

VETERAN PINS AND SERVICE STARS

George H. Crawl, Jr.

Changes from Version 5.0 annotated in blue.

Veteran lapel pins and sleeve insignia were first made in 1917. Approximately every five years a new design was added for the additional five years, a circle with an X, XV, XX. In 1935, the Veteran pin was done in silver, with the words "TWENTY FIVE YEARS" around a circle on which the fleur-de-lis or universal Scout badge is mounted. The patch was an XvX. XXX was used for 30 along with a small 30, but for 35, 40, and 45 they used a large set of numerals below the First Class insignia. Later, a watch charm, two different Veteran tie bars and a tie tac were made. The pin style was changed in 1964 to a simpler, more common design, and again in the early-70s to a similar but slightly more readable design.

VETERAN LAPEL PINS

Type 1 Veteran Lapel Pins (to 1964)

Type 1 Veteran lapel pins were produced for almost 50 years, until approximately 1964. Type 1s used vertical and horizontal locking pins, bent wire clasp during World War II, and clutch pins in later years. A few other variations have been found.

The 5-year Veteran award design was a Roman numeral V, or 5, topped by a stylized BS (diamond shaped), with the First Class badge mounted within and on the V and BS. The V design was introduced in 1917 and abandoned approximately 1948, when the 5-year Veteran award was done away with (until 1986). This pin was initially produced in gold-filled, 10K solid gold and 14K solid gold. In 1933, the 14K version was dropped. 10K or 14K are shown by that mark on the reverse. The 10K gold-filled was often marked FILLED, STERLING, 1/3010KRG and sometimes no mark. Early versions had blue cloisonné behind the BE PREPARED on the scroll, later that was deleted, in my opinion shortly before World War II. Those marked STERLING were produced during World War II. Those marked 1/3010KRG were produced shortly after WWII, I have a 1947 date attached to one such pin. The catalogs never show anything but 10K GF, however during World War II, no catalogs were produced and it may have been necessary to go to sterling to continue production. Other varieties are determined by the differences in the number of stars and stripes in the shield, and by the upright, blob, or slanted stars of Truth and Knowledge.



The 10-year Veteran pin is an X on a blue circle with BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA around the edge. The First Class is on top. The pin has always been round, though some illustrations show it scalloped. It was available by 1921 through 1964. It was produced in gold fill, sterling, and rolled gold (which see). Initially it was produced in 14K gold, but in 1934 switched to 10K gold. 10K gold was phased out in 1954.



The 15-year Veteran pin (1925) is an X under V, with First Class on top. The edge is scalloped. I have found it in gold-filled, sterling, and rolled gold. There was a 14K gold Dieges & Clust version in 1925, and a 10K gold version from 1927 to 1954. The 1925 14K



gold has green enamel, not blue, the only instance of this that I am aware of. There are at least two known.

The 20-year Veteran pin (1930) is two Xs with the First Class, scalloped edge. Also gold-filled, sterling, and rolled gold. This initially had a 14K version, but in 1934 changed to 10K, phased out in 1954.

The 25-year Veteran pin (1935) changed styles radically. It came out in round sterling silver (silver anniversary), and spelled out TWENTY FIVE YEAR VETERAN around the circumference.

The 30-year Veteran pin (1940) returned to XXX, but the number of legs on the Xs could be confusing, so a small 30 was put at the bottom of the pin. 10K gold through 1956, sterling and gold-filled. Mine are all round.

At 35-year Veteran (1945), the Roman numeral system got out of hand, so a relatively large 35 was put just below the First Class symbol. The pin has a scalloped edge. 10K gold through 1956, rolled gold and gold-filled.

The 40-year Veteran (1950) continued the same design as the 35, scalloped edge. 10K gold to 1955, rolled gold and gold filled.

The 45-year Veteran (1955) remained the same, scalloped edge. No 10K gold version, just rolled gold and gold filled.

The 50-year Veteran (1960) is again a completely new design. This pin came out in 10K gold with a diamond above the 50 as the first edition. This design lasted through the life of Type 1 Veteran pins, ending about 1964.

Many varieties can be identified for Type 1 pins. A collector may wish to only collect one of each year. You can expand to include 14K, 10K, and each of the other hallmarks and clasps. I have identified 22 varieties of the V-year Veteran. There are fewer varieties for later pins. A table of varieties for each pin is available at www.Crowl.org/George/VeteranPins.doc. Note: capitalization in the URL is important.



Type 2 Veteran Lapel Pins (1965-early 1970s)

The start date for Type 2 pins is relatively firm. Realize that BSA issued the old stock in their warehouse before they issued the new design. Someone in BSA apparently decided that Roman numerals were old fashioned. As in many things the BSA has done over the years, they migrated from use of the First Class badge to the universal Tenderfoot badge on a plain gold center, and to a more modern design. The BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA is in a blue circle, with the year numerals at the bottom in gold on a gold background. The exceptions remained the 25- and 50-year pins, which only had minor changes in design. These are still gold-filled, sold as such and none are marked rolled gold or sterling. I believe all in this series were made by Robbins Co.



Their hallmark is on many of the pins, and the “1/20-10K” on unhallmarked versions is characteristic of their work on the training awards produced in that period. These have a scalloped edge for all different years. All but the 25 have only a clutch back. The ending date for Type 2 is less sure. We have quite a lot of Veteran tie bars using Type 3 pins. The tie bars were phased out in 1976-1978. Evidence seems to point toward pre-1973 as a probably phase out of the Type 2 pin.

10-, 15-, and 20-year Veteran pins are alike except for the numerals.

The 25-year Veteran pin grew “wings.” The date is unknown to me. Reis says 1965, the start of Type 2 pins.



30-, 35-, 40-, and 45-year Veteran pins are just like the earlier ones, except for the numerals.



In 1965 the 50-year Veteran pin was produced with both the earlier diamond design and a less expensive 10K gold without the diamond. The design was essentially the same, and has remained the same since. The diamond version was dropped about 1978.



In 1965 the 55-year Veteran pin was added to the list.

In 1970 the 60-year Veteran pin was added to the list.

In March 1976 the 65-year Veteran pin was not listed in the Price List. I do not believe it was made in Type 2.

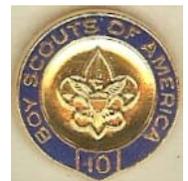
Type 3 Veteran Lapel Pins (1970s-Current)

A relatively small change was made for the Type 3 pin. Instead of a scalloped edge, all pins were round, except for the small protrusion at the bottom containing the number. The numerals were now included in the cloisonné, making them easier to read, though still very small. I believe the conversion occurred pre-1973 because of the r 1/20 over 10K hallmark. With luck, a date or price will show up that will allow more exact dating.

The 1986 Insignia Guide shows the return of the 5-year Veteran pin. At some time, the Veteran application started specifying that the Veteran recognition is an adult recognition, so young people could not earn the Veteran award. Thus, a young person, on becoming an adult at 18 or 21, would often start as a 10-year Veteran anyhow. But, this gives recognition sooner for those adults who had little or no youth Scouting tenure.



