



WOOD BADGE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. What is Wood Badge?

A. Wood Badge is the premier adult leadership-training program for the Boy Scouts of America. It teaches contemporary leadership and team development skills in an outdoor setting.

Q. Why should I go to Wood Badge, and how will I benefit from this training?

A. Wood Badge helps you become a better leader. It's fun, rewarding, and enables you to meet new friends. Here are some comments from recent Wood Badge participants:

- "I learned a great deal about myself . . ."
- "I feel the program has given me the tools to make positive changes at my Pack."
- "The experience was beyond words."
- "The leadership information presented . . . was priceless."
- "I learned how important my role is and how much influence I have on the boys and their families."
- "It challenged me to give my best to the Scouting program."
- "I am reminded of the importance of group dynamics in the attempt to work as a team."

Q. Who may attend?

A. Wood Badge for the 21st Century is open to ALL adult leaders who have completed the basic training requirements for their position. Boy Scout, Cub Scout, and Venturing leaders will benefit equally from attendance.

Q. What is the basic training requirement for my position?

A. In general, the basic training requirement is met when a leader takes the Position-Specific Training for their position. In addition, Scoutmasters, Assistant Scoutmasters, requires Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills. For further information, please get in touch with your District Training Team.

Q. When should I attend Wood Badge?

A. You should attend Wood Badge as soon as possible after completing your basic training. The sooner you attend Wood Badge, the sooner you can begin applying leadership skills and techniques in your unit, district, or council.

Q. I am new to Scouting, and my unit leader says that it is best to wait a couple of years before going to Wood Badge. Why should I go now?

A. Wood Badge helps new leaders build a framework for their future growth in Scouting. Leaders who take advanced training early in their Scouting careers are better prepared to serve the youth in their units.

Q. I have been a Scoutmaster for years and have a very successful program. Why should I go to Wood Badge?

A. There are two primary reasons. The first is that everyone can learn new skills and improve upon existing ones. Wood Badge offers the latest training on contemporary leadership and team development models. The second reason is that experienced leaders help enrich the Wood Badge experience for newer leaders by sharing their expertise and passion for the program.

Q. Are the leadership skills taught specifically to Scouting?

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

Q. How much time is required?

A. The practical portion of Wood Badge requires five full days of instruction consisting of three full days on one weekend and two full days on another. The weekend course also requires one or two Patrol meetings between the weekend sessions.

Q. Is overnight camping required?

A. Yes. Participants and staff spend nights in tents during each of the two weekends. The first weekend is spent in the large summer camp tents at Pipsico, complete with cots and platforms. The second weekend is Patrol-style camping, for which you will need to provide a tent.

Q. What about outdoor skills?

A. Even though Wood Badge is taught in an outdoor setting and some camping is a part of the program, the need for extensive outdoor skills has been minimized. There will be experienced campers on staff and among the participants, which creates an excellent learning environment for leaders unfamiliar with Scout camping. If possible, leaders are encouraged to attend an outdoor skills program (Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills or BALOO,) before attending Wood Badge.

Q. What exactly do you teach in Wood Badge?

A. Wood Badge focuses on contemporary leadership skills and issues and integrates Scouting's value-based philosophy. A variety of learning opportunities, including lectures, demonstrations, group discussions, and hands-on exercises, offer participants insight into contemporary leadership theory while providing them with specific skills that will enable them to put what they learn to use immediately in their Units. Many participants have found they can effectively apply what they've learned in their personal and professional lives. And while learning is the focus of Wood Badge, fun is an essential component!

Q. What is the Wood Badge Ticket?

A. The Ticket is a series of projects or activities that each Wood Badge participant works on after completing the practical (or outdoor) portion of the course. Typically, a Ticket consists of several goals that are directed towards the participants' primary Scouting role. "Working the Ticket" helps the leader apply the skills they have learned and helps strengthen the program in the Unit, District, and Council. Each participant will develop their Ticket during the practical portion of the course but will have up to 18 months to complete it.

Q. How much does it cost to attend Wood Badge?

A. The course fee for NST15-596-22 is \$300. For that fee, the participant receives all instructional material, food for the first and second weekend, and a course T-shirt. Photos and other course memorabilia are available for purchase on a strictly optional basis. You'll need to make a \$50.00 deposit with your acceptance of an invitation to attend the course and be paid in full no later than 30 days before the course begins.

Q. Do I need a uniform for Wood Badge?

A. Yes!

Q. What is the proper uniform for Wood Badge?

A. Participants will wear a combination of their field uniform or a course activity uniform. The field (or Class-A) uniform is the participant's usual uniform worn as a volunteer. The activity uniform consists of the course T-shirt and uniform pants or shorts.

Q. Where will the courses be held?

A. The primary Wood Badge training area is in Camp Lions at the Pipsico Scout Reservation in Spring Grove, Virginia. Directions are available at the Council website, www.tidewaterbsa.com.

Q. When are the course dates in 2022?

A. The dates for course NST15-596-22 are April 8-10, 2022, and April 30-May 1, 2022. The first day of each weekend begins promptly at 7:00 am and ends at 6:00 pm on Sunday.

Q. Whom should I contact?

A. You may call the Tidewater Council Service Center at (757) 497-2688 or the NST15-596-22 Course Director Jon McGlothian 2022WoodBadge@gmail.com.