



Jamboree Shoulder Patches

The ISCA Getting Started Collecting Series

Jamboree Shoulder Patches (JSPs) are special Council Shoulder Patches (CSPs) issued to each council's Jamboree delegates. Most people get started in collecting Jamboree Shoulder Patches (JSPs) because they attended a Jamboree and traded for them at the event. If you are planning on attending a Jamboree in the near future, be sure to buy extras of your own council contingent's JSP so you'll have extras to trade. What can you expect? Well, virtually every single council contingent at the Jamboree will have at least one JSP. Many will have more than one, usually with a different border color or design for each troop they send, or special ones for leaders, fundraisers, contingent members, and for trading. The Jamboree staff also frequently produces their own JSPs, and these are generally much more limited in production and difficult to obtain.



A 1957 JSP



Because there might be well over 1000 different JSPs produced for a Jamboree by councils and staff members, it is practically impossible to collect *everything* at one time! Start by collecting with people who will trade their JSP for yours on a one-to-one basis. You could also focus your efforts on obtaining one JSP from each council, or go for ones that catch your fancy. Some of the most popular JSPs in the past have featured cartoon characters like Popeye or Cap'n Crunch, or cultural icons like Napster and Yoda of Star Wars fame.



Keep a list of the JSPs that you pick up so you can keep track of what you have. Put them in a safe place separate from your traders so you won't accidentally trade away your new acquisition. A large zip lock bag will work great for this. You may also want to start a list of JSPs that you see but don't have so you'll know what to look for. When you have some spare time, you can hike over to the camp of a contingent whose JSP you need and make a trade while meeting the Scouts from the council. Trading a JSP from the source will always be more memorable than just picking one up at some person's spread along the road or buying it on eBay.

Once the Jamboree is over and the dust has settled, you'll be able to get a complete list of all of the JSPs issued from the International Scouting Collector's Association (ISCA) Journal. You'll be surprised at the number of JSPs that you didn't see, even though you were there! Check off the ones you have and begin the search for those you don't. You'll also find that immediately after the Jamboree, many dealers will have them for sale, and they will continue to be quite popular. However, the historical trend has been that JSPs will drop in value about 2-3 years after the event. This is because interest wanes as people look forward to new JSPs from the next Jamboree. The toughest issues will always remain relatively more expensive, but the more



common JSPs will become much more affordable if you have the patience to wait a few years.

The first JSPs were produced for the first BSA National Jamboree in 1935 that was cancelled. Each Scout was to wear a red felt arc silkscreened



with their region and area designation in place of the tan and red community strip that would otherwise have been worn. JSPs representing council contingents began making their debut at the 1950 Jamboree, and each successive Jamboree has seen more and more of them.

Advanced JSP collectors will add to their collection Jamboree contingent patches that aren't shaped like traditional JSPs but were worn on the shoulder, thus making them Jamboree *Shoulder Patches*. An example of this is the 1960 Tahoe Area Council JSP that is shaped like a shield. Some of the earliest JSPs from the 1950's and 1960's didn't have any wording or design elements that would indicate they were issued for a Jamboree, so first issue CSP collectors also pursue them. Because of this added demand, these are among the most expensive JSPs to acquire. Examples include the 1950 Lancaster County, 1950 East Carolina, and 1950 Juniata Valley.

JSPs have also been produced for World Jamborees, but primarily by American councils or regions. The first ones appeared at the 1975 World Jamboree in Norway for the two troops from the Western Region. Councils have also issued JSPs for National Jamborees in other countries. Examples include the Scottish Jamborette, FinnJamb, Dalajamb, and Asia-Pacific Jamboree.

No matter when you decide to begin, collecting JSPs can be an enjoyable hobby that will bring back a flood of pleasant memories of past Jamborees whenever you look at your collection.

-- David Miura

