

Greetings from Gilwell,

First, I want to personally thank you for taking the time to learn more about Wood Badge and for considering this amazing training as tremendous opportunity that can take you and your abilities to a whole new level, both personally and professionally. To help you understand what you can expect from the Spring Wood Badge Experience I want to explain why I serve on Staff.

In the past I struggled to understand my role as an adult leader. While I learned from others, took all the leader training required, and attended supplemental training at Roundtables and University of Scouting, it was Wood Badge that showed me the light. Working on staff is an opportunity to help as many adult leaders as possible:

- Avoid the mistakes I made
- Expand their understanding of the role of adult leaders
- Increase their knowledge and use of effective leadership tools and techniques
- Increase the satisfaction they get from volunteering
- Have some fun along the way; while making new lifelong friends

Serving others through Wood Badge also helps me achieve my mission of having the greatest positive impact possible through Scouting. I have come to realize that outside of leading Marines and raising my two sons, working as a Scout Leader has been one of the most important things I have and will ever do. I say that because for almost 14 years I have experienced and witnessed the impact Scouting has on youth, adults, and families.

I first got involved in Scouting when my oldest son asked me to be his Tiger Leader. Now, not only do both of my sons participate, they've served as Senior Patrol Leader, staffed National Youth Leadership Training, and have learned on their own, through the Scouting program, that leadership development is constant and continuous. My oldest, an Eagle Scout and Wood Badge graduate, already has stories about how Scouting prepared him for adulthood.

I have also had the honor and pleasure of working with hundreds of youth and adults in my roles as a unit leader and adult trainer at every level in Scouting. The evidence, to me, is overwhelming—what we do as leaders can impact those we touch for the rest of their lives. And I believe the impact will extend for generations; the youth we guide now will be leading and guiding the adults and youth of tomorrow. And if we make the right impact, they're sure to share the gift of Scouting with their children too. It has also become clear to me we do not have a choice about whether or not we have an impact; we only have a choice about what impact we have. Youth are looking for positive role models and good examples of character and leadership. Although they may not appear to be listening, they are. And they are certainly watching and imitating our behavior.

Before you, is an amazing opportunity to shape the impact you will have on those you touch through Scouting. If you think, as I do, that what we do in Scouting is important, then I hope you will join me for the Spring Wood Badge Experience. Together we will learn a lot, laugh a lot, and grow a lot.

Yours in service,



Dan McFarland, Course Director, Wood Badge S7-596-17