



# 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 #33215. Merit Badge Workbooks and much more are below: [Online Resources](#).

Workbook developed by: [craig@craiglincoln.com](mailto:craig@craiglincoln.com). Requirements revised: 2007, Workbook updated: March 2008.

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

g) Definitive, commemorative, semipostal, and airmail stamps

b) Mint and used stamps

h) Cancellation and postmark

c) Sheet-booklet and coil stamps

i) First day cover

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

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

e) Overprint and surcharge

f) Metered mail

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.)*

**Merit Badge Workbooks:** [usscouts.org](http://usscouts.org) -or- [merithub.org](http://merithub.org)

► **Merit Badge Books:** [www.scoutstuff.org](http://www.scoutstuff.org)

Boy Scouts of America: <http://www.scouting.org/>

► [Requirements](#)

► [Intro to Merit Badges](#)

Amer. Air Mail Society: <http://www.americanairmailssociety.org>

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

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

Amer. Philatelic Society: <http://www.stamps.org>

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

Amer. Topical Assn: <http://www.americantopicalassn.org>

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

Museum of Postal History: <http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Australia Post: <http://www.auspost.com.au>

Austrian Post: <http://www.post.at/english/index.html>

La Poste: <http://www.philately.post.be>

Bulgarian: <http://www.bgpost.bg/index.htm#Eng/index.htm>

Canada: <http://www.canadapost.ca>

China: <http://www.cpi.com.cn/cpi-e/cpi-e.htm>

Czech: [http://archiv.radio.cz/postfila/index\\_e.html](http://archiv.radio.cz/postfila/index_e.html)

Denmark: <http://www.stamps.postdanmark.dk>

France: <http://www.laposte.fr>

Ireland: <http://www.anpost.ie>

Israel: <http://www.postil.com>

Italy: <http://www.poste.it/en>

Japan: <http://www.post.japanpost.jp/english>

Latvia: <http://www.pasts.lv/en>

Luxembourg: <http://www.philately.lu>

New Zealand: <http://stamps.nzpost.co.nz>

Norway: <http://www.posten.no/Portal/English>

Poland: <http://www.poczta-polska.pl/znaczk/en/index.php>

French Polynesia: <http://www.tahitiphilatelie.com>

Portugal: <http://www.ctt.pt>

South Africa: <http://www.sapo.co.za/comm/postofficeframe.html>

Swiss Post: <http://www.swisspost.ch/en>

United Kingdom Royal Mail: <http://www.royalmail.com>

United Nations: <http://www.un.org/Depts/UNPA>

United States Post Office: <http://www.usps.com>