

The PhilateliKid

The newsletter for Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids (SCCFK)

January 13, 2015

A few statistics for the Stamp Collecting Club for Kids – Kihei

The Kick-off meeting was held September 30, 2014. Six meetings have been held. The final meeting for the year was held on December 16, 2014. Kids were in grades 2,3,4 and 5. 17 different classrooms were represented, with the classrooms with the fewest number of students who joined having 11 kids who joined - a 3-way tie, and the classrooms with the largest number of students who joined having 19 who joined – also a 3-way tie. A total of 246 kids joined, but three already have moved away. The total possible number of kids who could have joined was 377, meaning 65.25% of all the kids who could have joined did join. Of the kids who joined, 163 were girls, and 83 were boys, meaning that 66.26% of the members are girls, and 33.73% are boys. Those percentages are consistent within 1% of the 2/3rds girls (66.67%) and 1/3 boys (33.33%) who have become members over the past 13 years in the SCCFKs that have been run in the two other states where they have previously existed. A total of 14,640 minutes were spent by kids collecting stamps, with the total number of adult volunteer hours being 50.0 hours. There were zero disciplinary problems. That means that the total disciplinary problems during the past 13 years remains at zero. Meetings were held in two shifts of 20 minutes each. Starting in January 2015, first grade students will be allowed to join, resulting in three shifts of 20 minutes each. Approximately 9,000 stamps have been collected (put into albums) and approximately 10,000 hinges were used. Each kid received his/her own album with each kid's name written with a permanent marker on the front cover. To date, no kid has completely filled an album, so no second albums have been given out so far.

Which stamp do you think a kid wants in his/her collection?



Butterfly (with clipped perfs & cut corner)



Scott #1



Orangeburg coil

Why kids love stamp collecting (the way we do it):

1. It is affordable by all. (Free albums, stamps, hinges, and free use of tongs.)
2. Stamp collecting is brought to them. No transportation problems.
3. Children have short attention spans. Each stamp club meeting lasts 20 minutes.
4. There are no losers in stamp collecting. Everybody is a WINNER, and we let them know it.
5. There are very few rules, easily understood, and fair. They are
 1. Have fun. 2. Make sure your hands are clean. 3. No food or liquids on the tables. 4. Wait your turn. 5. Pick up anything on the floor.
6. Kids get to choose what they want to collect from a large assortment of stamps, placed in bowls at each table. Stamps are from the United States and foreign countries.

7. All stamps put into albums become the property of the student, and once the album is completely filled (to his/her satisfaction) then they get to take that album home and keep it, and a brand new, blank second album is issued. At the end of the school year, or if the kid moves away, the album is taken home, no matter how completely filled it is.
8. Fun facts are announced at each stamp club meeting. Fun facts include explaining what a “dead country is,” what perforations are for, what a cancellation is, and why it is done, and ages of specific stamps (example: This 3 cent commemorative stamp is over 50 years old.) Many other fun facts are presented, such as what country Helvetia, Magyar, and Espana, CCCP, and symbols for Japan, China, Korea, etc.
9. A globe of the world is always present. Children are periodically challenged (one table at a time) to find a country on the globe. It is fun to find out where a stamp from France originated, especially when it is pointed out how far away that is from here.
10. Dogs on stamps, Cats on stamps. Cars on stamps. Locomotives. Soccer balls. Butterflies. ”Love.” Horses. Kings and queens, princes and princesses. Pyramids of Egypt. Koala bears and kangaroos. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Christmas stamps – especially anything with Santa Claus on it. And above all - Disney characters on stamps!!
11. Attendance is taken, and prizes are given out for attending. Every three times (or multiple of three) that a student attends stamp club, he/she gets a free Disney stamp. This is a big deal, and if a child claims that we have made a mistake, and not recorded one of the times he/she attended, we take the child’s word for it. (Other kids won’t let the kid get away with lying about that!)
12. Members are allowed to take home one or two loose stamps to show to parents, friends, and siblings. Those stamps normally are from the student’s parents’ country of origin, but can be anything.
13. A free glassine envelope is given to take a loose stamp home. Most kids have never before seen a glassine envelope, nor did they know what it is called.
14. A “go-away” gift package is given to any student who moves away to a different school. It consists of about 50 stamps, 100 hinges and a pair of tongs. The student takes his/her partially completed album, also.
15. Graduation packages. Any student who graduates from the school (fifth graders here) AND has attended stamp club at least 5 times is given on the last stamp club meeting of the year a standard size 10 envelope and told he/she has 3 minutes to pick out any stamps they want from a table that is covered about two inches high with stamps. You’d be surprised at how many hundreds of stamps some kids manage to take. Also, each kid gets about 100-200 hinges, and a free pair of tongs. (Exceptions to the 5-times attendance rule are made for kids who were not at the school the entire year.)
16. Members get to choose where they sit. The activities are quite social, with the noise level getting pretty high sometimes. This is permitted. They are kids having fun, after all!
17. An adult is stationed at the door to welcome kids as when they arrive and also when they leave. Kids like that. High fives are very common. The next stamp club meeting is announced.
18. Kids are forgetful. They are reminded immediately before stamp club every time. An adult walks around the cafeteria, carrying a large sized poster sign that says “Stamp Club Today” while waving to the kids and saying something like “You can join today. Everything is free. Come to the library after you finish eating lunch.”
19. Stamp collecting is done at a person’s own pace. It is an excellent hobby for physically or emotionally handicapped students. They fit right in with all the other kids with no problems at all. The most severely handicapped students have a personal aide, who may be the person who actually places the hinges on the stamps, but the student still gets to choose what stamps he/she wants.
20. There are many aspects of stamp collecting that we take for granted. It can be done when it is cold outside, too hot, too windy, too rainy, etc. Dark outside? Not a problem. Want to collect stamps for 17 minutes? Not a problem.

21. At every stamp club meeting there are special stamps given away in the lottery system. I will describe the lottery system (all free, of course) in a later newsletter, but it is extremely popular, lots of fun, and keeps the kids very interested.

Next newsletter: More fun reasons to collect stamps. How to make stamp collecting even more fun.

Comments? Write Robert W. Martin, P.O. Box 1809, Kihei, HI 96753 (Try to use a nice stamp on your letter.)

Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids is a 501 C (3) organization. All donations are provided written receipts.