

## Catching Pin Fever!

The Olympics are so exciting! In ancient times, the Greeks honored the Games as a time when all participants set aside their differences to compete in a spirit of peace and goodwill. Today, world famous athletes come together to test their skills and “go for the gold.”

Another aspect of the Games involves thousands of regular people in a very different sort of competition. These people have caught, **PIN FEVER!** In fact Olympic pin fever has become an epidemic and is now one of the world’s fastest growing hobbies.



©SLOC

Commemorative pins, celebrating the Olympic Winter Games, have been issued for many years.

However, for most Americans, major pin collecting began in 1984, when Los Angeles hosted the Olympic Summer Games. Every day, visitors gathered around the

Olympic Village sites, mingling with athletes and other visitors to trade their pins. Even during sporting events, spectators took time to notice pins displayed on the caps of those around them. Then, during a break in competition, people would rush to make a trade.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the National Olympic Committees (NOC) control the licensing, manufacturing and distributing of Olympic pins. Only organizations and businesses approved by these organizations may display the five-ring symbol on their pins. This symbol must be used for a pin to be considered “official.”

Many different pins are produced prior to each Olympic Winter Games. Each country creates a team pin. These are given to the athletes to

trade or offer as a symbol of friendship to other competitors. U.S. athletes are given pins that represent their individual sports.



©SLOC

The host city issues special pins. These pins may represent unique aspects of the city that will appeal to collectors. Some show the logo of the Games. Others show the Games’ mascots in a variety of poses. A set of pins may be designed showing the mascot carrying a flag of each nation or competing in featured events. Pins may also represent sports, athletes or events.

Since 1984, businesses have become more involved in sponsoring and helping to pay for the Olympic Winter Games. These official sponsors issue special pins. If you enjoy collecting, perhaps you can visit a pin show in your area and see some of the pins for yourself. You just may become infected with pin fever too!

**Favorite pins produced for the 2002 Games include one which looks like green jello and another which looks like french fry sauce!**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

## Design your own Pin!

In preparation for the 2002 Games, students from all over Utah submitted pin designs that could be made into official Olympic pins. Some of these pins are shown below. Just for fun, use what you have learned about the 2002 Olympic Winter Games and the Paralympic Winter Games to create a pin design of your own in the box below.



©SLOC



©SLOC



©SLOC



©SLOC