The 10-, 15-, and 20-year Veteran pins are alike except for numerals. Type 3 Veteran pins started off as gold-filled, by Robbins, then CREST CRAFT. In the 10-year pin I have been able to trace a succession of marks which to me implies that the change to Type 3 occurred pre-1973. The first hallmark is



1/20-10K r, which follows the identical hallmark on Type 2 pins. Next is a small square containing a lower case **r** followed by **1/20** over **10K**. This hallmark was used for Scouter's Keys and Scouter's Training Awards ending in about 1973. Both hallmarks were used by the Robbins Co., of Attleboro, Massachusetts. Next, **CREST CRAFT 1/10 10K** appears. Crest Craft picked up the Scouter's Key/Training Award contract about 1980. I have a photo of a 20-year Veteran pin on a BSA sample card, dated 2/25/80 from Crest Craft in Providence, RI. Later, a **CREST CRAFT** without any gold content appeared. Finally, we have pins without any marks at all. Some time in the early 80s the Keys and Training Awards became base metal, and it is reasonable to think the same timing was used for Veteran pins. Definitely by 1986 there are no gold-filled 5-year pins.



The 25-year Veteran pin with "wings" remains the standard since 1965.

The 30-, 35-, 40-, and 45-year Veteran pins are alike except for numerals.



In 1965 a gold-filled 50-year pin without the diamond was introduced. The 50-year pin with diamond was changed to gold filled 1965-67, and was dropped in 1978. The gold-filled version continues today.



The 55- and 60-year Veteran pins were converted to this standard. In 1980 the Type 3 65-year pin was in the catalog, but the 70-year Veteran pin had not been introduced, and was not documented in the Insignia Guide until 1983.



Documented in the 1986 IG is the 75-year Veteran with a diamond chip. This is modeled after the 50-year Veteran pin with different numerals. The diamond chip was replaced with a cubic zirconia chip in 2003.



Since then, we have added 80-, 85-, and 90-year Veteran pins. Since a 90-year veteran will be at least 102 years old when awarded the pin, I suspect there are relatively few of them. The on-line ordering page at National Supply Service asks for six weeks ordering time for all pins 65 years and up.



I have received confirmation of at least one gentleman who received the 90-year pin, and did not have continuous service! Ira Reynolds, of Susquehanna, Pennsylvania received his pin at a Blue-and-Gold Banquet at Camp Tuscarora in the Catskill Mountains in 2010. His 12th birthday was in January 1914 and he joined up immediately (some accounts say before he was 12...?) and remained involved in Scouting for the rest of his life, except short breaks for Navy service and in the early 30s when he was traveling a lot taking any work he could find during the depression era. He started Troop 81 in Susquehanna PA in 1934 and it is still going strong. He was interested in both teaching and learning, and the last certificate of completed training he received was in 1996 when he would have been 94 years old. Dr Laurance

Thompson (who wrote the First Aid section in the early handbook) was his first Scoutmaster. He went home at 108 in 2010. ☺



Gold Content in Veteran Pins

We have Veteran pins (and many other pins) that are labeled 14K (14K gold), 10K (10K gold), 1/20 10K GF (10K gold filled), and 1/30 10K RG (10K rolled gold).

Gold is measured in karats. 24K gold is pure gold. 10K gold is $\frac{10}{24}$ th gold and $\frac{14}{24}$ th other metals. The symbol 10K alone on a piece of jewelry says it is 10K solid gold alloy.

Gold-filled jewelry (also called Gold Overlay) is composed of a solid layer of [gold bonded](#) with heat and pressure to a [base metal](#) such as [brass](#). Some high quality gold-filled pieces have the look, luster, and beauty of [14 karat](#) (58%) gold. By definition, the minimum layer of karat gold in an item stamped GF must equal at least 1/20 the weight of the total item. 1/20 12KT GF is the most common stamp you will find on gold-filled jewelry. 10KT and 14KT are also common karatages. Gold filled items, even with daily wear, can last five to 30 years but will eventually wear through. The gold layer on [gold plated](#) jewelry varies greatly depending on manufacturer, so there is no single, simple comparison. Gold-filled items are 50 to 100,000 times thicker than regular gold plating, and 17 to 25,000 times thicker than heavy gold electroplate. [Source - Wikipedia]

F.T.C. Guidelines governing sales of gold and gold jewelry in this country state the following:

- 1) Karatage has to be stamped on, with trademark.
- 2) Terms "pure gold" and "solid gold" can only be used for 24 karat gold.
- 3) Term "gold" can only be used if gold content is 10 K or better.
- 4) Term "gold filled" applies only to items composed of a layer of gold pressed (not alloyed) onto a base metal where the weight of the gold comprises at least 1/20th of the total weight of the item. Fineness must be shown by stamp, e.g. "1/20 12 k G.F." means the gold layer is 12 karat gold and comprises 1/20th of the total weight of the item.

5) Term "rolled gold plate" is the same, but gold comprises less than 1/20 of total weight; e.g. stamped "1/30 12 k G.P." means 1/30 of the metal weight is from 12 karat gold plate.

6) "Gold electroplate" or "gold flash" or "gold washed" mean a gold coating that is 10 k or better gold at least 0.000007 inches thick. A variant, "heavy gold electroplate" (H.G.E.P.) is at least 0.0001 inches thick. (Source: Wikipedia)

Rolled gold is used in the manufacture of products clad with gold such as high class jewelry, pens, lighters etc. The material has a sandwich structure comprised of a base of copper or nickel alloy topped by one or more gold alloy layers. The adhesion of the individual layers is achieved by pressure and heat, and the subsequent material is rolled in a mill. Source: Frank Dietl, Jr. @ clemencia2@snip.net

VETERAN PATCHES

Veteran patches were introduced in 1917 at the same time and with essentially the same designs as the Veteran pin. See Mitch Reis, *a guide to dating and identifying Boy Scouts Of America Badges, Uniforms & Insignia*, Mitch Reis, 4th ed., 2009, Windsor, CT, pp. 178-181. He shows several varieties and dates of them. Veteran patches were initially worn on the right coat sleeve or the shirt sleeve 1½ inches above the cuff. Later, they were worn on just the shirt. Veteran patches were deleted in 1953, so all are Type 1. I will provide a simple summary below.



5-year Veteran patch, 1917-1948. Veteran patches came on tan cloth, then finally with a cut edge in the mid-40s. I know of four major varieties: First was a flat scroll. Second was a curved scroll. Third was a silver colored variety for our 25th anniversary in 1935. Finally was the cut edge variety.

10-year Veteran patch, 1920-53. Early ones have BS on the edge, later spelled out BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA. Finally cut edge.



15-year Veteran patch, 1925-53.
It is interesting to note that the V is below the X on the older patch. It was on top in the pin. The later cut edge patch followed the pin in putting the V on top of the X.



20-year Veteran patch, 1930-53.
On cloth, then cut edge.



25-year Veteran patch, 1935-53.
This design does not follow the Veteran pin. The two Xs are on each side of the First Class, with the V below it, XXV adding to 25. Reis does identify a bullion version that follows the pin.



30-year Veteran patch, 1940-53.
This returns to following the pin, including the small 30 at the bottom. Just a cut edge variety, as are those below.

