



Collections Merit Badge Guide

Requirements

https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_RegandRes/Collections.pdf

2022 02 22

1. Prepare a short written report or outline for your counselor, giving a detailed description of your collection,* including a short history, why you enjoy your collection, and what you have learned from collecting. Be sure to include why you chose that particular type of collection/collecting method.

*Stamp and coin collecting are excluded from eligibility for this merit badge.

2. Explain the growth and development of your collection.

3. Demonstrate your knowledge of preserving and displaying your collection.

a. Explain the precautions you need to take to preserve your collection, including

(1) Handling

(2) Cleaning

(3) Storage

b. Explain how best to display your collection, keeping in mind preserving as discussed above.

c. Explain to your counselor the events available for a hobbyist of this collection, including shows, seminars, conventions, contests, and museum programs and exhibits.

d. Explain to your counselor how you keep track of your collection. Describe your cataloging method.

4. Demonstrate your knowledge of collecting and investing. Discuss with your counselor:

a. How investing and speculation would apply to your collection

b. What you would look for in purchasing other collections similar to yours

c. What you would expect in return value if you decided to sell all or part of the collection

5. Do the following:

- a. Discuss with your counselor at least 10 terms commonly used to describe your collection and be prepared to discuss the definition of each.
 - b. Show your counselor any two groups from your collection. Explain how you organized your collection and why you chose that method. (Note: If your collection is too large to transport and your counselor is unable to view your collection directly, photographs should be available to share.)
 - c. Explain the monetary value of your collection and where you learned about those values.
 - d. Explain how your collection is graded for value, physical defects, size, and age. Show the various classifications or ratings used in your collection.
 - e. List the national, state, or local association(s) related to or associated with your collection.
 - f. Explain to your counselor the purpose of and reason for the identification number (if applicable), series, brand name (if any), and any other special identification marks.
6. Discuss with your counselor the plans you have to continue with the collection in the future.
7. Find out about career opportunities in collecting. Pick one and find out the education, training, and experience required for this profession. Discuss this with your counselor, and explain why this profession might interest you.

Homework for Collections Merit Badge before class:

1. Do Your Best to research and write your answers to **requirements # 1, 2, 3, 4** before the course begins. Bring your written notes with you to present to the Merit Badge Counselor as the course begins.
2. For **requirement # 5 a**, if you are a Scout patch collector, you can find a listing of Scout patch collecting terms in this Guide. We will review these during class.

If you collect other items, please write down your collection-specific terms and Be Prepared to discuss them during class.

For **requirement #5 b**, please bring your collection if it is portable. If it is not portable, please bring a photograph.

For **requirement # 5 c, d, e, f**, know these requirements for your collection. We will review patch collecting in class.

3. We will discuss **requirements # 6 and # 7** in class.



Collections Merit Badge Resources

ICSA -- International Scout Collectors Association

<http://www.scouttrader.org/>

Articles on getting started in patch collecting:

<http://www.scouttrader.org/collecting/>

This page shows links to multiple articles on Scout patch collecting.

<http://www.scouttrader.org/collecting/Storage.pdf>

Collections Merit Badge Overview

<http://www.scouttrader.org/collecting/CollectionsMB.pdf>

The Scout Patch Camp Collector's Base Camp

The Scout Patch Collector's Base Camp is a directory of helpful internet resources for pursuing our hobby of collecting and trading Scout memorabilia.

<http://www.patchcamp.com/>

Overview of collecting Scouting memorabilia

<https://scoutingmagazine.org/issues/0103/a-swap.html>

Requirement # 1. Prepare a short written report or outline for your counselor, giving a detailed description of your collection,* including a short history. Be sure to include why you chose that particular type of collecting and what you enjoy and have learned from your collection.*

*Stamp and coin collecting are excluded from eligibility for this merit badge.

From: <http://www.ebay.com/gds/Boy-Scout-patch-collecting-for-beginners-/1000000009083460/g.html>

This web link is not active as of 12/08/2018.

July 25, 2011

BOY SCOUT PATCHES: COLLECTING FOR BEGINNERS

Patch collecting, especially Boy Scout patch collecting can be overwhelming. Here are some tips to get you started.

