



WOOD BADGE

5-653-26 Great Rivers Council

October 2-4, 2026 & October 17-18, 2026

Lake of the Ozarks Scout Reservation

(525 Camp Hohn Dr Gravois Mills, MO 65037)



What is Wood Badge?

You are invited to experience the ultimate in Scout Leadership Training. Organized by Lord Robert Baden-Powell, Wood Badge is training in group leadership skills and unit operations. There are two parts to Wood Badge. The practical five-day experience consists of living the patrol method with a group of Scouters in a Scouting environment while being taught leadership and life skills applicable to Scouting, business, and family. After the practical experience, you follow through on the commitment you made during the instructional phase of the course to apply the principles you learned through practical experience. This takes a minimum of six months. During this period you will develop a knowledge and understanding of leadership skills; what they are, how to use them, when each is appropriate, plus an intense personal motivation to apply these skills in the best way in your Scouting job.

Who can attend?

To participate in this exciting training experience if you must:

- Be a registered member of the Boy Scouts of America and age 18 or older.
- Have completed the basic position-specific training courses for your Scouting role.
- Be capable of functioning safely in an outdoor environment.
- Complete Parts A, B, and C of the Annual Health and Medical Record form (available at www.scouting.org). Submit a completed application and, upon acceptance and approval, pay the balance of \$260.00 prior to October 2, 2026.
- Be interested in having LOTS of fun!!!!

Purpose of Wood Badge:

Wood Badge is the advanced training course for ALL Scouters. It is training in Scouting leadership skills and operation. The course is intended to develop appropriate Scouting knowledge, skills and attitude in adult leaders involved directly with the operation of ALL Scout units.

Program Dates:

The dates and times of the 2026 Wood Badge training program are:

Weekend 1: 7AM, Fri., October 2 to 5PM Sun. October 4, 2026

Weekend 2: 7AM, Sat. October 17 to 5PM, Sun. October 18, 2026

Due to the nature of the Wood Badge Course attendance to both weekends are required to complete the course.

Cost:

Fee for the course is \$260.00. This covers food, supplies, t-shirt, and training materials for the entire course. The only equipment you will need to bring will be your personal camping gear, mess kit, and clothing. Do not be turned away by cost. Similar private leadership courses cost much more!

Scholarships are available through GRC, maybe your troop, maybe your employer.

A detailed packing list will be provided prior to the start of the course. A \$50.00 deposit will hold your place; however, the entire fee must be paid prior to October 2, 2026. In the event, you have registered and cannot attend the course; refunds (deposit and fee) will be made ONLY IF the course is filled before your registration was received. The course is limited to 48 participants so sign up early!!!

The Objectives of Wood Badge:

The overall objective of Wood Badge training is to provide participants with a meaningful experience in Scouting that will enhance their knowledge and create a deeper understanding of their roles and responsibilities as leaders. Wood Badge specifically focuses on five objectives:

- Acquire a global view of Scouting as a family of interrelated values-based programs providing age-appropriate activities for youth
- Become familiar with contemporary team leadership concepts
- Experience the stages of team development and practice leadership approaches appropriate for those stages
- Have a great deal of fun in the company of interesting, like-minded individuals
- Develop a renewed commitment to provide Scouting with the best possible leadership

History of Wood Badge:

In 1911, 4 years after Scouting began in Great Britain, General Baden-Powell began training Scouters through a series of lectures. In 1919, Mr. W. de Bois Maclaren purchased an estate in Epping Forest, near London, called Gilwell Park and presented it to the Scouting movement. On the morning of September 8, 1919, the 61 year-old retired general of the British Army stepped out into the center of a clearing at Gilwell Park. He raised to his lips the horn of a Greater Kudu, one of the largest of African antelopes. He blew a long sharp blast. Nineteen men dressed in short pants and knee socks, their shirtsleeves rolled up, assembled by patrols for the first Scoutmaster training held at Gilwell. The camp was designed and guided by Sir Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the World Scouting Movement. When they had finished their training together on September 19, 1919, Baden-Powell gave each man a wooden bead from a necklace he had found in a deserted hut of Zulu chieftain Dinizulu when on campaign in South Africa in 1888. The Scoutmasters' training course was a great success and continues to be held year-after-year. At the end of each course the wooden beads are used to recognize the completion of the training. When the original beads ran out, the new ones were whittled to maintain the tradition established by Lord Baden-Powell. Because of these beads, the course came to be known as the Wood Badge Course. It continues to this day in England and around the world as the advanced training course for leaders in Scouting.

In 1936, an experimental Wood Badge Course was conducted in the United States at the Schiff Scout Reservation. Then in 1948, the first American Wood Badge Course was introduced in the United States as advanced training for trainers of Boy Scout leaders. Later, the program was extended to include troop committee members, commissioners, and Explorer leaders. Now, it has been revised again to include all members of the Scouting family so that we can become better leaders in the Twenty First Century.

Ever since it was begun by Baden-Powell in England in 1919, Wood Badge training has represented the finest tradition of the founder and carries with it great prestige. Wood Badge is a great force for the world brotherhood of Scouting and the heritage of Baden-Powell and Gilwell Park. *For further information contact: Jeff Simkins, Course Director Email: woodbadge.grc@gmail.com You may also contact: Great Rivers Council at (573) 449-2561 or 800-726-8852*