Lake
explore the home and carriage house
that the Robbins' family did make.

It's now a museum filled with
artifacts and photos,
illustrating past industry from which
our communities arose.

In front of the museum, from the old
school leans a big ornate stone.

Carefully look behind it,
and the box's location will be known.

STAMP

COMMENTS:

RATING:



DATE COMPLETED:

3. Bartonville Mountain

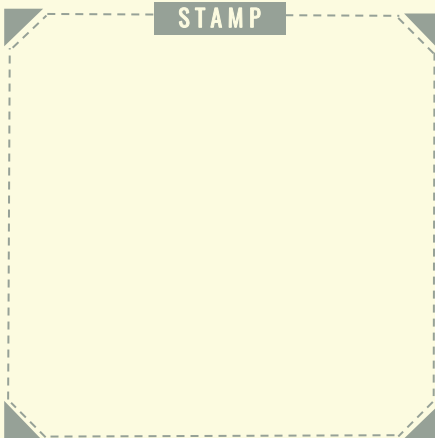


Town of Horicon

27 Market Street, Brant Lake

note: finding the box involves a half mile roundtrip hike. View a trail map and more details at firstwilderness.com

STAMP



CLUE:

At Bartonville Mountain,
head up the trail
named for a nursery rhyme duo
who filled up their pail.
A quarter mile up, watch for a
curlicue-shaped Hemlock,
then around the corner,
continue your walk.
Keep your eyes open
for a cluster of trees,
and you should find the box you search
for with relative ease.

COMMENTS:

DATE COMPLETED:

RATING:





4. Brant Lake Winter Carnival

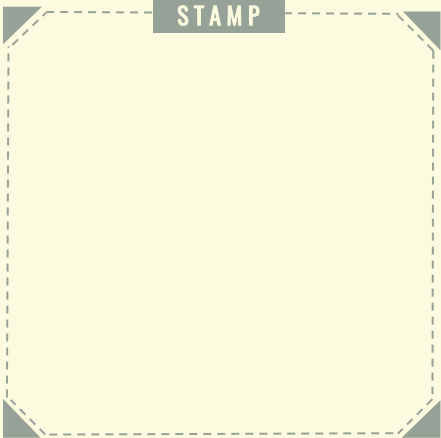
Town of Horicon

Special Event Letterbox. Available only during the event, held one Saturday annually in February. visit firstwilderness.com for details.

CLUE:

Head this February to Brant Lake
off Route 8,
for a carnival event that's
sure to be great.
Get out on the ice and join in the fun,
There are trophies for all sorts
of games to be won.
Outhouse races, human Fooseball,
fireworks and broomball,
It's a day on the lake with food and
merriment for all.
Visit our local officials and watch as the
cookware goes flying;
The box that you seek will be near the
pans used for frying.

STAMP



COMMENTS:

RATING:



DATE COMPLETED:

5. Dynamite Hill

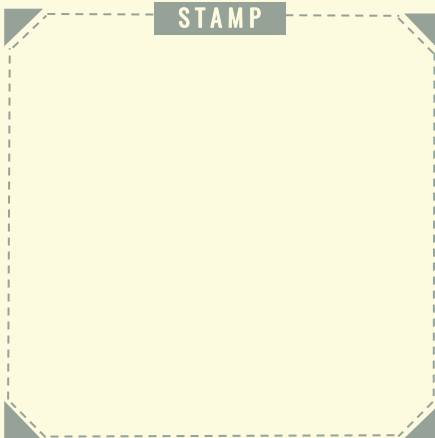


Town of Chester

3 Dynamite Hill Rd, Chestertown

note: begin clue at the kiosk near Visitors' Center. This clue involves a 5 minute trail walk.

STAMP



CLUE:

If to the "Small Mountain" of
"Big Firecrackers" you go,
Start at the place where people
"Go to Know".
Follow the looping path that
gives you a "Taste",
Of the Adirondacks,
if you don't make too much haste.
Find four strong Tolkien "ents",
"tree-men" standing in a square,
Stand in the middle and you are there!

