

"STEPPING STONES" – PHILATELIC YOUTH EXHIBIT OPPORTUNITY

The National Topical Stamp Show (NTSS), to be held in Denver from June 25-27, is offering an opportunity for "Stepping Stones" youth exhibits. Exhibitors age 18 and younger may submit four- or eight-page exhibits on a single theme or topic. While the Stepping Stone exhibits are noncompetitive and will not be judged in the traditional manner, comments will be offered and each youth will receive a philatelic gift for participation.

The American Topical Association, sponsor of NTSS, recognizes that not all youth have the time and philatelic material to enter into competitive exhibiting with traditional 16-page exhibits. The emphasis for the Stepping Stones program is on encouragement of future topical collecting and exhibiting.

Formal application need not be made for the four- and eight-page Stepping Stones exhibits. There is no entry fee. The back of each standard 8½" x 11" exhibit page should list the name, address, and age of the exhibitor. Each page should be in a clear page protector. Completed exhibits of four or eight pages should be mailed by June 1, 2010, to MaryAnn Bowman, ATA Youth Activities Coordinator, PO Box 1451, Waukesha, WI 53187-1451.

Adults can show their support for this ATA activity by donating stamps and other philatelic items for prizes, by offering to mentor a youth as s/he prepares a Stepping Stones exhibit, or by sending mint postage to be used for the return of the exhibits.

NTSS 2010 will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel - Denver International Airport located at 15500 East 40th Avenue, Denver, Colo., from June 25-27. The theme of the ATA Convention, held simultaneously with the show, will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Pony Express. Topical and general stamp dealers from around the country are participating. Hallmarks of the ATA Convention/NTSS are special tours on Thurs., June 24, and Mon., June 28. Show and convention information is available from the ATA Central Office (contact information below) or at <http://americantopicalassn.org/NTSS/ntss2010/ntss2010.htm>

Traditional youth and adult thematic exhibits (16-page single or multiple frames) are also most welcome at NTSS. Contact Alan Hanks, Exhibit Chair, 34 Seaton Drive, Aurora, ON L4G 2K1, Canada; E-mail alan.hanks@sympatico.ca. The prospectus is available at: http://americantopicalassn.org/NTSS/ntss2010/prospectus_2010.pdf

For more information on Stepping Stones exhibits at NTSS, contact MaryAnn Bowman, PO Box 1451, Waukesha, WI 53187-1451; phone 262-820-1060 weekdays (7 am - 3:30 pm). Information is also available from the ATA Central Office, PO Box 8, Carterville, IL 62918-0008; phone 618-985-5100 weekdays (7:30 am - 4:00 pm). E-mail: americantopical@msn.com