

The BNAPS Youth Activity Program Grant of \$250 given to the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs (WFSC) was used for participation (booth fees) at KIDSfest. The Milwaukee-area two-day show is free to the public and held at the State Fair Expo Center. It is hosted by MetroParent magazine and sponsored by large corporations whose names are immediately recognizable in the area. The event consists of two days and 160,000 square feet of fun, entertainment, learning, and hands-on activities for families. In addition to the commercial exhibitors and businesses, there are 13 different stages and areas devoted to special programming throughout the event.

The Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs had booth space as well as participated in their Learning Lab with a special presentation. The booth space was professionally draped and tables skirted. Signage was provided. Large, colorful stamp posters were added to the backdrops. The front table had a tri-fold display with details announcing local area stamp clubs and their meeting times. Introductory booklets to stamp collecting and other stamp-related give-aways were also on the table. A large bin of on-paper stamps were free for the taking. Glassine envelopes and directions for removing the stamps from paper were handed out. A battery-operated electric game board titled "Scavenger Hunt" was also on the table and children who completed the activity were given an extra prize. Those gift choices included packets of off-paper stamps, coloring books, activity packets, stamp pins, stamp catalogues, and other miscellaneous stamp-related products. One or more adults were always on hand to answer stamp related questions.

On Saturday, the WFSC was featured with a program titled "Secrets of Stamp Collecting" in the Learning Lab. A one-hour time slot was given to promote the hobby. A youth member from a local stamp club demonstrated the proper removal of stamps from paper. Tables were set up in the area and provided children with a hands-on activity to learn more about stamps and collecting through the use of 12 different electric game boards with activities appropriate for many different age groups. The youngest of collectors could enjoy "How Many" where they looked at stamps and counted the number of items (example: three bells). The older youth and those looking for a challenge tried to match a foreign stamp to its location on a map. There were three different game boards (and maps) – one each for Europe, Asia, and Africa. "Stamp Types" and "Condition of Stamps" were most directly related to the basics of stamp collecting. There were two game boards related to topical collecting whereby children were matching a subject to a stamp that depicted that topic (example: horse, astronaut, cat, dog, etc.) Several game boards were related to academic subjects. One related to math was called "Add 'Em Up" and depicted two or more different postage stamps that might have been used to make a particular postage rate. Another (science-related) offered clues to the identity of an animal and you matched the clue to the stamp picturing that animal. For the history buff, there were stamps depicting events from our nation's history and you had to match it with a date. The game boards offered flexibility for the ebb and flow of the crowd as well as providing activities for varying age and ability groups.