



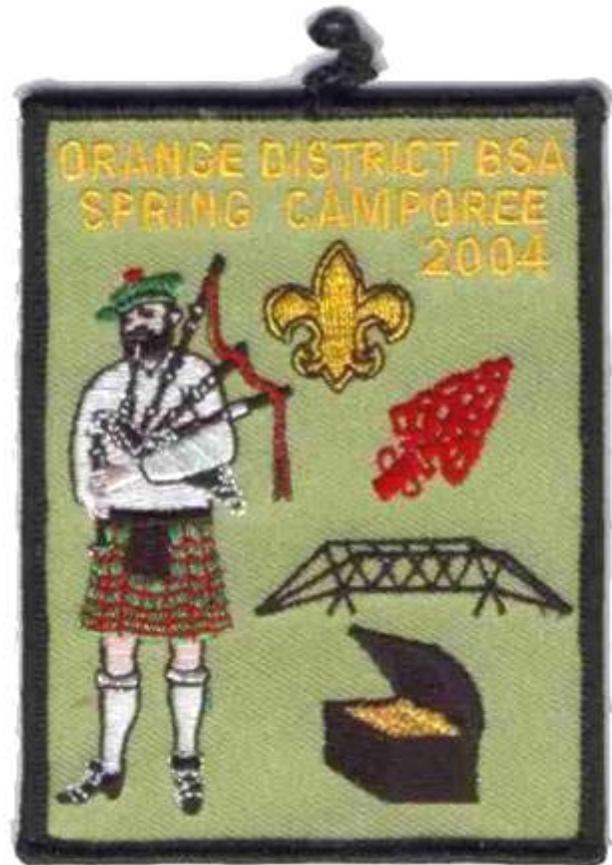
Types of Collections

The ISCA Getting Started Collecting Series

People collect all kinds of things: coins, stamps, baseball cards, sea shells, rocks, and so on. Many Scouts collect Boy Scout patches, books, neckerchiefs, and all kinds of other Scouting items. Anything that interests you is fine to collect. Here are some of the most popular collections. Most people start by collecting patches from their local camps and activities such as camporees. Camp patch collecting is quite popular. Some collectors try to get patches from every camp in their state, region, or even the entire country.



Camp Patch



Camporee Patch

Perhaps the most popular type of BSA collection is OA patches. You may want to try to collect as many different patches as you can from your own lodge. Some people collect OA patches from their state or from the lodges that attend their section conclave. As your collection grows, you may decide to get one patch from every current lodge. Some lodges no longer exist for a variety of reasons. They may have merged with other lodges to form a new lodge. Sometimes a smaller lodge simply becomes part of a larger lodge. Sometimes a lodge changes its



OA Lodge Flaps

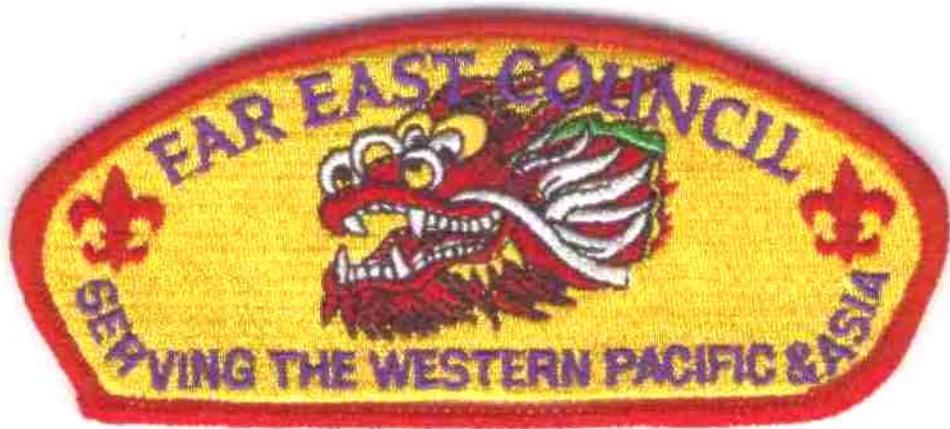
name. As your collection grows even more, you may want to try to get a patch from every lodge past and present. Very few people have ever done that, because from some older lodges, only a very few patches have survived, but the fun is in the hunt. A few people collect every patch from every lodge. Some people collect just older patches, and some just collect newer patches. Another popular collection is “first flaps.” People try to collect the very first OA flap from each lodge that issued a flap-shaped



Part of a Set of Jamboree Shoulder Patches or JSPs

patch. Some of the oldest merged lodges never issued flaps. A few lodges issued only neckerchiefs.

A second big area is Council Shoulder Patches or CSPs and Jamboree Shoulder Patches or JSPs. A CSP is the patch that you wear on your shoulder to show what council you are from. JSPs are CSPs issued to council members attending a National Jamboree. Like OA collectors, some people collect just shoulder patches from their council, state or section. Others try for one from each current council or one from every council past and present. JSP collectors may try for just the JSPs from the Jamboree they attended or all JSPs. Another council-related item is CPs or Council Patches. These are patches that just identify the council. They may be round, square, diamond, or any shape other than CSP-shaped.



Council Shoulder Patches or CSPs



Council Patches or CPs are Fun to Collect and They Come in a Variety of Shapes and Sizes

Merit badges are a popular collectible. The first merit badges had a circular emblem on a large square of cloth. Later badges were surrounded by round cloth that was folded under when they were sewn on the sash. The next badges had a border with no extra cloth, but were mostly not solidly embroidered. Later badges and current badges are solidly embroidered. People collect them all. Even some of the oldest merit badges from the first days of Scouting can be easily obtained today, although many of them are very hard.

People collect all kinds of various patches: popcorn patches, quality unit patches, old and new patrol patches, patches with cartoon characters, and so on. These can be fun to collect because they are often fairly easy to obtain.



Square, Crimped, Twill, and Solid Merit Badges

Many people collect rank patches: Scout, Tenderfoot, up through Eagle, both past and present. Some people concentrate on Eagle patches and medals from throughout Scouting's history.

Position patches are also popular: Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader, Scoutmaster, and District, Council, and national level patches and pins from the past through the present.



Honor and Quality Unit Patches



Older and More Recent Patrol Patches



Square Rank and Position Patches



A Few Rank and Position Patches from the 1960's



Older and More Recent Position Patches



A Few National Jamboree Pocket Patches

Another popular area is Jamboree collecting. People collect Jamboree pocket patches, neckerchiefs, back patches, leather patches, and anything else issued for both National and World Jamborees. Similarly, people collect National Order of the Arrow Conference patches, neckerchiefs, and so on.



A Few World Jamboree and World Jamboree Contingent Patches



National Order of the Arrow Conference Patches

People collect BSA handbooks, Scoutmaster Handbooks, fiction books, song books, merit badge books, and so on. People collect Boy Scout, Girl Scout, Cub Scout, Explorer, Air Scout, Sea Scout, and international Scouting items. People collect knives, axes, rifles, pins, mugs, conclave, red and white council strips, Lone Scouts, Philmont, Schiff, Northern Tier, neckerchief slides, region, Baden-Powell, Scout stamps, Scout coins, uniforms, plates, statues,



Older Cub Scout Patches



Schiff Reservation

craft kits, and on and on and on. If the Scouts made it, someone collects it. What you want to collect is up to you. Talk to other collectors and see what interests you. You can use your Scout collection for Collections Merit Badge. Finally, remember to have fun!

-- Warren F. Kuhfeld



National Camping School



Philmont



Region Patches



High Adventure



Conclave