



# Collections

## 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

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

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.

No one may add or subtract from the official requirements found in Scouts BSA Requirements (Pub. + 33216) and/or on Scouting.org.

The requirements were last issued or revised in 2021 • This workbook was updated in November 2023.

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

Counselor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit errors, omissions, comments or suggestions about this **workbook** to: [Workbooks@USScouts.Org](mailto:Workbooks@USScouts.Org)

Comments or suggestions for changes to the **requirements** for the **merit badge** should be sent to: [Merit.Badge@Scouting.Org](mailto:Merit.Badge@Scouting.Org)

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.


\* Stamp and coin collecting are excluded from eligibility for this merit badge.

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Title

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

2. Explain the growth and development of your collection.


3. Demonstrate your knowledge of preserving and displaying your collection.

Preserving:


Displaying:


- 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, conventions, contests, seminars, and museum programs and exhibits.

Shows,


Conventions,


Contests,


Seminars,


Museum programs  
or exhibits.


- d. Explain to your counselor how you keep track of your collection.


Describe your cataloging method.


Title

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

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


- 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.

	Term	Definition
1.		

2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		

- b. Show your counselor any two groups from your collection.

☐ Group: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Group: \_\_\_\_\_

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.

Value:


Physical defects:


Title

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

Size:

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.

Identification number  
(if applicable):

Series

Brand name (if 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.

Career:

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Education:


Training:


Experience:


Discuss this with your counselor, and explain why this profession might interest you.


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>.