

Ancient Coin Club Membership Cards and Coin Holders

by Jeff Baum, Mexico Middle School, NY

In any organization, there are items provided to members to solidify participation and unity within the group. In our Mexico Middle School, "Ancient Coin Club", we provide club members with a membership card and coin holder to show active status. The membership card, holder and attached lanyard were developed as a useful way to hold student membership card, but also provide a practical approach for holding an ancient coin.



Making a Membership Card

The Mexico Middle School mascot is the tiger. A mosaic tiger was found and thus used as our membership card representation. If you have difficulty finding a mosaic, you can always ask Souzana at ACE, Hauslohn@cox.net. ACE folk love mosaics as well as coins.

A particular coin could also be chosen by the class and its image used in the design. You could make a little contest within your class/classes to design the Card (see size below) and get the students to vote on the winner.

After the design was developed, multiple copies were printed using white construction paper and a color copier.



The Membership Card Holder

The membership card holder is a sports card holder (aka hard plastic card protectors, top loaders or card holders) that can be purchased at any hobby, sports collecting store, and internet (including EBay). If you are able to get them from a local store, ask for used ones. You may get them at a good price or even free. They may have a sticker with price on it, but will come off. The dimensions of the top loaders are approximately 3" x 4", (for holding 2 1/2" x 3 1/2" cards).



The Lanyard

Lanyards are simply made using 5/8" ribbon. I used a type of ribbon called "Saddle Stitch". I was able to purchase it at my local Wal-Mart by the roll. You need approximately 3 feet for each lanyard. Rolls of Saddle Stitch come in 10 yards. Even though you can use any type of ribbon, just make sure you take into account 3 feet per lanyard. Cut lanyards were then neatly stitched at the ends for hanging around the neck.



The Badge Clip

Badge clips were also purchased at our local Wal-Mart. They come in packages of 12 for under \$2.00. This strap is attached to the lanyard. The clip is then attached to the card holder.



The Ancient Coin – if you are going to insert one

As mentioned earlier, the plastic card holder also will hold a coin for storage. We keep our ancient coin in the holder as we go through the identification process. Identifying coins is a process that takes time. After placing the coin in a plastic coin flip, the coin can then be placed in the holder. If you are using this to hold your Optimates, make sure you use a coin flip inside, as Optimates should be taken care of – they are expensive to replace. Ref supplies of plastic coin flips, please email Mark Lehman at ACE ACEassist@comcast.net .

For those with large classes, or for classes which are not doing the identification program, Archaeological Simulation (Arch Sim) worn Roman coins can be placed in the holder for an interesting educational display to go along with the membership card/ lanyard. Arch Sim coins cost \$10 for 100 very varied worn coins, but if you want much fewer, email Souza and tell her how many you need, rounded up to the nearest 10.... she will then tell you to send a self addressed Jiffy bag to her with postage already on it.... she will tell you the postage according to the number of coins you want.

This is a great idea for your Museum exhibits too.... the docents wearing these “official” Museum Docent ID cards look super.

If you are rushed for time or the parents offer to buy the ID holders, they can be bought for about \$1.50 each at Dollar Stores, or at Office Depot, Staples, etc.