



Dear [Employer]

Wood Badge training is advanced leadership training for Scout leaders offered by the Boy Scouts of America. The course draws upon some of the most current leadership models used by businesses, corporate America, university programs, the military and other leadership entities and organizations to present the latest in leadership theories, competencies and behaviors. Wood Badge is more than just mechanical coursework; it is the embodiment of Scouting spirit. Like many intense training experiences, Wood Badge relies on a busy schedule forcing the participants to work together, organize and develop enthusiasm and team spirit to accomplish the tasks and challenges placed before them. Carried out in the context of Scouting ideals and service to young people, the course helps hone leadership and team building skills in the participants.

Part of the success of the Wood Badge training is that participants will “live the training” over two non-consecutive weekends of the course (a three-day weekend in August and a two-day weekend in September). As they learn about being a part of a highly effective team, they will be tasked with goals and projects to accomplish, in a live experience! They will also learn team and leadership skills by taking on the roles of team member and team leader. The combination of classroom style instruction coupled with experiential learning provides them with many opportunities to exhibit their knowledge of the skills that they are receiving.

The Wood Badge curriculum builds on the knowledge it presents. It starts with participants learning about themselves, learning the value of understanding and including others, and understanding the role of good communication in all that we do. During this building of knowledge and skill, the participants learn from each other by completing hands-on exercises, active participation and feedback opportunities.

Wood Badge concentrates on five central themes that encapsulate the course content. They are implemented using 14 competencies. They are:

- Living the values—personifying the values, setting the example.
 - Drive vision, mission and values
 - Know the territory
 - Inspire the heart
- Growing—knowing and growing yourself first and then making a commitment to continuous improvement and lifelong learning.
 - Know thyself
 - Learn to listen, listen to learn
 - Apply interpersonal savvy
- Connecting—with other people
 - Communicate effectively
 - Include and optimize diverse talent
 - Manage conversations
- Guiding—focusing on enabling and developing others.
 - Plan with a bias for action
 - Develop individuals and teams
 - Create a culture: “Train them, trust them, let them lead”



- Empowering—ultimately helping other people become healthier, wiser, freer, more autonomous, and more likely themselves to serve and to lead themselves.
 - Coach and mentor
 - Embrace and lead change

Wood Badge focuses on these key competencies of effective leadership. It leverages decades of the BSA's experience, knowledge and expertise in working with millions of leaders and youth for more than a century.

The training materials include resources from renowned authors and leadership experts such as Ken Blanchard (*Leading at a Higher Level*), Stephen Covey (*The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*) and Max De Pree (*Leadership is an Art*) among others. Courses of this caliber usually require more time away from home and work, cost far more than this one, and have not been as highly effective as Wood Badge!

Your employee will be part of a group of dedicated adults in your community whose goal is to help youth. There are many benefits both personally and professionally for your employee that many employers value. So much so that some employers allow this type of time off as community service time and do not require their employees to use their vacation time to attend this type of training. Some may be even willing to help underwrite its cost. The course encompasses two three-day weekends and the cost is only \$280, which is a bargain in today's world of corporate training, and you will receive a return many times its value.

Every youth deserves a trained leader and every adult deserves the training. As a volunteer leader with the Boy Scouts of America, your employee has already undergone a number of training experiences that fall into the "continuum of training" and now is ready for advanced leadership training. The Boy Scouts of America deeply appreciates the contributions made to Scouting by volunteers and the community at large.

We have a remarkable opportunity to enhance the skills, the vision and the mission of those who are providing leadership for Scouting and leadership for America. The positive impact our volunteers will have upon the Boy Scouts of America and upon our nation is immeasurable.

The course is planned for two non-consecutive weekends requiring a Friday for the first weekend excused from work. The dates are August 26-29 and September 17-19.

I would like to thank you in advance for considering Wood Badge. Should you have any questions or require further information please feel free to contact me

Sincerely,

Brian Krizner

Brian Krizner
Course Director