



One for One Trading

The ISCA Getting Started Collecting Series

Almost every Scout and Scouter has a collection of patches that he or she has earned. Your collection may include camp patches from summer camp, camporee patches, other local council patches, rank patches, merit badges, a council shoulder patch, a lodge flap, OA events, and patches from Cub Scouts. As you do more things in Scouting, your collection grows. It may include patches from Philmont, a National Jamboree, Northern Tier, Scout-O-Rama's, National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC), out-of-council camps, training camps, popcorn sales, quality unit, and so on. Your collection also may include books, magazines, neckerchiefs, mugs,



OA Lodge Flap



Council Shoulder Patch or CSP



Jamboree Shoulder Patch or JSP

and bolo ties. The Boys Scouts of America and Scouting movements throughout the world issue all kinds of patches and make all kinds of things, and people collect them. Hundreds of thousands of Scouts all over the world enjoy trading and collecting Scout patches. Some people collect just a little bit and hardly ever trade. Others have huge collections that could fill a museum. Patch collecting is a great way to have fun and make new friends. It is a hobby that you can enjoy for the rest of your life.

Most people start out collecting just what they earned. These are patches that you should always keep and always keep separate from the rest of your collection. When you go to a



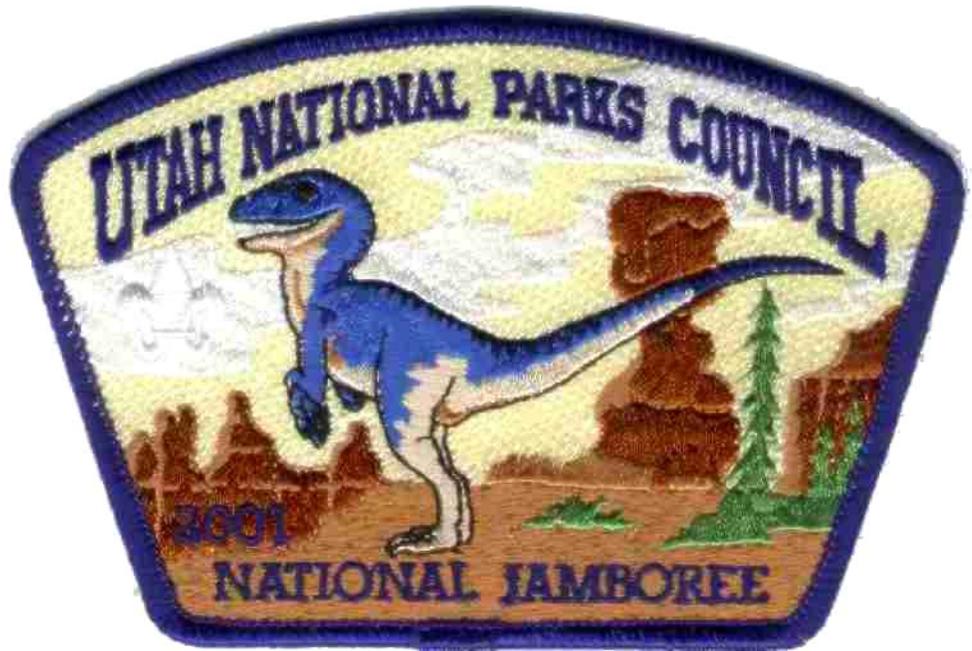
Philmont Arrowhead

Jamboree, NOAC, Philmont, an OA Section Conclave, OA function, or large council function, you will encounter patch trading. People bring extra camp and event patches, or extra Council Shoulder Patches (CSPs), or extra OA flaps, and trade them to other people. At Jamborees, most councils issue one or more special CSPs called JSPs or Jamboree Shoulder Patches. JSP trading is very popular at jamborees. Most lodges issue special lodge flaps for NOAC. Trading these at NOAC is very popular as well.



NOAC Ghost Patch

The best way to trade when you are getting started is one for one. I give you one of mine, and you give me one of yours. Most one-for-one trades involve one OA flap for one OA flap, or one CSP for one CSP, or one JSP for one JSP, and so on. Sometimes people “cross trade” a flap for a CSP or a JSP for a flap, and that is fine, but it is less common. As you start to trade, you will come across people who want two of yours for one of theirs, or maybe even five or ten or more of yours. The best thing to do is say “no thank you” and trade with someone else. As you become more experienced, you will sometimes trade two or more for one, but at first, it is best to stick with one for one. There are thousands and thousands of patches that you can get with a one-for-one trade. Don’t worry that you may not get a certain cool patch that you really like. You will almost certainly find it available again, and there are lots of other great patches you can get. Trade for what you like. Some people like colorful patches, some really like OA flaps, CSPs, or JSPs. Some people like patches from their lodge and council, some like patches from their OA section or state. Some people like patches with birds, or fish, or bears, or buffaloes. If it is what you like, it is fine to collect it.



Jamboree Shoulder Patch or JSP



Jamboree Patch

When you are trading, let the Scout Oath, Scout Law, and Golden Rule be your guide. You trade to get patches, but trading is about other things as well. It is about meeting new people, making new friends, renewing old friendships, talking, laughing, and learning about our history. I have friends today that I first met over 30 years ago trading patches. Treat the other guy right, and he will want to trade with you again. Always give the other guy a fair deal. If you have something he really wants, and you trade it to him, even if you are just getting a duplicate in return, he will be more likely to be generous with you when he has something that you really want. It is normal to worry that you did not get a good deal in a trade. If you are only trading one-for-one, it is hard to go too far wrong. If someone is ever unhappy or worried about a trade you made with him, do the right thing, and undo the trade, give him his patch back and get your patch back. Similarly, if you are unhappy with a trade, particularly if it is made with a more experienced trader, it is okay to ask for it to be undone. Everyone should be happy with the trade.



NOAC Lodge Two-Piece Set

Different places have different rules for trading. At Jamborees for example, boys may only trade with other boys and adults may only trade with other adults. Other places allow anyone to trade with anyone else. Find out what the rules are before you begin.

Keep your collection clean, protected, and organized. You can buy plastic notebook pages to put them in, or you can just store them in a box. Some traders use index cards and plastic baby-bottle liners to store their patches keep them clean. Patches do get dirty from handling. Store them in a cool dry place away from smoke, not in an attic or a place where they can get damp and musty like some basements. Do not use tape, glue, or staples on your patches. They can damage or stain your patches and lower their value. Many young traders take their collections with them to events, sometimes mixed in with their duplicates. Your collection is safer at home, and it is better to keep your collection and duplicates separate. If you do take your collection with you to show, make sure that you keep it locked in a safe place such as a car trunk.

Patch trading is a fun hobby, and a great way to make life-long friends. You can use your patch collection in earning the Collections Merit Badge. Good luck, good trading, and have fun!

-- Warren F. Kuhfeld



Camp Patch



Camporee Patch