

## TIDEWATER COUNCIL WOOD BADGE ASSOCIATION CHARTER

The Tidewater Council Wood Badge Association exists to assist in providing the Tidewater Council, Boy Scouts of America with highly trained and experienced Scouters, that are focused on bringing the mission of Scouting to all youth.

The purpose of Wood Badge is to develop skilled leaders who can strengthen Scouting units in achieving the mission of the Boy Scouts of America. When we seek to accomplish the mission of Scouting, it is done at the unit level. Therefore, the purpose of Wood Badge is to strengthen units.

Although the course is different today, Baden-Powell's guidance from 1919 still applies:

*"One of the purposes of Wood Badge training is to get Scouters to think about the practice of Scouting, to meet together, to exchange experiences, and to live together in the spirit of the Scout Oath."*

### MISSION

The Mission of the Association is to promote amongst its members the opportunity to further the legacy of Scouting beyond individual units by serving the Tidewater Council, through involvement in the four functions of the council and its districts. It is a primary goal of the Association to have as many events and activities guided by Wood Badge trained members as is possible.

The Wood Badge Association will facilitate efforts to provide the Tidewater Council, Boy Scouts of America with highly trained and experienced resources. The members of the association when called upon will do their best to help all other Scouters at all times.

Additionally, the Association will conduct fund raising to help provide scholarships to individuals or to entire courses to help make Wood Badge and National Youth Leadership Training courses affordable. These same funds that are raised, if identified by budget and made known to all members, can be used for other purposes such as purchasing equipment or providing additional training at other locations, such as Philmont or The Summit.

Participation in the Wood Badge Association provides an excellent opportunity for Tidewater Council Wood Badgers to stay in contact with other Tidewater Council Wood Badgers. Prospective participants, spouses and others may be invited to attend meetings as deemed appropriate by the Association.

Care will be taken to ensure that the activities and duties of Wood Badge Association members do not conflict with the regular program and service mission of the Tidewater Council.

### Membership

Membership is open to all Scouters who have received their beads and those currently "working their tickets" or participating in the current Wood Badge course. Members shall complete an application and a resource form which can be used as a tool by the districts and council to call upon as potential resources for volunteer duties. After the initial application, a yearly resource form shall be completed, and that shall constitute an active membership.

### Governance

The Tidewater Council Executive Board, through the office of the President, and in coordination with the Scout Executive, shall work with the association to enable it to accomplish its mission. All funds receipted on behalf of the organization shall be treated like all other funds received by the council and shall be subject to all the rules and regulations in force by the Tidewater Council for proper governance. All funds collected for Wood Badge other than events shall be placed in a custodial account. The Association shall appoint an individual to keep track of the funds in the custodial account. Events run for Wood Badge dinners are subject to the same rules that apply to district dinners.

Any shortfalls shall be accounted for to bring the event's budget to an even balance. Any excess funds shall be deposited into the custodial account.

The Wood Badge association is not a legal entity in and of itself, but is legally bound to the Tidewater Council.

### **Wood Badge Association Meetings and Events**

The Association Members will notionally hold three meetings/events a year, to include meals, which are also fund-raisers. The Association will begin the year with an annual Outreach Meeting, preferably close to Baden-Powell's birthday (February 22). This will be an open meeting that all people interested in learning about Wood Badge or NYLT will be welcome to attend. In addition to fundraising, this meeting will allow Course Directors and Staff from upcoming Wood Badge and NYLT Courses to market their courses and recruit participants. A summer event and a fall/winter event will be conducted under the auspices of business and fellowship meetings. These two events will provide an opportunity for Members to meet and associate with other Wood Badgers from Tidewater Council and neighboring councils.

One of the Association's largest efforts will be to provide financial support to Tidewater Council Advanced Leadership Training participants as an incentive to get them trained and to help those who need financial support to do so. Tidewater Council Wood Badge scholarships and financial support will be awarded with the understanding that any Wood Badge recipient will complete his/her ticket and earn their beads. The same will apply to youth that wish to participate in National Youth Leadership Training. Although the funds raised are specifically for the use of registered Tidewater Scouters, we will consider unique circumstances to help Scouters from other councils if they are applying to participate in a course conducted by the Tidewater Council.

The Quartermaster will sell fundraising items such as special Wood Badge Association patches, T-shirts, hats, and brass belt buckles.

### **Membership and Dues**

Members join the association by completing a member information form and paying annual dues in the amount of \$5 to cover association administrative expenses. Upon completion and payment of dues the member is considered active. All active Wood Badge Association members who have earned their beads are eligible to vote for and be elected or appointed to Wood Badge Association offices. Elections will take place each February at the Annual Outreach event. Officers will serve a one-year term and be eligible to be elected for a second term. The officers will meet several times during the year as required, to plan Association events and fundraisers. Annually, at least 90 days before the annual outreach dinner, a nominating committee, comprised of 3 active dues-paid members, appointed by the Scoutmaster in collaboration with the staff advisor, will draw up a slate of officers. It is desired, though not required, that one of the elected officers be a member of the Council Executive Board to create linkage to the governing body of the council.

Elected Association officers shall consist of: Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, Senior Patrol Leader, Quartermaster, and Scribe. Other temporary positions may be established on a temporary *ad hoc* basis by the Scoutmaster as the need arises.

The Scout Executive will appoint a Staff Advisor to serve the Association, work with the nominating committee, and the Association will always take such steps as are necessary to stay in complete partnership with the council.

The Wood Badge Association does not report to any council committee, but shall work through the Vice President of Program to provide updates and reports when requested.

### **Bylaws**

The Association is not a policy making group and therefore shall not have any bylaws that would have to be ratified by the council.

The Association can, with the approval of the Scout Executive and/or his designee, develop an Association Guidebook.

### **Annual Report and Charter Review**

Each year, the Association shall endeavor to determine its impact upon the Council and provide a report to the Council Executive Board to be delivered by the association Scoutmaster to the Council President. Included in this impact report shall be: the number of hours donated to Scouting by active members that were above and beyond their normal Scouting duties in support of the Association's mission and other significant accomplishments, planned initiatives and future association events. At least every other year, or more often if determined by the Council Executive Board or association Scoutmaster, the Association charter shall be reviewed by a temporary charter review committee appointed by the Association Scoutmaster. Results of the charter review shall be shared with the Association membership and the Council President.

### **Recognition**

A simple recognition shall be contrived that mirrors a Wood Badge ticket that each active Wood Badge Association member can write and submit to the Association's Officers for review. If the Association leadership accepts the ticket as being worthy, then once the ticket is completed, the individual shall be eligible to receive a "device" to be chosen by the Association in recognition as having completed their ticket.