

Collector's Journal

A SERVICE OF COLLECTORS ALLIANCE

2016 Shawnee National Forest Quarter – Illinois

Thirty-First in the America the Beautiful Quarters Collection

Shawnee National Forest in Illinois is featured on the first of five America the Beautiful Quarters issued by the U.S. Mint in 2016. It is also the thirty-first coin in the complete series that started in 2010 and will eventually include a National Park or other national site in each state, the District of Columbia, and the five overseas U.S. territories.

The four additional coins to be issued later in 2016 will be for Cumberland Gap National Historical Park in Kentucky, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park in West Virginia, Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota, and Fort Moultrie (Fort Sumter National Monument) in South Carolina.

Each America the Beautiful Quarter is issued in a limited edition of only about 10 weeks, and only one coin design is struck for circulation at a time. When the limited mintage period is over, the coin dies are destroyed and the mintage starts for the next coin. As a result, the coins can never be made again, regardless of their scarcity or the demand from collectors.

America the Beautiful Quarters are struck for circulation at both the Philadelphia and Denver Mints. The two coins are identified by a small "P" (Philadelphia) or "D" (Denver) mint mark under "In God We Trust" on the obverse.

Shawnee National Forest covers more than 286,000 acres in southern Illinois between the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. The only National Forest in Illinois, it is within a day's drive of more than 45 million people. It includes farmland that was abandoned during the Great Depression but which was reclaimed as a "New Deal Forest" by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1939. Much of the farmland was planted with fast-growing pines by the Civilian Conservation Corps, while the remainder of the forest includes mature hardwood trees.



In addition to forested areas, Shawnee National Forest also features lakes, wetlands that provide a habitat for waterfowl in the Mississippi flyway, several wilderness areas, and beautiful landscapes that are highlighted by the Garden of the Gods Recreation Area. Other popular locations are Cedar Lake, High Knob, and Little Grand Canyon, as well as Ohio River National Scenic Byway, Great River Road National Scenic Byway, and the River to River Trail.

The reverse of the Shawnee National Forest Quarter shows Camel Rock, a famous sandstone rock formation that can be seen from the Observation Trail in the Garden of the Gods. The design also includes natural vegetation in the foreground and a red-tailed hawk above the rocks; the red-tailed hawk is a bird of prey that is commonly seen in the forest.

Four of the six designs submitted by the U.S. Mint's artists for consideration for the Shawnee National Forest Quarter included images of Camel Rock from different viewpoints. The fifth design featured Devil's Smokestack, another dramatic sandstone rock formation in the Garden of the Gods, while the final design depicted a young girl climbing stairs cut into the rocks near the Bell Smith Springs Recreation Area within the forest.

The Shawnee National Forest Quarter was released by the U.S. Mint in February 2016.

Collectors Alliance • 1942 Swarthmore Avenue • Lakewood, NJ 08701
Call TOLL FREE 1-800-997-9843
www.CollectorsAlliance.com