COMMENTS:

DATE COMPLETED:

RATING:





6. Chester Museum of Local History

Town of Chester

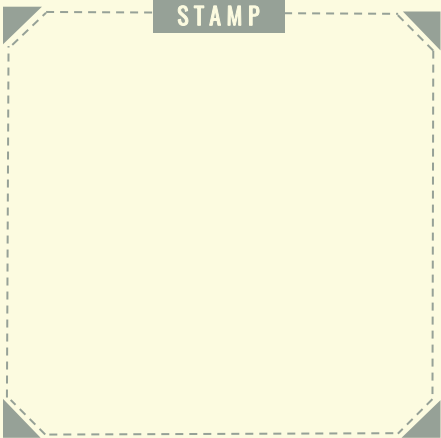
6307 State Route 9, Chestertown. Restrooms available. ♿ This letterbox is ADA accessible. ♿

note: this clue is inside and available only during museum open hours. Check townofchesterny.org for hours.

CLUE:

In the old central school
built under the New Deal,
sits a small museum that to history
lovers will appeal.
Head upstairs, next to the YMCA,
a world of years gone by
you'll enter through the doorway.
Tourism, farming, tanning
and early industry,
maps, photos and displays
illustrate historic activity.
Explore the middle room filled
with items from Chester's past.
Look near the wooden farm tools
and you'll find the box at last.

STAMP



COMMENTS:

RATING:



DATE COMPLETED:

7. Kipp Mountain

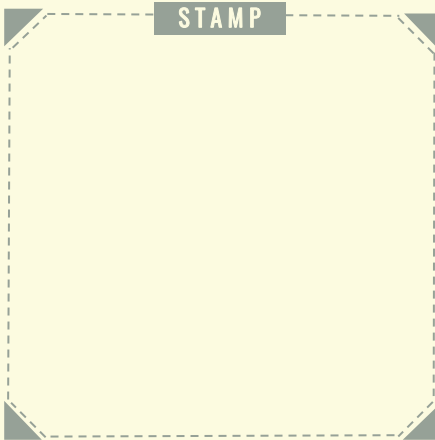
Town of Chester



179 Ben Culver Road, Chestertown

note: this clue involves a 2 mile roundtrip hike with moderate elevation gain. View a trail map at firstwilderness.com

STAMP



CLUE:

Begin your hunt for this box
on a mountain named Kipp.
The view from the top
makes it worth the trip.
On the way up the trail,
find a sign naming each peak.
Under a platform nearby,
you'll find what you seek.

COMMENTS:

DATE COMPLETED:

RATING:





8. Loon Lake Beach

Town of Chester

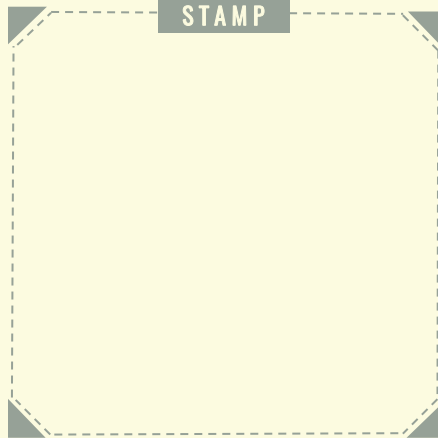
5419 State Route 8, Chestertown. Restrooms available.

note: park at the boat launch if parking lot is full at the beach.

CLUE:

Head out Route 8 to this
beach on Loon Lake:
a perfect spot to swim, sunbathe,
and take a restful break.
Have a picnic, savor the view,
watch the kayaks,
and take a little saunter.
You'll find what you search for
under a bench near the water.

STAMP



COMMENTS:

RATING:




DATE COMPLETED:

9. Ski Bowl Park

Town of Johnsburg



Ski Bowl Rd, North Creek. Note: park near pavilion to begin clue. Restrooms available. 
Nearby Historians' Challenge letterbox: Riverfront Trail

STAMP

CLUE:

Head to this bowl

where
everyone loves to ski.
You'll be amazed
at all there is to do and see!
Look for an arbor, and the beautiful flowers;
finding this spot shouldn't take you hours.
Past the small pond in the garden,
continue your walk,
find what you search for
near the bench and big rock.

