



Royal Rangers

Merit Requirements: **Blue-Bordered Merit**

COIN COLLECTING

Note: Rare and expensive coins are not required.

1. Choose a theme for your collection from ONE of the following:
 - a. A type set of U.S. coins of a given year or set of years. Have at least one coin from each mint in your type set.
 - b. A set of coins of a particular language, country, or region.
 - c. A time period in history, whether contemporary coins or coins that are out of circulation. Examples might include ancient or biblical coins, colonial coins, crowns, WWII, or any other period of history.
 - d. A set of commemoratives celebrating a special anniversary, the Olympics, the United Nations, Independence Day, coronations or other special events. Recent U.S. examples might include state quarters, Bicentennials or modern U.S. dollars.
 - e. Coins with a particular object on them that is of interest to you such as dinosaurs, famous people, places, plants, animals, or ships.
 - f. A set of one series of coins starting with your birth year to the present.
 - g. Medals, tokens, or some other special coin that did not actually serve as currency.
 - h. Unusual objects that have served as money in various parts of the world such as shells, tea, money made of wood or plastic, siege money, or postage stamps.

In your type set, identify the mintmark on each coin. Describe when each mint first started minting coins. Determine if that mint is still producing coins.

For each coin in your type set, point out the location of the initials (if any) of each coin's designer(s).

2. Describe the several forms of money used today and in the past.
3. List the different kinds of metals or alloys used to make your coins.
4. Explain the steps necessary to identify a coin of unknown origin.
5. List and describe the various grades of coins. Include four examples.
6. Make expanded views of both sides of four different kinds of coins minted at any time.
7. Describe three things to look for in detecting counterfeit coins.
8. Explain how to clean coins in a way that won't damage them.
9. Describe why polishing, dipping, or defacing a coin decreases its value.
10. Explain how to store coins in a way that will keep them safe from damage or theft.
11. Describe the special advantages and disadvantages of collecting paper currency. Describe the special care needed for preserving paper money.
12. Identify three measures used to discourage the attempt to counterfeit U.S. paper currency.