

# BOYS' LIFE

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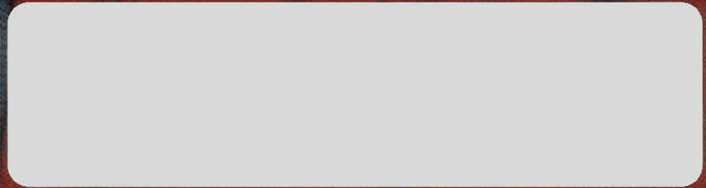


## DOG TALES

Dogsledding to Victory

**PLUS:**

How Dogs  
Help the Disabled





**A**RE you a *philatelist*? *Nu-*  
*mismatist*? *Deltiologist*?  
*Conchologist*?

If you are, you enjoy collecting postage stamps, coins, postcards, and seashells.

Those are just some of hundreds of hobbies people devote time and energy to every day.

What's a hobby? Almost anything qualifies, as long as it is a leisure-time activity you enjoy doing often.

Hobbies expand your knowledge and provide a sense of achievement. Sometimes a hobby leads to a lifetime of fun or even a lifelong career.

The Scouts shown here are avid hobbyists. They enjoy talking to anyone who wants to hear about their area of special interest.

When your troop uses the Hobbies program feature, you'll learn about popular pastimes like collecting stamps, building model airplanes, or operating a short-wave radio.

But you may also learn about some unusual hobbies.

Ever heard of *enigmatology*? It's the study of puzzles. If you enjoy *onomastics*, you collect unusual names of real persons. If you're a *phillumenist*, you collect match covers.

People collect almost every-



Scout  
Program:  
Hobbies

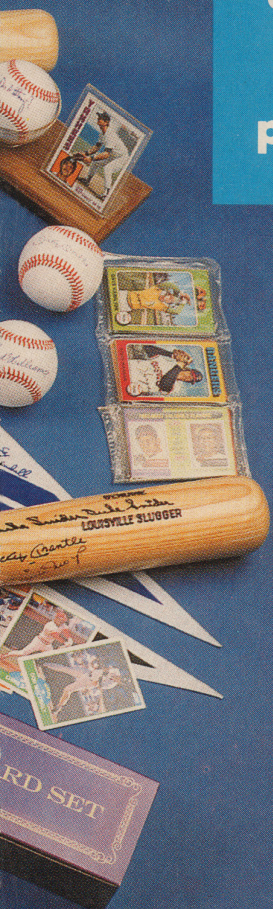
“That’s  
My  
Hobby”



*Sports like kayaking are hobbies too.*



**Here's why some people get such a kick out of a leisure-time pastime.**



*Hats, bats, cards, plates and pennants—sports collectibles are fun.*

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRIAN PAYNE



*Model airplanes come in all sizes.*

thing. Would you believe there's a Society of Inkwell Collectors? A Spark Plug Collectors of America? An International Brick Collectors' Association?

There are organizations for collectors of pencils, hatpins, toothbrushes, thermometers, eggbeaters, and thimbles...you name it.

Another type of hobby is making things. This can be a craft like wood carving or leatherworking, or an art like drawing, paint-



ACEY HARPER

*Philatelists often specialize—collecting only stamps with Scouts on them, for example.*

ing or sculpting.

Some hobbies are outside activities, like bird study or astronomy. Others qualify as recreational sports, like ice-skating or fly-fishing.

Some hobbies combine different activities. A plastic modeler builds scale models from kits, then keeps the finished models in a collection. Nature study is an outside activity, but you also collect, organize and display your samples.

During Hobbies month you can invite some local hobbyists to a troop meeting. They'll show you examples of their hobby and explain the basics of getting started.

Look for hobbyists among the troop's merit badge counselors. Many of the Boy Scouts of America's more than 100 merit



*Fishing is a popular hobby. Save money by tying your own flies.*

badges—from Archery and Art to Weather and Wood Carving—involve hobby subjects.

During the month, every troop member can sample a new hobby. A good way to do this is by starting work on one of the hobby merit badges.

**A Troop Hobby Show**

The month's highlight is a troop hobby show. Each Scout will display examples of a favorite hobby. Or you can show some projects you made for a merit badge.♣

—Jon C. Halter



*Learn to scuba dive with a buddy and discover a whole new world underwater.*