

STAMP NIGHT FOR THE CUB SCOUTS

Since 2004, Alex Savakis has served as Cub Master of his old childhood cub scout pack, Pack 6. Cub Scouts are young boys in grades 1 through 5. Pack 6's charter partner was formerly the First Baptist Church on Eastland Avenue SE, and is currently the Troop 101 Alumni Association – an organization of Eagle Scouts from Boy Scout Troop 101.

Stamp Collecting Merit Badge has been a regular offer to the Boy Scouts at Troop 101, and when the cub scouts became associated with the troop, it was offered to them as well . . . in a form they could appreciate and enjoy.

Some of those forms included using wooden picture frames, and decorating the outside of the frame with pasted stamps, lacquering the frame, and placing a picture of the cub scout inside the frame . . . as a gift for a parent or grandparent. Now regular collectors may scoff at the idea of using stamps for art, but it both introduced stamps to the young Cubs as well created an important memory for both them as their family.

Back on June 4th, the Boy Scouts invited Ben Lutz and Laura Lutz as guests to introduce them to the more serious side of stamp collecting. The Cub got to sit in on presentation. The Cubs quietly sat in the front row, listening to Ben and Laura. This visit was described in the June issue of *The Western Reserve Philatelist*.

It was reported that about half way through the twenty minute presentation, the Cubs were ushered away to stamp area where they could dive into containers filed with stamps.

The stamps in several large boxes were donated to the Scouts and Cubs by a former Boy Scout, now an adult, who no longer needed the stamps. They have proved invaluable to teaching the Scouts and Cubs about stamps.

The Cubs very much enjoyed this stash of modern stamps, and appreciated aspects of those stamps that more serious collectors would not enjoy.

For example, a heavily inked slogan cancel ruins the design of the stamp underneath. You just can't see it! But to the Cubs, the heavily inked

slogan cancels, socked on the nose, of Shrek and Donkey were prized! Take a look at Noah below, proudly displaying his Shrek and Donkey find.



Noah proudly showing off the Shrek and Donkey slogan that he found on a common United States Love special stamp.

The Love stamp will never be valuable, and the Shrek slogan is very common. But if this one stamp with the bulls-eye slogan cancel can possibly attract a new collector, it becomes a treasure.



Stamp collecting rewards children for being quiet and paying attention. Here a pre-school brother of one of the first graders, patiently sits and waits for his stamp rewards.



Cub Scout Alijah at left looking over his stamps, with his younger pre-school brother Goryan sampling the bag!



Boy Scouts joined the younger Cubs, to look over the bins of stamps. The Boy Scout is Nathan, and the Cub at right is Joseph.



The boys also learned to share their finds. Noah at left looks at Andrew's find.



Boys being boys, sometimes the competition and excitement got the best of them as they looked eagerly at the other's bin of stamps! From left to right the boys are named Noah, Alijah, and Andrew.



To work off some of that excitement, some push-ups helped release the steam. Here Collin shows his strength.

The Warren Area Stamp Club has assisted the Cub Scout Pack 6 monetarily and with stamps. Hopefully in the future, this will generate new collectors.