

***BALPEX, Americover, &
AAPE Young Exhibitors Championship
2026 - Prospectus
& Exhibit Entry Form***

Special Dates for 2026: August 7, 8, & 9

BWI Airport Marriott, 1743 West Nursery Rd.,
Linthicum Heights, MD 21090

Future Dates: Sept 10, 11, & 12, 2027

Societies at BALPEX:

American First Day Cover Society: Americover 2026

American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors: Young Exhibitors Championship

EIRE Philatelic Association

American Topical Association (Regional Meeting)

Germany Philatelic Society (Regional Meeting)

Add your society here ! (contact us)

Featuring The Baltimore Philatelic Forum

*Promotes the exchange of philatelic knowledge, and fellowship,
and provide a venue for alternative exhibiting.*

BALPEX & Society Presentations Aug 7th - 9th: A full slate of philatelic presentations. We are actively seeking presentations on topics of the presenter's choice. Convening societies are encouraged to participate. 20 min and 50 min time slots are available. See entry form if you are interested in giving a presentation.

Exhibits:

In addition to **175 frames of BALPEX WSP exhibits**, BALPEX 2026 will feature:

125+ frames of Americover First Day Cover exhibits competing independently of BALPEX.

American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors **Youth Championship** competition.

BALPEX 2 – 3 Frame Class: BALPEX encourages exhibits of 2 to 3 frames with a Best in Class Award and decreased fees. Exhibits are eligible for the WSP Multi-Frame Grand.

Informal Exhibiting Class: Minimal rules. Judging by vote of the exhibitors.

This Class provides a venue:

- For less formal exhibiting where new exhibitors can show material and receive suggestions and encouragement in an informal setting.
- For exhibitors who have philosophical differences with the current system.
- To try things that just don't fit the current system. Example: "Short Subjects" of a few pages.
- For collectors who just want to throw some material in the frames and say 'Look at this neat stuff'.
- For WSP exhibits in the making.

Suggested size 3 pages to 3 frames. Larger exhibits will be accepted depending on available frames.

"One of My Favorites" Class: Single item (or set), **single page** exhibits. A place to single out a gem from your collection. This is just for fun, although there will be a people's choice award. Simply mount the item, do a quick write-up, tell us why it's one of your favorites, and enter it. Exhibiting doesn't get any easier. No charge. Limited to 1 page (up to 12" x 18") per exhibitor.

Exhibit Presentations: Exhibitors (Informal and WSP) are encouraged to give a brief, informal presentation (**5 min or less**), at the frames, during the Exhibit Tour on Sunday morning. This is strictly voluntary. A schedule will be determined and posted on Friday.

Please check the Exhibit Presentation box on the application if you are willing to present your exhibit.

BALPEX - 2026 Exhibit Entry Form
August 7, 8, & 9 - BWI Airport Marriott
Entry Deadline: June 30, 2026 (or as below) One exhibit per Entry Form
After the first exhibit, only the blue items are required

Exhibitor's Name: _____ **Email:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Country: _____ **Phone(s):** _____

Society Memberships: BPS , AFDCS , EPA , AAPE , **Other:** _____

In the program: Use my name, Use pseudonym: _____

Exhibit Title: _____

Description, 25 words or less: _____

Title Page & Synopsis: Email submission preferred. Due 6/30/26 (but the earlier the better for you and the judges)

Select one: BALPEX entry , Americover entry , AAPE Youth Championship entry

General Multi-Frame (WSP Judged): Enter by 6/30/26 **Number of Frames:** _____ x \$18.00 = \$ _____

Single Frame (WSP Judged): Enter by 6/30/26 \$30.00 \$ _____

2-3 Frame (WSP Judged): Enter by 6/30/26 **Number of Frames:** _____ x \$12.00 = \$ _____

Youth (WSP Judged): Enter by 6/30/26 \$ _____ **0.00**

Informal Class* : Enter by 7/10/26; **No. of Frames:** _____ x \$6.00 = \$ _____

One of My Favorites Class*, Single Page, 12 x 18 max (Peoples Choice): Enter by 8/6/26 \$ _____ **0.00**

