



RULES OF A CHALLENGE COIN:

Challenge coin rules only apply to other individuals who also own a challenge coin (even though they may not have it with them). As an owner of a challenge coin, the coin represents your affiliation, support or patronage to the organization minted on the coin.

You may "challenge" any individual who you know owns a coin. A challenge is made by withdrawing your own coin and raising it in the air or by tapping it on a bar or table. When you challenge someone, they are required to produce their coin within 60 seconds. If the individual produces the coin, you are obligated to buy them a drink. If the individual fails to produce the coin, they are obligated to buy you a drink! The same rules apply if someone challenges you!

If you are in a club or bar, please drink responsibly and always appoint a designated driver. We want you to get home safe! The reward does NOT have to be an alcoholic beverage. It can be a soda or any other reward that the two individuals agree on.
BE CAREFUL!!!

Your challenge coin is a treasured and respected representation of the organization minted on the coin! If you drop your coin and it hits the floor, you are obligated to buy drinks for anyone who hears or sees the coin hit the floor! (Provided they have their coin on them of course!)

HISTORY OF THE CHALLENGE COIN:

During World War 1, American volunteers from all parts of the country filled the newly formed flying squadrons. Some were wealthy scions attending colleges such as Yale and Harvard who quit in mid-term to join the war. In one squadron, a wealthy lieutenant ordered medallions struck in solid bronze and presented them to his unit. One young pilot placed the medallion in a small leather pouch that he wore about his neck.

Shortly after acquiring the medallions, the pilots' aircraft was severely damaged by ground fire. He was forced to land behind enemy lines and was immediately captured by a German patrol. In order to discourage his escape, the Germans took all of his personal identification except for the small leather pouch around his neck. In the meantime, he was taken to a small French town near the front. Taking advantage of a bombardment that night, he escaped. However, he was without personal identification.

He succeeded in avoiding German patrols by donning civilian attire and reached the front lines. With great difficulty, he crossed no-man's land. Eventually, he stumbled onto a French outpost. Unfortunately, saboteurs had plagued the French in the sector. They sometimes masqueraded as civilians and wore civilian clothes. Not recognizing the young pilot's American accent, the French thought him to be a saboteur and made ready to execute him. He had no identification to prove his allegiance, but he did have his leather pouch containing the medallion. He showed the medallion to his would-be executioners and one of his French captors recognized the squadron insignia on the medallion. They delayed his execution long enough for him to confirm his identity. Instead of shooting him they gave him a bottle of wine.

Back at his squadron, it became tradition to ensure that all members carried their medallion or coin at all times. This was accomplished through challenge in the following manner - a challenger would ask to see the medallion. If the challenged could not produce a medallion, they were required to buy a drink of choice for the member who challenged them. If the challenged member produced a medallion, then the challenging member was required to pay for the drink. This tradition continued on throughout the war and for many years after the war while surviving members of the squadron were still alive.

- Reprinted from a Kelly AFB Dining Out Presentation