COMMENTS:

DATE COMPLETED:

RATING:





10. Tannery Pond Center

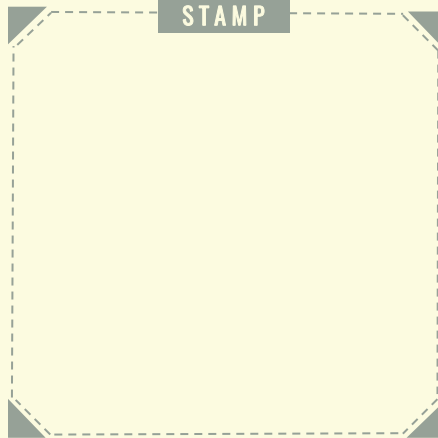
Town of Johnsburg

228 Main St, North Creek. Park at Town Hall. Restrooms available. This letterbox is ADA accessible. *note: this box is inside and is available only during open hours. Visit tannerypondcenter.org for hours*

CLUE:

There once was a pond,
but no longer.
Now a building where you
can ponder
Fine art work and a show.
From a bench, look below
For the prize that caused you
to wander.

STAMP



COMMENTS:

RATING:



DATE COMPLETED:

11. Peaked Mountain Pond Trail



Town of Johnsbury

Thirteenth Lake Trailhead, Beach Rd North River

note: this clue involves a 0.8 mile roundtrip mostly flat hike. View a trail map and details at www.firstwilderness.com

STAMP

CLUE:

Start at the trailhead on the shores of Thirteenth Lake.

The trail to Peaked Mt. Pond is the one you'll want to take.

Follow the trail for 4/10ths of a mile, it's a pretty hike that should only take a little while.

Keep an eye out for a fire ring and campsite number ten.

Just past, look left near a big rock; be sure to hide box well again.

COMMENTS:

DATE COMPLETED:

RATING:





12. North Creek Depot Museum

Town of Johnsburg

5 Railroad Place, North Creek. This letterbox is ADA accessible Note: box is outside and is accessible when museum is closed. Nearby Historians' Challenge letterbox: Riverfront Trail

CLUE:

Built in 1872 at the end of the D&H line, the train carried logs, and ore from the mine.

On a dark and stormy night in 1901, Teddy Roosevelt from this depot to the presidency did run.

In the 1930's visitors flocked from the city to ski, and then titanium in World War II carried on our industry.

Carefully explore the platform all around the station; look for old chair lift seats and find the box without frustration.

STAMP

COMMENTS:

RATING:



DATE COMPLETED:

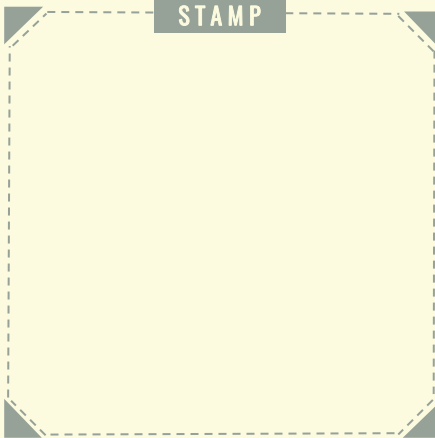
13. Cod Pond



Town of Thurman

*Route 8: 14.9 miles west of Rte 8/Rte 28N intersection. Watch for trail sign. Parking and trailhead on left.
note: this clue involves a 2.2 mile roundtrip mostly flat hike. View trail map and details at www.firstwilderness.com*

STAMP



COMMENTS:

CLUE:

Past Wevertown, Johnsburg,
Bakers Mills on Route 8,
Keep your eyes open for the trail sign and
its start at the gate.
Listen to the birdsong and
the sound of the breeze,
as it ripples through the
forest of Adirondack trees.
Follow the yellow markers along the
trail to the pond.
Of the view from this spot,
you're sure to be fond.
Rest for a moment at the end of your walk;
then head left and find the box
near the big pointy rock.

