

Collections

Merit Badge Workbook

Merit badges are earned by doing: reading the pamphlet, practicing the skills, and showing your counselor what you have learned.
This workbook gives you a place to organize your notes and track your progress along the way.
Merit badge counselors may not require the use of this or any similar workbook.
You still must satisfy your counselor that you can demonstrate each skill and have learned the information.
Use the space under each requirement to note what you have done and what you want to talk about, not to write out full answers.
When a requirement says discuss, show, tell, explain, or demonstrate, that is what you must do.
No one may add to or subtract from the official requirements found on scouting.org (Guide to Advancement 7.0.4.8).

Scouting America last updated this badge's requirements page on September 19, 2025.
Requirements change from time to time. Double-check scouting.org before you start.

Scout's name: _____ Unit: _____ Date started: _____

Counselor's name: _____ Phone no.: _____ Email: _____

Links marked "Scouting America resources" are the ones Scouting America shares on its official badge page.
This workbook is unofficial and not endorsed by Scouting America.

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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.

Scouting America resources: The Invention of Collecting (video) · 246 Cool Things to Collect (Collection Ideas) (website)
Meet Reece, King of the Fans | My Kid's Obsession (video)

What I collect _____ Collecting since _____

Outline for my report

Part of my report	My notes
Detailed description of my collection	
Short history	
Why I enjoy my collection	
What I have learned from collecting	
Why I chose this type of collection or collecting method	

Requirement 1 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

2. Explain the growth and development of your collection.

Scouting America resources: Collecting Tips 101: Tip #4 Do Your Research (video) · Collecting Tips 101: Tip #86 Be Unique (video)
Collecting Tips 101: Tip #2 Budget Your Money (video) · Collecting Tips 101: Tip #27 Leave Room to Grow (video)

How my collection has grown and developed

Requirement 2 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

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

(a) Explain the precautions you need to take to preserve your collection, including handling, cleaning, and storage.

Scouting America resources: 20 Best Ways to Store & Preserve Vintage Collectibles for Long-Term Value (website)
Collecting Tips 101: Tip #61 You Shalt Dust? (General Cleaning) (video) · Collecting Tips 101: Tip #25 Where to Keep a Collection (video)
Collecting Tips 101: Tip #20 Stay Away From Sunlight (video) · 3 Ways to Store and Organize Your Squishmallows (video)

Precautions to preserve my collection

Area	Precautions I take
Handling	
Cleaning	
Storage	

(b) Explain how best to display your collection, keeping in mind preserving as discussed above.

Scouting America resources: 5 TIPS to Display your Collection LIKE A PRO --- Props, Statues, Star Wars & more (video)
How To Display Your Collection Like a PRO (As a Broke College Student) (video) · How to Display Squishmellows (video)

How best to display my collection while keeping it preserved

(c) Explain to your counselor the events available for a hobbyist of this collection, including shows, seminars, conventions, contests, and museum programs and exhibits.

Scouting America resources: Museums (website)

Events for a hobbyist of my collection

Type of event	Events available to me (name, place, when)
Shows	
Seminars	
Conventions	
Contests	
Museum programs and exhibits	

(d) Explain to your counselor how you keep track of your collection. Describe your cataloging method.

Scouting America resources: How I Keep Track of My 4000+ Dolls! (video)
Citizen Collector's Toolkit: How to document your collection (video) · Collecting Tips 101: Tip #5 Database Your Collection (video)
How to Organize POKEMON Cards (video)

How I keep track of my collection, and my cataloging method

Requirement 3 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

4. Demonstrate your knowledge of collecting and investing. Discuss with your counselor:

Scouting America resources: 5 Smart Tips for Collecting Pokemon Cards on a Budget (video)
Contemplatiing Collectible Investments (website)

(a) How investing and speculation would apply to your collection

Scouting America resources: Find Investments to Meet Your Financial Goals (website)
Collecting Tips 101: Tip #48 Predicting Rare Games (video)

How investing and speculation would apply to my collection

(b) What you would look for in purchasing other collections similar to yours

What I would look for in buying similar collections

(c) What you would expect in return value if you decided to sell all or part of the collection

Scouting America resources: What's it Worth - Free Antiques & Collectables Price Guide (website)

What I would expect in return value if I sold all or part of it

Requirement 4 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

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.

Scouting America resources: Nomenclature for Museum Cataloging (website)

Ten terms used to describe my collection

#	Term	Definition
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

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Ten terms used to describe my collection (continued)

#	Term	Definition
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		

(b) Show your counselor any two groups from your collection. 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.

Two groups I showed my counselor

Group	What is in it	Shown in person or by photo
Group 1		
Group 2		

How I organized my collection, and why I chose that method

(c) Explain the monetary value of your collection and where you learned about those values.

Scouting America resources: How to Find Out What It's Worth (website)
How Much Are My Collectibles Worth? Tips for Finding Values (website)

The monetary value of my collection, and where I learned about those values

(d) Explain how your collection is graded for value, physical defects, size, and age. Show the various classifications or ratings used in your collection.

Scouting America resources: Understanding Museum Quality in Collectibles and Artifacts (website)

How my collection is graded

Graded for	How it is graded
Value	
Physical defects	
Size	
Age	

Classifications or ratings used in my collection

(e) List the national, state, or local association(s) related to or associated with your collection.

Scouting America resources: Antiques & Collectibles National Association Directory (website)

Associations related to my collection

Association	National, state, or local

(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.

Special identification marks

Mark	Its purpose and reason
Identification number (if applicable)	
Series	
Brand name (if any)	
Other special identification marks	

Requirement 5 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

6. Discuss with your counselor the plans you have to continue with the collection in the future.

My plans to continue with my collection

Requirement 6 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

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7. Find out about career opportunities in collecting. Pick one and find out the education, training, and experience required for this profession. Discuss this with your counselor, and explain why this profession might interest you.

Scouting America resources: Curators, Conservators, and Museum Workers Careers (video) · Dream Jobs: Antiquer (video)

Career opportunities in collecting

Career	Notes

The career I picked

What this career requires

What it takes	What I found out
Education	
Training	
Experience	

Why this profession might interest me

Requirement 7 completed on counselor initials

Counselor sign-off

Your counselor signs your blue card or approves the badge in Scoutbook, and your unit records it. This line is for your own records.

Counselor's signature Date completed

Official Scouting America resources

Scouting America resources: Collections merit badge page (requirements and resources) · Collections merit badge pamphlet (free PDF)
All merit badges

Made by Cole at ScoutSmarts.com, an Eagle Scout who loves helping Scouts.
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