

# MERIT BADGE SERIES



# COLLECTIONS



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

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



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# 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, Railroadng, 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](http://www.scoutshop.org), for a complete listing of all merit badge pamphlets and other helpful Scouting materials and supplies.

## Books

Baker, H.K.G. *Cool Collectibles for Kids: A Kid's and Parent's Guide to the Hobby of Collecting*. Silverleaf Press, 2007.

Beckett, James. *Beckett Almanac of Baseball Cards and Collectibles*, 2006 ed., Vol.11. Beckett Publications, 2006. (Beckett writes price guides for all the major sports cards.)

Berg, Barry. *The Art of Buying and Selling at Flea Markets*. Hobby House Press, 2003.

Collector Books. *Garage Sale Flea Market Annual: Current Values on Today's Collectibles, Tomorrow's Antiques*. Collector Books, 2006.

Farndon, John. *The Practical Encyclopedia of Rocks and Minerals: How to Find, Identify, Collect, and Maintain the World's Best Specimens*. Lorenz Books, 2006.

Gerber, Ernst. *The Photo-Journal Guide to Comic Books* (2 vols.). Diamond Comic Distributors, 1995.

Hake, Ted. *The Official Hake's Price Guide to Character Toys*, 6th ed. House of Collectibles, 2006.

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

MacDonald-Taylor, Margaret. *A Dictionary of Marks*, 5th ed. Barrie and Jenkins, 1992.

Newell, Patrick. *Cool Collectibles: Military Collectibles*. Children's Press, 2000.

Nigro, Nicholas J. *The Everything Collectibles Book: How to Buy and Sell Your Favorite Treasures, From Fabulous Flea Market Finds to Incredible Online Deals*. Adams Media, 2002.

Overstreet, Robert M. *The Official Overstreet Comic Book Price Guide*, 37th ed. House of Collectibles, 2007.

Prisant, Carol. *Antiques Roadshow Collectibles: The Complete Guide to Collecting 20th Century Glassware, Costume Jewelry, Memorabilia, Toys, and More From the Most-Watched Show on PBS*. Workman Publishing Company, 2003.

Rickards, Maurice. *Encyclopedia of Ephemera*. Routledge, 2000.

Sorrell, Charles A. *Rocks and Minerals: A Guide to Field Identification*. Golden Guides for St. Martin's Press, 2001.

Stearns, Dan, ed. *Standard Catalog of Die-Cast Vehicles*. Krause Publications, 2005.

Summers, B.J. *Antique and Contemporary Advertising Memorabilia*, 2nd ed. Collector Books, 2004.

Thompson, Maggie, et al. *2007 Comic Book Checklist and Price Guide: 1961 to Present*, 13th ed. Krause Publications, 2006.

Williams, Don, and Louisa Jaggar. *Saving Stuff: How to Care for and Preserve Your Collectibles, Heirlooms, and Other Prized Possessions*. Fireside, 2005.

## 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.ephemerasy.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/collecting/](http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/idealabs/collecting/)

### 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.cbextra.com>

### DC Comics

Website: <http://www.dccomics.com>

### Gemstone Publishing

Website: <http://www.gemstonepub.com>

**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>

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