Stamp Collecting
Merit Badge Workbook

This workbook can help you but you still need to read the merit badge pamphlet (book). No one can add or subtract from the Boy Scout Requirements #33216. Merit Badge Workbooks and much more are below: Online Resources. Workbook developer: craig@craiglincoln.com. Requirements revised: 2007, Workbook updated: January 2009.

Scout’s Name: ____________________________________________ Unit: _______________________
Counselor’s Name: ____________________________________________ Counselor’s Ph #: _______________________

1) Do the following:

a) Discuss how you can better understand people, places, institutions, history, and geography as a result of collecting stamps. ________________________________________________________________ ________________________________________________________________ ________________________________________________________________

b) Briefly describe some aspects of the history, growth, and development of the United States postal system. ________________________________________________________________ ________________________________________________________________ ________________________________________________________________

Tell how it is different from postal systems in other countries. ________________________________________________________________ ________________________________________________________________ ________________________________________________________________

2) Define topical stamp collecting. ________________________________________________________________ ________________________________________________________________ ________________________________________________________________

Name and describe types of stamp collections. ________________________________________________________________ ________________________________________________________________ ________________________________________________________________

3) Show at least ONE example of each of the following:

a) Perforated and imperforate stamps ________________________________________________________________ ________________________________________________________________

b) Mint and used stamps ________________________________________________________________ ________________________________________________________________

c) Sheet-booklet and coil stamps ________________________________________________________________ ________________________________________________________________

d) Numbers on plate block, booklet, coil, or marginal markings ________________________________________________________________ ________________________________________________________________

e) Overprint and surcharge ________________________________________________________________ ________________________________________________________________

f) Metered mail ________________________________________________________________ ________________________________________________________________

g) Definitive, commemorative, semipostal, and airmail stamps ________________________________________________________________ ________________________________________________________________

h) Cancellation and postmark ________________________________________________________________ ________________________________________________________________

i) First day cover ________________________________________________________________ ________________________________________________________________

j) Postal stationery (aerogramme, stamped envelope, and postal card) ________________________________________________________________ ________________________________________________________________

4) Do the following:

a) Demonstrate the use of ONE standard catalog for several different stamp issues. Explain why catalog value can vary from the corresponding purchase price. ________________________________________________________________ ________________________________________________________________


b) Explain the meaning of the term CONDITION as used to describe a stamp.

☐ Show examples that illustrate the different factors that affect a stamp's value.

5) Demonstrate the use of at least THREE of the following stamp collector's tool:
   - Stamp tongs
   - Water and Tray
   - Magnifiers
   - Hinges and stamp mounts
   - Perforation gauge
   - Glassine envelopes and cover sleeves
   - Watermark fluid

6) Do the following:
   - Show a stamp album and how to mount stamps with or without hinges.
   - Show at least ONE page that displays several stamps.
   - Discuss at least THREE ways you can help to preserve stamps, covers, and albums in first-class condition.
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7) Do at least TWO of the following:
   - Design a stamp, cancellation, or cachet.
   - Visit a post office, stamp club, or stamp show with an experienced collector. Explain what you saw and learned.
   - Write a review of an interesting article from a stamp newspaper, magazine, book or Web site (with your parent's permission).
d) Research and report on a famous stamp-related personality or the history behind a particular stamp.

□ e) Describe the steps taken to produce a stamp.

Include the methods of printing, types of paper, perforation styles, and how they are gummed.

□ f) Prepare a two-to-three page display involving stamps. Using ingenuity, as well as clippings, drawings, etc., tell a story about the stamps and how they relate to history, geography, or a favorite topic of yours.

8) Mount and show, in a purchased or homemade album, ONE of the following:

□ a) A collection of 250 or more different stamps from at least 15 countries.

□ b) A collection of a stamp from each of 50 different countries, mounted on maps to show the location of each.
c) A collection of 100 or more different stamps from either one country or a group of closely related countries.

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d) A collection of 75 or more different stamps on a single topic. (Some interesting topics are Scouting, birds, insects, the Olympics, sports, flowers, animals, ships, holidays, trains, famous people, space, and medicine) Stamps may be from different countries.

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e) A collection of postal items discovered in your mail by monitoring over a period of thirty days. Include at least five different types listed in requirement 3.

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Online Resources (Use any Internet resource with caution and only with your parent's or guardian's permission.)

▶ Scout ► Tenderfoot ► Second Class ► First Class □ Rank Videos ► Safety Afloat

Boy Scout Merit Badge Workbooks: usscouts.org -or- meritbadge.org Merit Badge Books: www.scoutstuff.org

Requirement Resources
These resources and much more are at: http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Stamp_Collecting

1-8 The United States Post Office has great resources for many of the requirements

1. 1a, 4a, 7d, 8 1847usa.com Provides a detailed description of all stamps issued by the United States.

1b. The History of Stamp Collecting in America- Amer. Philatelic Society - Museum of Postal History

2. Topical Stamp Collecting - Amer. Topical Assn


4, 8 World Stamp Catalogue - Philatelic Terms

5, 6, 7. Amer. Philatelic Society has information on tools and preservation.

7a. Design a Postage Stamp Intended as a lesson plan for Black History Month, but the information is useful for all designs. Includes criteria for USPS selection.

8. Australia - Austria - Canada - China - Denmark - France - Ireland - Israel - Italy - Japan - Latvia - Luxembourg - New Zealand - Norway - Poland - Portugal - South Africa - United Kingdom - United Nations

General Resources


