COLLECTIONS

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

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.

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

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

Scouting Literature
Archaeology, Basketry, Coin Collecting, Fishing, Fly-Fishing, Geology, Graphic Arts, Indian Lore, Journalism, Leatherwork, Metalwork, Painting, Photography, Pottery, Pulp and Paper, Railroading, Reading, Scouting Heritage, Sculpture, Sports, Stamp Collecting, Textile, Theater, Wood Carving, and Woodwork 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


Lemke, Bob, ed. 2007 Standard Catalog of Baseball Cards, 16th ed. Krause Publications, 2006. (Krause also publishes catalogs covering other sports.)


**Organizations and Websites**

**Association of Collecting Clubs and National Association of Collectors**
18222 Flower Hill Way, No. 229
Gaithersburg, MD 20879
Website: http://collectors.org

**Ephemera Society of America**
P.O. Box 95
Cazenovia, NY 13035-0095
Telephone: 315-655-9139
Website: http://www.ephemerasociety.org

**International Scouting Collectors Association**
Website: http://scouttrader.org

**Lepidopterists’ Society**
Website: http://www.lepsoc.org

**Printed Ephemera Collection at Library of Congress**
Website: http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/rbpehtml/pehome.html

**Smithsonian Center for Education and Museum Studies**
P.O. Box 37012, MRC 508
Washington, DC 20013-7012
Telephone: 202-633-5330
Website: www.smithsonianeducation.org/idealabs/collection/

**Society of Illustrators**
128 E. 63rd St.
New York, NY 10065
Telephone: 212-838-2560
Website: http://societyillustrators.org

**United States Club List**
Website: http://www.rockhounds.com/rockshop/clublist.html

**Magazines and Publishers**

**Beckett Media**
Website: http://www.beckett.com

**Comics Buyer’s Guide**
Website: http://www.cbgxtra.com

**DC Comics**
Website: http://www.dccomics.com

**Gemstone Publishing**
Website: http://www.gemstonepub.com
Resources for Collecting

Marvel Comics
Website: http://www.marvel.com

Panini Sports Trading Cards
Website: http://www.donruss.com

Rocks & Minerals
Website: http://www.rocksandminerals.org

Topps
Website: http://www.topps.com

Trading Card Central
Website: http://www.tradingcardcentral.com

Tuff Stuff (a multisports collectibles magazine)
Website: http://www.tuffstuff.com

Upper Deck
Website: http://www.upperdeck.com

Acknowledgments

The Boy Scouts of America thanks Dr. and Mrs. Charles Deur, Arlington, Texas, for their assistance with a photo shoot for this merit badge pamphlet, and for sharing their knowledge about collectibles.

The Boy Scouts of America is grateful to the men and women serving on the National Merit Badge Subcommittee for the improvements made in updating this pamphlet.

Photo and Illustration Credits

C.S. Dixon, BoyOldToys.com, courtesy—page 9 (both)
Footballcardshop.com, courtesy—page 45
HeritageComics.com, courtesy—pages 27–28 (all) and 35

Shutterstock.com—cover (geode, ©michal812; van, ©Jantaru); pages 4 (©charles tay), 6 (©AboutLife), 7 (©Jim Hughes; marbles, ©arosoft); 8 (butterfly, ©Butterfly Hunter), 11 (red box, ©Mathisa), 14 (red car, ©Burachet; blue and pink cars, ©Andreas Graden), 15 (©Viktor1), 18 (stamps, ©Skywalker; tickets, ©AKaiser; marbles, ©TOMO; corks, ©Discovod; shells, ©Vibe Images), 23 (license plates, ©Cameron Cross), 30 (©goodluz), 44 (magnifying glass, ©stockCe), 50 (©Robert Przybysz), 51 (©Ivan Smuk), 52 (pebbles, ©Diana Taliun; rock collection, ©Zigzag Mountain Art), 56 (crystals, ©Archiwiz), 57 (semiprecious stones, ©Natali Glado), 59 (©Rawpixel), and 60 (crater, ©wassili-architect)

Syracuse University Library, Syracuse, New York, courtesy—page 26
Josh Waddell, courtesy—cover (baseball and football cards); pages 40 (all) and 43 (Lott, Aikman, Dunne)
Wikipedia.org/Andreas Praefcke, courtesy—page 25
Andy Winkler, courtesy—page 41
All other photos are the property of or are protected by the Boy Scouts of America.

Darrell Byers—page 14 (bleach)
Tom Copeland—cover (action figure); pages 8 (car), 10 (action figure, note), 13, 16 (Scout), 19, 24, 32–33 (all), 38, 46, 54–55, and 56 (notebook)
Brian Payne—pages 39, 43 (Jordan), 44 (cards and image in magnifying glass), 49, 53, 58, and 61
Randy Piland—pages 57 (Scout) and 60 (Scouts)