

# 2012 Every Cover Has A Story

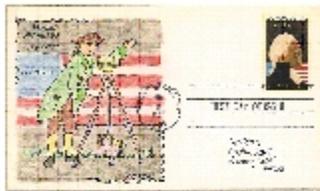
## Annual Writing & Exhibiting Competition for Youth

### TELL US A STORY

The American First Day Cover Society would like to know about your favorite cover and why it is important to you. (A "cover" is an envelope with a postage stamp and postmark.) The cover can be a first day cover, a special event cover, or any other interesting envelope that went through the mail. It can be from anyone or any place. You do not have to make the cover yourself.

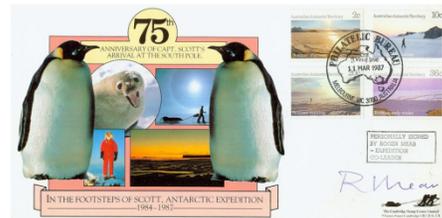
We want to get you interested in our hobby. We want to know what you think about when you see a first day cover or other collectible piece of mail. You can tell us these things by showing the cover and writing about it. This activity will help make you a beginning "cover exhibitor."

#### **Before He Was President**



George Washington was a Surveyor before he became a general or our first president. His work as a surveyor required strong math skills. He could not know what he would be doing ten or twenty years later, or that he would become a famous person.

#### **Antarctica**



Someday I plan to visit Antarctica. I think it would be fun to see the land and the sea covered in snow and ice. When I visit I will also get to see the animals that live there. Penguins are one of the animals I really like and I collect penguins on stamps too. This cover is one of my favorites since it was signed by Roger Mear and he has visited Antarctica.

## **WHO MAY ENTER and WHEN**

The contest is free and open to young people in five age groups: 8 and younger, 9 to 11, 12 to 14, 15 or 16, and 17 or 18. Your age at the time of the contest deadline is what counts. *Exhibits must be mailed to arrive not later than July 18th, 2012.* Each contestant may enter only once.

## **PRIZES**

Winners in each age group may qualify for up to four prize levels: Grand Award, First Place, Second Place, or Third Place. Prizes will consist of award certificates, several first day covers, and stamp collecting booklets or other philatelic materials appropriate for their age group. The winning exhibit pages will be displayed at AMERICOVER 2012 in Irvine, California, August 10-12. All entries will be returned to contestants after that weekend.

## **HOW TO PREPARE YOUR EXHIBIT**

One of these questions might help you write a true or made-up story about the envelope you choose to exhibit: Does it have a stamp that shows a subject important to you? Does the postmark have a phrase or picture that makes it special? Is there a picture on the envelope that inspires a make-believe story? Did something special happen to you or a family member on the day this cover was mailed?

Display your cover and story on an 8-1/2" by 11" sheet of heavy paper. Your story should have a title at the top of the page. The story should be about 100 words long, neatly printed or typed so that the judges can read it. The story may be placed either above or below the cover. The best way to mount the cover (so that it can be removed later without damage) is to use small triangular "photo mounts" on the four corners. These are found at stationery stores, camera shops, crafts stores and also can be purchased online.

On the back of your exhibit page, neatly print your name, age, birth date, and mailing address. (We need your address to send the page and any prizes back to you after the contest.) Slip the page into a clear page protector. Place the exhibit in a 9" x 12" envelope with a piece of stiff cardboard to prevent folding or damage and make sure to write "Do Not Bend" on your envelope.

**Mail your entry before July 18th to:**

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