DATE COMPLETED:

RATING:





14. Mud Street Maple

Town of Thurman

*Note: this clue includes driving. Start at Thurman Town Hall, 311 Athol Rd, Athol
Nearby Historians' Challenge letterbox: Adirondack Gold Maple*

CLUE:

Start at the Thurman highway garage
and Town Hall
with sidewalks and bushes and flag pole so tall.
On highway head west, up 'round a sharp curve;
Use caution, look sharp; use care not to swerve.

Take first left. The road's named for
spring thaw "season".
(It's paved these days, for that very reason).

Climb higher and higher to 269.
On left see "It's Wicked" right on the sign.
Turn left to the shack with a taste that is sweet

Park on right, by its porch,
then stand on your feet.
Circle building you see, in direction of a clock.

First pass Old Glory, circle past last rock.
This poem is silly, even quite "sappy".

Follow instinct, don't "buck it", and
you'll be so happy!

STAMP

COMMENTS:

RATING:



DATE COMPLETED:

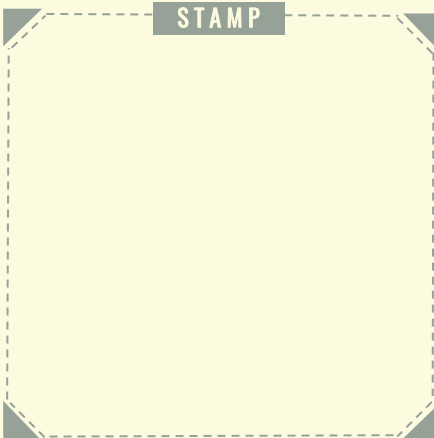
15. Martin's Tree Farm

Town of Thurman



Martin's Tree Farm, 280 Valley Rd, Athol. Note: go to visithurman.com to read about other farms in the area open to visitors. Nearby Historians' Challenge letterbox: Adirondack Gold Maple

STAMP



COMMENTS:

DATE COMPLETED:

CLUE:

From the barn, pass house front; pass arbor; left through hemlock-spruce pathway.

Go downhill, cross small stream, then to end; left on dirt road straightaway.

Where road curves right count out 35 paces to trail; go left; keep going.

Your prowess is "aces."

Come to a "Y"; bear left at a tree wearing bark of white paper.

Go on, turn right at the next trail you meet—you'll rock this caper.

One more "Y". Bear right and proceed to an outhouse in clearing.

Inside, the prize, the goal of your quest—in privy endearing.

RATING:





16. Thurman Station

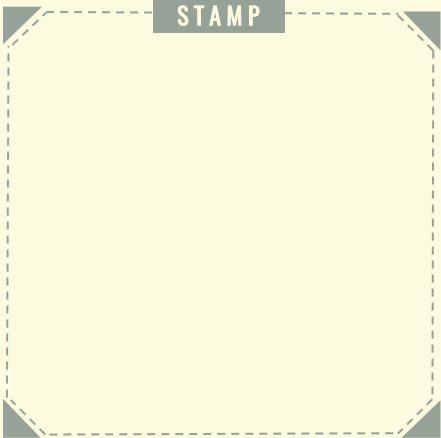
Town of Thurman

Intersection of State Route 418 and Warrensburg Road, Athol. This letterbox is ADA accessible 

CLUE:

In 1870, the Adirondack Railway pushed
north through Thurman Station,
fulfilling Durant's vision for
our growing industrial nation.
Along the river, North Creek, the train
headed toward
carrying miners, tourists and skiers,
All Aboard!
Spend some time exploring near the
shiny red caboose.
If you look very closely, this box's spot you
will deduce

STAMP



COMMENTS:

RATING:



DATE COMPLETED:

