Scout Leader Pins George Crowl

Part 1 - Introduction through Basic Pin Identification

Changes from 2014 are identified in blue.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	Part 1
Illustrated Glossary of Pin Terms	Part 1
Basic Pin Identification	Part 1
Varieties of Hat and Collar Pins - 1920-1968	Part 1
Varieties of Lapel Pins - 1920-54	Part 2
Table of Hat and Collar Pin Front and Back Varieties	Part 2
Table of Lapel Pin Front and Back Varieties	Part 3
Catalog/Insignia Guide Illustrations from 1937, 1938, 1953 and 1960	Part 3
Early Pins from 1913-16	Part 3
Early Pins from 1917-19	Part 3
Badge by Name and Dates after 1920	Part 3
Terms for Offices/Positions	Part 3
References	Part 3
Cub Scout Collar and Lapel Pins	
Boy Scout Collar and Lapel Pins	
Senior Scout Collar and Lapel Pins	Part 4
District and Council Collar and Lapel Pins	Part 4
National Collar and Lapel Pins	Part 4



INTRODUCTION

Patches and pins were used by the BSA to designate the office an individual held. Patches were worn on the sleeve of the shirt, hat pins were worn on the campaign hat until 1928 (adults) and 1945 (youth)¹, and collar pins were worn on the dress coat. Related to them are smaller lapel pins of the same design for civilian wear. A military style dress coat was sold until 1968, when it was replaced with a blue blazer/gray slacks dress uniform with no insignia of office. In the picture at left, the two pins on the upper lapel of the coat are collar pins of office. The hat pin (shown below), when worn, was on the front of the campaign hat.² Scout executives, many commissioners, and some unit leaders bought the dress coat.

Metal Badge of Rank worn on hat (Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, Eagle, Achievement, Sr. Patrol Leader or Jr. Asst. S.M.)



Paul Myers of Goshen, Indiana made a study of these pins, and prepared an undated draft document titled *Collecting Scout Leader Pins*. George Crowl believes he received a copy in the late 1990s. It is in black and white, with most of the images from a copy machine. Paul Myers also treated lapel pins, hat pins and a few others. His appears to be the only previous synthesis of this material. George Crowl relied on it heavily in preparing the initial draft of this document. He tried to improve on it primarily through providing color images of as many of the pins as possible. After contacting Paul, we cooperated by adding many images from Paul and doing some additional research, some at the National Scouting Museum in Irving, TX.

This is a work in progress. We need illustrations of early pins and scarce pins. If you can scan a missing pin (preferably against a white background) and send George the scan, including a clear identification of the pin, we will add it to the paper and give you credit.

To quote Paul Myers in part, "This is not 'the final word' on collecting Scout leader pins. This effort is rather, a workbook to help communicate some of what is known to novice collectors and to encourage knowledgeable collectors to build on this base and develop more accurate and extensive listings."

"Different manufacturers have made Scout pins and each has slightly different tooling for the same basic design. Changes in manufacturing methods have resulted in improved, stronger pins. Earliest pins with wreaths had unsupported backs, the First Class logo was attached at two points to the wreath. Later the logo was attached to a vertical bar support post and finally a fully formed back support was developed, resulting in a much stronger pin. Most choose to collect the front design types and expand to the back variations. Some front types exist with several different backs."

BENT WIRE CLASP - a clasp consisting of a pin with a bent wire hook. Dated 1940s (war years and shortly thereafter).
BUTTON BACK - a back type consisting of a round metal "button" affixed to a short post on the back of a pin. The button back was designed to fit into a slit in the lapel of a suit coat.
CAST KNOT - the knot below the scroll at the base of the First Class logo is cast as part of the design. Certain First Class shaped pins have the knot as part of the shape in the design, as opposed to a piece of wire for a knot. When measuring pins with cast knots the entire length of the knot is measured.
CIVILIAN WEAR LAPEL PIN - a miniature sized, smaller pin specifically designed for wear on a suit coat lapel. Usually identical in details to a uniform pin. Usually about 16mm round or high