1. Pick an area you'd like to start. Council shoulder patches (CSP), Red & white strips (RWS), camporee, camp-o-rall, expo, jamboree, Order of the Arrow (OA) flaps etc. Or collect anything that "looks cool".
2. Start inexpensive. You may be surprised how many scout patches are available for a dollar, even as old as the 1970's. Also if you later discover your patch to be a "fake", much money has not been invested. You may also want to pick up a few extra cheap patches for trade. To another trader, you may have a patch he really wanted specially if he was at the event on the patch! Like my local 1986 Scout Expo which I was entitled a patch and never given!
3. Get to know what are the most commonly faked patches. This may save you from great embarrassment with fellow collectors and great disappointment.
4. Many modern patches can be purchased at local Scout council office. I purchased a grab bag and got numerous expos & camporees I missed, and they were all local!
5. Collect patches from discontinued/merged councils and lodges. Example Skyloo 442 & Cole Snass Lamatai 259 OA Lodges merged in 1994. Now has become Wauna La-Mon'tay 442. You'd have to do some internet research to find this information.
6. Don't rule out old Scout shirts. Old uniform shirts sometimes sell \$5-20 based on the size and condition, but may have patches that list for way more than that! Plus, you have a neat item that can be easily displayed.
7. Make sure the seller has it correct! Sometimes sellers get confused between girl scout & boy scout so you may want to check that you are not getting a girl scout camp patch.
8. Patch collecting is like Disney pin trading. Very addictive! New issues and commemoratives are always being made.
9. Keep your "earned" patches and traded/purchased separate. I would easily forget which ones I got as a scout or the ones I bought via ebay.
10. Other Scout items. Scarves and slides are very affordable. \$5-10. More for better quality, rarity etc. These can complement your collection and are easily displayed or even worn.

Before you know it, you will have a zillion patches to display however you like. This is not by any means a complete list, but some of the things I found out as I recently got back into collecting scout stuff.

Good Luck!

Requirement # 2. Explain the growth and development of your collection.

Requirement # 3. Demonstrate your knowledge of preserving and displaying your collection.

a. Explain the precautions you need to take to preserve your collection, including

- (1) Handling
- (2) Cleaning
- (3) Storage

<https://www.ncmuseumofhistory.org/collections/artifact-care>

<http://www.scouttrader.org/collecting/Storage.pdf>

Protect from light, heat, cold, humidity, water leaks, handling, bending, folding, fumes (cleaning agents, tobacco smoke, pets), insects, vermin.

Basements, attics, garages, paper boxes, plastic covers.

Allow air circulation.

Use acid-free polyester sleeves for comic books to prevent mold.

<https://www.paperwishes.com/scrapbooking101/articles/scrapbook-definitions.html>

<http://www.ebay.com/gds/What-does-acid-and-lignin-free-mean-/10000000004003504/g.html>

This page is not active as of 2019 04 05.

ACID and LIGNIN

When Scrapbooking, anything that touches your photos should be acid and lignin free, including paper, glue, pens/markers and stickers. The presence of acid and/or lignin would cause the photos to discolour and disintegrate quicker than they would naturally. Acid-free, lignin free and photo safe products will usually be labeled as such.

Acid-free?

Acid causes paper and photos to disintegrate. This aging process is significantly slowed when the acid is removed from paper during the manufacturing process. Not all scrapbooking items are photo-safe so be sure to check before you but that your desired items are acid-free or archival quality

Lignin free?

Lignin is the natural bonding element which holds wood fibres together. Newspaper contains lignin - you will have noticed that newspaper can become brittle and discoloured with age! So, if you want to include newspaper articles, pictures or announcements in your scrapbook, first photocopy or print on acid and lignin free paper (use off-white paper for an authentic feel!) Like acid, lignin can be removed during the manufacturing process so suitable products should be labeled lignin free or archival quality.

ARCHIVAL QUALITY

This term is only applied to products which have been specially tested to measure their acidic and buffered content and it has been shown to fall within acceptable parameters/safe levels.

Buffered Paper

During manufacturing, a buffering agent such as calcium carbonate can be added to paper to neutralize acid contaminants. Such papers usually have a pH of about 8.5

pH Factor

This refers to the acidity level. the pH scales is the standard for measurement of alkalinity and acidity. It runs from 1 to 14 with each number representing a ten-fold increase - pH neutral is 7.

Acid-free products have a pH of 7 or above and pH tester pens are available to check acidity, however, acid-free products will be labeled accordingly.

PHOTO SAFE

This is a term similar to Archival quality but specific to materials used with photographs. Photo safe products are acid-free.

- b.** Explain how best to display your collection, keeping in mind preserving as discussed above.
- c.** Explain to your counselor the events available for a hobbyist of this collection, including shows, seminars, conventions, contests, and museum programs and exhibits.