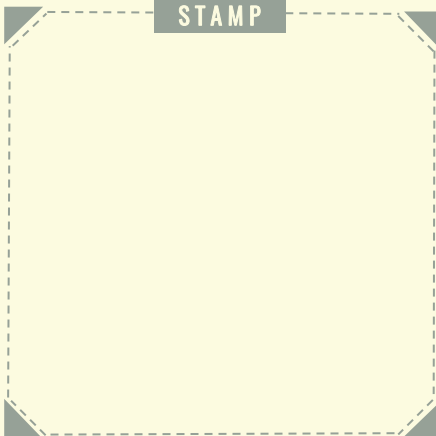
17. Green Meadows Park

Town of Stony Creek



85 Harrisburg Rd, Stony Creek. Nearby Historians' Challenge letterbox: Stony Creek Inn

STAMP



CLUE:

Travel along the Hudson to this town formed by a history of logging and tanning, the tranquility of this small hamlet you will likely find enchanting.

At the "Four Corners" in the town's center, head north to Green Meadows Park. Look for the small memorial to John O'Neill not far from the flag, and you'll be close to the mark.

COMMENTS:

DATE COMPLETED:

RATING:





18. Dean Homestead Museum

Town of Stony Creek

4 Murray Rd, Stony Creek. Restroom available. This letterbox is ADA accessible.
Note: Paved path down slight slope from parking area. ADA accessible parking in driveway.

CLUE:

STAMP

Built in 1871 by Francis J. Dean,
with the help of Enrique Sage,
who was only 19,
the homestead still stands in the center
of a once-thriving scene
of agriculture, including crops of
hay, corn, oats and beans.
Horses, cows, pigs, sheep, apples and
honey,
the Dean homestead was a model
of self-sufficiency.

Stand at the east side of the home
and view a small Church building to the side,
look closely and to the box
your eyes will you guide.

COMMENTS:

RATING:



DATE COMPLETED:

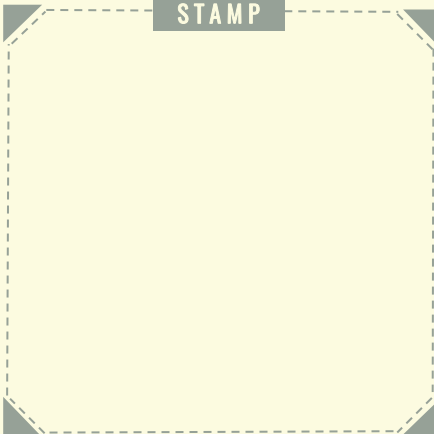
19. Dean Farm Trails

Town of Stony Creek



4 Murray Rd, Stony Creek. Restroom available. 

STAMP



CLUE:

Head out to this old farm in the
Town of Stony Creek.
The peace, quiet and beauty will
make it the highlight of your week.
Follow Meadow Ramble East
then take a left on trail 6A;
Climb the hidden stair,
at the top, stop and stay.
Look for your treasure in the
middle of a tree
that resembles an 8-armed creature
from deep in the sea.

COMMENTS:

DATE COMPLETED:

RATING:





20. Stony Creek Mountain Days

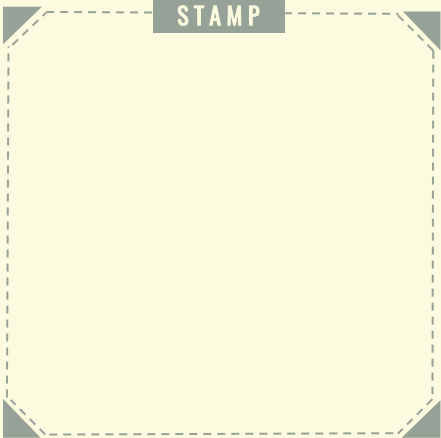
Town of Stony Creek

*Special Event Letterbox: available only during the event, held one weekend in August.
Visit firstwilderness.com for details.*

CLUE:

On a weekend in August head to the park in Stony Creek.
For an exciting event you're sure to find unique.
Watch New York lumberjacks take the stage and compete; these skilled woodsmen will no doubt impress with their feats.
Crosscut, hot saw, underhand chop and ax throw, enjoy food, music and crafts while you watch the show.
Saunter around the festival to the Chamber of Commerce booth, the letterbox's location in that spot you will sleuth.