ILLUSTRATED GLOSSARY OF PIN TERMS

CLUTCH BACK - uses a round spring-loaded clasp that you squeeze and insert over a sharp pointed post. This term is interchangeable with dual post. Dated 1960-68.
COLLAR BRASS - a military term, commonly used by Scout collectors, to describe a category of collar pins worn on the dress leader's uniform coat that identified the position of the wearer. In this text, Paul Myers corrects this to the actual Scouting term collar pin.
COLLAR PIN - a pin specifically designed to be worn on the leader's dress uniform coat collar. Most collar pins are 7/8" or 1" (23-26mm) in length or diameter. Most unit leader pins are 7/8", most commissioner/executive pins are 1".
COMMISSIONED OFFICER - Scout executives, commissioners, and unit leaders (Scoutmasters, Assistants, etc.) were officially "commissioned" in the BSA as officers of the movement, with more responsibility than others such as committee members.
CROWN - The top of the fleur-de-lis above the eagle. See the section on Varieties for specific definitions.
CRUDE CLASP - consists of a wire pin and a bent wire closure. In this text referred to as a bent wire clasp. The pin can be horizontal or vertical. Dated 1940s, including after World War II, because the Explorer Outfit Advisor pin started in 1946. Crude clas may have gone until the early 50s, we have a fully supported back with crude clasp.
DUAL POST - consists of two sharp pointed posts over which two spring loaded clasps grasp the posts. Also called clutch back. Dated 1960-68.
FIRST CLASS DESIGN - pins whose shape is that of the First Class logo, without other details.
FULLY SUPPORTED BACK (FS) - refers to the method of attaching the First Class logo to a wreath. A form, the shape of the First Class logo is part of the wreath and the logo is attached to and supported by this shape. "1957-1968." In 2012 I saw a fully- supported back with horizontal pin (1957-60) on a Field/District Scout Executive pin. I discovered I have both a FSE/DSE pin and an ASE pin. The ASE and FSE/DSE pins were abolished by 1954. The 1957 date is probably several years earlier. My source for the 1957 date is Paul Myers' 1990s draft from which I developed this monograph. In 2014 I saw a FS Neighborhood Commissioner pin with a crude clasp, showing overlap between WWII and 1950s manufacturing techniques.

 HAT PINS - a pin specifically designed to be worn on the campaign hat. This term is sometimes used to describe pins with screw backs. Many early pins, pre-1930, were screw backs and described in catalogs as hat pins. These pins were commonly worn as collar pins. Hat pins were sold until badges of office were eliminated from the hat in 1928 (adults) and early 1945¹ (youth). Den Mother hat pins, with hole "handles" continued until they were discontinued. HORIZONTAL PIN - the pin/posts on the back of the pin are arranged horizontally. It is my opinion that horizontal pins started after 1928 until 1942, then again after World War II until 1960. Apparently, most SCSS4 were side entry, TWC7 top entry, and
 TNC13 side entry again. Other pins are harder to categorize. LAPEL PIN - a miniature sized, smaller pin specifically designed for wear on a suit coat lapel. Usually identical in details to a uniform pin. Usually about 11/16" (16mm) round or high.
LOCKING CLASP - the pin is caught in a keeper, either open vertically or hooked, then secured with a rolling catch. The most common variety is on the left. It actually has two sub-varieties, top entry, and side entry. We don't normally differentiate. However, the top entry predominated prior to World War II and the side entry afterwards. The variety on the right has a bar support that is attached as a unit to the back of the pin, a <i>bar mounted spinlock</i> . The latter are annotated with an asterisk (*) in the tables below.
SAFETY PIN CLASP - Based on the baby safety pin catch after which it is modeled. Dated 1940s, war issue?
SCREW BACK - A thick screw and a nut that tighten on the fabric. Used on hat pins, but also for adult position pins 1916-1932 and continuing in use on JASM and SPL pins to 1940. I have seen a screws for several SCLS5 and SCSS4 pins with The Robbins Co., Attleboro, engraved on the nut.
SQUATTY CROWN - A short, broad crown surrounding the eagle. See the section on Varieties for specific definitions. 1916-1932.
STERLING hallmark – Many pins made during World War II and immediately thereafter are marked STERLING on the back. This change was required by shortages during WWII. However, it helps in dating some pins. Many of these pins are crude clasp or safety pin clasp, though some commissioner pins may be locking.
TIED WIRE KNOT - a tied wire loop or knot which is added below the scroll at the base of the First Class logo. When measuring pins with tied wire knots, the wire is not measured.

