

The Simon Kenton Council



The Basics of Patch Trading

Code of Ethics:

1. I will obey the Scout Oath and Law. I will obey the rules of Scouting and will remember that I am a Scout first and a patch trader second. I will not trade patches when I have other responsibilities to fulfill.
2. No trade is complete until both parties are satisfied. No deal is finished until both parties agree that it is a completed transaction and seal it with a handshake. *A handshake signifies that a trade has been concluded and should end any complaint.*
3. I will apply the Golden Rule to all trades. I will treat others, as I would want to be treated. I will never cheat a brother Scout.
4. I will never knowingly misrepresent a patch. I will never hold a patch out to be something that I know it is not. Furthermore, if I am asked the value of a patch during a trade that I am not involved in, I will give my honest appraisal of the patch.
5. I will return all patches that do not belong to me. I will never keep a patch that is sent to me in the mail if I have not concluded a trade for it. If I do not wish to trade for the patch, I will return it to its owner.

Hints for Patch Traders:

The primary reason and interest in patch trading seems to be the opportunity to meet other Scouts and exchange ideas with them while engaged in friendly barter. A secondary, but important, reason for patch trading is the challenge and fun associated with assembling a collection of Scouting memorabilia. Keeping these ideas in mind, here are a few hints for becoming a good patch trader:

1. Accumulating Trading Stock.

Before accumulating different types of patches for trading stock, it is important to consider what types of patches other Scouts will be interested in trading. At the Jamboree, most Scouts will be trading for CSP's, JSP's, OA flaps, and Jamboree patches and memorabilia. You can purchase CSP's from any Boy Scout distributor, JSP's from any local Council, OA flaps from the Lodge (only if you are an OA member), and Jamboree patches and memorabilia from the Trading Posts at the Jamboree.

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Remember that it takes considerable time to accumulate as much trading stock as some traders have. Be content to trade what you have and add to your trading stock and collection slowly.

Be sure not to bring patches with you to the Jamboree, which you do not want to trade. Bringing such items will only tempt you to trade them, as well as the risk of losing or damaging them.

2. Building a Collection.

Building a collection involves several considerations. First, you should consider your interests. Are you primarily interested in patches that are colorful and well designed, or are you interested in collecting patches of a certain type or variety (ie: Simon Kenton Camp patches, or National Jamboree patches, or Council strips from the central United States or all Ohio Councils, or all OA). Whatever you prefer, it is best to go into patch trading with a goal in mind, determining what you want to collect. Otherwise you may never end up with a collection; rather, you will have all trading stock.

A second consideration in building a collection is knowing the availability of patches. If you go to the Jamboree wanting to collect Camporee patches from Brazil, you probably won't have much luck. There just won't be many Scouts trading Brazilian Camporee patches. However, if you want to collect JSP's from Florida and Georgia, you'll probably do pretty well finding what you're looking for. One more consideration in building a collection is to know how much you're going to have to sink into your collection (monetarily) to complete your collection. The average Council strip costs three bucks, whereas old National Jamboree patches may be worth fifty to two hundred dollars.

3. Maintaining your Patches.

Carry with you only the patches you wish to make available for trade. Otherwise you may unknowingly or inadvertently trade away something you intended to keep. Also, it is not fair to get another trader interested in a patch only to tell him it is not for trade.

Be responsible with your patches. When trading, be sure not to leave patches lying around, and be especially certain that you have gathered up all your patches when you leave a trade. When not trading, put your patches in a safe place in your gear. Do not leave patches lying out in your tent.

It is best to have some sort of container for your patches (ie: duffel bag, zip-lock bags, plastic holders, etc.). By doing this, you can more easily keep up with your patches, your patches stay in better condition, and it is easier for traders to look at what you have for trade. When trading, you assume the role of either a "vendor" or "customer". As the "vendor" you display your patches and allow other traders to view what you have for trade. When doing this, it is best to use a small blanket or bandana to display your patches. As the "customer" you walk around the trading area, looking at patches being displayed.

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4. Trading Etiquette

Never ask to see, or go through other Scouts patches, without offering to let him go through yours.

Always handle other traders patches carefully. Part of the value of a patch is based on how it looks, so be careful not to soil or bend a patch, or break the backing.

Each trade should be mutually beneficial and should satisfy both traders. Should you be approached by a "pressure" trader, it is better to be frank with him and tell him you can't trade with him, than to make a trade for trading's sake.

Always respect a trader's opinion as to the value of his patches. The value he has attached to a patch may be much more than you think it is worth, but since it is his patch, you should not insult him by stating that he is wrong or that he traded too much for a patch.

5. Trading Lingo

Lingo Description - Terms used by traders:

Dupe - A duplicate

Junk - General term used to describe patches

Needs List - A listing of patches that a trader is seeking for his collection

Throw-in - A less valuable patch included in a trade to convince a trader to trade for your offer

Types of Patches

CSP - Council Shoulder Patch

JSP - Jamboree Shoulder Patch

OA Flap - Order of the Arrow Pocket Flap Patch

Materials Description

C - Chenille Patch

Fe - Felt Patch

T - Twill Patch

W - Woven Patch

Construction

A - Arrowhead

F - OA Flap Patch not full embroidered

S - OA Flap Patch which is fully embroidered

N - Neckerchief Patch

O - Oval Shaped Patch

R - Round Patch

X - Odd Shaped Patch (ie: a turtle)

C/E - Cut Edge

R/E - Rolled Edge

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SMART TRADERS....

Develop two groups of patches

- One group you have earned, or are special to you. LEAVE THEM AT HOME!!!
- The second group is your trading patches.

Go slowly at first

- If you are new to trading, watch some trading, and see how things work.
- If you are an old hand, wait and see what's hot at this Jamboree.
- You have a whole Jamboree to trade, see what YOU want, don't just trade.
- Find an interest, and trade to develop a collection in that area.

Be careful with "veteran" traders

Some "veteran" traders don't trade fair...

- don't be pressured
- don't trade a lot of patches/pins for one item
- don't take a patch if you don't like it, don't just trade

Adults are not supposed to trade with Scouts.

- if you do, with YOUR leader's supervision, it should be a one for one trade
- stay away from adults with large collections

Know when to trade and when not

Don't trade when you are supposed to be doing something else (work, cooking, program, etc.)

The Golden Rule

- Be fair - the idea is to have fun
- Be happy with the trade and make sure the other guy is happy
- End all trades with a handshake.