



UNITED STATES LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY

9005 Point No Point Rd. NE . Hansville, WA 98340 . Ph: 415-362-7255 . www.USLHS.org

STAMP FLASHES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
OF THE USLHS PASSPORT PROGRAM



Number 46 - January 2024

Website: www.uslhs.org/fun/passport-club

Email: passportclub@uslhs.org

Stamp Flashes Becomes a Teenager

As we move into 2024, the USLHS Stamp Flashes enters its 13th year. As you can see from the heading above, this is our 46th newsletter providing information and updates about the Passport Stamp Program. Our initial issue was published the year the Society toured Hawaii and stamps were made and are now available for all of the island's lighthouses. We were invited to climb the Diamond Head light by the resident Coast Guard Commander and actually got inside the massive Fresnel lens at Makapu'u Point. A lot of stamps have been added since then and new lighthouses continue to be added, most recently Minneapolis Shoal and Medway Head (see below). Also, as stamps wear out, new designs are created for existing locations and locations added for existing stamps. This makes filling up those passports even easier. Over the next several months the stamp program's dedicated volunteers will begin verifying the information regarding the availability of over 700 stamps on the list of participating locations.



New Designs/Existing Locations and Existing Designs/New Locations

Scituate Lighthouse, MA - New Design

A stamp for the Scituate Lighthouse with a new design is now available from the Scituate Historical Society.

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, VA - New Designs

The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Museum has replaced all three of their stamps with new designs. This includes the Museum stamp as well as the Hog Island Lens and Lightship Portsmouth stamps.



Sheffield Island Lighthouse, CT - New Design

The Norwalk Seaport Association has a new stamp design for the Sheffield Island Lighthouse. They also have stamps for the Peck's Ledge and Green's Ledge lights (these are not new).

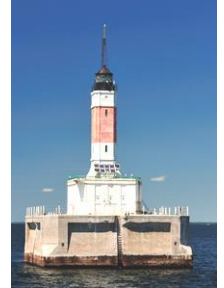


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Boston Harbor Lighthouse, MA - New Location

Since access to Little Brewster Island is now restricted, the Boston Harbor last lightkeeper, Sally Snowman, has made arrangements for a duplicate stamp to be available at the Hull Lifesaving Museum. The same stamp is also available on Boston Harbor Islands Lighthouse Cruises.



Minneapolis Shoal Lighthouse, MI - New Lighthouse

A stamp for the Minneapolis Shoal light is now available at the Delta County Historical Museum located in Escanaba, Michigan. They also have stamps for two other lights in the Escanaba area as well as one for Peninsula Point.

Stannard Rock Lighthouse, MI - New Location

A stamp for the Stannard Rock Lighthouse is now available at the Marquette Maritime Museum. The same stamp design is held by the Superior Watershed Partnership also in Marquette.

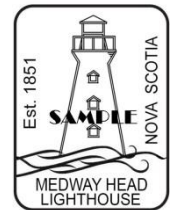


William Livingston Memorial Lighthouse, MI - New Design, New Location

The William Livingston Memorial Lighthouse located on Belle Isle in Detroit now has a new stamp design available from the Belle Isle Park Administrative Offices located on Belle Isle.

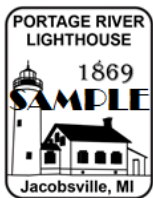
Medway Head Lighthouse, NS - New Lighthouse

A new location for the program in Canada is the Medway Head Lighthouse in Nova Scotia. The stamp will be available at the lighthouse during the summer.



Cape Lookout, NC - New Design

A new design has been created for the Cape Lookout Lighthouse. The same stamp will be available at both the Light Station Visitor's Center (near the lighthouse) and the Harker's Island Visitor's Center.



Portage River, MI - New Design

This new design has been available for a while but we failed to include it in the last Flashes. The new owners are in the process of renovating the lighthouse. You can see their story at: <https://www.portageriverlighthouse.com/>

White Shoal - New Location

Check the list of participating locations for an update about how to obtain the stamps for the White Shoal Lighthouse. Also, their two color stamp is no longer available.

Florida Reef Lights Stamps - New Location

The following was taken from the Florida Keys Reef Lights Foundation Facebook page: "Good news for Lighthouse Passport Stamp collectors! Eric S. Martin has found a home for the FKRLF stamps with the United States Lighthouse Society. Stamps are available for the 6 reef lights (Fowey Rocks, Caryfort Reef, Alligator Reef, Sombrero Key, American Shoal, and Sand Key), 3 unmanned lights (Tennessee Reef, Rebecca Shoal, and Pacific Reef) and one



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private aid to navigation (Faro Blanco). You can request the stamps by sending an email request to s.walbert@uslhs.org. After providing proof of a visit you will be provided with instructions where to send a SASE and a donation to the U.S. Lighthouse Society Preservation Program. The donation amount for each stamp is \$2.00. We are glad that these stamps will continue to be available and the funds raised will be used by the USLHS to keep up their wonderful work of education and preservation.”