UNSUPPORTED BACK (US) - the First Class logo is affixed directly to the wreath with no back support. 1921-circa 1942.
VERTICAL BAR BACK SUPPORT (VS) - the First Class logo is attached to a vertical bar and the bar is attached to the wreath. Circa 1942-<1954.
VERTICAL PIN - the pin/posts on the back of the pin are arranged vertically.
WIDE SHOULDER TALL CROWN - a category of pins with wide shoulders and tall wide crowns, seven stars in the shield, circa 1933-1937. See scans in the text for amplifying information. Abbreviated TWC7.

BASIC PIN IDENTIFICATION

This section will help identify collar, hat, and lapel pins from approximately 1920 until discontinued in 1968. This section will help you identify over 98% of the pins you might see at a trade-o-ree or on eBay. It is arranged by program and position. These illustrations may be better viewed at 150% or 200% on your screen.

Following the basic identification section are sections on varieties.

CUB SCOUTING

Position	Badge	Description
Cubmaster @1932-1968 15mm side, 22mm diagonal, collar pin only Type 1 CUBS BSA 1932-@47 Type 2 CUB SCOUTS BSA	CUBS BSA @1932-42 @1948-68	Diamond, silver wolf and lettering on green background. Note different lettering on each piece. Left is Type 1, 1932- 47>. The raised, painted style (ACM below) is World War II
<u>@1948-68</u> Assistant Cubmaster @1932-1968	Enamel Painted @1932-42 @1942-47	and later. Diamond, gold wolf and lettering on green background. No office lapel pins are shown for sale in any of my catalogs. Painted backgrounds may be from World War II. Cubs BSA was changed to Cub Scouts in 1945 ³ , but many of the changes

	Enamel	weren't made until 1948.
Den Mother 1938-47 ⁴	@1948-68	Wolf in a diamond, surrounded by two scrolls, "CUBS BSA" or "CUB SCOUTS" and "DEN MOTHER."
and 1948-72	1938-47 ⁵ Sew-on 1948	
Committee Member 1933-1968	@1942-47> 1948>-68	Diamond, bronze wolf and lettering on blue background. Lettering varies at different dates.
Assistant Field Commissioner for Cubs @1932-<51 District Cub Committee District Cub Commissioner Type 1 only	@1932-<51 *	Diamond, gold wolf and lettering on blue background. A miniature (9/16" or 15mm) universal pin (#311) of the same colors for all Cub leaders is listed in catalogs from 1932- 51.
Field Commissioner for Cubs, Council Cub Commissioner Local Council Cub Committee @1932-<51, Type 1 only	@1932-<51	Diamond, silver wolf and lettering on blue background
Cub Scout Lady Pin For women in Cub Scouting, as a hat pin, blouse pin, or dress pin. $1972-84\pm^{6}$		#357, dated 1973-79 for sure, possibly longer. Not seen in 1980 or later catalogs. May have been deleted with new uniform in 1979. NOT a committee member pin.

*Thanks to Don De Young for information and photos from his forthcoming history of Cub uniforms and insignia.

BOY SCOUTING

Position	Badge	Description
Scoutmaster 1920-1938 (Four varieties of this general pattern.)		Silver eagle and trefoil outline on green enamel.
Scoutmaster 1938-1968		Silver on green enamel. BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA around the outer edge.
Assistant Scoutmaster 1920-1938 (Five varieties of this general pattern.)	24mm 26mm	Gold eagle and trefoil outline on green enamel. Several different shapes of trefoil exist, to be discussed later.
Assistant Scoutmaster 1938-1968		Gold on green enamel. BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA around the outer edge.
Troop Committee 1920-1927	*	First Class with blue fill and gold or bronze outline. *
Layman (Troop Committee) worn by all Scouters for whose office no specific badge is provided. 1927-68		Gold on blue.
Troop Chaplain (later, just "Chaplain") 1932-68		Blue border (as Layman), white center, Chaplain's crook. Tied wire knot.
Troop Physician (later, just "Physician") <1937-68		Blue border (as Layman), white center, physician's caduceus. Cast knot.

