



Royal Rangers

Merit Requirements: **Green-Bordered Merit**

STAMP COLLECTING

1. Obtain and sort 250 stamps by countries. Your collection should have stamps from at least fifteen countries.
2. Make a list of all the stamps in your collection. For each stamp, include the following information:
 - a. Country of origin
 - b. Date of issue
 - c. Face value
 - d. Present value
 - e. Noted flaw
 - f. Purpose of issue (The purpose for the production of the stamp may include an anniversary, event, or a celebrity. However, some stamps may have just been produced for a general purpose. Note this as well.)
3. Define the following terms:
 - a. Cachet
 - b. Centering
 - c. Face value
 - d. Faults
 - e. Flaws
 - f. Forgery
 - g. Hinges
 - h. Overprint
 - i. Perforations
 - j. Philatelist
 - k. Proofs
 - l. Scott catalog number
 - m. Space filler
 - n. Specimens
 - o. Surcharges
 - p. Tropicalization
 - q. Watermark
4. Obtain a stamp album and hinge stamps into the album. Maintain separate sheets for each country of origin.
5. Describe and demonstrate to your commander the use of at least three tools used for stamp collecting. The list below is not exhaustive.
 - a. Tongs or tweezers
 - b. Magnifying glass
 - c. Hinges
 - d. Watermark fluid
 - e. Perforation gauge
 - f. Water



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6. Make a list of five things philatelists look for when collecting stamps. In addition, list and define gum conditions and stamp appearance terminology.
7. Write a 250-word essay on the history of stamp collecting.
8. Make a time line of at least twenty significant dates in U.S. postal history.
9. Provide an example or picture of each of the following:
 - a. Perforated and imperforate stamps
 - b. Mint and used stamps
 - c. Sheet, booklet, and coil stamps
 - d. Overprint and surcharge
 - e. Cancellation
 - f. First day cover
10. Do ONE of the following:
 - a. With an experienced collector, visit a stamp club, stamp show, or store specializing in stamp collecting. Write a 100-word report on what you saw and learned.
 - b. Read a pamphlet, book, or article about stamp collecting. Write a 100-word summary of the article. Provide the original article for your commander, along with your summary.
 - c. Write a 100-word report on a famous stamp; include a picture of the stamp.
 - d. Give an oral report (at least three minutes long) to the group about your collection.
 - e. Write a 100-word report describing at least three ways to preserve stamps. Be sure to cite your sources.