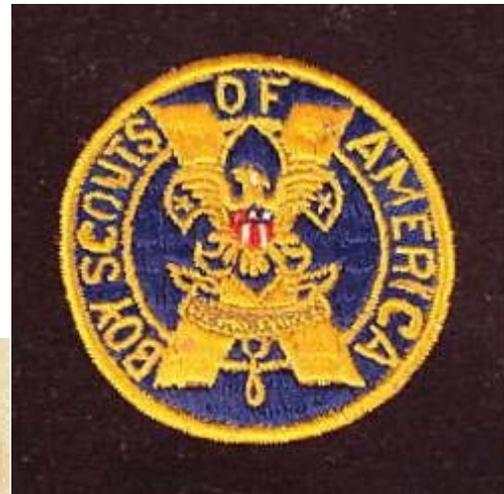
35-year Veteran patch, 1945-53.
This follows the pin, with a large 35 on each side of the knot below the scroll.

40-year Veteran patch, 1950-53.
This follows the pin.

The normal cloth was tan to match the normal uniform. From 1929-1941 the 5-, 10-, 15-, and 20-year patches were available on serge, gabardine and whipcord cloth to match the uniforms that were produced in those fabrics. They were also available in gold and silver bullion on special order, for \$5.00 each, a princely sum in those days.



Beginning in 1933 through 1945 the Sea Scout leaders could get them in white and dark blue in 5- through 25-years. Note the scan of the 10-year Veteran at the right. The border is somewhat larger to show the dark blue fabric it is sewn into. This would no longer be needed as the stock of veteran patches on khaki cloth was used up after 1941 and the new cut edge patches became available. My only image of the white patch is low resolution.



Mitch Reis has quite a bit of information on patches, so for more, I suggest you consult his latest book.

VETERAN WATCH CHARMS

Veteran watch charms are probably a case of the wrong thing at the wrong time. Mitch Reis shows a 5-year Veteran watch fob on p. 133 of his book. It was sold 1926-28. It was gold filled with a leather strap, but he has no illustration. No other watch fobs are mentioned in his book.

The *Price List, Official Uniforms and Equipment* dated January 1, 1947, showed gold-filled watch charms for 5- through 30-years (sterling for 25-). The October 1947 catalog illustrated them (see below). In the *Official Uniforms and Equipment* of January 1, 1953, a watch charm is listed, for service of 10 through 30 years (X-XXX). By 1953 very few people in Scouting's age brackets were using pocket watches. World War II had converted nearly everyone to wrist watches. The watch charms were replaced by the Type 1 chain tie bar by the June 1954 issue of the same document.

Watch Charms using Type 1 Veteran Pins



VETERAN TIE CLASPS/BARS/TACS

Veteran tie clasps with a pendant chain (Type 1) were introduced in the June 1954 *Official Uniforms and Equipment* price booklet. The pendant chain was popular in BSA tie clasps of





the time, a broad tie clasp, normally gold colored, with a gold colored chain, to which could be attached almost any desired emblem. Each program, plus jamborees and other events had them. Type 1 Veteran pins were hung from the pendant chain.

In November 1957, the Uniforms and Insignia said that Veteran “tie clips” could be worn on the uniform, so they became optional uniform insignia.

Type 1 Tie Bar with 35-year Veteran Pin

Type 2 tie bars were introduced in 1961 in the *Official Uniforms and Equipment* price booklet. These had a spring gripper bar and a plain gold bar. At the end was affixed whatever device was desired. This allowed better efficiency in manufacturing. Mechanically, the Veteran pin was mounted on the tie bar instead of having a pin to attach it to the suit. Thus, the varieties of pins found **Type 2 Tie Bar with Type 1 35-year Pin** will generally be reflected in the same varieties of tie bars.



The Type 2 tie bar was used 1961-@1976. These used Type 1 Veteran pins until 1964. They then used Type 2 Veteran pins until the 70s, then changed to Type 3. The 1973 IG contains tie bars. The 3/76 issue of *Official Uniforms and Equipment* contained the full range of tie bars. The 1978 and 1979 ICG only lists the 55- and 65-year tie bars, and by 1980 they are gone.

Type 2 Tie Bar with Type 2 40-year Pin

(However, Mike Walton tells me he got a tie bar out of National supply in about 2002.) Note the length of the tie bar changes as the fashion in ties changes, first long, then short, then long again.



Type 2 Tie Bar with Type 3 10-year pin

Tie tacs are only listed in the *Official Uniforms and Equipment* booklet from March 1972 to September, 1973. Since they were just a Veteran pin with a keeper chain, they would be relatively easy for Scouters to make themselves if they had a chain from another tie tac. Perhaps if a photo of a standard Veteran pin shows up, it will help narrow the date of issue for Type 2 and 3 Veteran pins.



MEDAL

Mitch Reis has identified what may be today an almost unique Scout Leader Five Year Service medal. This is somewhat different than a Five Year Veteran award, since a boy could earn that at age 17 in 1931, but this is for adult service. After some (not a lot of) research, we believe it was produced by Whitehead and Hogue Co., Newark, NJ. The item is dated Feb 3, 1931, and has the initials of the recipient and hallmark W&HCO on the reverse. The obverse says "SCOUT LEADER FIVE YEARS SERVICE" with the "FIVE YEARS" on the scroll of the First Class pin. If anyone can shed more light on this, such as the council that awarded it, or the period which it was awarded, it would be appreciated. This award would be after the Scoutmaster's Key was instituted, but pre-date the Scouter's Training Award. Both took five years to earn in that era.



TABLES

The tables below have a bracket [] wherever I have seen an example of the listed item, perhaps in an auction such as on eBay or in someone's collection. There are a few places where I have shown a bracket because the item is listed in a catalog, such as several of the 14K or 10K gold veterans pins, which are not common. I am convinced that there are a significant number of additional varieties, especially in Type 1, but also in Types 2 and 3. A comparison of the Type 2 hallmarks shows four different ones (including no hallmark), yet I have seen only two in many pins. If you see something I do not list, please contact me. I would prefer a scan showing a readable front and back. Your help can make this checklist more useful for everyone.

Veteran Pins - Type 1

The first Veteran pins came out in 1917, in three different grades, 14K gold, 10K gold, and gold filled (believed to be 10K GF). The 14K and 10K gold items were quite expensive for the time. Even the gold filled items were not cheap. Later, the catalog said filled but the items were 1/30 10K rolled gold, a less expensive process, but still providing a golden aspect that had wearability. Finally, during World War II, a lot of BSA pins had a STERLING stamp that I do not yet fully understand. The 14K and 10K gold were phased out beginning in 1954 and completed by 1956. Roman numerals were used (except for 25 years) up through 30, but were impractical beyond that. This pattern continued from 1917 to 1964, and is illustrated below. The five year veteran used the Roman V. The ten year Veteran pin was round. After that, most

had an irregular scalloped edge (except 25). † The >< marks indicate that the date is known to be later than 1932 and earlier than 1934 (for the first example).

V Year Pin - all diamond shaped, 1917-48. Early pins had blue enamel behind the words "BE PREPARED." Stars (T&K) were up. Dieges & Clust was one of the early makers. BBBP believed to be before World War II (1942). STERLING and bent wire pins are believed to have been during World War II. An X-Year Veteran pin with 1/3010KGF is documented to have been awarded in 1947. T&K stars got so small that they are not distinct and orientation is hard to see. Shield stars and stripes are hard to count in many cases because of die wear.



