



# 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 developer: [craig@craiglincoln.com](mailto: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. \_\_\_\_\_

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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. \_\_\_\_\_

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

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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. \_\_\_\_\_

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b) Explain the meaning of the term CONDITION as used to describe a stamp. \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
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Show examples that illustrate the different factors that affect a stamp's value.

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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.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c) Write a review of an interesting article from a stamp newspaper, magazine, book or Web site (with your parent's permission). \_\_\_\_\_

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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 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. \_\_\_\_\_

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b) A collection of a stamp from each of 50 different countries, mounted on maps to show the location of each. \_\_\_\_\_

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- c) A collection of 100 or more different stamps from either one country or a group of closely related countries. \_\_\_\_\_  
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 \_\_\_\_\_
- 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. \_\_\_\_\_  
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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Boy Scouts of America:** ► [scouting.org](http://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:** [usscouts.org](http://usscouts.org) -or- [meritbadge.org](http://meritbadge.org) **Merit Badge Books:** [www.scoutstuff.org](http://www.scoutstuff.org)

### **Requirement Resources**

These resources and much more are at: [http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Stamp\\_Collecting](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](http://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>