Junior Assistant Scoutmaster (hat pin, lapel pin) (1926- 1945 ¹ .		First Class badge in gold on three full bars. Gold detailing, dark or light green enamel (or paint during World War II).
Junior Assistant Scoutmaster (lapel pin) (1948-1954). No collar pins of this badge are known to be produced.		Bronze First Class and circles, no letters, to match new embroidered patch announced January 1948.
Senior Patrol Leader (hat pin) Silver 1921-1932. Gold 1933-1945 ¹ .		First Class badge on 2½ bars. Earliest hat pins have silver, later have gold First Class. Silver and gold detailing, dark or light green enamel (or paint during World War II).
Boy Leader Rank Badges	These are both leader pins and	rank badges.
First Class Patrol Leader (hat and shirt pin). Silver 1916?- 1925		First Class badge in silver. For boys serving as a patrol leader while a First Class Scout.
Second Class Patrol Leader (shirt pin). Silver 1916?-1925	*	Second Class badge in silver. For boys serving as a patrol leader while a Second Class Scout.
Tenderfoot Patrol Leader (shirt pin). Silver 1916?-1925		Tenderfoot badge in silver. For boys serving as a patrol leader while a Tenderfoot Scout.

SEA SCOUTS/SEA EXPLORERS

Position	Badge	Description
Possible Sea Scout leader's hat badge. Found in with World War I material from New Jersey or Maryland.		Scout symbol with crossed anchors. (If you have any infor- mation to shed light on
Left, Sea Scout leader's hat		this badge, please email me at address below.)
pin about 1918-1924, per 1920-24 catalogs. Right, Sea Scout Commodore hat pin, @ 1918-1924 (wreath, not rope). Also reversed in another catalog, but first is believed correct. ⁷		Class badge mounted over a silver traditional anchor symbol with rope around upper 3/4ths. Wreath pin is bronze. Catalogs give conflicting information.
Sea Scout leader's hat pin (worn in the center of the yachtsman's cap insignia) 1925-Present Bronze 1925-27? Silver 1927?-Present		Silver First Class badge (<1929) mounted over a silver traditional anchor symbol. Also known in bronze.
Mate, Committee Member, Committee Chair 2002-present	No. Contraction of the second	Sea Scout badge as above, with one star (ship level) below
Skipper 2002-present		Sea Scout badge with one star and a horizontal bar
Council Commodore, Vice-Commodore, Council Professional 2002-present		Sea Scout badge with two stars (council level) below
Regional Commodore, Regional Committee, Regional Professional 2002-present		Sea Scout badge with three stars (regional level), one below and on each side
National Commodore, National Committee, National Professional 2002-present	×	Sea Scout badge with four stars (national level), one above, below, and on each side

ROVER SCOUTS

Position	Badge	Description
Rover Scout hat badge <1937- 1952. Not sold as a hat badge after 1945 ¹ .		Scout badge over partial circle, ROVER SCOUT, BSA with S on shield.
Rover Scout Mate	Unofficial.	Rover Scout badge with two bars. Rare. Was issued by crews associated with the Kentucky Rover Council, started 1951 to present. Believed made in the 1970s.

EXPLORER SCOUTS

Position	Badge	Description
Leader/Advisor <1941-49		Silver First Class badge and outlining over eight compass points in green, surrounded by green circle, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA EXPLORERS.
Assistant Leader/Advisor <1941-49		Gold First Class badge and outlining over eight compass points in green, surrounded by green circle, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA EXPLORERS.
Layman	See listing under Boy Scouts	
Explorer Scout hat badge <1937-49. Not sold as a hat badge after 1945 ¹ .		Scout badge over eight compass points in tan on top of compass rose. BSA and EXPLORER SCOUT around outer edge

AIR SCOUTS

Position	Badge	Description
Squadron Leader,	None listed in any catalogs,	None listed in any catalogs,
Assistant Squadron Leader	1944-1966.	1944-1966.
Layman	See listing under Boy Scouts	
Member <1944-66		Universal miniature, Scout
	and the second	badge on silver wings.
		So far, one of a kind. Sold on
		eBay by TSPA in 2011. 2.5"
		long, dual post clasp. Meaning
	A A A	unknown.