*See rules 6-9 for more information

Return Shipping: \$ _____

Awards Banquet 8/8/26: rsvp by 7/18/26 ... **Chicken:** _____, **Salmon:** _____, **Vegan:** _____ x \$80.00 ea = \$ _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Delivery: Personal, USPS, FedEx, Agent (name) _____

Return: Personal, USPS Priority, USPS Express, FedEx, **Insurance** \$ _____, **Registered Return NOT offered.**

Agent (name) _____

Novice Exhibitor: If this is your 1st time exhibiting at the national level, check here

Exhibit Presentations: I am willing to give a 5 min talk about my exhibit, during the exhibit tour on Saturday morning:

BALPEX Presentations: If you wish to present during BALPEX, check here: 20-30 min 40-60 min **Presentation Title:**

I, THE UNDERSIGNED, have read the rules and regulations and understand that it will be my responsibility to insure my exhibit, and I will not hold the Baltimore Philatelic Society, Inc. any participating Society, the BWI Airport Marriott and/or their officers, members, or employees liable for any loss of or damage to this exhibit:

Signature: (Required) _____ **Date:** _____

Youth only: Date of birth: _____ Signature of parent or Guardian: _____

Email Submission, incl. Title Page and Synopsis preferred to: Richard Taschenberg rtemd@earthlink.net

Followup and payment to: BALPEX Entry, P O Box 401, Sykesville, MD 21784 Checks payable to: BALPEX

BALPEX - 2026

An American Philatelic Society Accredited National Level Exhibition

Sponsored by The Baltimore Philatelic Society, Inc.

Balpex – August 7, 8, 9, 2026

At the BWI Airport Marriott

1743 West Nursery Rd.

Linthicum Heights, MD 21090

*** IMPORTANT DATES ***	
June 30, 2026	Closing date for entries for WSP judged classes
July 10, 2026	Closing date for entries for Informal class. Entries after Aug 25 may not appear in the Show Program. Favorites Class entries accepted through Sept 4 if space is available.
July 27, 2026	Earliest date for mailed in exhibits to arrive.
Aug 5, 2026	Latest date for mailed in exhibits to arrive
Thursday, Aug 6, 2026	Exhibit mounting of all exhibit classes 3:00 to 7:00 pm
Friday, Aug 7, 2026	BALPEX opens at 10:00 am
Saturday, Aug 8, 2026	Awards Banquet. Cocktails: 6:00, Dinner: 7:00 pm
Sunday, Aug 9, 2026	BALPEX closes at 3:00 pm. Exhibit dismount begins at 2:00

Judging the Exhibition

BALPEX entries, Americover entries, and AAPE Youth Championship entries will each be judged independently of the other groups, and are eligible different awards.

Each exhibit in the WSP classes within a group will be judged independently using standards based on the current APS criteria.

The only direct competition between any of the exhibits in the same group will be for the Grand Awards and the Special Awards. Exhibits of more than one frame are eligible for the Multi-frame Grand Award. The winner is invited to the Champion of Champions competition at The Great American Stamp Show 2027, Aug 19-22 Albuquerque, NM

Exhibits of one frame are eligible for the Single Frame Grand award. The winner is invited to the Single Frame Champion of Champion competition at Chicagopex, Nov 20-22, 2026.

BALPEX Awards

General Class – Multi-frame Grand and Reserve Grand awards and an unlimited number of Large Gold, Gold, Large Vermeil, Vermeil, Large Silver, Silver, Silver-Bronze and Bronze.

One-Frame Class – Single Frame Grand award and an unlimited number of Large Gold, Gold, Large Vermeil, Vermeil, Large Silver, Silver, Silver-Bronze and Bronze.

2 to 3 Frame Class – Eligible for Multi-Frame Grand and Reserve Grand plus Best 2 Frame, Best 3 Frame, and an unlimited number of Large Gold, Gold, Large Vermeil, Vermeil, Large Silver, Silver, Silver-Bronze and Bronze.

Informal Class – 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Best by a novice (all by exhibitor vote)

One of My Favorites Class – People’s choice award.

PLUS – many Special Awards

Americover Awards

Claude C. Ries Chapter Grand Award

This award is sponsored by the Claude C. Ries Chapter of the AFDCS. It consists of a crystal pyramid with suitable inscriptions. The award is given to the best multi-frame FDC exhibit at Americover.

