BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
MERIT BADGE SERIES

STAMP COLLECTING

“Enhancing our youths’ competitive edge through merit badges”

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
Requirements

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 three other 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, or 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 tools:
   a. Stamp tongs
   b. Water and tray
   c. Magnifiers
   d. Hinges and stamp mounts
   e. Perforation gauge
   f. Glassine envelopes and cover sleeves
   g. Watermark fluid

6. Do the following:
   a. Show a stamp album and how to mount stamps with or without hinges. Show at least ONE page that displays several stamps.
   b. Discuss at least THREE ways you can help to preserve stamps, covers, and albums in first-class condition.

7. Do at least TWO of the following:
   a. Design a stamp, cancellation, or cachet.
   b. Visit a post office, stamp club, or stamp show with an experienced collector. Explain what you saw and learned.
   c. Write a review of an interesting article from a stamp newspaper, magazine, book, or website (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.

   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.

   e. A collection of postal items discovered in your mail by monitoring it over a period of 30 days. Include at least five different types listed in requirement 3.
Stamp Collecting Resources

Scouting Literature

Collections merit badge pamphlet

Visit the Boy Scouts of America’s official retail website at http://www.scoutstuff.org for a complete listing of all merit badge pamphlets and other helpful Scouting materials and supplies.

Books


**Periodicals**

*Linn’s Stamp News*

P.O. Box 926

Sidney, OH 45365-0926

Website: [http://www.linns.com](http://www.linns.com)

*Mekeel’s & Stamps Magazine*

42 Sentry Way

Merrimack, NH 03054
Organizations and Websites

American Air Mail Society
P.O. Box 110
Mineola, NY 11501-0110
Website: http://www.americanairmailsociety.org

American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors
Website: http://www.aape.org

American First Day Cover Society
P.O. Box 16277
Tucson, AZ 85732-6277
Website: http://www.afdcs.org

American Philatelic Society
American Philatelic Research Library
100 Match Factory Place
Bellefonte, PA 16823
Website: http://www.stamps.org

American Stamp Dealers Association
P.O. Box 692
Leesport, PA 19533
Website: http://www.asdaonline.com

American Topical Association
P.O. Box 8
Carterville, IL 62918-0008
Website: http://www.americantopicalassn.org

Ebony Society of Philatelic Events and Reflections
P.O. Box 1757
Lincolnton Station
New York, NY 10037-1757
Website: http://esperstamps.org

Hall of Stamps (at the U.S. Postal Service headquarters)
475 L’Enfant Plaza
Washington, DC 20260-0001

International Machine Cancel Society
3097 Trobisher Ave.
Dublin, OH 43017-1652
Website: http://www.machinetcancel.org

Museum of Postal History
339 N. Main St.
Delphos, OH 45833-1575
Website: http://www.postalhistorymuseum.org

National Postal Museum
2 Massachusetts Ave. NE
Washington, DC 20002
Website: http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu

Philatelic Foundation
341 W. 38th St., 5th Floor
New York, NY 10018
Website: http://www.philatelicfoundation.org

Postmark Collectors Club
7014 Woodland Oaks Drive
Magnolia, TX 77354-4898
Website: http://www.postmarks.org

The Postal History Foundation
920 N. First Ave.
Tucson, AZ 85719
Website: http://www.postalhistoryfoundation.org

Postal History Society
P.O. Box 20387
Columbus, OH 43220
Website: http://stampclubs.com/phs

If you are requesting information from any of these organizations, be sure to include a self-addressed, stamped (first class) envelope.
Precancel Stamp Society
P.O. Box 1013
Fenton, MO 63026-1013
Website: http://www.precancels.org

Scott Publishing Company
P.O. Box 828
Sidney, OH 45365-0828
Website: http://www.linns.com

Scouts on Stamps Society International Inc.
P.O. Box 6228
Kennewick, WA 99336
Website: http://www.sossi.org

Spellman Museum of Stamps and Postal History
Regis College
235 Wellesley St.
Weston, MA 02493
Website: http://www.spellman.org

United Postal Stationery Society Central Office
P.O. Box 3982
Chester, VA 23831
Website: http://www.upss.org

Universal Ship Cancellation Society
747 Shard Court
Fremont, CA 94539-7419
Website: http://www.uscs.org

The Washington Press
2 Vreeland Road
Florham Park, NJ 07932
Website: http://www.washpress.com

Wineburgh Philatelic Research Library
The University of Texas at Dallas
P.O. Box 830643
Richardson, TX 75083-0643
Website: http://www.utdallas.edu/library/specialcollections/wprl.html

Young Stamp Collectors of America
100 Match Factory Place
Bellefonte, PA 16823
Website: http://stamps.org/YSCA

Foreign Postal Administrations

Australia Post
Website: http://www.auspost.com.au

Austrian Post
Website: http://www.post.at/en

Bulgarian Posts
Website: http://www.bgpost.bg/?cid=3

Canada Post
Website: http://www.canadapost.ca

China Philatelic Information Network
Website: http://www.cpi.com.cn/cpi-eng

Czech Post
Website: http://www.ceskaposta.cz/en

Post Danmark (Denmark)
Website:
http://www.postdanmark.dk/en/Pages/home.aspx

La Poste (France)
Website: http://www.laposte.fr

An Post (Ireland)
Website: http://www.anpost.ie

Israel Postal Company Ltd.
Website: http://www.israelpost.co.il

Poste Italiane (Italy)
Website: http://www.posteitaliane.post/english/index.shtml
Stamp Collecting Resources

Japan Post
Website: http://www.post.japanpost.jp/english

Latvijas Pasts (Latvia)
Website: http://www.pasts.lv/en

P & T Luxembourg
Website: http://www.pt.lu

TNT Post (Netherlands)
Website: http://www.tntpost.com

New Zealand Post
Website: http://stamps.nzpost.co.nz

Norway Post
Website: http://www.posten.no/en

Poczt Polska (Poland)

Philatelic Center of French Polynesia
Website: http://www.tahitiphilatelie.com

CTT Correios (Portugal)
Website: http://www.ctt.pt

Singapore Post
Website: http://www.singpost.com

Posta Slovenije (Slovenia)
Website: http://www.posta.si/home

South Africa Post Office
Website: http://www.postoffice.co.za

Swiss Post (Switzerland)
Website: http://www.swisspost.ch

Chunghwa Post (Taiwan)

United Kingdom Royal Mail
Website: http://www.royalmail.com

United Nations Postal Administration
Website: http://unstamps.un.org

Young collectors should also know that the United States Postal Service makes available a free guide called “The Art of Stamp Collecting” (publication 225). Visit your local post office or download it from http://about.usps.com/publications/pub225.pdf.

In addition, the U.S. Postal Service has a special program for first day covers. The USPS gives postal customers 30 days to obtain a first day of issue postmark by mail. Purchase the new stamp at a local post office, affix the stamp to an envelope addressed to yourself (or someone else you designate), and send it in a larger envelope to the USPS. (The address appears at the bottom of each stamp release; check with your local post office.) Individual first day covers can be ordered by writing to the USPS, Stamp Fulfillment Services, P.O. Box 7247, Philadelphia, PA 19101-7097; or call toll-free 800-STAMP-24; or visit the USPS website at https://store.usps.com/store.