<http://scoutpatchcollectors.com/trade-o-ree-calendar>

<https://www.bsator.com/>

Requirement # 4. Demonstrate your knowledge of collecting and investing. Discuss with your counselor:

- a. How investing and speculation would apply to your collection
- b. What you would look for in purchasing other collections similar to yours
- c. What you would expect in return value if you decided to sell all or part of the collection

Condition

Authenticity

Age

Scarcity

Provenance

Context

Grading (coins, stamps, comic books, trading cards)

Trading cards:

Corners: sharp, fuzzy, slightly rounded, rounded, badly rounded
Condition: mint, near mint, excellent, very good, good, fair, poor

Sources of trading cards: other collectors or dealers, sale or auction ads in hobby publications, local hobby stores, sports collectible shows or conventions, the Internet marketplace, estate sales

Web site for a trading card shop in Rock Hill, SC
<https://www.grandslamrockhill.com/>

b. What you would look for in purchasing other collections similar to yours

Quality, quantity, missing items, travel time, storage, availability, price, partial or whole, duplicates, disposition plan

c. What you would expect in return value if you decided to sell all or part of the collection

Suggestion: check www.ebay.com and find a few collectible items you are interested. Record information about the item, the seller, and the asking price and bidding.

Requirement # 5. Do the following:

- a. Discuss with your counselor at least 10 terms commonly used in your collection and be prepared to discuss the definition of each.
- b. Show your counselor any two groups from your collection. Explain how you organized your collection and why you chose that method. (Note: If your collection is too large to transport and your counselor is unable to view your collection directly, photographs should be available to share.)
- c. Explain how your collection is valued by other collectors, and display to your counselor any price guides that may be available.
- d. Explain how your collection is graded for value, physical defects, size, and age. Show the various classifications or ratings used in your collection.
- e. List the national, state, or local association responsive to your collection.
- f. Show the location of and explain to your counselor the identification number (if applicable), series, brand name (if any), and any other special identification marks.

This link has a discussion of the history of Scout patch trading:
<http://www.scouttrader.org/collecting/History.pdf>

This link has a discussion of Scout patch trading and ethics:
https://oa-bsa.org/sites/default/files/training-syllabus/Patch-Design-and-Collecting_Patch-Trading-Ethics.pdf

This page defines and illustrates basics of patch designs:
<http://www.patchsupply.com/embroidered-patch-design-basics.html>
Legal

Patch frauds

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2011/10/26/how-to-spot-fake-scouting-patches-and-memorabilia/>

http://www.nwcoastrader.com/uploads/6/7/2/3/6723437/a_guide_to_identifying_recent_chinese_fakes_on_ebay.pdf

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scouting_memorabilia_collecting

Patch Collecting Terms

<https://scouttrader.org/ISCASOACSection6.shtml>

A: Arrowhead-shaped patch.

B: See Bullion.

Badge: An international term for a patch or pin.

Box-worn: Describes a patch that is otherwise mint, but it has become soiled or limp through repeated handling over time.

Bullion: A style of patch sewn with thin wire or metallic thread on felt. Typically worn on a blazer jacket and held in place with pin clasps.

BWS: Blue & white strip, worn on the blue uniform by Sea Scouts to identify their community. BWS, KRS, RWS, and BWS are similar.

C: See Chenille.

Chang: Refers to a patch that was originally manufactured in China or Taiwan that has since been remanufactured with the original pattern and sold to the public at greatly reduced prices without the council's or lodge's permission.

Chenille: A rug-like patch style commonly used for high school block letters for athletes and also used for some OA patches.

Cloth back: (also **CB**) Describes the backside of a patch, usually with a gauze type backing for stiffness. In contrast, see plastic back.

Computer design: (also **CD**) Refers to a patch manufactured using a computerized embroidery machine where the stitching lies relatively flat across the surface of the patch. In contrast, see Swiss embroidery.

CP: Council Patch. Refers to a patch that is round, square, diamond any many other shapes, but not designed to be worn on the shoulder, that gives the council's name only—no event or camp names.

CSP: Council Shoulder Patch.

Cut edge: The patch edge does not have any border covering the cut edge of the material, also "ce" or "c/e". In contrast, see rolled edge.

Dupe: (also **dup**) Duplicate, extra item for trade or sale.

F: A lodge flap that is not solidly embroidered. Some of the cloth material shows through.

