

# Wood Badge Leadership



Wood Badge is the ultimate leadership training course 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.

Upon completion of Basic and Leader Specific Training as well as the Outdoor Skills Training Program appropriate for your position, an adult is eligible to attend Wood Badge for the 21st Century. As the essential leadership skills training course for the BSA, Wood Badge for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century focuses on strengthening every volunteer's ability to work with groups of youth and adults using indoor and outdoor experiences to refine leadership skills.

The course is for all Scouters—Boy Scout leaders, Cub Scout leaders, Venturing leaders, and District and Council leaders. 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 to present the latest in leadership experience and team development.

Within the Wood Badge 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.

Incorporating leadership concepts that are used in corporate America, the course teaches participants the basics of listening, communicating, valuing people, team development, situational leadership, problem solving, and managing conflict. Once the skill is learned, each member is given the opportunity to use the skill as a member of a successful working team.

When the course is completed, the participant will write a contract or “ticket” to accomplish certain self-imposed goals in one’s personal, professional, and Scouting life. Working toward these goals allows each participant to practice and demonstrate new skills. These goals must be attained within 18 months after the ending of the weekend course to obtain the “two little beads” cherished by all that have earned them.

Wood Badge, by its delivery methods and content, can be a life-altering experience. Participants will experience the course with a group of enthusiastic, dedicated adults who could well become life-long friends. The intense learning experience, the camaraderie and fellowship, and the outdoor atmosphere make Wood Badge the premier Scouting training experience.

As a result of attending Wood Badge, you will:

- Participate in contemporary leadership development that is relevant in all that you do
- Help youth develop leadership essential in becoming a high performance unit
- Have hands-on experience with the life skills essential to anticipating and resolving conflicts
- Experience the Scouting Program as a family of interrelated values-based programs
- Revitalize your personal and professional lives through inspirational experiences that provide you with the tools to accomplish the mission of Scouting.

*You have demonstrated your commitment to youth leadership development by serving as an adult leader in Scouting. Now is the time to refine your skills to achieve high-performance results for your unit and for yourself through the Wood Badge Leadership experience.*