



Collecting Terms

The ISCA Getting Started Collecting Series

A: Arrowhead-shaped patch. See Table 1.

Badge: An international term for a patch or pin.

Box-worn: Describes a patch that is otherwise mint, but it has become soiled or limp through repeated handling over time.

B or **Bullion:** A style of patch sewn with thin wire or metallic thread on felt. Typically worn on a blazer jacket and held in place with pin clasps. See Table 1.

BBS: Blue & blue strip, worn by Air Scouts to identify their community. See also LSP and Table 2.

BWS: Blue & white strip, worn by Sea Scouts to identify their community. See also LSP and Table 2.

BYS: Blue & yellow strip, worn by Cub Scouts to identify their community. See also LSP and Table 2.

Chang: Refers to a patch that was originally manufactured in China or Taiwan for a BSA entity such as a lodge or council that was subsequently remanufactured by a manufacturer named Chang using the original pattern. These were then sold to the public at greatly reduced prices without the council's or lodge's permission.

C or **Chenille:** A rug-like patch style commonly used for high school block letters for athletes and also used for some OA patches. See Table 1.

CB: Cloth back. Describes the backside of a patch, usually with a gauze type backing for stiffness. In contrast, see PB (plastic back).

CD: Computer design. Refers to a patch manufactured using a computerized embroidery machine where the stitching lies relatively flat across the surface of the patch. In contrast, see Swiss embroidery. See Table 4.

Table 1

				
A – Arrowhead	B – Bullion	C – Chenille	CP – Council patch (hat shaped)	W – Woven

CP: Council Patch. Refers to a patch that is round, square, diamond, hat, or many other shapes, but not designed to be worn on the shoulder, that gives the council name only— no event or camp names. See Table 1.

CSP: Council Shoulder Patch. See Table 2.

CSI: Council Shoulder Insignia. Includes CSPs, JSPs, LSPs, and other patches designed to be worn on the shoulder.

Cut edge: The patch edge does not have any border covering the cut edge of the material. Also “ce” or “c/e”. In contrast, see rolled edge. See Table 3.

Dupe: Duplicate, extra item for trade or sale. Also “dup.”

F: A lodge flap that is not solidly embroidered. Some of the cloth material shows through. See Table 3.

Fake: An item made to deceive others into believing that it is legitimate. A fake corresponds to some legitimate issue. Fakes, reproductions, and private issues are all designated as Zs in the catalogs. See also reproduction and private issue.

- Some fakes have been made on the original machines with the original patterns and are indistinguishable from the real issues.
- Some are very close, but there are ways to distinguish the real issues from fakes.
- Some are crude and are obviously not real.

FOS: Friends of Scouting, from the annual council fund raising campaign.

GBS: Green & brown strip, worn by Explorers to identify their community. See also LSP and Table 2.

Geer shape: A flap manufactured by the Geer Company, recognized by its distinctive shape. See Table 3.

Ghost patch: A patch sewn all in one color. The design is visible only by viewing the different directions in the stitching. See Table 4.

H: Historical issue. Historical issues are issued by a successor lodge in honor of a predecessor lodge. They are usually similar in design to an item previously issued by the predecessor lodge but need not be.

ISCA: International Scout Collectors Association. See <https://scouttrader.org/>.

J: A jacket patch.

JSP: Jamboree Shoulder Patch.

Junk patches: Common patches with little trading value.

KRS: Khaki & red strip, worn by Boy Scouts to identify their community. See also LSP and Table 2.

L: Patch made of leather.

Lion Brothers shape: A flap manufactured by the Lion Brothers company, recognized by its distinctive shape. See Table 3.

LSP: Lettered Shoulder Patches. Includes the listed strips; half, community, city, district, and state strips; and other shoulder strips containing only lettering. The first color in the following list is the twill/background color and the second color is the embroidery color. Strips come in a variety of sizes including full size (usually for a council/state designation), half strip (community strip size), or quarter strip (state size). See Table 2.

- BBS:** Blue & blue strip, worn by Air Scouts.
- BWS:** Blue & white strip, worn by Sea Scouts.
- BYS:** Blue & yellow strip, worn by Cub Scouts.
- GBS:** Green & brown strip, worn by Explorers.
- KRS:** Khaki & red strip, worn by Boy Scouts.
- RWS:** Red & white strip, worn by all Scouts.
- TRS:** Tan & red strip, worn by Boy Scouts.
- WBS:** White & blue strip, worn by Sea Scouts.

Table 2

		
BWS – Blue & white council strip (full)	RWS – Red & white council strip (full)	WBS – White & blue council half strip
		
BYS – Blue & yellow community strip	TRS – Tan & red state strip	KRS – Khaki & red community and state strip
		
BBS – Blue & blue community strip	GBS – Green & brown council strip (full)	CSP – Council shoulder patch

Mint: In perfect, unwashed, unsewn, unused condition.

Moritz shape: A flap manufactured by the Moritz Company, recognized by its distinctive shape. See Table 3.

