



## 2010 Celebrate Scouting Stamp

### Writing Letters to Veterans

Veterans are men and women who served in the military but are no longer active soldiers. During their careers, many fought overseas in defense of our democracy and freedom. Writing letters and sending packages is a great way to remind them that, even though they're retired from the armed forces, we're incredibly grateful for the service they gave to our nation.

There is something special about getting mail. The veterans will be very excited to get your letters and packages. Tell them about what you and your friends are doing in Scouts, in school, and with your family. However, keep in mind that it's always safer to send letters and packages to people you know, or who have been recommended to you. Please avoid sending letters to "Any Veteran."

Don't know how to find a veteran? Ask your parents. Maybe one of your grandparents was in the military, or another family member like an aunt or uncle. You can also work with your parents or Scoutmaster to get the names of veterans from groups like the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), American Legion, or AMVETS. You can also reach out to VA Hospitals to learn the names of residents who would love to get your letter.

Ready to get started? Below are some recommendations of what to write. But remember, if you are under the age of 18, you'll want to get your parents involved too! Show them the letter you are sending. This is a fun project you can do together!

#### Letter-writing tips:

- Remain positive in your letters! Some veterans are sick or under a lot of stress. They'd love to hear happy stories about what you're doing.
- Remember that veterans may be men or women, old or young, and of all ethnic backgrounds when writing your letter.
- Be creative! Draw pictures or send photographs of your school, Scout activities, or favorite things from home.
- Say "thank you" for their service, and let them know why you think patriotism is important.
- Write stories about your family, Scouting unit, school, and other things that you do. You can even make it fun by sharing your favorite jokes!
- Ask who you're writing if he or she used to be a Scout. Ask them to reconnect with the BSA and get involved with Scouting again by calling your Scoutmaster or enrolling at [www.BSAalumni.org](http://www.BSAalumni.org).