Richard H. Thompson Reserve Grand Award

This award is named for Richard H. Thompson, an acclaimed FDC researcher, writer and exhibitor. This award is given to the second best multi-frame FDC exhibit at Americover. The award is sponsored by Henry Gitner Philatelists, Inc.

Curtis B. Patterson Single-Frame Grand Award

Curtis B. Patterson was a prolific writer, and served as the AFDCS archivist from the 1970s to the mid-1980s. This award is given to the best single-frame exhibit at Americover. The Patterson Award recipient will be invited to enter the APS single-frame Champion of Champions exhibit competition.

Robert C. Graebner Novice Award

Robert C. Graebner was a cachetmaker, an AFDCS regional vice-president, and AFDCS president from 1973 to 1974. This award is given to the best exhibit by a first-time exhibitor at Americover. Youth exhibits are eligible for the award.

Marge Finger Most Popular Award

Marge Finger was a researcher and author, and served the AFDCS in many capacities. This award is given to the most popular exhibit, which is determined by balloting among the Americover attendees.

AFDCS Award of Excellence (pre-classic period, 1847-1931)

This award is presented to the exhibit that best exemplifies in-depth research on FDCs or EKUs/EDUs from 1847 until 1931.

AFDCS Award of Excellence (classic period, 1932-1945)

This award is presented to the best FDC exhibit that emphasizes cachets from 1932 through 1945, and that has not won the Grand Award at the same Americover.

AFDCS Award of Excellence (modern era, 1946-1980)

This award is presented to the FDC exhibit that emphasizes cachets from 1946 to 1980, and that has not won the Grand Award at the same Americover.

AFDCS Award of Excellence (modern era, 1981-present)

This award is presented to the FDC exhibit that emphasizes cachets from 1981 to present, and that has not won the Grand Award at the same Americover.

AFDCS Award of Excellence (hand-drawn/hand-painted cachets)

This award is given to the best exhibit that shows hand-drawn and hand-painted cachets.

Rules and Regulations

1. BALPEX is open to all exhibitors who abide by the rules herein.

2. All material exhibited must be the bona fide property of the individual exhibitor or immediate family members.

3. The Exhibit Committee reserves the right to limit or refuse any exhibit at its discretion, and may reject any exhibit without giving a reason. In such cases, refund of entry fee will be made.

4. Exhibits that have won the Grand Award at BALPEX, within the last 10 years, won the APS Champion of Champions, a FIP Grand Prix, or three (3) FIP Large Gold Medals are not eligible to enter. They may be invited to participate in the non-competitive court of honor. You may request an invitation from the exhibit chairman.

5. For General Class, the minimum number of frames is 4. The maximum number of frames for an exhibit is 10. 2 or 3 frame exhibits will be entered in the 2-3 Frame class.

6. For Informal Class, the suggested size is 3 pages to 3 frames. Larger exhibits will be accepted depending on available frames. **Informal Class exhibitors are encouraged to attend the show.** We will accept mail-in exhibits if you prefer not to arrive on Thursday, but would prefer that exhibits be picked up in person at end of the show.

7. For "One of My Favorites Class": 1 page (up to 12" x 18") per exhibitor. Exhibits must have name and contact information, including cell phone, on back. Exhibits will be turned in and picked up at the registration desk during normal mount / dismount hours. The Exhibit committee will mount the exhibits on Thursday evening, and dismount on Sunday afternoon. As with Informal exhibits, mail-ins will be accepted, but we prefer 'in person' pickup on Sunday.

8. Exhibitors may enter no more than (2) exhibits in the General Class, (2) exhibits in the One Frame Class, (2) exhibits in the Informal Class, and (1) entry in "Favorites" Class. Additional Informal & "Favorites" entries may be accepted if approved by exhibits chairman.

9. **Fees:** General: **\$18 per frame.** Single Frame: **\$30.** 2-3 frame: **\$12 per frame.** Youth: free. Informal: **\$6 per frame.** One of My Favorites Class: free. Fees are **payable in advance** (with the entry form). If return mailing is desired prepayment of the correct amount is required. Exhibits will be returned by Express Mail unless otherwise instructed by Exhibitor. **Registered Mail is NOT an option for return.** Payment for applications submitted by email must be mailed promptly to be received within 10 days of email entry. In person pickup of **Informal Class and "Favorites" class is preferred.**

10. Exhibitor's names will appear in the program and will be used in conjunction with the presentation of awards,

unless notified by the exhibitor on the entry form that a pseudonym is desired.

