



# Coin Collecting

## Merit Badge Workbook

This workbook can help you but you still need to read the merit badge pamphlet (book). No one can add or subtract from the Boy Scout Requirements #33215. Merit Badge Workbooks and much more are below: [Online Resources](#).

Workbook developer: [craig@craiglincoln.com](mailto:craig@craiglincoln.com). Requirements revised: 2008, Workbook updated: August 2008.

Scout's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Counselor's Ph #: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Understand how coins are made, \_\_\_\_\_

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and where the active U.S. Mint facilities are located. \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Explain these collecting terms:

a. Obverse \_\_\_\_\_

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b. Reverse \_\_\_\_\_

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c. Reeding \_\_\_\_\_

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d. Clad \_\_\_\_\_

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e. Type set \_\_\_\_\_

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f. Date set \_\_\_\_\_

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Explain the grading terms

Uncirculated, \_\_\_\_\_

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Extremely Fine, \_\_\_\_\_

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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 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 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. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Collect and show your counselor five different quarters you have acquired from circulation. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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.

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, \_\_\_\_\_

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. \_\_\_\_\_

-OR-  b. Collect and identify 20 bank notes from at least five different countries. \_\_\_\_\_

-OR-  c. Collect and identify 15 different tokens or medals. \_\_\_\_\_

-OR-  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.

-OR-  b. With your parent's permission, attend a coin show or coin club meeting, or view the Web site of the U.S. Mint or a coin dealer, and report what you learned. (Note: Per National, "parent's" means "parent's or guardian's".)

-OR-  c. Give a talk about coin collecting to a group such as your troop, a Cub Scout pack, or class at school.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

-OR-  d. Do drawings of five Colonial-era U.S. coins.

**Online Resources** *(Use any Internet resource with caution and only with your parent's or guardian's permission.)*

**Boy Scouts of America:** ► [scouting.org](http://scouting.org) ► [Guide to Safe Scouting](#) ► [Age-Appropriate Guidelines](#) ► [Safe Swim Defense](#)  
 ► [Scout](#) ► [Tenderfoot](#) ► [Second Class](#) ► [First Class](#) ► [Rank Videos](#) ► [Safety Afloat](#)

**Boy Scout Merit Badge Workbooks:** [usscouts.org](http://usscouts.org) -or- [meritbadge.org](http://meritbadge.org) **Merit Badge Books:** [www.scoutstuff.org](http://www.scoutstuff.org)

Coin Collecting History, Themes, etc.: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coin\\_collecting](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coin_collecting)

Coin Grading: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coin\\_grading](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coin_grading)

US Paper Money History, Photos, Types, etc.: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal\\_Reserve\\_Note](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Reserve_Note)

What is the largest denomination US currency? [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Large\\_denominations\\_of\\_United\\_States\\_currency](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Large_denominations_of_United_States_currency)

Coin Terminology: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Numismatic\\_terminology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Numismatic_terminology)

**Magazines**

Coin Prices: <http://www.coinpricesmagazine.net>

Coins Magazine: <http://www.coinsmagazine.net>

Numismatic News: <http://www.numismaticnews.net>

World Coin News: <http://www.worldcoinnews.net>

**Associations and other links**

American Numismatic Association: <http://www.money.org>

American Numismatic Society: <http://www.numismatics.org>

Federal Reserve Districts: <http://www.federalreserve.gov/otherfrb.htm>

National Numismatic Collection Smithsonian Institution: <http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/numismatics>

Numismatic Guaranty Corporation: <http://www.ngccoin.com/>

Professional Coin Grading Service: <http://www.pcgs.com/>

► [PCGS Coin Prices Online](#)

Society of Paper Money Collectors: <http://www.spmc.org>

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

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Scout's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing: <http://www.moneyfactory.com>

U.S. Mint: <http://www.usmint.gov>