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.

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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.

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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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⬜ 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.

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7. Do at least TWO of the following:

⬜ a. Design a stamp, cancellation, or cachet.

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⬜ b. Visit a post office, stamp club, or stamp show with an experienced collector. Explain what you saw and learned.

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| Location Visited: |  |
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⬜ c. Write a review of an interesting article from a stamp newspaper, magazine, book or website (with your parent or guardian'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. Include the methods of printing, types of paper, perforation styles, 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.

⬜ 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.

**When working on merit badges, Scouts and Scouters should be aware of some vital information in the current edition of the *Guide to Advancement* (BSA publication 33088).Important excerpts from that publication can be downloaded from** [**http://usscouts.org/advance/docs/GTA-Excerpts-meritbadges.pdf**](http://usscouts.org/advance/docs/GTA-Excerpts-meritbadges.pdf)**.**

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