



**Dog Scouts of America
Trails Titling Program**

Letterbox Dog Titles

The Letterbox Dog program allows you to log various letterboxing activities toward DSA Letterbox Dog titles. With these titles, the dog performs the useful functions of accompanying the handler, serving as an example of a well-mannered and training companion, and carrying letterboxing supplies including their own signature stamp and other supplies.

Letterbox Dog Title Log Requirements

Use clues found at atlasquest.com to find letterboxes with your dog and use the log to keep track of your finds. You may count multiple letterboxes in the same hike. As with all DSA trails titles, you must practice responsible dog ownership, including abiding by [Leave No Trace](#) principles while letterboxing.

Hitchhikers should be logged as a part of the title requirements. However, they do not count as traditional boxes in your total number of finds UNTIL you have satisfied the requirements for finding hitchhikers. You must maintain separate logs for Letterbox Dog, Geocache Dog, Pack Dog, Trail Dog and Cycle Dog.

Your dog must be wearing his backpack containing all of the required items as well as his stamp and logbook in order to count any find or place towards a letterbox title.

All titles beyond Letterbox Dog have the prerequisite of the title that comes immediately before it.

Title	Traditional Finds	Place	ONE of these at EACH level	TWO of these at EACH level	Awards	
Letterbox Dog (LBD)	100	15	Attend 2 Letterbox Events OR Plan 1 Letterbox Event OR Plant 5 additional Letterboxes**	Find 3 Hitchhikers	LBD title certificate and title patch	
Letterbox Advanced (LBA)	LBD title + 100	LBD title + 10		OR	Release 1 Hitchhiker	LBA title certificate and 200 patch
Letterbox Excellent (LBX)	LBA title + 100	LBA title + 10		OR	Attend 1 Event	LBX title certificate and 300 patch
Letterbox Dog 500 (LBD500)	LBX title + 200	LBX title + 10		OR	Participate in 1 "Plant a Box" type event***	LBD500 title certificate and 500 patch
Letterbox Dog 750 (LBD750)	LBD500 title + 250	LBD 500 title + 10		OR		LBD750 title certificate and 750 patch
Letterbox Dog 1K (LBD1K)	LBD750 title + 250	LBD 750 + 10		OR		LBD1K title certificate and 1000 patch
Letterbox Dog (x)K (LBD(x)K)*	LBD1k + 1000, 2000, etc.	LBD1k title + 10 per level		OR		LBD(x)K title certificate
*Additional titles are awarded for each increment of 1000 found letterboxes						
**When meeting the requirements for planting additional boxes, these are over and above the required placements for that level.						
***See explanation of different types of events for clarification.						



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Planting Boxes

Clues for letterboxes you place must be listed online at atlasquest.com. Clues must be sufficient so that anyone can find them. Do not use vague words like small, short, or big in your clues as these words are interpreted differently from one person to another. Do not specify types of trees if you are not absolutely certain of the type, and do not use terms that may describe many different trees in the area. Do not refer to moveable objects in your clues as those objects are not permanent and may not be in the same place in the future. If you use compass headings in your clues, double check that you are correct before leaving the area.

All letterboxes must contain a stamp and a logbook (some event boxes do not contain logs) and must be labeled as a letterbox so that if they are found accidentally, they are not discarded as trash. Save a copy of your stamp image as it will be turned in along with the AtlasQuest listing and your log for evaluation.

About Events

There are two different types of events and each may be referred to as a “virtual” event depending on how it is being held. Both of these types of events count differently towards title requirements. Make sure you understand the difference between the two and are logging them the correct way before submitting for any title.

Traditional Events – These events are those where you attend a gathering, find boxes placed specifically for the event based on clues provided by the event host, and get a special event stamp as proof of your attendance. Traditional events may be either live or virtual. To meet the requirement for hosting an event, it must be a traditional type event.

“Plant a Box” Events – For these events, the organizer introduces a theme (or sometimes a special day) and asks other letterboxers to place boxes with hand carved stamps that meet the organizer’s requirements. Boxes are usually titled and posted with specific guidance around naming and other aspects of the boxes. In the past, DSA has done a “Dog Scout Day” (September 26) event where letterboxers were asked to plant boxes around a DSA theme. Boxes were titled “20xx Dog Scout Day – {{dog’s name and breed}}”.

Hosted events must be distinct and separate from those you attend. Every hosted event must have an event stamp and this stamp must be offered to all attendees so that they may make an image if they choose. Events may be live or virtual traditional events.

Anyone who performs a significant role in planning and executing an event may count it as their own. Participation could include selecting and securing an event location, carving stamps, creating and placing boxes, creating clues and handouts for participants, etc. To count the event as your own you must be in attendance on the day of the event.

Events must be advertised to the public via atlasquest.com and must be posted at least 30 days in advance of the event. Any event you log as your own must have a positive training (or DSA) theme. The AQ number of the event listing must be submitted with your log along with a copy of the event stamp.

Tabletop or Word of Mouth boxes have become quite popular in recent years at events. Many people like to “plant” these types of boxes and they are fun to find as the carves are often very intricate and the boxes can be



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very unique. However, when logging for titles, no more than 20% of plants logged for each title may be the tabletop type. While tabletop or word of mouth boxes are found primarily at events, they are not considered to be event boxes. If you host an event, these types of boxes do not count as plants as regular event boxes do.

For additional information, tutorials and discussion boards about hitchhikers, cooties, personal travelers, stamp carving, etc. please refer to atlasquest.com. The information on [Getting Started](#) may be helpful and you may want to refer to this [glossary of terms](#) in learning more about letterboxing. Make sure you completely understand the hobby of letterboxing and its guiding principles before you begin any aspect of letterboxing.

It is up to the applicant to read and follow the directions provided for each title and to ensure that the requirements for the title are met. By submitting a form for a title, you are asserting that everything you are submitting for that title is complete and correct. Payment for a title does not guarantee that title will be issued if significant errors, omissions or discrepancies are found that would cause the dog to not be eligible for the title. Any fees collected for title submissions where the dog is not eligible for the title may be retained by DSA.