Check List	(S)tamped or (R)aised & Markings	Stars of Truth and Knowledge	# stars and stripes in the shield	Clasp	Notes
[] V	S Dieges & Clust 14K	Up	2 rows many stars	V spin lock	Blue behind BE PREPARED (BBBP)
[] V	S 14K	Up	3 stars	V spin lock	BBBP
[] V	S 10K	Up	No stars, blob stripes	V spin lock	BBBP
[] V	S 10K	Up	8 stars, 5 stripes	V spin lock	Gold behind BE PREPARED (GBBP)
[] V	S Dieges & Clust GOLD FILLED	Up	2 rows, many stars	V spin lock	 BBBP
[] V	S Dieges & Clust GOLD FILLED	Up	13 stars, 7 stripes	V spin lock	BBBP
[] V	S FILLED	Up	No stars, blob stripes	V spin lock	BBBP
[] V	S FILLED	Up	No stars	V spin lock	
[] V	FILLED	Up	One star, 13 stripes	V spin lock	BBBP
[] V	R FILLED	Up	No stars, blob stripes	V spin lock	BBBP
[] V	R FILLED	1/1? small	No stars, blob stripes	V spin lock	BBBP
[] V	R FILLED	Up small	3 stars, blob stripes	V spin lock	BBBP
[] V	R FILLED	Up small	3? stars, blob stripes	V spin lock	BBBP
[] V	R FILLED	Up	3 stars, 5 stripes	V spin lock	BBBP

[] V	R FILLED	Up larger displaced	No stars, blob stripes	V spin lock	BBBP
[] V	R FILLED	Up	7 stars, 5 stripes	V spin lock	GBBP
[] V	R V STERLING	? small	7 stars, 5 stripes	V bent wire	GBBP
[] V	R H STERLING	? small	7 stars, 5 stripes	V bent wire	GBBP
[] V	R STERLING	Small blobs	8 stars, 5 stripes	V bent wire	Silver and blue GBBP World War II era
[] V	R STERLING	?	2 rows, many stars	V bent wire	Gold and blue
[] V	R FILLED	Slant	4 stars	V bar mount	Note: May be item below
[] V	R FILLED	Slant	7 stars, 5 stripes	V bar mount	GBBP 4 stars are clear, 3 dim stars above, might be above
[] V	R FILLED	Slant	4 stars	V spin lock	
[] V	FILLED			Clutch	
[] V	S 1/3010KRG	Slant small	8 stars, 5 stripes	V spin lock	GBBP

X Year Pin - all round, 1920-64. Early pins stars (T&K) were up. Dieges & Clust was one of the early makers. STERLING and bent wire pins are believed to have been during World War II. 1/3010KRG mark is documented to have been awarded in 1947. Shield stars are hard to count in some cases because of die wear.

Check List	(S)tamped or (R)aised & Markings	Stars of Truth and Knowledge	# stars and stripes in the shield	Clasp	Notes
[] X	S 14K	Up	16 stars, 7 stripes	V spin lock	Thick knot 14K 1921-32>
[] X	10K				10K <1934-54
[] X	S Dieges&Clust GOLD FILLED	Up	13 stars, 7 stripes	V spin lock	Thin knot
[] X	R FILLED	Up	16 stars, 7 stripes	V spin lock	Thick knot
[] X	R FILLED	Up	13 stars, 7 stripes	V spin lock	Two pins on reverse
[] x	R FILLED	Slant	12 stars, 5 stripes	V spin lock	
[] X	R FILLED	Slant	15 stars, 5 stripes	V spin lock	
[] X	R FILLED	Slant	15 stars? 5 stripes	V spin lock	Debris in shield
[] X	R FILLED	Slant	15 stars, 5 stripes	V safety pin	Very tarnished



[] X	None	Slant		V safety pin	
[] X	R STERLING			V safety pin	
[] X	R R STERLING	Slant	15 stars, 5 stripes	V safety pin	Tarnished
[] X	None	Slant	15 stars, 5 stripes	VS spin lock	
[] X	S FILLED	Slant	15 stars, 5 stripes	H bent wire	
[] X	S 1/3010KRG	Slant	15 stars, 5 stripes	HS spin lock	
[] X	S 1/3010KRG	Slant	15 stars, 5 stripes	VS spin lock	
[] X	S 1/3010KRG	Slant	15 stars, 5 stripes	V spin lock	1947 card attached
[] X	None	Slant	15 stars, 5 stripes	Clutch	

XV Year Pin - all round, scalloped, with a donut construction (outer ring, first class badge and XV on top), 1925-64. D&C 14K gold is solid, not donut, and has green enamel, the only one. All T&K stars are up. STERLING is believed to have been during World War II. See X pins, 1/3010KRG mark is documented to have been awarded in 1947. "R wing" used on training awards 1948-mid 50s.

Check List	(S)tamped or (R)aised & Markings	Stars of Truth and Knowledge	# stars and stripes in the shield	Clasp	Notes
[] XV	S D&C 14K Solid body	Up	?/5	V spin lock	14K gold 1925-NLT27
[] XV	D&C 10K donut		?/5	V spin lock	Early 27-?
[] XV	10K				10K gold 192?-54
[] XV	S D&C FILLED			V spin lock upside down	Donut
[] XV	S FILLED on the FC XV	Up	5/5	V spin lock	
[] XV	S FILLED on both donut and on XV	Up	5/5	V spin lock	
[] XV	None	Up	5/5	V spin lock	
[] XV	S STER	Up		V spin lock	
[] XV	S STERLING vertically on donut	Up	5/5	V spin lock	
[] XV	S 1/3010KRG	Up	5/5	V spin lock	
[] XV	S 1/3010KRG on donut x2	Up	5/5	H spin lock	
[] XV	S "R wing" 1/3010KRG	Up	5/5	H spin lock	
[] XV	S 1/3010KRG	Up	5/5	H spin lock	
[] XV	S 1/3010KRG	Up	5/5	Clutch	
[] XV	None	Up	5/5	Clutch	
[] XV	S r 1/2010KGF	Up	5/5	Clutch	
[] XV	S 1/20 10KGF	Up	5/5	Clutch	

XX Year Pin - all round, scalloped, with a donut construction (outer ring, first class badge and XX on top), 1930-64. All T&K stars are up, older are flat, newer are thin. STERLING is believed to have been during World War II. See X pins, 1/3010KRG mark is documented to have been awarded in 1947. "R wing" used on training awards 1948-mid 50s.

Check List	(S)tamped or (R)aised & Markings	Stars of Truth and Knowledge	# stars and stripes in the shield	Clasp	Notes
[] XX	14K	Up	?/6 or 7	V spin lock	14K 1930-32> D&C hallmark
[] XX	10K	Up, flat	?/5	V spin lock	10K <1934-56
[X] XX	10K	Up, flat	?/5	H spin lock	10K <1934-56

[] XX	None	Up, flat	13 [?] /5	V spin lock	
[] XX	S STERLING vertically	Up, flat	13 [?] /5	V spin lock	
[] XX	S STERLING			H spin lock	
[] XX	S 1/3010KRG	Up, flat	13 [?] /5	Old clutch	
[] XX	S 1/3010KRG			New clutch	
[] XX	S 1/3010KRG			H spin lock	
[] XX	S 1/3010KRG	Up, flat	13 [?] /5	V spin lock	
[] XX	S "R wing" 1/3010KRG	Up, flat	13 [?] /5	V spin lock	
[] XX	S r 1/2010KGF	Up, thin	13 [?] /5	Clutch	
[] XX	S r 1-20-10-K	Up, thin	13 [?] /5	Clutch	
[] XX	S 1/20 10KGF			Clutch	
[] XX	S /20 10KGF			Clutch	
[] XX	1/20 10KGF			H spin lock	

Twenty-Five Year Pin - all round, with a donut construction (outer ring with TWENTY FIVE YEAR VETERAN, tenderfoot badge on top), 1935-64. All T&K stars are slanted, most are close to the eagle's wings. All of this series are sterling silver. "R wing" was used on training awards 1948-mid 50s. "f followed by 1/20 over 10K" in a box similar to the "r STER-LING" in a box was used on training awards about 1964-73.

