

# MERIT BADGE SERIES



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

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# COIN COLLECTING



*"Enhancing our youths' competitive edge through merit badges"*



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## Coin Collecting

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 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

Visit the Boy Scouts of America's official retail website at <http://www.scoutstuff.org> for a complete listing of all merit badge pamphlets and other helpful Scouting materials and supplies.

## Books

- Breen, Walter H. *Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins*. Doubleday, 1988.
- Bressett, Ken, and Abe Kasoff, eds. and comps. *The Official A.N.A. Grading Standards for United States Coins*, 7th ed. Whitman Publishing, 2013.
- Bruce II, Colin R., and Thomas Michael. *2017 Standard Catalog of World Coins: 2001–Date*. Krause Publications, 2016.
- Cuhaj, George S., ed. *Standard Catalog of United States Paper Money*, 31st ed. Krause Publications, 2012.
- . *Standard Catalog of World Coins, 1601–1700*, 6th ed. Krause Publications, 2014.
- . *Standard Catalog of World Coins, 1701–1800*, 6th ed. Krause Publications, 2013.
- . *Standard Catalog of World Coins, 1801–1900*, 8th ed. Krause Publications, 2015.
- . *Standard Catalog of World Paper Money: Modern Issues 1961–Present*, 12th ed. Krause Publications, 2014.
- Edler, Joel T., and David C. Harper, eds. *U.S. Coin Digest: The Complete Guide to Current Market Values*. Krause Publications, 2017.
- Harper, David C., ed. *2017 North American Coins and Prices: A Guide to U.S., Canadian, and Mexican Coins*, 26th ed. Krause Publications, 2016.
- Michael, Thomas. *2017 Standard Catalog of World Coins: 1901–2001*, 44th ed. Krause Publications, 2016.
- Ruddy, James F. *Photograde: A Photographic Grading Encyclopedia for United States Coins*, 18th ed. St. Martin's Press, 1996.
- Slabaugh, Arlie R. *Confederate States Paper Money*. Krause Publications, 2008.
- Yeoman, R. S. *A Guide Book of United States Coins*, 70th ed. Whitman Publishing, 2016.

## Periodicals

*Bank Note Reporter* (monthly)  
Krause Publications Inc.  
Website: <http://www.banknotereporter.com>

*COINage* (monthly)  
Miller Magazines Inc.  
Website: <http://www.coinagemag.com>

*Coins Magazine* (monthly)  
Krause Publications Inc.  
Website: <http://www.coinsmagazine.net>

*Coin World* (weekly)  
Amos Press Inc.  
Website: <http://www.coinworld.com>

*Numismatic News* (weekly)  
Krause Publications Inc.  
Website: <http://www.numismaticnews.net>

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

*World Coin News* (monthly)  
Krause Publications Inc.  
Website: <http://www.worldcoinnews.net>

## Organizations and Websites

**American Numismatic Association**  
818 N. Cascade Ave.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903  
Website: <http://www.money.org>

**American Numismatic Society**  
75 Varick St.  
New York, NY 10013  
Website: <http://www.numismatics.org>

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

**Society of Paper Money Collectors**  
P.O. Box 117060  
Carrollton, TX 75011  
Website: <http://www.spmc.org>

**Society of U.S. Pattern Collectors**  
Website: <http://www.uspatterns.com>

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

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