

# Wood Badge



Welcome to Wood Badge, the ultimate leadership-training program for the adult leaders of the Boy Scouts of America. Established in 1919 by Robert Baden-Powell, Scouting's founder, Wood Badge has been the training ground for hundreds of thousands of Scouters around the world. As the challenges in the world have changed, Wood Badge has also evolved to give leaders the skills they need to strengthen Scouting in meaningful ways. The latest version of Wood Badge training represents the most significant changes in the program since the early 1970s. Building on the past, understanding the present, and looking to the future, Wood Badge stands ready to provide leadership for Scouting and leadership for America.

The Wood Badge course brings together leaders from all areas of Scouting - Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Varsity Scouting, Venturing and, all levels of Boy Scouts of America professional staff. Reflecting the best of nearly a century of Scouting experience, the course also draws upon the most current leadership models used by corporate America, academic circles, and successful outdoor leadership organizations throughout the country.

This new version of Wood Badge builds on all that has come before it. Veteran Wood Badge staff members will discover that the best of the traditions and experiences of Wood Badge have been brought forward and recast to be enjoyed by today's participants. In addition, Wood Badge draws from a wide range of sources within and beyond the bounds of scouting to present the latest in leadership theory and team development.



Participants in Wood Badge attend a six-day course offered either as a block of six consecutive days or as two sessions of three days each (most often scheduled over two weekends). Course attendees begin their Wood Badge experience as Cub Scouts, then bridge into Boy Scouting and form patrols for the remainder of the program. Selected staff members interact with participants in the role of a Venturing crew. Representing a month in the life of a Scout unit, Wood Badge participants assume leadership roles to plan and carry out an extended outdoor experience.

Within this framework, participants take part in numerous presentations, discussions, and activities that explore and advance a wide range of leadership philosophies and tools. A key area of exploration is the process of team development. By recognizing the stages through which developing teams must pass, participants will learn to apply appropriate leadership strategies that enable teams to reach their highest levels of performance.

All course participants will become familiar, both in theory and in practice, with the points of view of Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Varsity Scouting, and Venturing. Wood Badge staff will expand upon that shared vision by guiding participants through three days of presentations and activities that parallel three weeks of a Scout unit's meetings and activities. The final three days of the course parallel the experiences of a Scout unit setting out on the fourth week of a month for an exciting and challenging outdoor experience.

# FAQ's about Wood Badge

## What is Woodbadge?

Answer: Wood Badge is advanced adult leader training that provides Scouters with the latest in leadership skills. It uses scouting methods such as the patrol method to teach adults how to train youth in leadership and citizenship. The fellowship and friendships that often last a lifetime combined with a “mountain top experience” make this the premiere scouting course. The knowledge and skills acquired at Wood Badge can be used in scouting of course but also in Church, your work as well as in your family life.

## How is the course structured?

Answer: The course is offered in two formats: A week long course and a two weekend course. Both courses cover the same material and each lasts for a total of six days. Our Council has selected the weekend format as we believe that would fit the schedules of most participants.

## Who can attend?

Answer: Any adult Scouting leader 21 years of age or older that has completed the leader specific training for their position:

- ✚ Cub Scout leaders are considered trained when they have completed Cub Scout Leader Specific training for their position.
- ✚ Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters are considered trained when they have completed Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training, and Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills.
- ✚ Troop Committee members are considered trained when they have completed the Troop Committee Challenge.
- ✚ Venturing leaders are considered trained when they have completed Venturing Leader Specific Training.
- ✚ Varsity Scout leaders are considered trained when they have completed Varsity Coach Position Specific Training, and Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills.
- ✚ Chartered Organization Representatives for all units are considered trained when they have completed the Chartered Organization Representative training.

## Who should attend?

Answer: All adult Scout leaders regardless of the position are encouraged to attend within the first two years as a registered adult leader.

## How much does Wood Badge cost?

Answer: The next course for Narragansett Council (N1-546-17) will cost \$265.00.

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## **Wow, that seems high, why so much?**

Answer: The costs cover your meals for six days, housing, course materials and copyright fees. Please realize that this course is comparable to the leadership courses that Fortune 500 companies put on for their executives at a cost of several thousand dollars. Ask any Wood Badger if he or she felt the costs was worth it. I believe that a person will say it was worth a lot more. The material that BSA has developed is based on contributions from such people as Ken Blanchard author of "One Minute Manager" as well as many others. Our council will make every effort to hold the cost to a minimum.

## **What if I cannot afford the Course fee?**

Answer: We want Wood Badge to be available to all Scouters. Often, participants are partially sponsored by their units or their chartered organizations. Camperships are also available from the Council for a portion of the fee if required. Camperships applications are at the Council Service Desk.

## **I hear that Wood Badge has changed?**

Answer: Yes it has, the leadership training had not been updated since 1972. During that time, some great advances were made in understanding team dynamics and leadership. These advances have now been incorporated into Wood Badge Leadership training. Also, there was no leadership training for Cub Scout leaders. The Cub Scout Wood Badge training was directed to Cub Scout trainers, not to unit leaders. Wood Badge has now been integrated to provide leadership training for all unit leaders, Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting and Venturing.

## **What happened to Cub Scout Wood Badge?**

Answer: The same thing that happened to Boy Scout Wood Badge --they are both replaced with the new Wood Badge. There are no longer separate Cub Scout Wood Badge and Boy Scout Wood Badge courses.

## **How does Wood Badge training relate to the Council National Youth Leadership Training program?**

Answer: They are very much related. Both teach the same leadership skills. Wood Badge is directed to adults, emphasizing how to develop youth leaders. NYLT is directed at the youth themselves. Both teach through a combination of presentations and practice, with strong reliance on the patrol method. An ideal situation is for the adults to attend Wood Badge and the youth leadership to attend NYLT, and then together they apply their new knowledge and enthusiasm.

## **How can I find out what patrol I will be in? Can I choose? Should I prepare anything before the course?**

Answer: Much of Wood Badge is about Patrol Method. It is the forum for practicing the Leadership and Scout skills on course. You will likely develop a special fondness for your patrol and members.

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Patrols will be assigned by the Course Director, based on many criteria including balancing the experience and background of the participants, and distributing people from the same district or units to different patrols. The Course Director will rarely if ever honor specific requests. It is best to not get too concerned about which patrol you will join -- the purpose is to learn the patrol method not join any particular group. Some enthusiastic Wood Badge participants like to make or collect specific items reflecting their patrol. If so, this can occur during or after the course -- you do not need to prepare anything in advance.

## **How much should I prepare my ticket before the Course?**

Answer: You need to have a clear description of your job in Scouting, and your goals for the course. These are critical so that as you learn the leadership skills you can identify ways to put them to use in your current role. Please do not develop your ticket prior to the Course --on Course you will learn more about an ideal troop program and about the leadership skills you personally want to practice. Only after that will you be able to write your ticket. For example, if you believe that your troop suffers from a lack of boy leadership, you might talk with the Scoutmaster about running a Youth Leader Training session. Or you might chat with the Council Leadership Development Chair if you are thinking about joining the training team. But again, don't make commitments or try to write your ticket ahead of the Course --experience shows it is guaranteed to change!

## **How should I contact for more information?**

Course Director: John Potvin 401-623-9368 or [fdep26@aol.com](mailto:fdep26@aol.com)

Staff Advisor: Will Simmons 401-351-8700 ext 25 or [Will.Simmons@scouting.org](mailto:Will.Simmons@scouting.org)