Check List	(S)tamped or (R)aised & Markings	Stars of Truth and Knowledge	# stars and stripes in the shield	Clasp	Notes
[] 25	STERLING			Screw	
[] 25	S STER	Slant	Stars hardly visible 13 [?] /5	H spin lock	
[] 25	None	Slant	13 [?] /5	H spin lock	
[] 25	S STERLING	Slant	13 [?] /5	H spin lock	
[] 25	S "R wing" STERLING	Slant	13 [?] /5	H spin lock	
[] 25	S STERLING r	Slant	13 [?] /5	Clutch	
[] 25	S r STER LING in a box	Slant, close to wings	13 [?] /5	Clutch	
[] 25	S r STER LING in a box	Slant, away from wings	13 [?] /5	Clutch	
[] 25	S STERLING	Slant	13 [?] /5	Clutch	

XXX Year Pin - all round, no scallops, with a donut construction (outer ring with small 30 on bottom, first class badge and XXX on top), 1940-64. All T&K stars are slanted. If found, STERLING is believed to have been during World War II. See X pins, 1/3010KRG mark is documented to have been awarded in 1947. "R wing" used on training awards 1948-mid 50s.

Check List	(S)tamped or (R)aised & Markings	Stars of Truth and Knowledge	# stars and stripes in the shield	Clasp	Notes
<input type="checkbox"/> XXX	S 10K	Slant	2 rows/5	V spin lock	1940-56
<input type="checkbox"/> XXX	S STERLING	Slant	?/5	V spin lock	
<input type="checkbox"/> XXX	None	Slant	2 rows/5	V spin lock	
<input type="checkbox"/> XXX	None			H spin lock	
<input type="checkbox"/> XXX	None	Slant	2 rows/5	Clutch	

35 Year Pin - round, scalloped, with a donut construction (outer ring, first class badge with 35 below on top), 1945-64. All(?) T&K stars are slanted, some are flat, some are thin. See X pins, 1/3010KRG mark is documented to have been awarded in 1947. "R wing" used on training awards 1948-mid 50s.

Check List	(S)tamped or (R)aised & Markings	Stars of Truth and Knowledge	# stars and stripes in the shield	Clasp	Notes
<input type="checkbox"/> 35	10K				10K 1945-54
<input type="checkbox"/> 35	S "R wing" 1/3010KRG	Slanted, flat	6/5	H spin lock	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 35	S 1/3010KRG	Slanted, thin	6/5	H spin lock	
<input type="checkbox"/> 35	S 1/3010KRG	Slanted, thin	6/5	Clutch	
<input type="checkbox"/> 35	None			H spin lock	
<input type="checkbox"/> 35	None	Slanted, thin	6/5	Clutch	
<input type="checkbox"/> 35	1/20-10K r			Clutch	
<input type="checkbox"/> 35	S r 1-20-10-K	Slanted		Clutch	
<input type="checkbox"/> 35	S r ^{1/20} 10KGF	Slanted	6 [?] /4	Clutch	

40 Year Pin - round, scalloped, with a donut construction (outer ring, first class badge with 40 below on top), 1950-64. All(?) T&K stars are slanted, flat. See X pins, 1/3010KRG mark is documented to have been awarded in 1947. "R wing" used on training awards 1948-mid 50s.

Check List	(S)tamped or (R)aised & Markings	Stars of Truth and Knowledge	# stars and stripes in the shield	Clasp	Notes
<input type="checkbox"/> 40	10K				10K 1950-55
<input type="checkbox"/> 40	S "R wing" 1/3010KRG	Slanted	6 [?] /5	H spin lock	
<input type="checkbox"/> 40	S 1/3010KRG	Slanted	6 [?] /5	Clutch	
<input type="checkbox"/> 40	S r 1-20-10-K	Slanted	6 [?] /5	Clutch	

45 Year Pin - round, scalloped, with a donut construction (outer ring, first class badge with 45 below on top), 1955-64. All(?) T&K stars are slanted, flat. See X pins, 1/3010KRG mark is documented to have been awarded in 1947. "R wing" used on training awards 1948-mid 50s.

Check List	(S)tamped or (R)aised & Markings	Stars of Truth and Knowledge	# stars and stripes in the shield	Clasp	Notes
<input type="checkbox"/> 45	S "R wing" 1/3010KRG	Slanted	6 [?] /5	H spin lock	
<input type="checkbox"/> 45	S 1/3010KRG			Clutch	
<input type="checkbox"/> 45	S r ^{1/20} 10KGF	Slant, flat	6/5	Clutch	

50 Year Pin - round, scalloped, with 50 underneath a small diamond, 1960-79.

Check List	(S)tamped or (R)aised & Markings	Stars of Truth and Knowledge	# stars and stripes in the shield	Clasp	Notes
<input type="checkbox"/> 50 w/dia	S 10K r	n/a	6/5?	Screw post	
<input type="checkbox"/> 50 w/dia	S 10K r	n/a	6/5?	Clutch	
<input type="checkbox"/> 50 w/dia	S 10K	n/a		Clutch	

	CREST CRAFT				
--	----------------	--	--	--	--

Veteran Pins - Type 2

In 1964 the style was changed from Roman numerals and the large numbers used in 35, 40, and 45 to new, smaller numbers for all Veteran pins. The First Class badge was replaced with the universal Tenderfoot emblem. You now needed to look closely to determine how many years an individual had, since the numbers were small and blended into the gold-colored background. Also, the 25 year Veteran pin sprouted wings or prongs. The pins remained gold filled, shown by hallmarks from the Robbins Co., **r** 1/20-10K and 1/20-10K **r**. CREST CRAFT did not occur except on the 25- and 50-year, which extended into Type 3.

Type 2 Veteran Pins - round, scalloped, with numeral in gold on a gold background at the bottom of the pin, 1964-70s. Estimated end date about 1975.

