

January 25, 2007

ATA TO HOST STAMP CAMP USA JUNE 16-17 AT NTSS2007

Stamp Camp USA will have two distinctly different targets. The first will be training for adults who want to help children with a training class all day on Friday, June 15th. The second will be the hands-on, fun classes for youth.

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 15-17, 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 and older youth leaders are encouraged to register for the Adult Leader Workshop on June 15th, where they will learn the step-by-step process of conducting a youth Stamp Camp during this hands-on and interactive learning workshop. There is a cost for the leadership training. 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.

What is Stamp Camp USA?

Stamp Camp USA is a collaborative educational program that boosts children's skills and knowledge through the use of worldwide stamps, envelopes, and Stamp Camp Cash.

Campers, ages 8 to 14, begin by learning stamp collecting basics, including the proper care of a stamp collection and the use of cool stamp tools. After they learn the basics, campers select a topic and then hunt for related stamps, envelopes, and postmarks in the donations. These materials become part of their personal collections, to be used in their projects, such as creative three-dimensional exhibits, or four-page competitive exhibits.

Throughout these activities, each camper earns Stamp Camp Cash, which they use to purchase prizes at the end-of-camp auction.

Why Stamps?

Postage stamps, with their colorful images and real-life stories, have fascinated millions of adults and children ever since they first appeared more than 150 years ago. There's something to interest everyone in the world of stamps — nature, wildlife, artists, athletes, space ships, dinosaurs, monuments, historical events, faraway lands, and more!

Stamps are an ideal way to motivate children to learn. They provide a stimulus for an exciting discussion and they add a touch of family fun for your home and community.

What Kinds of Activities?

Camp schedules may include:

- scavenger hunts
- creating travel passports
- using identifiers and maps to learn geography
- translating the mysterious markings on envelopes to unravel everything from bar codes to zip codes
- transcribing handwritten letters (an activity that brings poor spellers into a “prized” team role)
- hands-on opportunities to soak stamps, sort them, and learn such basics of the hobby as how to hinge, mount, and display their collections
- creative storytelling with worldwide stamps, envelopes and postmarks

Who Is Involved in Stamp Camp?

First introduced in 1996 in Pennsylvania’s Northern Tioga School District, Stamp Camp USA is a non profit 501c3 educational organization that operates under a collaborative program structure. Partners include the United States Postal Service, the American Philatelic Society, Postmasters Organizations, Pennsylvania 4-H, Scouting, and community volunteers and resources on the local level. Supplies and materials are obtained through direct program donations and community fund-raising efforts.

To Register

For more information or to register, contact:

Stamp Camp USA, 149 East Main Street, P O Box 377, Knoxville, PA 16928-0377;
Phone: 814-326-0810; Email: stampcampusa@intergate.com

Payments by check should be sent directly to this address. For Visa, MasterCard or PayPal, payments can be made to the American Topical Association, clearly identifying the payments to be for Stamp Camp, USA. Our address is ATA – PO Box 57 – Arlington, TX 76004-0057 – Phone: 817-274-1181 – Fax: 817-274-1184 – Email: americantopical@msn.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.