



## WHERE SHOULD I PUT MY OLD BADGES?



Throughout your time in Scouting, you will collect a large number of cloth badges – some of them to show you have completed various tasks and challenges, others for attending events and activities and some to represent places you have visited. Unfortunately, not all of them can go on your uniform, but they are an important record of your Scouting life.

You will want to keep your badges somewhere safe and display them whenever you can. They are designed to be sewn onto clothing, so it makes sense to keep them in this way. Exactly what kind of clothing item you sew them onto is up to you, but here are the most popular.

### **Camp Fire Blankets**

For as long as Scouts, Guides and Cub Scouts and their Leaders have sat around a camp fire they have wrapped themselves in a blanket. Sometimes these were the ones that Mum packed to keep her little darling warm in bed but latterly they have turned into dedicated bragging pieces in the I've been everywhere mold and, being typical kids, (or kids at heart) they soon decorated them with badges of places that they camped at.

There are lots of different styles and designs with pro & cons of each. A few of these are shown over the page.

### **Jumpers and fleeces**

A practical item of clothing you would generally take to all camps would be a jumper or fleece top to wear when it is cold. The second most popular way of displaying your badges is on a jumper or fleece.



### **Hats**

Another item of clothing taken to all outdoor activities is a sun hat. If you only have a small number of badges, this is ideal ... but you will soon run out of space!

### **What should be sewn on?**

The purists suggest that only places visited or badges earned as a Scout count. This could mean that your blanket will be fairly empty unless you do a lot of camping. Others like to collect and swap badges at Scouting events like Jamborees and Cuborees. The choice is yours, but after just a few years of Scouting, you will have a fair collection of your own!

### **How to organise your collection**

Try to group the badges together by type. For example, all of the badges for campsites you have visited in one place, events in another, etc. If you have badges from a previous Section to add (such as your Cub badges when you become a Scout), you might want to put them in the correct location on your blanket/coat. Leave enough space to grow your collection over time.

**Your blanket can also be used when you go to sleep at camp!**