Table 3

		
Geer shape, cut edge, S (solid)	Lion Brothers shape, rolled edge, F (twill)	Moritz shape, flat rolled edge, F (twill)

MVE: Minor varieties exist. Sometimes multiple loom runs are all but identical.

Mylar: A metallic thread, usually gold or silver although other colors are used. Often used for patch borders.

N or **N/C** or **n/c:** A neckerchief.

Need: Collectible item that one desires.

NJ or **NSJ:** National Jamboree or National Scout Jamboree.

NOAC: National Order of the Arrow Conference.

NT: No twill. See also twill.

Overrun: Extra patches produced by a manufacturer to meet minimum order specifications. These are sometimes destroyed, sold, or given away as samples.

Photochromatic: Thread that appears white while indoors but changes color when exposed to sunlight.

P or **Pie:** A pie-slice-shaped patch designed to be worn on a neckerchief.

PB: Plastic back. Describes the backside of a patch with a plastic overlay for stiffness. In contrast, see **CB** (cloth back).

Pre-CSP: A council shoulder patch manufactured before 1970, with a design like a modern CSP, but not a RWS, BWS, or other LSP. In many cases, these were early JSPs.

Private Issue: A patch produced by an individual that does not duplicate another patch but in some ways looks official (often flap or CSP-shaped). Private issues are unauthorized and are most often made purely for profit by the maker. They are sometimes referred to as fakes and both are designated as Zs in catalogs.

R: A round patch, usually less than five inches in diameter.

Reproduction: An item made to copy a legitimate collectible, but without the intent to deceive, for example **FAKE** or **REPRO** may be stamped on the back. See also **Fake**.

Reserve price: A price set by the seller at an auction, below which they will not sell the item.

Rocker: An arc-shaped patch (the shape of the bottom of a rocking chair), such as a community strip, state strip, or segment designed to be worn around a round patch.

Rolled edge: The patch edge has a merrow border sewn onto the perimeter. In contrast, see cut edge. See Table 3.

RWS: Red & white strip, worn by all Scouts to identify their community. See also LSP and Table 2.

S: A solidly embroidered lodge flap or CSP where no cloth shows through. See Table 3.

SAP: Shoulder activity patch. A patch shaped like a CSP but made for a specific event.

Snipe: To submit a bid on an auction site within the last few seconds of an auction, in hopes of beating the high bidder before they can respond.

Spoof: An unofficial patch created for profit and entertainment purposes.

SSC: Segregated Scout Camp. During a shameful part of Scouting history before racial integration, some camps were exclusively for African American Scouts, whereas other camps were for white Scouts. Sometimes these African American Scout camps were separate properties; sometimes a single camp was used for white Scouts most weeks and for African American Scouts other weeks. Often, the camp operated under different names during those two periods. While both camps were segregated, the term SSC is typically used to refer to the African American camps. Memorabilia from the African American camps (or SSCs) is often rare and is highly sought after by camp collectors.

Swap: British term for “to trade” (when used as a verb) or “dupe” (when used as a noun).

Swiss embroidery: Refers to a style of embroidery where the stitching has some physical depth, and some threads may be sewn over others of a different color. In contrast, see computer design. See Table 4.

Table 4

		
Swiss embroidery	CD – Computer design embroidery	Ghost patch

T: A twill CSP that is not solidly embroidered. Some of the cloth material shows through.

Tag: A thread that connects two elements of a (usually twill) patch such as a thread that connects two letters or a letter and the border. See Table 5.

Trade-O-Ree or TOR: A meeting for trading, buying, and selling of Scouting memorabilia.

TRS: Tan & red strip, worn by Boy Scouts to identify their community. See also LSP and Table 2.

Twill: The cloth as seen from the front of a nonsolidly embroidered patch. See Table 5.

No Twill (NT): The grain appears to neither go up to the left nor up to the right.

Twill Left (TL): The grain of twill of the patch appears to go up diagonally to the left.

Twill Left Rough (TLR): TL with a rough grain.

Twill Left Smooth (TLS): TL with a smooth grain.

Twill Right (TR): The grain of twill of the patch appears to go up diagonally to the right.

Twill Right Rough (TRR): TR with a rough grain.

Twill Right Smooth (TRS): TR with a smooth grain.

TVE: Twill varieties exist. Sometimes patches are identical except for a minor twill difference.

Table 5



TLR – Twill left rough, tags

TLS – Twill left smooth, no tags

NT – No twill, tags

TRR – Twill right rough, tags

Two-piece: An OA flap and pocket patch pair that form a common design when displayed together.

W or Woven: A flat, silken patch style commonly used by international Scouting associations. See Table 1.

WAB: refers to emblems listed in the *Wabaningo Lodge Emblem Handbook* by Dwight Bischel, 1952.

Wants: An international term for needs.

WBS: White & blue strip, worn by Sea Scouts to identify their community. See also LSP and Table 2.

WJ or WSJ: World Jamboree or World Scout Jamboree.

X: An odd-shaped patch (not flap shaped, round, arrowhead-shaped, pie-shaped, and so on).

Z: See Fake.

-- Warren F. Kuhfeld and David Miura