



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:

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.

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 learned.

c) 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. _____

- 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 over a period of thirty days. Include at least five different types listed in requirement 3. _____

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

Boy Scouts of America: ► scouting.org ► [Guide to Safe Scouting](#) ► [Age-Appropriate Guidelines](#) ► [Safe Swim Defense](#)
 ► [Scout](#) ► [Tenderfoot](#) ► [Second Class](#) ► [First Class](#) ► [Rank Videos](#) ► [Safety Afloat](#)

Boy Scout Merit Badge Workbooks: [BSA Troop 780](#) -or- 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](#)

3. [Philatelic Terms](#) - [Amer. Air Mail Society](#) - [Amer. First Day Cover Society](#) - [Int. Machine Cancel Society](#)

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

Amer. Assn of Philatelic Exhibitors: <http://www.aape.org>

Amer. Stamp Dealers: <http://www.asdaonline.com/asfree.htm>

Philatelic Foundation: <http://www.philatelicfoundation.org>

Postal History Found: <http://www.postalhistoryfoundation.org>

Scott Publishing Company: <http://www.scottonline.com>

Spellman Museum: <http://www.spellman.org>

Universal Ship Cancellation Society: <http://www.uscs.org>

Amer. First Day Cover Society: <http://www.afdcs.org>

Int. Machine Cancel Society: <http://www.machinecancel.org>

Post Mark Collectors Club: <http://www.postmarks.org>

Postal History Society: <http://www.precancels.org>

Scouts on Stamps Society: <http://www.sossi.org>

United Postal Stationery Society: <http://www.upss.org>

The Washington Press: <http://www.washpress.com>