Easy National Issue Patches
The ISCA Getting Started Collecting Series

People collect all kinds of patches and BSA items. Unfortunately, some areas of collecting like OA and CSPs can be a bit expensive when you are just starting out. Flaps and CSPs may cost 3 or 4 dollars each or more. Fortunately, there are less expensive things to collect. A fun way to get started collecting is to just collect things that cost you a quarter or less. Go to flea markets and yard sales and find cheap patches. At Trade-O-Rees you will find many boxes of inexpensive items. Even if they are marked at higher prices, you can often negotiate a better deal, particularly when you buy several things. For 25 cents or less, you should be able to collect a number of merit badges both older and newer, popcorn patches, quality unit patches, rank patches, patrol patches, adult and boy position patches, rank pins, pinewood derby patches, books, canteens, mess kits, and so on. Make lists of what you have, broken down by category. For example, have one list for popcorn patches and one for quality unit patches. Have different lists for different types of rank patches, patrol patches, merit badges, and so on.
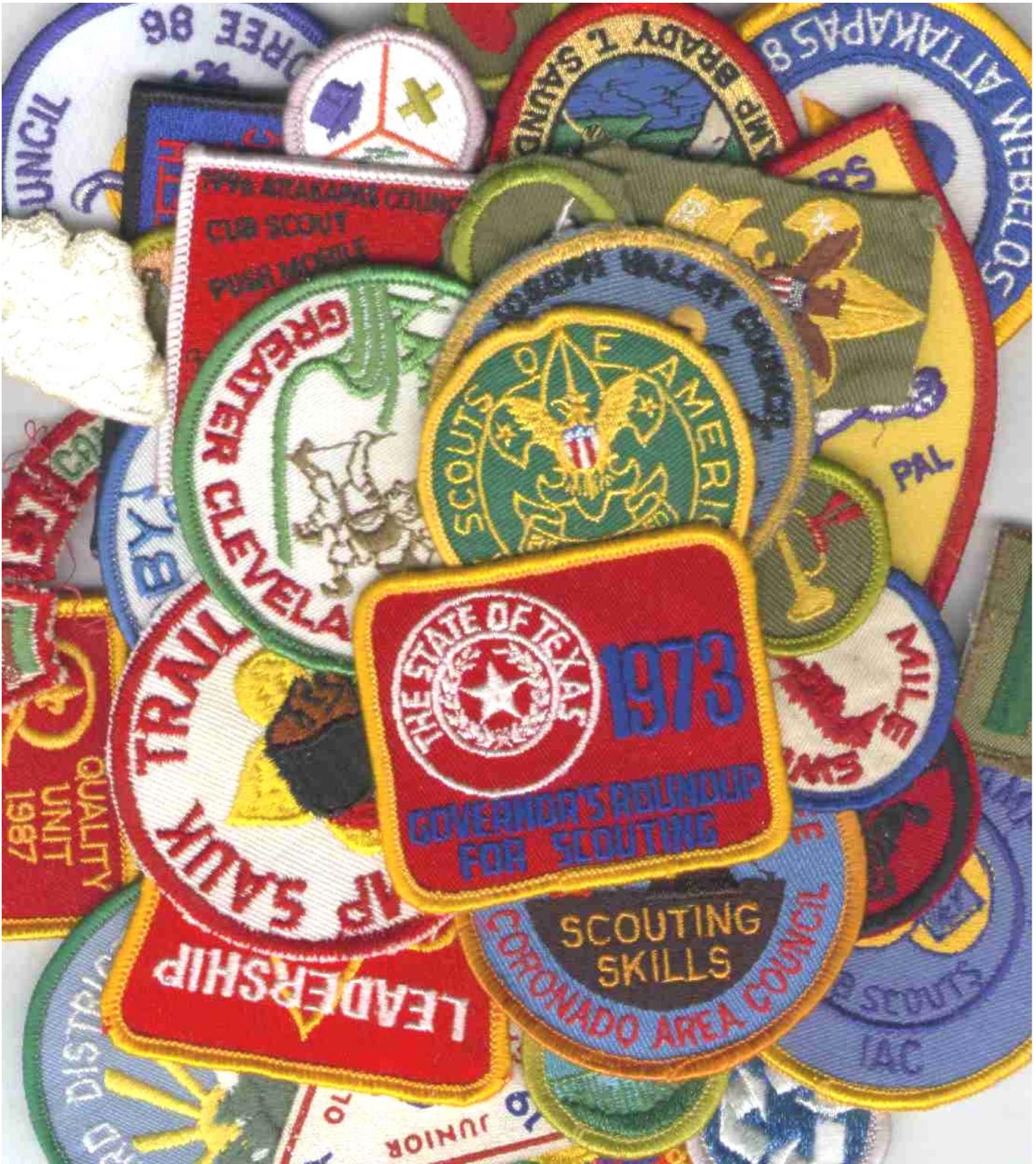
Particularly if you are willing to accept used patches, you will be amazed at all of the great old BSA history that you can find with a very small investment. You will find all of these items available for higher prices, but if you keep

Quality Unit Patches are a Fun and Inexpensive Starting Collection

searching, you will find that you can accumulate a lot for very little money. When you find a good deal, buy some duplicates and then trade them for other patches that you need. Keep searching! You might also get lucky and find some really great rare old patches. The next great find may be just around the corner!

-- Warren F. Kuhfeld

There are lots of goodies here and one treasure. Can you find the treasure? Hint: You can find a full scan of the treasure in one of the other "Getting Started Collecting" articles.