Check List, Year	(S)tamped or (R)aised & Markings	Clasp	Notes
<input type="checkbox"/> 10	S r 1/20 over 10K in box	Clutch	
<input type="checkbox"/> 10	None	Clutch	
<input type="checkbox"/> 15	S r 1/20-10K	Clutch	
<input type="checkbox"/> 15	S 1/20-10K r	Clutch	
<input type="checkbox"/> 15	None	Clutch	
<input type="checkbox"/> 20	S r 1/20-10K	Clutch	
<input type="checkbox"/> 20	S 1/20-10K r	Clutch	
<input type="checkbox"/> 20	S r 1/20 over 10K in box	Clutch	
<input type="checkbox"/> 25	None	H spin lock	
<input type="checkbox"/> 25	None	Clutch	
<input type="checkbox"/> 25	CREST CRAFT STERLING #113	Clutch	Late 70s?
<input type="checkbox"/> 25	None	Clutch	Broad edge die
<input type="checkbox"/> 25	None	Clutch	Large triangular shield <2011
<input type="checkbox"/> 30	S r 1/20-10K	Clutch	
<input type="checkbox"/> 30	S 1/20-10K r	Clutch	
<input type="checkbox"/> 35	S 1/20-10K r	Clutch	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 35	S r 1/20-10K	Clutch	
<input type="checkbox"/> 40	S r 1/20-10K	Clutch	
<input type="checkbox"/> 40	S 1/20-10K r	Clutch	
<input type="checkbox"/> 45	S r 1/20-10K	Clutch	
<input type="checkbox"/> 45	S 1/20-10K r	Clutch	
	See Type 1 for 10K pin with diamond	Screw post & clutch	1964-79
<input type="checkbox"/> 50	S r 1/10-10K	Screw post	1968-83>,no diamond
<input type="checkbox"/> 50	S r 1/10-10K	Clutch	
<input type="checkbox"/> 50	S 1/20-10K r	Screw post	1968-83>,no diamond
<input type="checkbox"/> 50	S CREST CRAFT	Clutch	Late 70s?
<input type="checkbox"/> 50	None	Clutch	90s, dark toning on rays and FDL
<input type="checkbox"/> 50	None	Clutch	
<input type="checkbox"/> 55	None	Clutch	1969-75?
<input type="checkbox"/> 60			1970-75?

Veteran Pins - Type 3

A significant design change was made again in the 1970s. The numeral was included in the cloisonné, and became a little more visible, though still quite small. All of the pins were made round, with a small arrowhead at the bottom with the year numeral. Early pins were gold filled. The hallmarks tell some of the tale. I have confirmed “1/20-10K r” Robbins Co. hallmarks that I believe are first because they are also seen on Type 2 Veteran pins. Next is the “r 1/20 over 10K in a box” hallmarks. Next are CREST CRAFT over 1/10 10KT hallmarks showing the gold composition doubled. Next are CREST CRAFT without the gold markings. Probably this is when the gold content was deleted, early 80s, when it was removed from training awards also. After that there are no hallmarks, but between the 90s and 2000s there is a change in the gold background behind the FDL from smooth to matte finish. The Robbins hallmark indicates that the change occurred in the early- or mid-70s. We have tie bars that went out between 1976 and 1978 that are Type 3 pins. Robbins lost the training award contract about 1973. Crest Craft got the training award contract about 1980, and we have CREST CRAFT hallmarks on Type 3 Veteran pins, not Type 2.

Check List, Year	(S)tamped or (R)aised & Markings	Clasp	Notes
[] 5	None (5 year Veteran reinstated @1986)	Clutch	90s shiny background
[] 5	None	Clutch	00s matte background
[] 10	 S 1/20-10K r	Clutch	
[] 10	S r 1/20 over 10K, (1964-73 STA/SK)	Clutch	
[] 10	S CREST CRAFT 1/10 10K	Clutch	
[] 10	S CREST CRAFT	Clutch	13/5 shield
[] 10	None. Dated 1982†.	Clutch	
[] 10	None. Cat #286 = pre-1993	Clutch	
[] 15	 S 1/20-10K r	Clutch	
[] 15	S r 1/20 over 10K	Clutch	
[] 15	S 1/20 10K GF	Clutch	
[] 15	S CREST CRAFT 1/10 10K	Clutch	
[] 15	S CREST CRAFT	Clutch	
[] 15	None	Clutch	
[] 20	 S 1/20-10K r	Clutch	
[] 20	S r 1/20 over 10K	Clutch	
[] 20	S CREST CRAFT	Clutch	
[] 20	None	Clutch	
25	See Type 2		
[] 30	 S r 1/20-10K	Clutch	
[] 30	S 1/20 10K r (1 long pin variety)	Clutch	
[] 30	S CREST CRAFT 1/10 10K	Clutch	
[] 30	S CREST CRAFT	Clutch	
[] 30	S None (one w/00126 = 1993>)	Clutch	
[] 35	S 1/20-10K r	Clutch	
[] 35	S r 1/20 over 10K	Clutch	
[] 35	S CREST CRAFT 1/10 10K	Clutch	
[] 35	S CREST CRAFT	Clutch	

[] 35		S None	Clutch	
[] 40		S r 1/20-10K	Clutch	
[] 40		S r 1/20 over 10K	Clutch	
[] 40		S CREST CRAFT #5026 \$2.35	Clutch	
[] 40		S CREST CRAFT	Clutch	
[] 40		None	Clutch	
[] 40		None 00s-#00004 matte background	Clutch	
[] 45		S 1/20-10K r	Clutch	
[] 45		S CREST CRAFT 1/10 10KT	Clutch	
[] 45		S CREST CRAFT	Clutch	
[] 45		None	Clutch	
50		See Type 2	Clutch	
[] 55		S r 1/20-10K	Clutch	
[] 55		S CREST CRAFT	Clutch	GF 1975-78?
[] 55		None. 1980s- #5155 shiny	Clutch	
[] 55		None. 2000s- #00969 matte	Clutch	
[] 60		S r 1/20 over 10K in box,	Clutch	GF 1975-78?
[] 60		S CREST CRAFT (?)	Clutch	
[] 60		None. 1990s- #00003 shiny	Clutch	
[] 65		S CREST CRAFT	Clutch	<1978
[] 65		None. 2000s- #00977 matte	Clutch	
[] 70		None. 2000s- #00971 matte	Clutch	
[] 75		None. <1986- stone, dk shading	Clutch	<1986
[] 75		None. 1990s- #00973 stone light shading	Clutch	
[] 80		None. 1990s- #00108 shiny	Clutch	<1999
[] 85		None. 1990s- #01188 shiny	Clutch	<2002
[] 90		None. #01189 shiny	Clutch	<2002

*Referenced dates from Mitch Reis, “A Guide to Dating and Identifying Boy Scouts of America Badges, Uniforms and Insignia,” 4th Edition, 2009, p. 180-1. Where I vary, I have specific conflicting information which I believe is more reliable. Reis says the change from scalloped edge to round came in the 1970s, and I think it is probably pre-1973. The “*Insignia Guide*” shows scalloped edges in 2005. Unfortunately, that doesn’t mean it is right!

† Alan Schneider of Oregon sold one on eBay that he personally received by 1982.

There may be some overlap in dating between training award markings and veteran pin markings. We have a firm date of 1947 for an X veteran pin with 1/3010KRG, and it can be expected that others similarly marked will be of approximately that date. “R wing” was used from about 1948 to about 1960 as a mark of the Robbins Co. on training awards. “**r**” was also used by the Robbins Company, and the “1/20-10K **r**” is a marking dated to the 1960-65 period of training awards. A large **r** with a small 1/20 over 10K in a box was used from 1965-73 on training awards by Robbins. Similarly, Crest Craft produced gold filled training awards in about 1980, the last gold filled training award variety produced.

Veteran Tie Clasps, Bars and Tacs

All Veteran tie bars appear to be made from the Veteran lapel pin attached to a chain or mounted on a tie bar. There is no difference in pattern that I can see. The watch charms and Type 1 chain tie clasps had one top attachment point. The Type 2 tie clasp merely required attaching the pin to the clasp, again usable with many different Scouting insignia. All the lines below should have tie clasps, tie bars, or tie tacs. I have marked a bracket [] where I have personally seen one for sale.

