

## The New Jersey Mayflower Society Challenge Coin

**Background:** As Mayflower descendants, we eagerly anticipated Year 2020 since the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Mayflower crossing was upon us! But did you know that the New Jersey Society of Mayflower Descendants also has a significant milestone to celebrate this year? On 15 August 2020, our society turned 120! To honor these extraordinary events, as they are once in a lifetime, we have created a unique Challenge Coin to memorialize these two historical achievements for sale exclusively for the members of this society! But we have a limited number of coins. Once they are gone, they are gone!

**What is a Challenge Coin?** Simply put, a challenge coin is a small coin or medallion created and used by all types of organizations to display the organization's logo, emblem, insignia, or to commemorate special events. The coins are usually given only to members of the organization.

The "challenge" part historically is said that if a person was challenged to prove they were indeed a member of a club, group or organization, the only accepted proof was to produce the coin that belonged to that group which only members would be holding.

Today, challenge coins are very much in trend & used in a variety of ways in all types of organizations. These coins are custom made and usually in a limited quantity which makes them highly collectable. These coins are very symbolic and meaningful to those who own them. Challenge coins are collected as souvenirs and they gain more in value, especially when the stock is limited,

**SMD-NJ Challenge Coin Details:** We have minted only 500 challenge coins exclusively for our members. This two-sided copper coin is approximately 2" in diameter with blue and red enamel borders on either side. The side with the Mayflower blue enamel border signifies the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Mayflower Compact. Both the edges and interior are slightly raised. The lettering states "1620 MAYFLOWER COMPACT 2020 400<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY". The alternate side adorned with SMD-NJ red enamel is significant of our state society celebrating our 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary. There is an outline map of New Jersey and its 21 counties, and encircling the map are the names of the four original Pilgrims whose descendants moved to New Jersey. The raised lettering reads: "1900 THE NEW JERSEY SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS 2020 120<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY". In the interior, which circles around the state, is written: "Edward Doty—Piscataway | William White—Greenwich Twp. | John Howland—Cape May | Francis Cooke—Morristown". This is a stunning piece of our history and will only be available on a first come first served basis.

**Care Details:** if you plan on purchasing one, treat it like a treasure and value your coin! Do not alter its shape or attempt to pierce for a hole as making a hole will devalue the coin. Your coin should be stored away from heat, light & moisture. Handling your coin should be rare and when doing so, gently. Your coin should be cleaned with a soft cloth only and never with anything abrasive that could possibly damage the enamels or the copper.