Stamp Questions

Since this is the beginning of a new year, it might be a good time to review some of the most common emails and questions we get about the acceptability of a stamp for awards.



Does This Count?

We continue to receive inquiries about whether or not a specific stamp counts as an entry in your passport towards an award level. The program’s Goals and Guidelines found on our website (<https://uslhs.org/passports/guidelines>) provide the rules for what is considered to be an acceptable stamp or photo. In general, if you obtain a stamp (or photo) for a location that is on the List of Participating Locations, it counts. Also, stamps issued by the USLHS for special series and tours count. While it is difficult to specify everything that does not qualify, based on past inquires here are some entries that **do not**:

- The same stamp obtained from the same location on two different dates.
- The same stamp design in two different sizes.
- The same stamp design in two different colors.
- Stamps for lighthouse events (i.e. challenges). However, a stamp for an anniversary event for a specific lighthouse does count. Example locations include Pigeon Point, St. Marks, Plymouth Harbor and Horton Point.
- Stickers for “climbing” a lighthouse.
- Lighthouse logos found on stationary, envelopes or postcards.
- Postage stamps depicting a lighthouse.
- National Park cancellation stamps. Note: For older passport books we will continue to count these stamps.

Of course you are free to include any and all stamps, drawings and photos you wish for your own enjoyment. This is especially true for those of you who use your passport as a record of all the lighthouse related sites you have visited. In fact, this may be the best use of the passport book. However, in order for our awards to be meaningful, it is necessary for us to provide a set of guidelines that need to be followed. This is why sometimes you are asked to submit additional stamps in order to qualify for an award. We very much appreciate you asking if one or more actually count and then providing additional stamps if they don’t.

They Don’t Have the Stamp!

Another common email we receive informs us that a particular location does not have the stamp as listed on our website. When this occurs the program’s stamp volunteer for that region is asked to contact the lighthouse and double check on its availability. Nine times out of ten, the stamp is in fact available but whoever was on duty at that time did not know about the program or didn’t know where the stamp was located. PLEASE do not get upset with the docent, staff member or volunteer who tells you this. Lighthouses are a revolving door for volunteers and others who help keep the facility open to the public. We cannot expect



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everyone to be familiar with the passport program. However, sometimes your email uncovers a situation that we are not familiar with. Our volunteers check will all their locations early in the year and sometimes things change over the course of the summer. So, we do appreciate a heads up when you have a problem locating a stamp.

Second Stamps for the Same Location

The final question often asked is “can I use a second stamp with a different design obtained at the same participating location?” The general rule is: You may also include a second stamp if it has an image and name of the lighthouse. In a few cases we do indicate that a second stamp is available, but this is most often a stamp that is for the lens or an anniversary. It is virtually impossible to document every stamp that can be found at every lighthouse. The best we can do is let you know that *at least one should be available*. However, as we have suggested in the past, there is no harm in asking if they have more than one stamp.

Electronic Submissions of Complete Passports

Remember that we will no longer accept printed copies of pages sent via the U.S. Post Office. Scan or take photos of the pages and **submit the completed passport electronically to the Passport Club email** (passportclub@uslhs.org) if you wish to obtain your patches and wings. Please do not submit them to info@uslhs.org.

Hall of Fame

We are pleased to welcome 6 new members to the Hall of Fame. All of the following have submitted their first passport and received their “I’ve Seen the Light” patch:

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Amy & Chad Hall | Nicholas Deveau | Kelsey Moore |
| Leonora Lepore | Samantha Matson | Marianne Obrien |

Congratulations and we hope to see your next completed passports soon.

In the past we have indicated that going on USLHS tours is a great way to complete your passport books. Well, kudos to Cheryl Kelly who just submitted five passports with 300 stamps, almost all of which were obtained on USLHS tours. Here are a few examples from the Ultimate Ireland Tour.



The Hall of Fame webpage as well as the summary list of participating locations has been updated as of January 1, 2024. If we did not receive your submissions before this date, acknowledgement will be delayed until the next update.

Upcoming USLHS Domestic and International Lighthouse Tours

Speaking of tours, the 2024 USLHS tours, which range from 3-17 days, will be heading to the Caribbean, Lake Erie (including a solar eclipse), Denmark-Germany, Rhode Island-Connecticut, Northern California and Southern Maine-New Hampshire. Future tours will take you to Alaska, the Panama Canal, France and Canary Island. For more information visit: <https://uslhs.org/travel/tours>.