Another large wings, but also several small wings not previously seen, bronze, silver, gold and steel. 2013.

SENIOR SCOUT OUTFITS and EXPLORERS (1946-58)

Position	Badge	Description
Outfit Advisor (1946-49) ⁵ Explorer Advisor (1949-58)		Explorer universal compass/ anchor/wings (CAW) badge with blue background and silver highlights.
Outfit Assistant Advisor (1946-49) ⁵ Explorer Assistant Advisor (1949-58)		Explorer universal compass/ anchor/wings (CAW) badge with blue background and gold highlights.
Layman	See listing under Boy Scouts	
Unknown. I speculate that this is a Field Commissioner for Senior Scouting, Council Senior Scouting Commissioner, or similar position. See the Cub Scout model above. The alternative posited by Michael Brown is that this is an Advisor pin \rightarrow	* from 1953+, because the description for embroidered badges says dark green background. Rare.	Explorer universal compass/ anchor/wings (CAW) badge with green background and silver highlights.

DISTRICT AND COUNCIL, COMMISSIONERS, PRESIDENTS and COMMITTEE (All

commissioner badges are identical in design, including blue filling of the First Class badge. The individual position is identified by the color of the outline, the eagle, and the wreath.)

Position	R adge	Description
Council President 1933-1968	Badge	Gold on blue. Two hands
In first sample the First Class logo and hands are flatter and appear to be cast into the pin at the same time as the wreath, NOT raised as if added on later.		pointing out. (Collar pin gold on purple in 1937, gold on blue in 1939, could be typo.)
Council Past President 1933- 1968		Gold on blue. Hand pointing down.
Scout (Council) Commissioner 1920-68		Silver outline, eagle, and wreath.
Assistant Council Commissioner 1967-68 *	*	Silver outline and wreath, gold eagle.
Deputy Scout Commissioner, District and Field Scout Commissioner 1920-68		Silver outline and eagle, gold wreath.
Assistant Deputy Scout Commissioner, Assistant District Commissioner and Assistant Field Commissioner, Roundtable Commissioner 1920-68		Silver outline, gold eagle and wreath.
Neighborhood Commissioner 1933-1968		Gold outline, eagle and wreath.
Local council committee 1920-1927		First Class with blue fill and silver outline

PROFESSIONAL STAFF All council-level commissioned professional staff badges are identical in design, including red filling of the First Class badge. The individual position is identified by the color of the outline, the eagle, and the wreath. Similarly, national level badges are identical except for the colors of the outline, eagle, and wreath. Note that the order of the red, white and blue was reversed, apparently at some time during the old style (see DRSE).

Position	ed, apparently at some time during Badge	Description
Chief Scout Executive Left (1921-29>) Right (<1933-68)		Silver trefoil, eagle, and wreath, on red, white and blue background.
Deputy Chief Scout Executive Left (1921-1929>, right 1933-68), (1921-29>, National Dept Director)		Silver trefoil and eagle, gold wreath, on red, white and blue background.
<1933-68, National (including Regional) Staff.		Silver trefoil, gold eagle and wreath, on red, white and blue background, with BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA across wreath.
1921-1938> Regional Scout Executive, ⁸ and 1921-29> Assistant National Department Director.		Gold trefoil, gold eagle and wreath, on red, white and blue background, with BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA across wreath.
Deputy Regional Scout Exec, Assistant to National Department Director (<1927-1929>, <1933)		All bronze trefoil, eagle, wreath
Scout (Council) Executive (1921-1953) Scout Executive and Deputy Scout Executive (1954-68)		Silver outline, eagle, and wreath.
Assistant Scout Executive (1921-1953)		Silver outline and eagle, gold wreath.
Field and District Scout Executive (1921-1953)		Silver outline, gold eagle and wreath.