STAMP



COMMENTS:

RATING:




DATE COMPLETED:

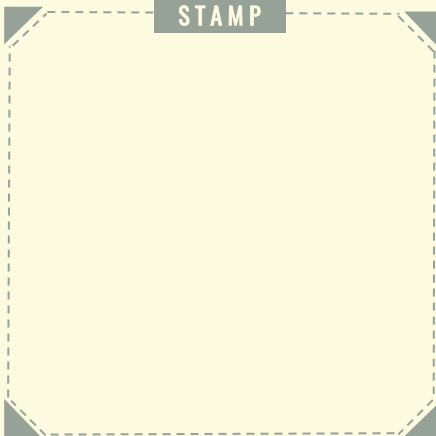
21. Wayside Beach

Town of Lake Luzerne



268 Lake Ave, Lake Luzerne. Restrooms available when beach is open.  Nearby Historians' Challenge
letterbox: Pagenstecher Pulp Museum

STAMP



CLUE:

Emerald Lake Luzerne with
“Ivy Isle, so small it seems to float”,
is a lovely spot for those who'd like
to swim, sunbathe or boat.
A short walk down the hill make
to the grassy area near the lake.
Take in the view from a shady bench across
from Wayside Beach;
the box will be in easy reach.

COMMENTS:

DATE COMPLETED:

RATING:





22. Kinnear Museum

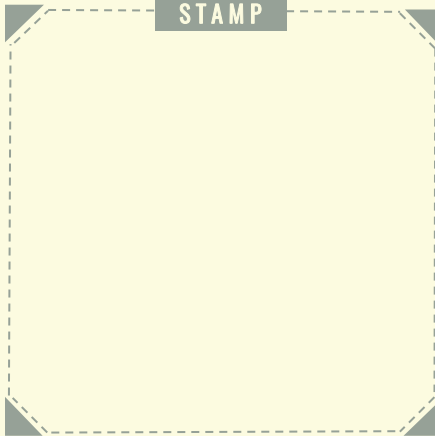
Town of Lake Luzerne

*52 Main Street, Lake Luzerne. Park across the street at the Adirondack Folk School and use crosswalk.
note: box is outside and is accessible when museum is closed. Check kinnearmuseum.blogspot.com for hours.*

CLUE:

This Victorian home just west of the lake
Was part of a business that leather
from hides did make.
The Garner Tannery had
another office in the city
Though this site was far more pretty.
A Garner descendent, Miss Frances Kinnear,
Once made her home right here.
Her family's business used hemlock and hide
To make book leather, sold far and wide.
There's a carriage house out in back
It once stored horses to use for a hack.
Now barn doors are closed tight with a lock
But, perhaps at the steps,
you may find a box.

STAMP



COMMENTS:

RATING:



DATE COMPLETED:

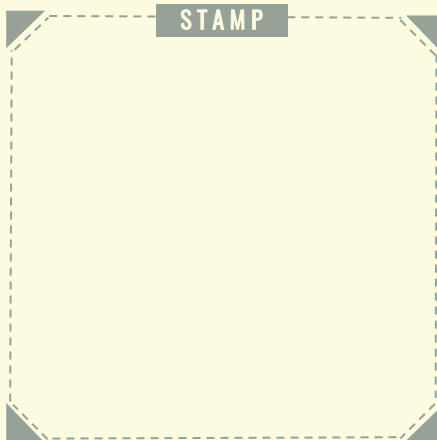
23. Adirondack Folk School



Town of Lake Luzerne

51 Main St, Lake Luzerne. Restroom available at Rockwell Harmon Cottage just past Folk School on Main St. 
Nearby Historians' Challenge letterbox: Pagenstecher Pulp Museum

STAMP



COMMENTS:

DATE COMPLETED:

CLUE:

On the site of a tannery from days gone by
A 100' smokestack still points to the sky.
Once an elementary school and Town Hall of yore,
Folks come from all over to learn and explore.
Tradition and culture abound in our rooms,
Where you may create baskets, rugs,
tables or brooms.
You might make soaps, a quilt or canoe—
There are hundreds of choices to discover and do!
Hearts, Minds and Hands meet
where there are forges,
Now walk 'round the back to a spot
that's quite gorgeous!
Look for our letterbox, and you shall not fail
if you search near the head of the Riverside Trail.
Another time, come back to us,
all you lads and lasses:
We love to share the fun and joy of our
amazing classes!

