Items **bolded** below are requirements that must be demonstrated to the Evaluator. Non-bolded items are training steps that may be introduced in class and are helpful for achieving the requirements. All behaviors must have been taught or re-taught to the dog (preferably using a new cue), using only positive reward-based methods.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Handler understands and can explain the history, purpose and rules of letterboxing** |
|  | **Handler understands and can describe how to stay safe and legal when searching for letterboxes** |
|  |
|  | **Handler ensures that the dog always displays good conduct according to the Dog Scout Laws and acts as a model citizen when on trails; dog never chases wildlife or creates any disturbance while letterboxing** |
|  | **Handler is always prepared with at least 3 clean up bags to clean up after the dog; handler consistently cleans up dog waste and disposes of it appropriately** |
|  | **Handler always contributes to the cleanliness of the area where he/she is letterboxing with the dog by helping to pick up any trash discovered along the trail** |
|  | **Dog always carries all of his own supplies including the required equipment for backpacking as well as his personal stamp and letterboxing supplies** |
|  | **Handler has made or purchased his/her own signature stamp as well as one for the dog** |
|  | **Handler knows how to access letterboxing clues in areas where he/she wants to search with the dog** |
|  | **Handler has mastered the use of a compass and can read direction and degrees well enough to follow clues** |
|  | **Handler understands and agrees to abide by the ‘leave no trace’ principles for outdoor etiquette** |
|  | **Handler and dog have interpreted clues to find at least 5 letterboxes in at least 3 different areas/parks separated by driving distance; handler presents copies of the 5 stamps collected along with the log sheet showing the names and locations of the boxes** |
|  | **Handler has demonstrated how to make up a letterbox, including all required components, and has planted the box, written clues and recorded the clues on the letterboxing web site; copies of the clue printed from the web site along with a copy of the stamp are enclosed for verification (boxes planted at camp follow special rules)** |
|  | **Handler has had an appropriate witness accompany him/her and the dog while letterboxing to verify the dog’s good behavior and handler’s preparedness to letterbox; the witness must sign the log sheet** |

Special rules that apply to any boxes planted at the DSA Michigan camp property:

* No box may be placed closer than 100 yards from the lodge or behind the line of the trees if the woods are closer than 100 yards
* Boxes may not be ‘hidden in plain sight’. They cannot be visible without requiring a search.
* A $5 fee is charged for every box placed
* Clues must be typed into the computer in the lodge, saved in the clues folder, and a copy of the clue must be placed in the Letterbox notebook
* An experienced letterboxer must find the box with the clues provided before the box can be counted
* Boxes placed on the property may NOT be posted as available to the general public on atlasquest.com
* Any boxes which fail to follow these rules or are found to be deficient will be removed and returned to the handler for replanting if they were counted towards one of the Letterboxing badges