



Coin Collecting

Merit Badge Workbook



This workbook can help you but you still need to read the merit badge pamphlet.

This Workbook can help you organize your thoughts as you prepare to meet with your merit badge counselor.

You still must satisfy your counselor that you can demonstrate each skill and have learned the information.

You should use the work space provided for each requirement to keep track of which requirements have been completed, and to make notes for discussing the item with your counselor, not for providing full and complete answers.

If a requirement says that you must take an action using words such as "discuss", "show", "tell", "explain", "demonstrate", "identify", etc, that is what you must do.

Merit Badge Counselors may not require the use of this or any similar workbooks.

No one may add or subtract from the official requirements found in Scouts BSA Requirements (Pub. 33216 – SKU 653801).

The requirements were last issued or revised in 2018 • This workbook was updated in June 2020.

Scout's Name: _____ Unit: _____

Counselor's Name: _____ Phone No.: _____ Email: _____

<http://www.USScouts.Org> • <http://www.MeritBadge.Org>

Please submit errors, omissions, comments or suggestions about this **workbook** to: Workbooks@USScouts.Org
Comments or suggestions for changes to the **requirements** for the **merit badge** should be sent to: Merit.Badge@Scouting.Org

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

How are coins made:

Where are the active U.S. Mint facilities:

2. Explain these collecting terms:

a. Obverse

b. Reverse

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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.

Uncirculated:

Extremely Fine:

Very Fine:

Fine:

Very Good:

Good:

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 expenses of each method.

Method

Benefits

Drawbacks

Expense

Method

Benefits

Drawbacks

Expense

Method

Benefits

Drawbacks

Expense

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 currently circulating 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.

	Location of Mint Mark	Location of Designer's Initials
Cent		
Nickel		
Dime		
Quarter		
Half-Dollar		
Dollar		

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, \$100.

\$1:	
\$2:	
\$5:	
\$10:	
\$20:	
\$50:	
\$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, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing facility, or 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 class at school.
- ☐ d. Do drawings of five Colonial-era U.S. coins.

When working on merit badges, Scouts and Scouters should be aware of some vital information in the current edition of the *Guide to Advancement* (BSA publication 33088). Important excerpts from that publication can be downloaded from <http://usscouts.org/advance/docs/GTA-Excerpts-meritbadges.pdf>.

You can download a complete copy of the *Guide to Advancement* from <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf>.