RATING:





24. Harris Preserve

Town of Lake Luzerne

Corner of Potash Rd and Dunkley Rd, Lake Luzerne

note: this clue involves a 0.6 mile roundtrip hike with 170' of elevation gain. View trail map at firstwilderness.com

CLUE:

Off a remote country road in beautiful Lake Luzerne sits a trail to a mountain with a peak tough to earn.

Follow the path to the nature trail; turn right over the babbling brook, After 2/10ths of a mile, you'll see a big rock on your left if you look.

Next to a tree with a sign, find a hole in the rock

Make a stamp in your passport, then continue your walk.

Take a break at the bench and enjoy the view, you can sit and relax now that you've solved the clue.

STAMP

COMMENTS:

RATING:



DATE COMPLETED:

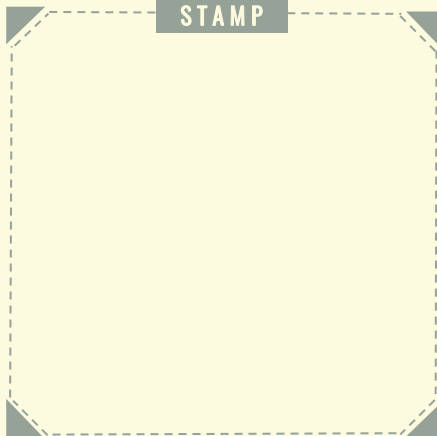
25. Fish Hatchery



Town of Warrensburg

145 Echo Lake Rd, Warrensburg. Restrooms available.
Nearby Historians' Challenge letterbox: Richards' Library

STAMP



COMMENTS:

DATE COMPLETED:

CLUE:

Visit this bucolic spot along
the Hudson River
If you're a lover of fish, a trip
here will deliver.
Start at the rock that forecasts
the weather;
You'll find this box quickly if you
work together.
Stop by the well , close your eyes and
make a wish,
then head straight for the display pond and
keep you eyes peeled for the fish.
View Pond 10 filled with trout,
rainbow or brook;
You'll find what you search for
if you carefully take a look.


RATING:





26. Mill District Historic Park

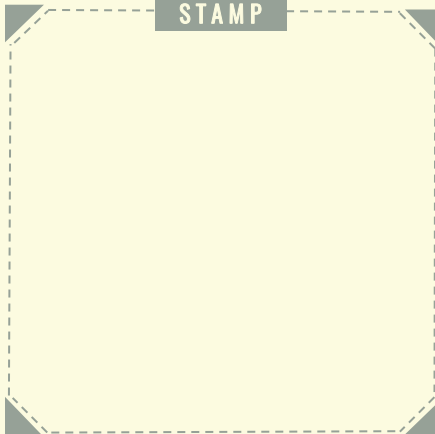
Town of Warrensburg

180 River St, Warrensburg. Outhouse available. 
Nearby Historians' Challenge letterbox: Richards' Library

CLUE:

Mills of all sorts are rich in our history;
head to Mill Historic Park to solve
this mystery.
Stop at the gazebo and
feel the river breeze;
Visit during the Farmer's Market to buy
some local cheese.
Continue on your way to the wall
made of rocks;
Look near the corner and you'll find the
hidden box.

