

Summer Seminar Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is Summer Seminar?

Summer Seminar is a once-a-year learning opportunity appropriate for beginning to advanced collectors. All courses are led by philatelic experts who are accomplished writers, exhibitors, expertizers, dealers, and specialized collectors.

2. Where is Summer Seminar held?

The *APS Summer Seminar on Philately* is a yearly event held at the American Philatelic Center (APC), the home of the American Philatelic Society (APS) and the American Philatelic Research Library (APRL). The APC is located in central Pennsylvania at 100 Match Factory Place in Bellefonte, PA.

3. What are the dates for this year's Summer Seminar?

The 39th Annual Summer Seminar runs from Sunday, June 24, 2018 to Friday, June 29, 2018.

4. How much does it cost?

Costs for APS members registering prior to March 31, 2018

- \$560 for one 4-day course or two 2-day courses
- \$425 for one 2-day course, plus food functions for the remainder of Seminar week
- \$315 for one 2-day course

Costs for APS members registering after March 31, 2018 but prior to June 1, 2018

- \$575 for one 4-day course or two 2-day courses
- \$440 for one 2-day course, plus food functions for the remainder of Seminar week
- \$330 for one 2-day course

Costs for non-APS members registering prior to June 1, 2018

- \$675 for one 4-day course or two 2-day courses
- \$430 for one two-day course

*All registrations received after June 1, 2018 will be assessed a \$50 late fee
(and will only be accepted if there is room in the course chosen)*

5. What is included in my registration fee?

Your registration fee covers seven hours of learning opportunities each day, all course materials, daily general sessions and electives on a wide variety of topics, evening activities, and access to the American Philatelic Research Library, circuit sales, stamp & cover gift shop, and the expertizing reference collection. Some meals and daily snacks are also included.

6. Where can I stay?

There are many lodging options available in close proximity to the American Philatelic Center, many with special pricing for APS members. To see a complete listing go to: <https://stamps.org/Lodging>

7. What should I wear?

Business casual or casual attire is acceptable for all Summer Seminar attendees. Dress with comfort in mind. Some rooms may be warm or cool, so dressing in layers is recommended. It would be appropriate to wear business dress/business casual for the Thursday evening Distinguished Philatelist Dinner.

8. What is the refund policy if I find I can't attend?

- Registrants canceling on or before May 15, may receive a refund, less a \$50 cancellation fee, or keep a credit with us for a future seminar without penalty.
- Registrants canceling after May 15, are not eligible to receive any refunds. Registrants have the option to keep a credit with us for a future seminar minus a \$150 cancellation fee.
- Registrants who fail to attend Summer Seminar will forfeit all funds.
- Requests for refunds must be made in writing to Director of Education, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823; e-mail education@stamps.org.
- In the case of a medical emergency after May 15, contact the APS Director of Education.
- Refunds will only be issued in the same form of currency used for the payment; i.e., if you paid with a credit card, the credit will be to that same card.

9. What courses are being offered this year?

Courses offered during this year's Summer Seminar are listed and described on the APS website at: <https://stamps.org/Summer-Seminar>.

A course catalog can be downloaded at:

https://stamps.org/userfiles/file/education/Summer_Seminar/Brochure.pdf

Contact the APS Education Department if you would like a course catalog sent to you.

10. What is the daily schedule (Monday – Thursday)?

8:00 – 8:45 a.m.	General Session
8:45 – 9:00 a.m.	Break
9:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Courses in Session
11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.	Lunch
12:45 – 3:00 p.m.	Courses in Session
3:00 – 3:30 p.m.	Break
3:30 – 4:30 p.m.	Electives

11. What is a “General Session”?

General Sessions run from 8:00 – 8:45 a.m. each morning of Summer Seminar and are held in Sundman Hall. A different person will be featured each day. All Summer Seminar participants and instructors are invited to attend. General announcements will also be made during this time.

Monday – Michael Baadke, “Philatelic Literature and Your Collection”

Tuesday – Bill Schultz, “You’ve Got Mail”

Wednesday – MaryAnne Penner, “USPS Stamp Services”

Thursday – Justin Gordon, “Holocaust Postal History”

Friday – Kitty Wunderly, “Airmail Postal History”

12. What is an “Elective”?

Electives run from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Monday – Thursday of Summer Seminar. Summer Seminar attendees will be able to select from a list of presenters and topics each day.

