



STAMP CAMP USA HAS SUCCESSFUL NEW YORK DEBUT AT STEPEX 2001

Sixteen youth in grades three through eight participated in the first visit of Stamp Camp USA to New York State, a one-day instructional session held October 20 at the Arnot Mall, Horseheads, in conjunction with STEPEX 2001, the Elmira Stamp Club's annual show.

Headquartered in Knoxville, PA the Stamp Camp USA Committee has been teaching the hobby of stamp collecting to children for over five years with three-to-five-day programs in Harrisburg and State College, PA and New Orleans, LA as well as numerous sessions in its home base of Knoxville.

The Committee consists of Cheryl Edgcomb, Knoxville's Postmaster, Suzanne Harer, a teacher in the Westfield, PA elementary school and Sylvia Wood, who teaches in the Elkland, PA elementary school. Their work was the subject of an article in the *American Philatelist* for April 2001 and is supported by both the American Philatelic Society and the U.S. Postal Service.

At the invitation of the Elmira Stamp Club, the Committee condensed its normal 15-hour program to a one-day six-hour session to fit into the second day of the Club's Friday/Saturday annual show at the Mall. The Camp took place in an empty store area adjacent to the show.

Assisting the Committee at STEPEX 2001 were Jane Burros of Knoxville, a parent of two children who have attended previous Stamp Camps, and Tanya Taylor, also of Knoxville, a high school senior and youth volunteer completing community service for her graduation project.

In addition to learning hobby basics, such as tools and

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terminology, the campers were introduced to creative stamp exhibiting, bringing forth the artistic abilities of the children in working with stamps.

At least three parents and one young adult attended the Oct. 20 Stamp Camp with the children and completed questionnaires expressing enthusiasm for the program. The enthusiasm of both the adults and the children resulted in expressions

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of interest in attending the full five-day course.

"We'll plan on it," said Edgcomb, the Committee's coordinator, when asked about presenting a one-day stamp camp at next year's STEPEX stamp show, "it fills a need for early introduction of the hobby and stimulates interest in attending the longer Stamp Camp USA programs."

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