Wood Badge FAQs

What is Wood Badge?

Wood Badge is Scouting's PREMIER LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM for all adult leaders.

Wood Badge is applicable to ALL scouting positions.

Wood Badge is a TOOL FOR IMPROVING all Scout units, including yours.

This leadership development course is designed to meet the leadership needs for **ALL** BSA volunteers including Council and District leaders and Scouting professionals.

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When should I take Wood Badge?

NOW! The training has been tailored to those who are relatively new to scouting as well as those with more experience. So, take it as soon as you're eligible. Your next chance won't be until next year.

Are the skills taught specific to Scouting?

Although taught in a Scouting framework, the skills taught in Wood Badge can be applied universally. Participants have found their Wood Badge skills to help them at work and in other non-Scouting volunteer activities.

Am I qualified?

Wood Badge is open to all registered adults, 18 years 0f age or older, who have current Youth Protection Training and have successfully completed the basic training requirements for their primary position. You must be capable of participating in the outdoor experience. A current BSA Health Form Parts A, B, and C, with Part C signed by a physician no earlier than May 24, 2019.

What are the dates of course?

The 2020 course will run over two weekends, May 1 – May 3, 2020 (Friday through Sunday) and May 23 – 24, 2020 (Saturday through Sunday). Attendance at both weekends is required.

How much does it cost?

The registration fee for this course is $335, but there is an early bird registration fee of $285 for anyone who registers and pays in full by December 31, 2019.

If I send in an application, does that guarantee me a spot in the course?

We have a maximum of 48 people in the course. The first 48 with fully paid registration fees get in.

Is there assistance for registration fees?

Many units and employers will assist or fully pay for the training. Yes, it's that good and the lessons are applicable to many areas of life outside of scouting.

You may want to let your company know what you are doing, as the skills you will learn will serve you in scouting and in life. Wood Badge has had participants whose company helped pay for the course

because the skills you will learn if taken in a “corporate” environment would cost them hundreds or thousands of dollars more.

Do I need a uniform for Wood Badge?

Yes, uniforms are one of our scouting methods. All participants should wear a complete field uniform (Class A) which consists of scout pants or shorts, shirt, socks, and belt. There will be times during the course when you will wear an activity uniform of scout pants and a course t-shirt, one is included in your registration.

Do I need special Outdoor Skills?

Since, overnight tent camping and outdoor cooking will be part of the course, some basic camping skills will be helpful, but not essential. The staff and experienced participants will help those new to the outdoors have a safe and enjoyable experience. However, we do recommend that if you have not taken any outdoor training, this would be a good time to consider Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills. We pay careful attention to the makeup of the patrols to assure that everyone has the best access to the help, diversity, and experience needed to make this the best program possible.

I have a medical condition. May I still attend?

You must be capable of functioning safely in an outdoor environment. As part of your enrollment we will be asking for any restrictions or limitations that you may have–physical, diet, or other. This will help us provide you the best possible experience. We want everyone to have the chance to be a part of this!

I don’t know anyone taking the course. Will I fit in?

Are you given to outbursts of laughter? Do you enjoy an immense sense of accomplishment? Most of the people who attend Wood Badge are there “on their own”. Don’t worry! You’ll be around fellow scout volunteers, and we have set things up in such a manner where you’ll be making new friends the first few hours — minutes even. We also design the patrols to provide the best of all worlds in terms of experience, background, and skills.

What’s this “TICKET” I hear about? What do I need to do to get ready for it?

Don’t worry and don’t start Googling. Wood Badge is a learning experience – and one that is impossible to prepare for. Your ticket comes from that experience and learning, so instead of worrying about what you can’t possibly know until you get there, just buckle up and hang on for the experience of your life! But, here’s some information to fully answer your question.

Participants in the course will be asked to “write a ticket”. A “ticket” is a set of five goals related to your primary scouting position. You use the leadership skills learned in Wood Badge to complete your goals and you have 18 months in which to do so. There will be a lot of discussion about this during the course.

What’s the most important thing I should know about Wood Badge?

Ask anyone who has taken it and they will tell you that it is a “Life Changing Experience” and FUN!

AND…

If you’ve taken the time to read this far: You SHOULD be a Wood Badger!