13. Do I need to sign up for electives in advance (or general sessions)?

There is no need for participants to sign up for daily electives or general sessions, just show up and enjoy! Presenters spend a lot of time preparing their programs, so please support their efforts. Elective topics and their locations will be listed in the Summer Seminar program and listed on the daily schedule shown on the television in the lobby area. General Sessions are held in Sundman Hall. Topics and presenters will be described in the Summer Seminar program booklet that each participant will receive at Sunday evening's registration.

14. How do I participate in the Tuesday night auction?

By early April, registrants will receive a mailing with specific information about the Tuesday night auction. Registered students may submit up to 15 lots to place in an auction of consigned materials. Lots must be sent to the APC prior to Summer Seminar. Each participant will receive an auction catalog at Sunday evening's registration. All Summer Seminar students are invited to attend the auction; a person does not have to submit a lot for sale in order to participate in the auction. From 5:45 – 7 p.m. lots will be available for viewing in Sundman Hall. The auction will begin at 7 p.m. All participants wishing to participate will need to register at the door and receive a bidding number.

15. What is "Buy, Sell, Trade Night" and how do I participate?

All Summer Seminar participants are invited to bring philatelic items to sell or trade on Wednesday evening from 6 – 8 p.m. Upon request, a table will be available for you to set up your items. All participants are invited to come, browse, buy, and/or socialize during this event.

16. What is the Thursday evening "Distinguished Philatelist" dinner?

The Summer Seminar Distinguished Philatelist is recognized at the Distinguished Philatelist dinner. The Distinguished Philatelist award recognizes an individual who has contributed to the hobby for many years while displaying dedication, leadership and commitment. The 2018 honoree will be Randy Nei. The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. with a social hour at the "Big Spring Spirits". A sit-down dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. in Sundman Hall. The evening's program will include a keynote address by Randy Neil and the presentation of course certificates to all students "graduating" from their Summer Seminar courses.

17. What is planned for Friday morning?

Friday morning will begin with a hot breakfast buffet, followed by Kitty Wunderly, keynote speaker. Next, course instructors will share highlights from the week. Closing with Irv Miller's, "You Know You are at Summer Seminar because...". There will be an elective or two for those wishing to participate. The library, circuit sales, expertizing, and all APS offices will be open for visitors until 4:30 p.m.

18. How can I register?

The registration form can be found at:

https://stamps.org/userfiles/file/education/Summer_Seminar/SummerSemRegistration.pdf.

You may then choose to:

1. Print the document and send via mail (enclosing a check or submitting credit card information);
2. Fax the document to the APS (814.933.6128);
3. Email the form as an attachment to education@stamps.org and then follow up with a phone call to provide credit card information via phone (814.933.3810 or 814.933.3820);
4. Call the APS Education Department and register via phone (814.933.3810 or 814.933.3820)

19. Can I visit Circuit Sales during my visit?

Circuit Sales will be open for extended hours just for Summer Seminar participants. You will be able to purchase items and save on shipping costs.

20. Will the American Philatelic Research Library be open?

The Library will be open for extended hours just for Summer Seminar participants. You will be able to browse the library's open stacks, search the online catalog, and receive reference assistance

21. Will there be opportunities to purchase items from Stamp Store or APS Specialty Items and Publications?

Yes! You will be able to purchase items from Stamp Store and/or APS Specialty items and publications during your visit and save on shipping costs!

22. Will there be tours of the facility?

Yes. The first tour of the facility will begin at 5 p.m. on Sunday, June 24th. It will start in the lobby. Additional tour times will be listed on the schedule of events.

23. What food will be served?

A tentative listing of food to be served at meals can be found at:

https://stamps.org/userfiles/file/education/Summer_Seminar/Menu.pdf

Additionally, there will be snacks available in Sundman Hall during both the morning and afternoon breaks.

24. What if I have special dietary needs?

If you have special dietary needs, please contact the APS Education Department no later than June 1, 2018.

25. What should I bring?

You may want to bring your favorite pair of tongs and a lighted magnifier. If a course has specific items that students need to bring, you will be notified.

26. I am bringing a guest; will there be things for her/him to do?

Guests are welcome at food functions with advanced paid registration and some evening activities. Costs for meals: \$35 for Sunday dinner, \$35 for Monday dinner, \$50 for Thursday dinner, and \$80 for Lunch package (4 lunches). Visit the Bellefonte Area Chamber of Commerce website for ideas on "things to do" in the area: <http://bellefontechamber.org/>

27. How can I get more information?

Contact the APS Education Department at education@stamps.org or call 814.933.3810 or 814.933.3810.