

Tripper

Box # 337260

Geocache Letterbox Hybrid with SWAG*

(*"Stuff We All Get." Trade items left in caches by geocachers.)

<https://www.geocaching.com/help/>



This is both a Letterbox and a geocache is tribute to a dear Girl Scout Volunteer, Jane Armes, who passed away in 2019. She was a former Camp Koch Director, Girl Scout Leader, Volunteer Trainer, geocacher, letterboxer, and a true friend! One of her favorite activities was traveling with the teen Girl Scouts. You may have known her by MamaJane, Tripper, or just plain Jane, and whenever you were with her, you were having the time of your life! Jane loved flamingos, so this stamp was carved just for her! This was planted with MamaJane's geocaching friend, Place UR Betz.

Bring your PINK inkpad or washable markers if possible. This box also has lots of SWAG ("Stuff We All Get.") inside. Each person may take or trade any of the cool SWAG (1 per person, don't forget) just leave the stamp and logbooks behind for others. Please seal the bags and close the box up tightly. Replace it where you found it, with the top facing out. There are concrete blocks to help if needed. Please seal the bags and box tightly, and re-hide it.

GPS Coordinates: N37° 54.754 W086 41. 537

Log your find at www.AtlasQuest.com.

Memories Begin Here

Box #261963

Letterbox



Since 1942, Camp Koch has served the Girl Scouts in the surrounding counties.

To find this box, you need to head toward the lake from the front entrance. At the foot of the bridge, there is a wooden carport. Once you are there, stand inside the corner closest to the staircase leading up the hill. Look up for the treasure you seek.

Please seal the bags tightly, and re-hide this box – making sure it is out of sight.

Log your find at www.AtlasQuest.com.

Sleep Dream Snore

Box #260758

Letterbox



This stamp was carved by **Team Awesome Pants**, who was a former Girl Scout Leader in GS of Central Indiana and is a fellow Letterboxer. If you are ever in the Indianapolis area, look for her letterboxes.

To find this box: find the Brownie Bungalow/All's Well. Walk around the building to the stage then to the rear right corner of the stage. The letterbox is hiding inside this corner between a rock and a hard place.

Once you log your find, please seal the bags tightly, seal the box, and re-hide this box carefully.

You can use this stage to perform your own skits like Girl Scouts have done for over 100 years!

Log your find at www.AtlasQuest.com.

Potlatch

Box #270191

Letterbox - with SWAG*

(*"Stuff We All Get." Trade items left in caches by geocachers.)

<https://www.geocaching.com/help/>



To find this box, begin in the parking lot by the lake, near the front entrance to Camp. Facing the lake, you should see a covered bench on your left. This is the Art Mason Reflection Memorial where you can sit and share stories, SWAPS, and make new friends. From the bench, walk to the front left corner and look underneath for this letterbox.

Each person may take one of the SWAPS – no trades necessary.

NOTE: See Insert for more information on the SWAPS tradition.

Chillin' Gnome Geocache

Gnomes live in meadows, hills, woodlands, and underground. They especially like burrowing in the earth, or inside a tree. The Garden Gnome resides in gardens, and is great at storytelling. Fairy Gardens are their favorites!

When you set out to find this little red-capped gnome, look for him reclining in the trees. Remember to log your find in his logbook.

GPS Coordinates: N37° 54.730 W086 41. 532

Just a Hangin'

Box #261801

Letterbox



There is a *Hidden* place at Camp Koch where stars can be seen at night, or bats can be watched in flight.

Head to this *Meadow* where a bat is in a game; on a backstop it hangs.

There is no logbook in this letterbox.

Please seal the bags tightly, and re-hide this box where it was found. Log your find at www.AtlasQuest.com.

For more information on Girl Scout SWAPS, visit
<http://www.girlscouts.org/en/about-girl-scouts/traditions.html>

For more information and a Camp Koch map, visit
<http://www.girlscouts-gssi.org/en/camp/camp-koch.html>



The first Roundup was held at Highland State Park, Milford, Michigan, from June 29 to July 10, 1956. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Girl_Scout_Senior_Roundup)

SWAPS

Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere
or Share With A Pal.

SWAP History

The origin of SWAPS is attributed to a Native American custom. (See Potlatch story inside.) In Girl Scouts, the idea of SWAPS was started at the original National Roundup Conferences. At that time, a SWAP was a little remembrance that one Scout gave another. The first Roundup was held at Highland State Park, Milford, Michigan, from June 29 to July 10, 1956. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Girl_Scout_Senior_Roundup)

SWAPS are handmade, thus the girl is giving a part of herself to show friendship. Swaps are exchanged at National Conventions, Council events, Wider Ops, SU or neighborhood events, troop meetings, and most frequently at day camp. They can have a tag attached with the event name and date or the Troop number, Council name or State. In some countries SWAPS are called hat crafts. Swapping promotes friendship, encourages girls to talk to other people, and are great mementos of a good time as well as a great way to share something about where we live and what we do.

