

Collector's Journal

A Service of Collectors Alliance

2011 Glacier National Park Quarter - Montana

Seventh in the America the Beautiful Quarters Collection

The Glacier National Park Quarter is the second America the Beautiful Quarter issued by the U.S. Mint in 2011. It is also the seventh coin in the overall collection. It was preceded in 2011 with the coin featuring Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania and will be followed by the coins honoring Olympic National Park in Washington, Vicksburg National Military Park in Mississippi, and Chickasaw National Recreation Area in Oklahoma.

The reverse of each America the Beautiful Quarter is a unique one-time-only design that highlights the featured park or other national site within the state. There will be one coin for each state, the District of Columbia, and the five overseas U.S. territories.

The America the Beautiful Quarters series followed the State Quarters series that was issued from 1999 to 2009. The State Quarters were issued in the order in which the states joined the Union, but the America the Beautiful Quarters are issued in the order in which the featured site was set aside by the federal government.

Five America the Beautiful Quarters are issued each year. They are struck for circulation at the United States Mints in Philadelphia and Denver, and they are identified by the small "P" (Philadelphia) or "D" (Denver) mint mark under "In God We Trust."

Glacier National Park is located in northwestern Montana. Covering more than one million acres, it became a national reserve under federal protection in 1897. It was established as the 10th National Park on May 11, 1910. Renowned for its stunning landscapes and majestic glaciers – as well as one of the largest grizzly bear populations in the lower 48 states – the park was first explored in the mid-1800's. In the late 1800's and early 1900's, George Bird Grinnell spearheaded the effort to protect the land.



At the time of its first exploration, the park contained about 150 glaciers. Due to global climate change which has destroyed many glaciers around the world, only 25 glaciers remained at the time Glacier National Park was honored on the America the Beautiful Quarter.

Waterton Lakes National Park is located directly across the Canadian border from Glacier National Park. The two parks form Waterton-Glacier, which became the world's first International Peace Park in 1932.

The Glacier National Park Quarter features a scene from the park. The northeast slope of Mount Reynolds is in the distance, while a mountain goat in the park's high country is in the foreground. Mount Reynolds dominates the scenery of Glacier National Park. A glacial horn, its pyramid-like peak was formed by glaciers which eroded the sides of the mountain. The mountain goat is one of 62 species of mammals that can be found within the park.

Three different designs were under consideration for the Glacier National Park Quarter. The two proposed designs that were not selected were similar to one another. They both showed Mount Reynolds in the background and an alpine meadow in the foreground, but one also included a mountain goat in the meadow.

The Glacier National Park Quarter was released by the U.S. Mint in April, 2011.

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