Fake: An item made to deceive others into believing that it is legitimate. See also

Reproduction.

FOS: Friends of Scouting, from the annual council fundraising campaign.

Geer shape: A flap manufactured by the Geer Company, recognized by its distinctive shape.

Ghost patch: A patch sewn all in one color so the design is visible only by viewing the different direction of the stitching.

ISCA: International Scout Collectors Association.

J: A jacket patch.

JSP: Jamboree Shoulder Patch.

Junk patches: Common patches with little trading value.

KRS: Khaki & red strip, worn on the shoulder to identify the community. BWS, KRS, RWS, and BWS are similar.

Lion Brothers shape: A flap manufactured by the Lion Brothers company, recognized by its distinctive shape.

Mint: In perfect, unwashed, unsewn, unused condition.

Moritz shape: A flap manufactured by the Moritz Company, recognized by its distinctive shape.

Mylar: A metallic thread, usually gold or silver, although other colors are sometimes used, often used for patch borders.

N: A neckerchief, also "n/c."

Need: Collectible item that one desires.

NOAC: National Order of the Arrow Conference.

Overrun: Extra patches produced by a manufacturer to meet minimum order specifications. These are sometimes destroyed, sold, or given away as samples.

Photochromatic: Thread that appears white while indoors but changes color when exposed to sunlight.

Pie: A pie-slice-shaped patch designed to be worn on a neckerchief.

Plastic back: (also **PB**) Describes the backside of a patch with a plastic overlay for stiffness. In contrast, see cloth back.

Pre-CSP: A council shoulder patch manufactured before 1970, with a design like a modern CSP, but not a RWS or BWS.

Private Issue: A patch produced by an individual that does not duplicate another patch but in some ways looks official (often flap or CSP-shaped). Private issues are usually unauthorized and are most often made purely for profit by the maker. They are sometimes referred to as a fake.

R: A round patch usually less than five inches in diameter.

Reproduction: An item made to copy a legitimate collectible, but without the intent to deceive, for example **FAKE** or **REPRO** may be stamped on the back. See also Fake.

Reserve price: A price set by the seller at an auction, below which they will not sell the item.

Rocker: An arc-shaped patch (the shape of the bottom of a rocking chair), such as a community strip, state strip, or segment designed to be worn around a round patch.

Rolled edge: The patch edge has a merrow border sewn onto the perimeter. In contrast, see cut edge.

RWS: Red & white strip, worn on the shoulder to identify council or city. May be distinguished as "full size" (usually for a council/state designation), ½ strip (community

strip size), or ¼ strip (state size). BWS, KRS, RWS, and BWS are similar.

S: A solidly embroidered lodge flap or CSP where no cloth shows through.

SAP: Shoulder activity patch. A CSP for a specific event.

Snipe: To submit a bid within the last few seconds of an auction, in hopes of beating out the high bidder before they can respond.

Spoof: An unofficial patch created for profit and entertainment purposes.

Swap: British term for “to trade” (when used as a verb) or “dupe” (when used as a noun).

Swiss embroidery: Refers to a style of embroidery where the stitching has some physical depth and some threads may be sewn over others of a different color. In contrast, see computer design.

T: A twill CSP that is not solidly-embroidered. Some of the cloth material shows through.

Tag: A thread that connects two elements of a (usually twill) patch such as a thread that connects two letters or a letter and the border.

Trade-O-Ree: (also **TOR**), a meeting for trading, buying, selling of Scouting memorabilia.

Twill Left: When a non-solidly embroidered patch is viewed, the grain of twill of the patch appears to go up diagonally to the left.

Twill Right: When a non-solidly embroidered patch is viewed, the grain of twill of the patch appears to go up diagonally to the right.

Two-piece: A matching OA flap and pocket patch that form a common design when displayed together.

W: See Woven.

Wants: An international term for needs.

WBS: White & blue strip, worn on the white uniform by Sea Scouts to identify their community. BWS, KRS, RWS, and BWS are similar.

Woven: A flat, silken patch style commonly used by international Scouting associations.

X: An odd-shaped patch (not flap shaped, round, arrowhead-shaped, pie-shaped, and so on).

Z: See Fake.

-- David Miura and Warren F. Kuhfeld

<http://www.scouttrader.org/collecting/CollectingTerms.pdf>

Other terms:

CAP: Council Activity Patch

OBV: Acronym for Ordeal, Brotherhood, Vigil Honor, referring to Order of the Arrow patches, usually flap patches

Thread head: Patch collector

Merrowed edge: Merrowing, sometimes known as overlock sewing or overlocking, is the process of wrapping thread around fabric, yielding an efficient and uniform stitch.

