

Stamp Camp Deemed A Success

The Cayman Islands Postal Service Stamp Camp may have been a small and imitate event but in terms of the quality of attendees it was a success. Stamp Camp, sponsored by Butterfield Bank (Cayman) Limited, Water Authority Cayman and Cable & Wireless, was held last weekend (25-27 April) at the Grand Cayman Marriott



Beach Resort. The event began with American Philatelic Society Director-at-Large Denise Stotts giving local collectors ideas on exhibiting and caring for their collections. James Rogness, an owner of the Penny Black (stamp dealer), gave a brief lecture on the value of Cayman Islands stamps on Friday during the official opening. "Cayman Islands Stamps are valuable to collectors because of the limited number that are released in each year," he said. The second and third days of Stamp Camp were geared to educators, who were taught by Stamp Camp USA instructors Cheryl Edgecomb, CEO and Director, Linda Cox and Ms Stotts. Saturday, 14 teachers and youth workers from various schools and educational organisations, including three Cayman Brac teachers, were trained in stamp collecting and how to turn stamps into art using various materials. The exercise began with educators telling their stories with stamps. Additionally, each participant was awarded Stamp Camp cash for answering questions correctly. Later the teachers were able to purchase stamps in an auction using the cash they had accumulated, and they said this was one of the most enjoyable aspects of the day. Then on Sunday, teachers worked with 27 children from different schools and the Cayman Islands Boy Scouts Cub Scouts. Both educators' and the children's stamp art projects were judged. Wallis Wyke from Savannah Primary School won for the teachers with "Care for the Earth", and Cub Scout David Lee's display "Marine Life" was the winner for the kids. All the weekend's winning projects will be on display at the new Savannah Post Office. Cheryl Edgecomb, CEO of Stamp Cayman USA, said she was excited by the enthusiasm she saw displayed by collectors, educators and the children. "The entire weekend has been such an incredible blessing for us all as we shared the aspects of stamp exhibiting with the group, and we in turn learned as well. I would like to thank our hosts, the Cayman Islands Postal Service, and our sponsors, Butterfield Bank (Cayman) Limited, Water Authority Cayman, and Cable & Wireless for making our first international event a great success," she said. Ms Wyke, the overall winner for the educators, said she now has another tool to reach her students with. "This was a great learning experience. "Stamps span the divide of geological locations and cultures. Through stamp camp I have now have another resource to reach the students I teach. I plan to implement the programme a my school," she said. Ms Chancilla Ali, a teacher from Lighthouse School, had similar sentiments: "At first I was skeptical. I wondered how I was going to learn anything from those little pictures in stamps. But I was pleasantly surprised. I now have more ammunition for teaching my children." Postmaster General Sheena Glasgow said that she was sure that the Postal Service would host more Stamp Camps in the future and that local teachers would be using what they had learnt. "Stamp Camp reinforces prior knowledge, aids concentration, prompts curiosity, encourages creativity, develops leadership and promotes teamwork, and the fact that stamps can be used as a tool for education and art is something that is not a surprise to us." "I believe that our teachers have another tool to reach their students and, what's most important, I believe that they will use it, from the comments that we have had. The caliber of the exhibits and the fun that we all had made this event worthwhile. I would like to thank the Stamp Camp USA personnel and all our sponsors and participants for ensuring that this past weekend was a success," she added. The Postal Service, along with the sponsors, will soon announce the names of the schools that will participate in Stamp Camp pilot project. The public can help by donating their used stamps to the Postal Service. For more information please contact Philatelic Manager Karen McField, 946-4757. Caption Stamp Camp CEO Cheryl Edgecomb (left) and Deputy Postmaster General - Operations Anthony Williams presents Water Authority representative Joanna Martinez-Welcome with a sponsorship appreciation package during the opening ceremony on Friday. Winners Children Winners Grand award "Marine Life" by David Lee - Red Bay Primary School Philatelic Award "Spring" by Emily Boyd - Montessori by the Sea Reserve Grand "Sports" by Jevon James - Triple C School Teachers' Awards Grand award "Care for the Earth" by Wallis Wyke - Savannah Primary School Reserve Grand "Olympics" by Katie Deane - Grace Christian Academy