



# Stamp Collecting

## Merit Badge Workbook

This workbook is not required but is designed to help you with this merit badge. No one can add or subtract from the Boy Scout Requirements #33215. Use page backs & add pages as needed. Please send comments to: [craig@craiglincoln.com](mailto:craig@craiglincoln.com). Requirements revised: 2000, Workbook updated: January 2004.

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. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How is it different from postal systems in other countries? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2) Define topical stamp collecting. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What are some 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, 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:

- a) Stamp tongs
- b) Water and Tray
- c) Magnifiers
- d) Hinges
- e) Perforation gauge
- f) Envelopes and 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.

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

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/or did. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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c) Write a review of an interesting article from a stamp newspaper, magazine, or book. \_\_\_\_\_

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d) Research and report on a famous stamp-related personality or the history behind a particular stamp. \_\_\_\_\_

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e) Describe the steps taken to produce a stamp. \_\_\_\_\_

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Include the methods of printing, \_\_\_\_\_

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types of paper, \_\_\_\_\_

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perforation styles, \_\_\_\_\_

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and how they are gummed. \_\_\_\_\_

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f) Prepare a two-to-three page display involving stamps. Using ingenuity, as well as clippings, drawings, etc., tell a story about the stamps. \_\_\_\_\_

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How do they relate to history, geography, or a favorite topic of yours? \_\_\_\_\_

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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, Christmas, trains, famous people, space, and medicine) Stamps may be from different countries.
- 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, above.