

Midwest Philatelic Society's "Club Exhibiting" Program

Introduction

The Midwest Philatelic Society's "Club Exhibiting" was designed as a club level activity that does not compete with the APS exhibiting program. The MPS Club Exhibiting was created without stringent rules, political bonds, or any designs to compete based on an exhibitor's financial ability. Instead, it is for all levels of stamp collectors belonging to the MPS, beginner, intermediate, advanced, and expert. The objective is to expand stamp collecting education within the club's boundaries. It is an expanded form of "show-and-tell" contained in a single-frame display consisting of nine pages, each frame telling the story about a single subject.

How the Program Works

Any club member in good standing may participate. Each club member desiring to participate in club exhibiting may reserve one exhibit frame. Due to the limited number of frames offered during the first year of this event, interested club members may be required to draw from a numbered lottery for frame assignment. If more frames are available than exhibitors to fill them, additional frames will be offered on a first-come, first-serve basis. Frames provide spaces for pages in the standard size of 8-1/2 x 11-inches. Exhibitors may use 11 x 17-inch pages in combination with standard size pages, however, an 11 x 17-inch page counts as two pages (refer to examples on last page). Exhibitors are not required to fill an entire frame: if the story can be told in fewer than nine pages, the frame areas absent of pages are acceptable without penalty. Material displayed by an exhibitor must be their property in its entirety.

The MPS recommends the first page in an exhibit be a Title Page. The Title Page should contain a brief explanation of the exhibitor's purpose, and should guide viewers to understand the exhibit's intended theme. The Title Page may contain philatelic items and graphics. Brief descriptions of the material being shown and captions under postal stationery may accompany stamps, and is encouraged – not required. Exhibitors should tell a unified, cohesive story as completely as possible without uttering a sound. An exhibitor should consider: What is the significance of my exhibit?

Paper can be any kind or color to aid the delivery of the exhibitor's story. The MPS suggests a minimum of 80 lb to 120 lb stock paper to prevent exhibit pages from bending once placed into the frames. The club urges exhibitors to provide additional protection for their pages by placing them inside a clear plastic page protector.

Page design is not restricted. Neatness is encouraged. An exhibitor's creativity, regardless of mechanical or electronic experience, is encouraged but not mandatory. The purpose of Club Exhibiting is to inform and educate. Members of the MPS will be available with their laptop computers to build pages for exhibitors who do not have access to a computer. Members offering electronic page construction will be available at the Waldo Public Library from June through November, 12:30 noon until 1:30 p.m.

Exhibit subjects must be philatelic in nature. There are no specific exhibit classifications (senior, junior, etc.). Non-philatelic elements closely associated with the exhibitor's stamps may be included. Any material that can comfortably fit inside a frame to increase the depth and diversity will be accepted. Philatelic and non-philatelic elements in an exhibit must clearly and directly contribute to the development, support, and advancement of the subject and the story being told.

Each frame costs \$5.00, which is paid to the MPS Treasurer at the time the exhibit is mounted. Exhibitors are encouraged to be present with their exhibit to explain the story and answer questions posed by fellow members or guests. Exhibit frames are designed, built, and provided by the MPS. Frames are constructed in the shape of an artist's easel, one frame, holding nine 8-1/2 x 11-inch pages on each side of the easel. Easels sit on top of 4 x 8-foot folding tables, three easels along each table's surface. There are three individual frames at each side of a table for a total of six frames per table. Frames are provided with a locking device for added security.

MPS will not be responsible for theft or damage to exhibits. Exhibitors must be present to mount and remove their exhibit pages. Club officers will be available to assist exhibitors when mounting or removing exhibits. Should an exhibitor not be present during the event, they may appoint another club member to act in their absence. But, a letter written and signed by the owner of the material must accompany the person representing the exhibit.

Criteria and Guidelines for Judging

Exhibiting judges are club members who attend the December meeting. Here are the rules for judging an exhibit:

1. Each judge (club member) receives one ballot.
2. Each ballot is divided into thirds, each third representing a color for first place (royal red), second place (royal purple), and third place (royal blue).
3. Above each color is a ruled box where the judge writes one number inside each box, representing their selection for first, second, and third place displays.
4. Numbers appear on the exhibit frames and are used for identifying exhibitors. Only one number will appear in each box, and only one ballot will be submitted by each judge.
5. Judges do not sign ballots.
6. Completed ballots are placed into a ballot box.
7. Club officers meet after the December meeting to tally the votes.
8. Exhibitors receiving an award will be announced at the following January meeting.

Ballots that do not comply with the rules are disqualified and removed from the final tally. A fourth place ribbon (emerald green), will be awarded to exhibitors who do not receive a first, second, or third place award. In addition to ribbons, exhibitors receive a certificate, identifying the club's name, exhibitor's name, exhibit title, award level, and year the award was issued.

Exhibit Frame Examples – Nine Page Format

Title		

Example A

Title		

Example B

Title		

Example C

General Notes:

1. Surface area of the club tables is 29-1/2 x 71-1/2 inches
2. Frames should have a locking device
3. Rubber feet on frames to prevent sliding
4. Frames open from the side: right to left
5. Easels hinged from top with chain across frame bottom edges to prevent collapse
6. Plexiglas face inside wood frame with knob for access

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