11. It is strongly recommended that the exhibitor provide the Title Page and/or Synopsis Page by e-mail to rtemd@earthlink.net. The synopsis page should specify the title of the exhibit, the type of exhibit i.e. postal, revenue, thematic, etc. Neither the Title Page nor the Synopsis should identify the name of the exhibitor. See Closing Dates for entries in Important Dates. Rule 11 does not apply to Informal & "Favorites" Classes.

12. Exhibit pages, when mounted in the frames should not show the name of the owner on the front of the page.

13. Forgeries and counterfeits should be plainly identified, or the exhibit may be subject to downgrading or disqualification.

14. Pages will be displayed in Ameripex type frames, mounted in 4 rows of pages with a maximum height of 12", and a maximum combined visible width of 35". Larger pages up to 36"x48" are acceptable for exhibitor / agent mounted exhibits. Mail-in exhibit pages must be enclosed in transparent sheet protectors, and numbered on the back in sequential order.

15. The Baltimore Philatelic Society, the convening societies, the BWI Airport Marriott or any of their members and/or employees will not be responsible for any loss or damage to any material submitted for exhibit. The Exhibit Committee will exercise all reasonable care in the handling and mounting of all entries, while en route to and from the post office, including the employment of guards on 24 hour duty while the exhibits are on display. Insurance is the sole responsibility of the exhibitor. See also rule 16.

16. Exhibitors desiring to mount their own pages must so indicate on the Entry Form. Mailed in exhibits should arrive at the below listed address during the date range specified in "Important Dates". Exhibitors mailing exhibits are required to have their exhibit fully insured. Please package carefully and ship to:

Norman Cohen
Baltimore Philatelic Society, Inc.
12400 Greenspring Avenue
Owings Mills, Maryland 21117

Do not enclose any message requiring an answer prior to mounting. Exhibit packages are not opened until mounting begins on Thursday afternoon.

17. Exhibits may be mounted by owners or agents during the exhibit mounting time specified in "Important Dates". No exhibit will be dismounted until after the close of the show at 3pm on Sunday afternoon. In-person pick-up of Informal & "Favorites" Class exhibits is strongly encouraged.

18. Procedures for mounting and dismounting exhibits

(see next page)

18. Procedures for mounting and dismantling exhibits

A: BALPEX COMMITTEE MEMBER MUST ACCOMPANY EXHIBITORS/AGENTS FOR MOUNTING AND DISMOUNTING EXHIBITS

B: Mounting Procedures

On Thursday, at approximately 3:00 pm, exhibitors or their agents will, on a first come first served basis, sign the mounting book and proceed with the next available committee member to the exhibit area for mounting.

Mailed in exhibits will be signed in and mounted by the show committee as time permits.

“Favorites: Class entries will be collected at the counter and mounted in approximate chronological order by the Exhibits Chairman after all other exhibits are mounted.

For additional information about exhibiting at BALPEX please contact:

Richard Taschenberg, Exhibits Chairman
rtemd@earthlink.net or 410-442-2787

or

Norman Cohen Co-Chairman nec1945@comcast.net or 410-356-6567.

C: Dismounting Procedures

“Favorites” Class entries will be dismantled by the Exhibits Chairman at 1:50, and will be available for pickup at the counter.

Dismounting of all other exhibits will begin at approximately 2:00 pm on Sunday when the show closes.

Exhibitors/agents must be accompanied by a show official.

After the exhibitor/agent has dismantled the exhibit, the dismount section of the mount/dismount book must be signed to receive your judging form.

For additional information about Baltimore Philatelic Forum activities please contact:

Richard Taschenberg at email rtemd@earthlink.net

For any other information regarding BALPEX, please contact the BPS Clubhouse, 3440 Ellicott Center Drive, Suite 103, Ellicott City, MD 21043 or 410-465-5712, or BALPEX@verizon.net, or visit BALPEX.org