Assistant Field and Assistant District Scout Executive (1921-1953). Local council staff (1954-68)	Gold outline, eagle and wreath.
Male employee 1933-62>	Red background and bronze outline
Male employee <1966-68 Patch illustrated. No photo of pin yet. (LVISM does not have a round pin.)	Red background and bronze outline.
Woman employee <1947-76>	Red Scout badge mounted on silver with silver shield. Lapel pin size.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

Position	Badge	Description
National President 1920s-56		"The Scout badge of silver superimposed on an Indian arrow head of gold, superimposed on a crossed mallet and Roman fasces and axe; hands pointing out from the arrow head right and left; superimposed on purple enamel background, circle BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA and wreath silver."
National President 1957-68		"The Scout badge of silver superimposed on an Indian arrow head of gold, superimposed on a crossed mallet and Roman fasces and axe; two stars in a horizontal bar; superimposed on purple enamel background, circle BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA and wreath silver."
National Past President 1920s-56 (drawing and patch photo)		"The Scout badge of silver superimposed on an Indian arrow head of gold, superimposed on a crossed mallet and Roman fasces and axe; hand pointing down from the arrowhead; superimposed on purple enamel background, circle BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA and wreath silver."
National Past President 1957-68 *	*	"The Scout badge of silver superimposed on an Indian arrow head of gold, superimposed on a crossed mallet and Roman fasces and axe; one star at the arrow head bottom; superimposed on purple enamel background, circle BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA and wreath silver."

Chief Scout Ernest Thompson Seton 1910-15 James E West 1943-48 Elbert K Fretwell 1948-58	Gold (or silver) First Class badge on red, white and blue background, words CHIEF SCOUT and BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
National Scout Commissioner 1920s-56. Gold in 1933, silver by 1953. Says silver in 1938, ⁷ but illustrated gold in 1941-43. ² Daniel Carter Beard 1910-41 George Fisher 1943-60	"Gold First Class badge, shield of blue, white and red, on a silver eagle breaking through a gold laurel wreath with BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA. Silver powder horn suspended from the wreath. Blue, white and red inlay background."
National Scout Commissioner 1957-62 George Fisher 1943-60 Vacant until 1990	Silver First Class badge, red, white and blue background, words NATIONAL SCOUT COMMISSIONER BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA.
International Commissioner 1920s-1956	"Gold First Class badge on laurel wreath surrounding gold sunlight rays on blue. Four hand pairs in the international grip. Circle of silver BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA. Silver eagle's head holding golden laurel and two golden wings above the upper edge."
International Commissioner 1957-1968	Silver First Class badge, red, white and blue background, words INTERNATIONAL COMMISSIONER.
Special National Field Scout Commissioner Left (1921?-1938?) Right (1938?-68) The two below appear to be two different badges from that above. Background is different, FC is apparently purple with silver trimming. See 1942 BSHB RWB background is right.	Silver First Class badge and eagle, gold wreath, purple background through 1938. ⁷ 1942 BSHB shows red/white/ blue background. ² LR not dated, LL dated 1933- 53. UR is called National Council Field Commissioner.
National Executive Board <1933-38> ⁷	"First Class badge, silver outline, gold eagle, purple inlay, superimposed on an arrowhead of gold."

National Executive Board <1941-1968 ²		"First Class badge, silver outline, gold eagle, purple inlay, superimposed on an arrowhead of gold, with BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA around the circle."
National Committee 1920- 1929	*	Silver outline, silver eagle, purple background

This monograph is continued in Part 2. We have broken it up for easier downloading.

I would like to acknowledge the assistance of the Las Vegas International Scouting Museum and its curator, James Arriola. The photos with a dark background are mostly of their collection, which fills in several illustration gaps I have been unable to fill otherwise. Dave Paterson brought to my attention the JASM and SPL variety T5.5, SCLS5 and provided the photographs.

We hope this exposition has been of interest. As you can see, there are still some gaps to fill in. If you have information that would help, please contact George at George@Crowl.org or 832-467-1998 or 16213 Congo Ln, Jersey Village, TX 77040-2011.

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