Veteran Tie Clasps, Bars and Tacs		
Type 1 Chain Tie Clasp with	Type 1 Roman Numeral	Veteran Pins ca. 1954¹-61²
10 Veteran	[]	No hallmarks
15 Veteran	[]	
20 Veteran	[]	No hallmarks
25 Veteran STERLING	[]	No prongs
30 Veteran		
35 Veteran	[]	No hallmarks
40 Veteran		
45 Veteran		
50 Veteran		
Type 2 Tie Bar with	Type 1 Roman Numeral	Veteran pins ca. 1961²-64
10 Veteran long	[] []	No hallmark, Robbins Co Attleboro
15 Veteran short, long	[] []	Robbins, Attleboro 1/20 10K GF
20 Veteran short, long	[] []	Robbins Co, Attleboro, 1/30 10KGF
25 Veteran short	[] r STERLING in box	No prongs, Robbins Co, Attleboro
30 Veteran long	[]	
35 Veteran long	[]	Robbins
40 Veteran		
45 Veteran		
50 Veteran		
Type 2 Tie Bar with	Type 2 Gold Numeral	Veteran Pins ca. 1965-70s
10 Veteran short	S[], L[]	
15 Veteran	S[]	
20 Veteran short, long	S[], L[]	
25 Veteran	S[]	
30 Veteran short	S[]	
35 Veteran		
40 Veteran	L[]	Robbins Co, Attleboro
45 Veteran		
50 Veteran 10K? gold w/dia		Through 9/66?
50 Veteran GF w/diamond		By 3/68
50 Veteran GF w/o diamond	1965	Robbins-Attleboro 1/20 12KG.F.

Type 2 Tie Bar with	Type 3 Blue Numeral	Veteran Pins ca. 70s-78+?
10 Veteran short, long	S[], L[]	3/76 OU&E
15 Veteran	L[]	3/76 LG Balfour Co, Attleboro MA
20 Veteran	[]	3/76
25 Veteran		3/76
30 Veteran short, long	S[], L[]	3/76
35 Veteran		3/76
40 Veteran	[]	3/76
45 Veteran long	L[]	3/76 Robbins Co, Attleboro
50 Veteran GF w/diamond		3/76
50 Veteran GF w/o diamond	[]	3/76 1/10-10k r (tie tac)
55 Veteran		1978 Insignia Guide
60 Veteran		3/76
65 Veteran	[]	1978 Insignia Guide

Veteran Rings



I ran across this well-worn 15-year Veteran ring on eBay. I made a search of catalogs from 1927-62, about every 5 years, and found no listing of Veteran rings. I have no other evidence of Veteran rings. Close examination of the ring by a non-jeweler seems to show that a Veteran pin was added to a non-Scout 10K gold ring by attaching it to a flat space on the top. Note that the gold-filled coating has worn off, showing the base metal underneath. It is my belief this is not an official product.

SERVICE STARS

In 1913 BSA originally awarded a green service stripe for the right sleeve for one year service, and a red service stripe for three years service. In 1921 they added a gold service stripe for five years service. Service stripes were abolished after October 1924.



In 1923 service stars were introduced in their stead. Generally, the first version lasted until 1946, but there are variations. A few came with bent tab backs, but almost all had screw back posts. Boys and men received the same service stars, they just represented years of service. The background color represented the years. Both Cubs and Cubbers wore the gold and blue service stars. I have observed color variations in the gold (yellow) and green, but to my knowledge these have no meaning.

Type 1 Service Stars^{3,4,5}

Year	Star/Background	Duration	Scan
1	Gilt on green felt	1923-46	
3	Gilt on grey felt	1932-36	 
5	Bronze? on yellow enamel with V in center. ⁴ Larger, two centimeters in diameter, with safety pin style back.	1923-25	 
5	Silver on red felt (Courtesy of Paul Millman. Note two different sizes, the second about 13% smaller. Both those I have use the T-back.)	1923-31	 
5	Gilt on red felt	1932-46	
10	Gilt on purple felt	1932-36 1938-46	
1	Gilt on gold felt (Cub Scout service star) Note: gold and yellow colors, dates unknown	1933-46	 
3	Gilt on blue felt (Cub Scout service star) [The second was with many Cub items, but may be sunlight faded.]	1941>-46	 
Any	Round screw back - fine edge to the wheel is more common than the coarse edge. Fine edge has been found in 8mm, 9mm, and 10 mm sizes. 10mm appears to be most common.	Common Fine - left Coarse - R	 
Any	Round screw back - silver colored metal	Uncomm on	
Any	Hexagonal screw back	Much less common	
Any	"T-back" - Thumbtack	Uncomm	

The questions for the last variety are: Is it official? And how would we know? Was this maybe a wartime substitute? Has anyone seen anything like this used elsewhere, and in what situations, BSA or not? What is the purpose of the “keyhole”? Paul and I would appreciate it if you would contact us if you have any clues, tamet54@yahoo.com and george@crowl.org.

In 1946 the scheme was changed to have the background show in which program the service occurred, with an Arabic numeral to show how many years of service in that program. Thus, if you were a Cub Scout two years, a Boy Scout three years, a Sea Scout two years and a leader for five years, you wore stars with the 2 on gold, 3 on green, 2 on red, and 5 on blue. These still had screw back posts. You will find that many are filed off, because the point hurt (I know from experience!). The plain star was still produced, meant one year of service, and cost 7¢. The numeral stars were produced in numerals from 1 to 37 (in 1946) and cost 15¢. Adults were expected to wear just one service star in royal blue for all their Scouting service as a youth and adult, but could wear each color if they earned it. At that time, an “order of precedence” was established, with first star earned on the wearer’s left, and the last star on the right. In other words, Cub, Boy Scout, Senior Scout, Adult, with the adult closest to the shirt buttons. The felt star was associated with a 1948-9 uniform, showing they lasted until at least then.

Type 2 Service Stars^{3,4,5}			
Type	Star/Background	Duration	Scan
Cub	Gilt on gold felt	1946-<51	
Scout	Gilt on green felt	1946-<51	
Senior Scout/ Explorer	Gilt on red felt	1946-<51	
Adult	Gilt on royal blue felt	1946-<51	

By 1951 the stars were changed from a felt backing to a plastic backing. The screw back was still in use. A short term solution to the poke in the chest was a covered screw back. The covered screw back is on an example of the silver 10 year star, establishing a date in the 1948-51 range (see below), but no closer. About this time, definitely prior to 1955, the screw back post changed to a clutch back post. I have “odd numbered” service stars in screw/felt, screw/plastic, and clutch/plastic. (I had two 41 year service stars, both with clutch back. This indicates to me that the switch to clutch back may have been made by 1951. My 36 year star has a screw back.

Paul Millman's personal 1954 service stars were clutch back. If anyone has 37-44 year service stars, I would appreciate knowing what kind of back they have.)

In 1955 the inventory problem of individual year numerals was recognized. The stock was simplified to a plain star, and the numerals 1-10, 20, 30, and 40. Multiples of 10 have been added since as needed, to a maximum of 90. The other numerals were discontinued, with 44 being the highest numeral produced. For a few years up to 1955 a silver 10 year service star was produced, with the idea of wearing several silver 10 year stars if you had 20 or more years' service. The plain (1-year) service star was discontinued in 1977⁶. At some time between 1996 and 2002, 75-year and 85-year service stars were introduced. They are not hot sellers.

