

Wood Badge N1-546-21 Welcome and FAQ



Welcome to Wood Badge! Established in 1919 by Robert Baden-Powell, Scouting's founder, Wood Badge has been the training ground for hundreds of thousands of Scouters around the world. As the challenges in the world have changed, Wood Badge has also evolved to give leaders the skills they need to strengthen Scouting in meaningful ways. The latest version of Wood Badge training represents the most significant changes in the program over the last few years. In fact, 2021 will mark the first year Narragansett Council offers a course with the new National syllabus!

The Wood Badge course brings together leaders from all areas of Scouting - Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Venturing and, all levels of Boy Scouts of America professional staff. Reflecting the best of over a century of Scouting experience, the course also draws upon the most current leadership models used by corporate America, academic circles, and successful outdoor leadership organizations throughout the country.

This brand-new version of Wood Badge builds on all that has come before it. Veteran Wood Badge staff members will discover that the best of the traditions and experiences of Wood Badge have been brought forward and recast to be enjoyed by today's participants. In addition, Wood Badge draws from a wide range of sources within and beyond the bounds of scouting to present the latest in leadership theory and team development.

Want to learn more about this exciting training but aren't sure where to start? Here's an FAQ that provides everything you need to know to prepare for a Wicked Awesome experience!

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Question: What is Woodbadge?

Answer: Wood Badge is advanced adult leader training that provides Scouters with the latest in leadership skills. It uses scouting methods such as the patrol method to teach adults how to train youth in leadership and citizenship. The fellowship and friendships that often last a lifetime combined with a "mountain top experience" make this the premiere scouting course. The knowledge and skills acquired at Wood Badge can be used in Scouting of course but also in Church, your work as well as in your family life.

Question: How is the course structured?

Answer: The course is offered in two formats: A week long course and a two weekend course. Both courses cover the same material and each lasts for a total of five days. Our Council has selected the weekend format as we believe that would fit the schedules of most participants.

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Question: Who can attend?

Answer: Any adult Scouting leader 21 years of age or older that has completed the leader specific training for their position: Cub Scout leaders are considered trained when they have completed Cub Scout Leader Specific training for their position. Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters are considered trained when they have completed Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training, and Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills. Troop Committee members are considered trained when they have completed the Troop Committee Challenge. