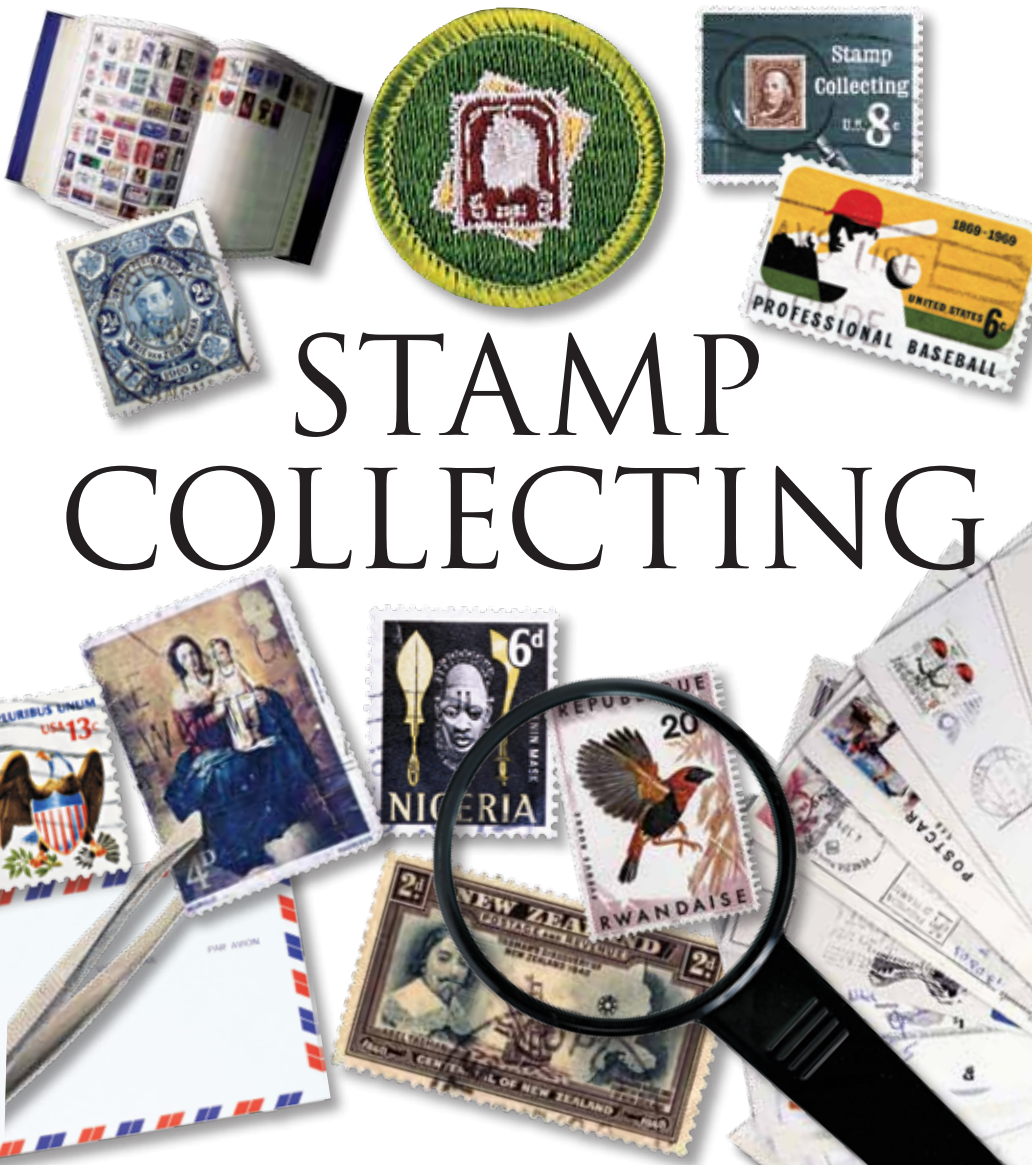


# MERIT BADGE SERIES



# STAMP COLLECTING



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

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*"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

- Adams, Charles F. *Stamp Collecting: The Complete, Easy Guide to the World's Most Popular Hobby*. Dell Publishing, 1992.
- Baadke, Michael. *Linn's Complete Stamp Collecting Basics*. Linn's Stamp News, 2004.
- Bierman, Stanley. *More of the World's Greatest Stamp Collectors*. Linn's Stamp News, 1990.
- Cabeen, Richard M. *Standard Handbook of Stamp Collecting*, new revised ed. Random House Value Publishing, 1986.
- Carlton, R. Scott. *International Encyclopaedic Dictionary of Philately*. Krause Publications, 1997.
- Datz, Stephen R. *Official Stamp Collector's Bible*. House of Collectibles, 2002.
- . *Stamp Collecting: Discover the Fun of the World's Most Popular Hobby!* General Trade Corporation, 2009.
- Dyer Sr., David O. *Is Stamp Collecting the Hobby for You?* Truman Publishing Company, 1998.
- Eisenberg, Ronald L. *The Jewish World in Stamps: 4,000 Years of Jewish Civilization on Postal Stamps*. Schreiber Publishing Inc., 2002.
- Giffenhagen, George and Jerome Husak. *Adventures in Topical Stamp Collecting*. American Topical Association, 1997.
- Herst Jr., Herman. *Fun and Profit in Stamp Collecting*. Amos Press, 1988.
- Hudgeons Jr., Thomas E. *The Official Blackbook Price Guide to U.S. Postage Stamps 2013*. House of Collectibles, 2012.
- Jonath, Leslie. *Postmark Paris: A Story in Stamps*. Chronicle Books, 2005.
- . *Stamp It!: The Ultimate Stamp Collecting Activity Book*. Chronicle Books, 2002.

Kloetzel, James E., ed. *Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue 2014*. Scott Publishing Company, 2013.

MacKay, James. *The World Encyclopedia of Stamps and Stamp Collecting: The Ultimate Illustrated Reference to Over 3,000 of the World's Best Stamps*. Lorenz Books, 2005.

O'Keefe, Donna, ed. *Linn's Stamp Identifier*. Linn's Stamp News, 2004.

Sine, Richard L. *Stamp Collecting for Dummies*. For Dummies, 2001.

United States Postal Service.  
*Postal Service Guide to U.S. Stamps*.  
Published yearly.

Williams, L. N. *Fundamentals of Philately*. American Philatelic Society, 1990.

Youngblood, Wayne L. *All About Stamps: An Illustrated Encyclopedia of Philatelic Terms*. Krause Publications, 2000.

## Periodicals

*Linn's Stamp News*  
P.O. Box 926

Sidney, OH 45365-0926

Website: <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.machinecancel.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>

If you are requesting information from any of these organizations, be sure to include a self-addressed, stamped (first class) envelope.

### Post Mark 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>



**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>

**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>

**Poczta Polska (Poland)**

Website: <http://znaczkki.poczta-polska.pl/en/index.php>

**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)**

Website: [http://www.post.gov.tw/post/internet/u\\_english/index.htm](http://www.post.gov.tw/post/internet/u_english/index.htm)

**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>.