Type 3 Service Stars ^{7,8,9}			
Type	Star/Background	Duration	Scan
Plain (one year) service star	Gilt on any background. Screw back <1951. Clutch back 1951>.	1946-77	
Tiger ¹⁰ (Note: Since 1999, Tigers wear gold Cub stars)	Gilt on orange (Note: plain service star illustration is inaccurate, they were gone by then)	1984-1999	
Cub	Gilt on gold (yellow) [Note the color difference, yellow is screw back, gold is clutch.]	<1951-now	
Scout	Gilt on green	<1951-now	
Varsity	Gilt on brown	1984-now	
Explorer/Venturer	Gilt on red	<1951-now	
Adult (or total service) ⁸	Gilt on light blue (1-10, multiples of 10) (numbers 11-44 to 1955)	<1951-now	

9 year service, plain and underlined	Gilt	9 = 1946- 60s> <u>9</u> =<1992- now	
10 year service ^{7,9}	Silver 10 (on light blue) First example is worn on front, but edges and back are silver. Second example contrasts silver and gold stars, on wrong green background.	48><51- 55	
Manufacturing differences	Number background color, plastic back size: The two 20-year pins have contrasting sized plastic and number backgrounds.	Unknown	
Any	Screw back covered	<1951?	
Any	Clutch back	<1955- now	

Type 3 stars have seen some manufacturing differences over the years. The blue circle has always been 6mm. However, there have been at least three noticeable color differences, the original medium blue, a light blue, and a dark blue. I have plastic backing at 14 and 15 millimeters, though the great majority are 16mm. The initial issue of numbered stars has a line thickness of about 0.3mm. Recent issues have a line thickness closer to 0.6mm, nearly double. Height of the numerals has varied from 3mm to 4mm. The trend has been toward a thicker line and larger numeral, though not in all cases. The 10 year interval stars have a thicker line, but need a shorter numeral to fit. The 0 has changed from a rounder to a narrower oval. I believe thick lines are a recent development. The narrow lines started with the screw backs, but otherwise I have been unable to ascribe any dates to these changes. If someone has dated stars to help out, I would appreciate your assistance.



Today (2014), a youth may wear up to a 5-year yellow star for five years in Cub Scouts (1st-5th grade). He may wear up to a 7-year green star for Boy Scouts, up to a 4-year brown star for

Varsity Scouts, and up to a 7-year red star for Venturing. There is a kicker though – total youth service after Cub Scouts should not exceed 10 years. An LDS boy might have 3-green, 2-brown, and 2-red, becoming an Assistant Scoutmaster at 18. Another boy may choose 3-green and 7-red, turning adult at 21. If you are a Boy Scout and Venturer simultaneously, you may pick which tenure you choose to display, but don't double count it. Our girls in Venturing can only have up to 7-red as a youth.

Adults can wear the Tiger Cub 1-orange star. Many could only be Cubs for 3 years. I could only be a Boy Scout for two years, because the joining age was 12, and I was “forced” to become an Explorer at 14, but most youth will have at least three years in Boy Scouting. Most Varsity Scouts spend only two years there. Explorers/Venturers spend a maximum of three, four or seven years in those programs, depending on when they were members. Thus, in theory, an adult might be able to wear seven stars (Tiger, Cub, Boy, Varsity, Venturing, Adult 10 multiple, Adult single digit). Service stars are rounded off to the nearest year, totaling all the years of service since joining. You may wear just blue service stars to represent total service.

REFERENCES

I am indebted to Lamar Evans of Troop 45, Bay City, Texas, who collected over 70 different Veteran pins of all types over a 35 year period. He sold them to me, and I have found that his collection and mine have very little overlap. The threads of continuity between the two have encouraged some of my speculation about possible sequencing.

George Schadel provided information about the T-back service stars. Paul Millman provided photos of the early silver 5-year stars, and of the bent-tab back stars. Chikkie Hansen provided the information about Ira Reynolds. Craig Murray provide a photo.

I consulted the following catalogs, Official Uniforms and Equipment price lists, and insignia guides.

CATALOGS	Oct 1930	Nov 1938
May 1, 1918	Oct 1930	Nov 1938
Nov 1921	Oct 1932	Nov 1939
Nov 1925	Nov 1933	Nov 1941
Oct 1927	Nov 1934	Oct 1947
Oct 1929	Oct 1935	
	1937	
	Jan 1, 1953	
OU&E	Jun 1954	Sep 1, 1957
April 1, 1944	Mar 1, 1955	Mar 1, 1958
Jan 15, 1945	Jan 1, 1956	Nov 1, 1958
Jan 1, 1947	Apr 1, 1957	Mar 1, 1961
Jun 1, 1951		Jan 1, 1962

Sep 1, 1962		Mar 1, 1973
Mar 1, 1963	Jan 1, 1970	9/73
Mar 1, 1965	Mar 1, 1970	3/74
Sep 1, 1966	Mar 1, 1971	3/75
Mar 1, 1968	Mar 1, 1972	8/75
Jan 1, 1969	Sep 1, 1972	3/76
		1986 2 nd Pr
INSIGNIA GUIDES	Jan 1, 1962 BS	1989
1929 Uniform Badges & Insignia	Dec 1962 CS, BS	1990
1933 Uniform Badges & Insignia	1/66	1991
1933 Uniform Badges & Insignia	8/66	1993
1933 Uniform Badges & Insignia	1/67	1995
May 1, 1953 CS, BS, EXP	9/67	1996
Mar 1, 1954 BS	1/69	1999
	5/73	2000
Sep 1, 1955 CS, EXP	1/78	2002
Oct 15, 1956 BS	1/79	2003
Nov 15, 1957 BS	10/80	2005
Jan 15, 1959 BS	2/82	2006
Sep 15, 1959 CS	10/83	2008
Apr 15, 1960 BS	1986	
Jan 1, 1961 CS		

FOOTNOTES

¹*Official Uniforms and Equipment, June 1954*

²*Official Uniforms and Equipment, March 1, 1961*

³*Scouting magazine, March 1946, insert pp. 2-4*

⁴*a guide to identifying and dating Boy Scouts Of*

America Badges, Uniforms & Insignia, 4th Ed., 2009, Mitch Reis, p. 177

⁵*1933 Uniform Badges & Insignia*

⁶*Official Uniforms and Equipment 3/76, Catalog 8/77, and Insignia Control Guide 1/78*

⁷*Oct 1947 Official Catalog*

⁸*OU&E, June 1, 1951*

⁹*OU&E, March 1, 1955 and January 1, 1956*

¹⁰*Insignia Guide, 1983, 1986, and 1999 printings*

LITERATURE

a guide to identifying and dating Boy Scouts of America Badges, Uniforms & Insignia, 4th Ed., 2009, Mitch Reis, pp. 177-181.

Other monographs are available if they fit your interests. The following titles are available on www.Crowl.org/George: *Scout Leader Pins; Illustrated History of Knot Evolution; Varieties of Official BSA Square Knots; Private Issue, Fake and Spoof Square Knots; Knot Awards of Non-US Scouting Associations; and Training Award Varieties.*

It is the nature of the information above to change. I 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 me at George@Crowl.org or 832-467-1998 or 16213 Congo Ln, Jersey Village, TX 77040-2011.

©2009 V. 6.0 1/1/14