

STAMPS FOR CHILDREN

has joined

Stamp Camp USA, 117 Court ST., Suite A, Elkland, PA 16920



Stamps for Children was a nationwide not-for-profit organization that solicited donations of used stamps (both United States and foreign) and then distributed them free of charge to any children's group (schools, scout groups) in need. The stamps are used not only to interest children in the hobby, but also as educational aids (for history and geography classes) and for arts and crafts projects.

This organization was run by Harold Effin. Harold started the program in 1987 and has successfully gathered, processed, and distributed over 20 million cancelled stamps. He shipped them to children's organizations in need of stamps, which he typically get from Linn's Stamp News (Box 29, Sidney, OH 45365-0029).

In 2008 Stamps for Children joined with Stamp Camp USA to continue Harold's mission. Please use the above address. Learn more about Stamp Camp USA at www.stampcampusa.org.

How can you help? Save all the undamaged stamps from your incoming mail. (See the HELPFUL HINTS section below for some stamp do's and don'ts and tips on how to remove stamps from the envelope properly) Also, the next time you go to the post office, ask for the commemorative stamps (instead of the plain, common ones) and use them on your mail. Of course, ask your family, friends, co-workers, church, club members (even strangers on the street) to save stamps, too. If you wish an acknowledgment, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. And please be patient, I'm often 6 months behind in correspondence.

Organizations interested in obtaining stamps should contact Linn's Stamp News.

HELPFUL HINTS

Please **DO** save space around the stamp when removing it from the envelope. An important thing that the kids learn about stamp collecting is the proper way to remove the stamps from an envelope...soaking in lukewarm water, drying face down on paper towels and flattening between the pages of a big book...dictionary, phonebook. However,

You DON'T need to save stamps that are:

- ripped, torn, cut, scraped or damaged in any way.
- taped, glued or stapled. (taped and glued stamps do not soak off the envelopes and staples leave holes.)
- peeled from the envelope. (Peeling a stamp from an envelope leaves thin spots in the stamp.)
- attached to red or green envelopes. (When the stamps are soaked from the envelope, the red or green dye from the envelope soaks into the stamp, discoloring it.)

What about?

- Small Flags (20¢ and higher), Statue of Liberty, H (Hat), Christmas and Bulk Rate Stamps? If you send these, to make it easier for us to distribute them, please try and pack them separately.
- Holiday Seals or Metered? No at this time.
- Post Cards and Stamped Envelopes? If you can send the whole card or envelope, great; otherwise, no.
- Fronts of Greeting Cards? Send them to St. Jude's Ranch for Children, Card Recycling, 100 St. Jude's St., Boulder City, NV 89005. More info at <http://stjudesranch.org/>

Looking for sources for stamps?

- Local utility/cable TV companies - - - If you are mailing in your payment, enclose a copy of this write-up and ask if the company will let you pick up the envelopes.
- Local newspapers - - - a letter to the editor? That's how I started. A local paper published my appeal and we've grown from there.
- Your office? Can you post Stamp Camp USA on your company bulletin board or in your company newsletter?
- Your apartment? Homeowner's Association? Clubs? Your family and friends? There are lots of ways to get stamps.

Questions or comments? Just ask. Either USPS mail (above) or E-mail (ssstampcampusa@stny.rr.com) or phone (814-258-5601) can reach us. I use the Internet to send out updates on Stamps for Children. Do you want to be on that distribution list?