BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
MERIT BADGE SERIES

COIN COLLECTING

“Enhancing our youths’ competitive edge through merit badges”
Requirements

1. Understand how coins are made and where the active U.S. Mint facilities are located.

2. Explain these collecting terms:
   a. Obverse
   b. Reverse
   c. Reeding
   d. Clad
   e. Type set
   f. Date set

3. Explain the grading terms Uncirculated, Extremely Fine, Very Fine, Fine, Very Good, Good, and Poor. Show five different grade examples of the same coin type. Explain the term *proof* and why it is not a grade. Tell what encapsulated coins are.

4. Know three different ways to store a collection, and describe the benefits, drawbacks, and expense of each method. Pick one to use when completing requirements.

5. Do ONE of the following:
   a. Demonstrate to your counselor that you know how to use two U.S. or world coin reference catalogs.
   b. Read a numismatic magazine or newspaper and tell your counselor about what you learned.
6. Describe the 1999–2008 50 State Quarters® program or the 2010-2021 America the Beautiful Quarters® program. Collect and show your counselor five different quarters from circulation you have acquired from one of these programs.

7. Collect from circulation a set of current U.S. coins. Include one coin of each denomination (cent, nickel, dime, quarter, half dollar, dollar). For each coin, locate the mint marks, if any, and the designer’s initials, if any.

8. Do the following:
   a. Identify the people depicted on the following denominations of current U.S. paper money: $1, $2, $5, $10, $20, $50, and $100.
   b. Explain “legal tender.”
   c. Describe the role the Federal Reserve System plays in the distribution of currency.

9. Do ONE of the following:
   a. Collect and identify 50 foreign coins from at least 10 different countries.
   b. Collect and identify 20 bank notes from at least five different countries.
   c. Collect and identify 15 different tokens or medals.
   d. For each year since the year of your birth, collect a date set of a single type of coin.

10. Do ONE of the following:
    a. Tour a U.S. Mint facility, a Bureau of Engraving and Printing facility, a Federal Reserve Bank, or a numismatic museum or exhibit, and describe what you learned to your counselor.
    b. With your parent’s permission, attend a coin show or coin club meeting, or view the website of the U.S. Mint or a coin dealer, and report what you learned.
    c. Give a talk about coin collecting to a group such as your troop, a Cub Scout pack, or your class at school.
    d. Do drawings of five Colonial-era U.S. coins.
Coin Collecting Resources

Scouting Literature
*Collections* and *Stamp Collecting* merit badge pamphlets

With your parent’s permission, visit the Boy Scouts of America’s official retail website, www.scoutshop.org, for a complete listing of all merit badge pamphlets and other helpful Scouting materials and supplies.

Books


Periodicals

Bank Note Reporter (monthly)
Krause Publications Inc.
Website: www.banknotereporter.com

COINage (monthly)
Miller Magazines Inc.
Website: www.coinagemag.com

Coins Magazine (monthly)
Krause Publications Inc.
Website: www.coinsmagazine.net

Coin World (weekly)
Amos Press Inc.
Website: www.coinworld.com

Numismatic News (weekly)
Krause Publications Inc.
Website: www.numismaticnews.net

The Numismatist (monthly)
American Numismatic Association
Website: www.money.org/the-numismatist

World Coin News (monthly)
Krause Publications Inc.
Website: www.worldcoinnews.net

Organizations and Websites

American Numismatic Association
818 N. Cascade Ave.
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
Website: www.money.org

American Numismatic Society
75 Varick St.
New York, NY 10013
Website: www.numismatics.org

National Numismatic Collection
National Museum of American History
Smithsonian Institution
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20560
Website: americanhistory.si.edu/collections/numismatics

Society of Paper Money Collectors
P.O. Box 117060
Carrollton, TX 75011
Website: www.spmc.org

Society of U.S. Pattern Collectors
Website: www.uspatterns.com

U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing
14th and C Streets, SW
Washington, DC 20228
Website: www.moneyfactory.com

U.S. Mint
Customer Care Center
801 Ninth St., NW
Washington, DC 20220
Website: www.usmint.gov