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. Requirements revised: 2008, Workbook updated: August 2008.

Scout’s Name: ________________________________ Unit: __________________________
Counselor’s Name: ____________________________ Counselor’s Ph #: __________________

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 __________________________________________
      __________________________________________
      __________________________________________

Explain the grading terms
Uncirculated, __________________________________________
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________

Extremely Fine, __________________________________________
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________


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.

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Benefit

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,
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 Scout Merit Badge Workbooks:** [usscouts.org](http://usscouts.org) — [meritbadge.org](http://meritbadge.org) — **Merit Badge Books:** [www.scoutstuff.org](http://www.scoutstuff.org)


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


**Magazines**

**Coin Prices:** [http://www.coinpricesmagazine.net](http://www.coinpricesmagazine.net) — Coins Magazine: [http://www.coinsmagazine.net](http://www.coinsmagazine.net)

**Numismatic News:** [http://www.numismaticnews.net](http://www.numismaticnews.net) — World Coin News: [http://www.worldcoinnews.net](http://www.worldcoinnews.net)

**Associations and other links**


**Federal Reserve Districts:** [http://www.federalreserve.gov/otherfrb.htm](http://www.federalreserve.gov/otherfrb.htm)

**National Numismatic Collection Smithsonian Institution:** [http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/numismatics](http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/numismatics)

**Numismatic Guaranty Corporation:** [http://www.ngccoin.com/](http://www.ngccoin.com/)

**Professional Coin Grading Service:** [http://www.pcgs.com/](http://www.pcgs.com/) — **PCGS Coin Prices Online**
