



Coin Collecting

Scouts BSA · Hobbies

Name

Started

Completed

Every coin tells a story about history, art, and the people who made it. This badge teaches you how money is made, how to care for coins, and how to build a collection you'll enjoy. Start by checking the change in your pocket.

Requirements

Every official requirement, in plain language. Check the official wording when you sign off (scouting.org/merit-badges/coin-collecting/). Tips and examples are ideas, not extra requirements.

- ☐ **1** Explain how coins are produced and name the locations of the U.S. Mint facilities now in operation

Tip: Look at the mint mark on your coins and find out which Mint made each one.

Example: Explain the steps: metal strips are rolled, blanks are punched out, rims are raised, and presses strike the design on both sides at once. Then point out where the U.S. Mint facilities are, like Philadelphia (P), Denver (D), San Francisco (S), and West Point (W).

- ☐ **2** Explain these coin terms: obverse, reverse, clad, reeding, date set, and type set

Tip: Make flash cards for collecting terms and quiz yourself while sorting coins.

Example: Make flash cards for obverse (front), reverse (back), clad (layers of different metals, like the copper core in a dime), reeding (the ridges on the edge), date set (one coin of each year in a series), and type set (one coin of each design). Quiz yourself by picking a coin and describing it using as many terms as you can.

- ☐ **3** Describe three ways to store a collection, including the pros, cons, and cost of each

Tip: Compare albums, folders, and holders. Handle coins by their edges to protect them.

Example: Compare three storage methods: a cardboard folder (cheap and easy for circulated coins), a 2x2 holder (good for single coins with labels), and an album with clear slides (lets you see both sides). Explain why you'd avoid PVC plastic.

- ☐ **4** For each coin you collect in 4a-4f, explain to your counselor its design features, the designer's name and initials, and where to find them on the coin

Tip: Check your family's spare change for the designs you need. Use a coin folder to keep track.

- ☐ **4a** Collect a one-cent coin dated 1959-2008 and one dated 2010 or later; explain how and why the 2009 one-cent coins differ from both groups

- ☐ **4b** Collect two five-cent coins, one dated 1959-2003 and one dated 2006 or later; explain how and why the 2004-2005 five-cent coins differ from both groups

- ☐ **4c** Collect a ten-cent coin dated 1965 or later

- ☐ **4d** Collect a quarter dated 1965-1998, two 50 State Quarters/territories coins (1999-2009), two America the Beautiful designs (2010-2021), and two American Women Quarters designs (2022-2024); explain the purpose of each program

- ☐ **4e** Collect a half dollar dated 1965 or later

- ☐ **4f** Collect one dollar coin from each design group: Sacagawea (2000-2008), Susan B. Anthony (1979-1981 and 1999), and Presidential (2007-2016 and 2020)

- ☐ **5** Tell your counselor about the special back-side (reverse) designs used on 1975-1976 quarters, half dollars, and dollar coins to mark the U.S. Bicentennial

Tip: Look up the special reverse designs and see if you can find some in circulation.

Example: For the U.S. Bicentennial, 1975–1976 quarters, half dollars, and dollar coins carry the double date 1776–1976 and special reverses: a colonial drummer on the quarter, Independence Hall on the half dollar, and the Liberty Bell in front of the Moon on the dollar. Explain what each design honors, and check family change jars for a drummer quarter.

- ☐ **6** Tell your counselor whose portraits are on today's \$100, \$50, \$20, \$10, \$5, \$2, and \$1 bills, and explain where U.S. paper money is printed

Tip: Look closely at paper money to see whose portrait is on each bill. Find out where it is printed.

7 World coins, paper money, tokens, or a coin outing: Choose 1 of 4

Tips for this section: Choose the option that interests you most. A local coin club or shop can help you find world coins or tokens.

Example for this section: For a project, you could collect world coins from relatives' travels and sort them by continent, or build a small display of tokens, like old transit or arcade tokens, with a card explaining where each came from.

- ☐ **7a** Collect 20 different world coins from at least 7 countries and identify each one's country, main design elements, and denomination for your counselor

- ☐ **7b** Collect 20 different pieces of world paper money from at least 7 countries and identify each one's country, main design elements, and denomination for your counselor

- ☐ **7c** Collect 20 different tokens or medals (or a mix) and identify each one's issuer and use for your counselor

7d Coin outing: Choose 1 of 4

- ☐ **7d1** Go to a coin show and tell your counselor about your experience

- ☐ **7d2** Go to a coin club meeting and tell your counselor about your experience

- ☐ **7d3** Tour a U.S. Mint facility or museum and tell your counselor about your experience

- ☐ **7d4** With a parent's or guardian's permission, tour a virtual exhibit your counselor approves and tell your counselor about your experience