From: <http://blog.merrow.com/2008/10/what-is-merrowed-border.html>

Published by the Merrow Sewing Machine Company, incorporated in 1838.
<http://www.merrow.com/overlock-history>

Merrow Sewing Machine Company, Manufacturing Sewing Machines Since 1838
<http://www.merrow.com/overlock-history>

More than 170 years ago, Mr. Joseph Merrow became interested in the manufacture of gunpowder and established a powder mill 24 miles from Hartford Connecticut. When an explosion in 1837 destroyed the Mill, Mr. Merrow decided to build a knitting factory on the same site.

The overlock machine

[A serger or overlocking sewing machine trims the seam and encloses the edge in a thread pattern that adds some strength and neatness and prevents unraveling.] In conjunction with the knitting business, sewing machines were constructed in the machine shop for finishing around the tops of men's socks in place of handwork.

Devised in 1868 in the machine shop built by his grandfather, the first Merrow Crochet Machine was an invention of Mr. Joseph Millard Merrow.

By 1999, Merrow had expanded its agent network to cover more than 60 countries, and had engineered successful sewing solutions for applications ranging from emblem edging to butted seaming.

Today, Merrow is run by brothers Owen and Charlie Merrow, the great-grandnephews of Joseph M. Merrow. Since 2004 when the Company was relocated to Massachusetts and renamed The Merrow Sewing Machine Company, Merrow has led in the invention, manufacture, and sale of industrial sewing machines, and has become an industry leader in web-based content, developing cutting-edge online support and training systems to advance its global network of distributors.

- b. Show your counselor any two groups from your collection. Explain how you organized your collection and why you chose that method. (Note: If your collection is too large to transport and your counselor is unable to view your collection directly, photographs should be available to share.)
- c. Explain how your collection is valued by other collectors, and display to your counselor any price guides that may be available.
- d. Explain how your collection is graded for value, physical defects, size, and age. Show the various classifications or ratings used in your collection.
- e. List the national, state, or local association responsive to your collection.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scouting_memorabilia_collecting

Organizations and resources for collectors

Many organizations around the world are dedicated to accumulating and disseminating information on various Scouting memorabilia. The Scout collecting organizations Scouts on Stamps Society International (SOSSI), the International Badgers Club, the Scouting Memorabilia Club of Japan, the International Scouting Collectors Association, the Scout Memorabilia Collectors of Canada and the American Scouting Historical Society are a few of the resources available to collectors of Scouting memorabilia.

Many collectors guides and buyers' guides have been published since the first ASTA Blue Book in 1959, among the most well-known are the Arapaho series, which deal with locality-specific Boy Scouts of America insignia.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scouting_memorabilia_collecting

Scout memorabilia as business

Only relatively recently has the concept of marketing such items for monetary gain come into play, though modern Scout councils have become rather market savvy and now often produce collectibles, items meant primarily and specifically for collectors, serving no other Scouting purpose. Some even later destroy remainders of such items to cause forced scarcity, artificial rarity which many see as depriving later or less-motivated collectors of the possibility of filling a collection from their unit, regional division or area of interest. For merchants of Scout memorabilia, the Society of Scout Memorabilia Dealers serves as an umbrella organization.

f. Show the location of and explain to your counselor the identification number (if applicable), series, brand name (if any), and any other special identification marks.

Requirement # 6. Discuss with your counselor the plans you have to continue with the collection in the future.

Requirement # 7. Find out about career opportunities in collecting. Pick one and find out the education, training, and experience required for this profession. Discuss this with your counselor, and explain why this profession might interest you.

Scouting memorabilia

Buying, selling, trading, conventions, clubs, auctions, web sites

Dealer

Auctioneer

Picker

Conservator, restorer (cars)

Grader (appraiser)

Gallery owner

Curator

Comic books

cartoonist, penciller, colorist, inker, publishing, grading, dealing

Sports trading cards

playing sports, sportscasting, sports writing, sports card packaging, sports card promoting

Rock collectors

mineralogists, petrologists, geologists, teachers

gemologists expert in identification and grading, appraisers, diamond cutters, lapidaries (cuts, polishes, engraves gems), bench jewelers, jewelry designers

Candy dispensers

toy manufacturer, candy-maker, pop culture historian, hobby magazine writer, brand manager, product placement specialist