SWAP Etiquette

SWAP “do’s and don’ts” vary from council to council but there are some basic rules that everyone should be aware of:

- SWAPS for trade are carried separately from the ones you want to keep.
- Keepers are frequently pinned on to hats or bandannas. sometimes they are pinned onto a specific area of a shirt.
- SWAPS for trade can be in a SWAP bag, zipper baggie, shoe box, a friendship tie or pinned onto a ribbon or any thing that can be easily carried.
- SWAPS are usually 1” to 2”.
- It is considered rude to refuse to swap with someone who asks. If you don’t like the item you have been given or already have an identical SWAP, accept it politely and give them one of yours with a Girl Scout smile. (Try to make your SWAPS something you would want to receive.)
- ALWAYS say thank you!
- Try to have a few extra SWAPS on hand for those people who don’t have any to give in return.
- Most SWAPS have a pin on them so they can be pinned to a hat or a shirt but they don’t have to. SWAPS can be bracelets, necklaces, council patches, event patches, district/division/camp crests, or other small items.
- SWAPS can also be displayed on a banner, troop flag, or the kitchen curtain.
- SWAPS should **NOT** contain edible food. Food items can attract bugs and critters when outdoors.

THE ORIGIN OF THE POTLATCH¹

The potlatch is the ceremonial exchange of gifts practiced by Native Americans of Northwest Coastal tribes from Oregon to Alaska. The potlatch ceremony was given to commemorate the births, deaths, marriages, or coming of age of members of the group. Differing considerably among different tribes in some details, all the potlatches were marked by the host's giving away quantities of goods. The more lavishly he gave, the more he was respected by his fellow tribesmen and by his guests from neighboring or distant tribes. The giving of gifts was accompanied by several days of feasting, dancing, singing, and athletic contest by day, gambling and storytelling at night. The host and members of his family were costumed and enacted legends about their heritage. The gift giving came last of all, just before the guests departed. Since potlatch gifts were symbols of the family's status in the village, they were often quite elaborate, often being carved boxes, canoes, dishes, jewelry, mats and baskets.

This gift-giving custom stems from the legend explaining why birds have colored feathers. As the story goes, two Indian girls plucked feathers of a magic bird and distributed the multi-colored plumage to the colorless birds living in the forest. From that time on, birds have had brightly colored feathers and those gifts were remembered at potlatch ceremonies. One concept of the origin of this Indian festival is a detail in the Nisqually creation myth. Below is a condensation of a Quillayute myth about its origin.

A strange bird once appeared in the ocean in front of the village. All the young men of the Quillayute went out and tried to shoot it, but no one could hit it. Every day Blue Jay, a slave of Golden Eagle, watched the hunters try to shoot the strange bird.

One day Golden Eagle said to Blue Jay, "Eh, my children can catch that queer-looking bird."

"Oh, no." replied Blue Jay quickly. "They are girls."

Golden Eagle's daughters overheard the two men, but they said nothing. Next day the two younger sisters went into the woods and stayed all day. Many days they spent in the woods, telling no one what they were doing. Although they were girls, just imagine-they were making arrows! One morning, before daylight, they went to the forest and brought in the arrows they had made. When they returned to the

village, all the hunters had gone out in their canoes to try again to shoot the strange-looking bird.

The two sisters disguised themselves by tying their hair in front so as to hide their faces. No one could recognize them. Then they paddled their canoe in a zigzag line until they were near the bird. The older of the sisters killed it with her third arrow.

That evening the girls said to their father, "We caught the bird and then we hid it in the woods. We want to use its feathers as presents, for the feathers are of many colors. Will you tell Blue Jay to invite all the birds to come to our lodge tomorrow?"

Next morning Blue Jay went out with the invitation. Soon all kinds of birds were gathered in the lodge of Golden Eagle. "My daughter caught the strange bird," the host explained, "the bird of many colors. They want to give each of you a present."

The girls gave certain colors to different birds-yellow and brown feathers to Meadowlark, Red and brown to robin, brown only to Wren, yellow and black to the little Finch. They gave each bird the colors it was to have. They kept giving until they had no more feathers left.

Ever since then, certain birds have had certain colors. And since then there have been potlatches. This was the first potlatch, the first giving gifts from the people who invite to the people who are invited.



¹ Clark, Ella Elizabeth. *Indian Legends of the Pacific Northwest*, pages 184-185. University of California Press, 1953.