

## Welcome to Wood Badge!



Wood Badge Course 57-596-18  
Tidewater Council

First, I want to personally thank you for taking the time to learn more about Wood Badge and how it can benefit your unit. As you consider registering, consider bringing a friend. If you don't, that's OK; you'll make some out here at camp. You'll be teamed up with adult leaders from throughout the different Scouting programs and throughout the council, each with different skills and experiences, spending their time serving the youth of our communities.

To further help you know what to expect for this course, I want to explain why I attended Wood Badge. I wanted to meet new people to bring more variety to the troop's program. Did I get that out of my course? Yes, and much more! I met like-minded people who share the values of Scouting and are the vision of success in their personal and professional lives. I also learned a few tools of the trade to make my life easier as an adult leader. And I got to go camping!

Growing up in the Scouting program from Cub Scouts, to Boy Scouts, and transitioning to an adult leader, I can affirm that having trained Scouters help me as a youth. The youth we talk to in Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Sea Scouting, and Venturing all say that having a Wood Badge trained leader speaks to that adults' dedication and help keep the program fresh and relevant.

Since my first Wood Badge experience, opportunities have opened up for me that may not have been available without the personal connections in and out of Scouting. I've been unit leader for two National Scout Jamborees, been to two National Order of the Arrow Conferences, been to Philmont Scout Ranch, served on Tidewater Council's Executive Board, served as an adult leader for National Youth Leadership Training, and I've been the proud unit leader of many youth who still keep in touch with me. And at each of these opportunities, I've met more and more people who, like us, are dedicated to the principles of Scouting and like to have fun. After all, Scouting is a game with a purpose.

What you are about to embark on is the best leadership training experience that the council provide. This opportunity will give you connections with others from other programs and throughout the council, enabling you to inspire the youth and other adult leaders in your unit to succeed. And, as important as Scouting is to our youth and our future, it's a worthwhile endeavor.

Yours In Service,

*Erich Roetz*

Erich Roetz,  
Course Director,  
Tidewater Council Wood Badge