

November 22, 2006

AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION TO HOST STAMP CAMP USA PROGRAM

Have you ever thought about new ways to help energize kids about reading, writing, and learning? Perhaps you work with the educational system, or with youth through community service groups such as Scouting, 4-H, after-school programming, or in the social services field. Maybe you are a newly retired professional seeking to give back to the community in a positive way and haven't yet determined how to become involved. Then Stamp Camp can be the means to bring exciting rewards into the lives of children in your community, while providing you with an interesting way to utilize talents that have been developed through life skills experiences.

On average, children have nearly 2,000 hours of free time without structure or supervision (Carnegie Council on Adolescent Development). Taking this into account, Stamp Camp is a non-profit, collaborative education program for children ages 8 – 14 that boosts children's skills and knowledge through the use of worldwide postage stamps. Popular hands-on activities help children learn stamp collecting basics with an emphasis on creative storytelling through individual and team projects. Stamp Camp is dedicated to providing valuable learning experiences to children and communities-at-large by not only inspiring self-directed learning, but also enriching how community members become engaged in projects which promote positive youth development and community networks. The Stamp Camp Program concept is easily integrated into existing community youth programs and can enhance learning and participative activities using materials that are inexpensive and readily available to most groups and organizations.

First introduced in Pennsylvania's Northern Tioga School District, Stamp Camp USA is a 501c3 non-profit organization that operates under a collaborative program structure. Partners include the United States Postal Service, The American Philatelic Society, American Topical Association, Penn State Cooperative Extension, Senior Corps of Pennsylvania, Communities That Care, Scouting, YMCA, and others. The Program has been certified by the Pennsylvania Department of Education for Act 48 continuing education credit and enhances multiple community environments, where children can succeed and improve important skills.

An Adult Leader Workshop and two kid's Stamp Camps have been scheduled to introduce this model program at the American Topical Association National Stamp Show in Irving, Texas, June 17-19, 2007. At the kid's Camp, children 3rd through 8th grade will learn to effectively begin a stamp collection in a very

hands-on, learning incentive atmosphere. Participants will prepare creative three-dimensional stamp exhibits, as well as a traditional format, while earning “stamp camp cash”, to be used at an end-of-camp live auction. A closing awards ceremony provides a perfect ending to a time of learning and philatelic fun. Adult youth leaders are encouraged to register for the Adult Leader Workshop on June 17th, where they will learn the step-by-step process of conducting a youth Stamp Camp during this hands-on and interactive learning workshop.

Advanced registration is required and tuition fees include all necessary support materials. Enrollment space is limited, so registration forms will be accepted on a first-come basis. For additional information please contact Stamp Camp USA at (814) 326-0810, or E-mail stampcampusa@intergate.com.

For information on the world’s largest all-topical philatelic organization, contact the ATA Central Office, P.O. Box 57, Arlington, Texas 76004-0057 (telephone: 1-817-274-1181; email americantopical@msn.com; or visit their website at www.americantopicalassn.org.