

WOOD BADGE

WHAT IS WOOD BADGE?

Wood Badge is leadership training for volunteer leaders involved in all phases of Scouting - Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Varsity Scouting, and Venturing, as well as council and district leaders, and professionals. Wood Badge has evolved over the years. Today's Wood Badge focuses on leadership and "people" skills, not Scoutcraft or outdoor skills. Participants learn how to be better leaders, how to work with teams and lead others, and how to develop and achieve objectives. Wood Badge combines the most current leadership skills used by corporate America with the best of successful outdoor leadership programs and nearly 100 years of Scouting experience. Leadership skills developed through Wood Badge, while obviously applicable to Scouting, will also help participants be more effective leaders at work, at home, or in other volunteer roles.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

To attend a Wood Badge Course, Scouters must:

- Be registered members of the Boy Scouts of America. There are no minimum tenure requirements.
- Have completed the basic training and appropriate outdoor skills training courses for their Scouting positions.
- Be capable of functioning safely in an outdoor environment. BSA Class 3 Physical is required.

Former participants of Boy Scout or Cub Scout Trainer Wood Badge may now participate in 21st Century Wood Badge. See course director for details.

COURSE FORMAT

Wood Badge participants are organized into patrols of 5-7 people who work together as a team throughout the course. The Wood Badge course is six days long, broken into two 3-day weekends (either Thursday-Saturday or Friday-Sunday) spaced three to four weeks apart, plus two interim patrol meetings (time and location set by patrol members). The first weekend is held at the Camp Strake Conference Center. All meals are served in the Dining Hall and participants are housed in Conference Center Dorms. The second weekend is held at the Kuester Training Area of Camp Strake and participants cook their own meals and sleep in wall tents.

Wood Badge is fun. Through a variety of challenging activities, participants actively experience, practice, and apply different leadership skills. Wood Badge is a hands-on experience. Every learning session is sandwiched between two activities, one preceding the learning session that sets the stage for learning and another following the learning session that enables participants to practice and apply what was learned in the session.

COURSE CONTENT



As shown in the five-sided logo, Wood Badge has five central themes:

- Bringing the Vision to Life
- Models for Success
- Living the Values
- Leading to Make a Difference
- Tools of the Trade

Specific topics and leadership skills covered include:

- Developing a Mission and Vision
- Coaching and Mentoring
- Project Planning
- Leading Change
- Effective Listening and Communication
- Valuing People and Leveraging Diversity
- Team Development and Leadership
- Problem Solving and Managing Conflict.

THE TICKET

One thing that makes Wood Badge unique is the "ticket." During the course each participant develops a contract or ticket. The ticket defines their vision of success, and outlines a plan of action with five significant goals to be completed within the next 18 months. Completing the goals outlined in the ticket allows participants to practice and demonstrate their understanding of the leadership skills taught during the course in their individual Scouting positions. Successful completion of Wood Badge requires writing and completing a ticket.

RECOGNITION

Once their ticket is complete, participants receive the distinctive Wood Badge neckerchief, woggle (leather neckerchief slide), the Wood Badge – two wooden beads worn on a leather thong around the neck, and the certificate. This "regalia" is recognized around the world as a symbol training and leadership experience.