STAMP



COMMENTS:

RATING:




DATE COMPLETED:

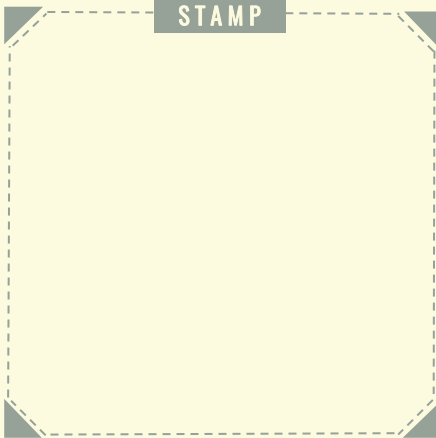
27. Veterans' Park

Town of Warrensburg



River Street, Warrensburg. This letterbox is ADA accessible 
Nearby Historians' Challenge letterbox: Richards' Library

STAMP



COMMENTS:

CLUE:

Head to this idyllic park on the banks of the Schroon, you're likely to see ducks - maybe even a loon.

View the monuments honoring our veterans, along with a memorial to Sergeant Frederick H. Flynn.

Search the round bed filled with beautiful blooms, the box is nearby, one correctly presumes.

In a birdhouse painted in patriotic colors, the box that you search for you will discover.

DATE COMPLETED:

RATING:





28. Grandmother Tree Nature Trail

Town of Warrensburg

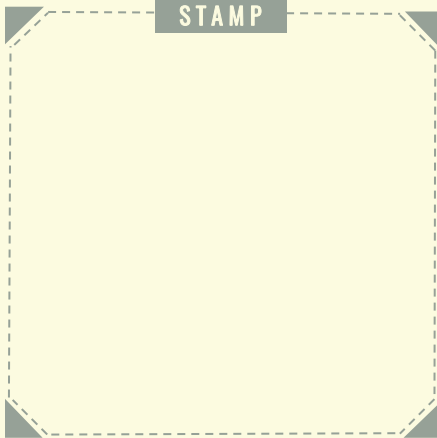
Pack Demonstration Forest, 136 Pack Forest Rd, Warrensburg.

Note: this clue involves a one mile flat looped hike. Dogs are not allowed. Follow signs for parking & trailhead.

CLUE:

In 1797, the Woodward family bought
 a tract of land near Warrensburg full
 of trees that loggers sought.
 Mr. Woodward nearly sold a large white
 pine to pay for dishes
 But Mrs. Woodward proclaimed,
 "No, that is against my wishes."
 As you trek along this trail,
 closely read all the signs:
 keep your eyes open for the
 most special of pines.
 Near the 300 year old beauty, you'll find
 a box under the walkway.
 Now you've neared the end of the trail,
 What a lovely way to spend the day!

STAMP



COMMENTS:

RATING:



DATE COMPLETED:

Bonus Box

visit www.firstwilderness.com for details



STAMP

CLUE:

COMMENTS:

DATE COMPLETED:

RATING:



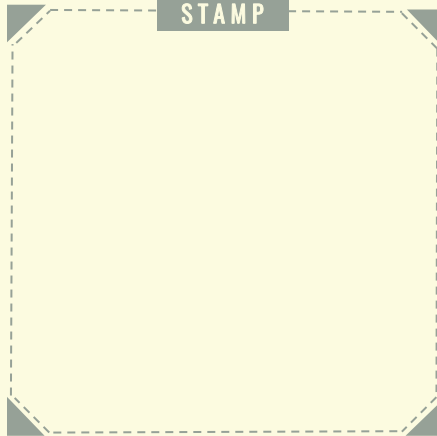


Bonus Box

visit www.firstwilderness.com for details

CLUE:

STAMP



COMMENTS:

RATING:



DATE COMPLETED:

Ready to submit your passport and get your patch?
go to www.firstwilderness.com for all the details

Did you find a box missing a stamp or inkpad or in
poor repair? Or a box entirely missing?

Please let us know at
letterboxing@warrencountyny.gov

or

518-761-6410



Looking for more fun things to do in the area?

go to

visitlakegeorge.com

www.firstwilderness.com

warrencountyny.gov/recmapper

warrencountyny.gov/historymapper



firstwilderness.com

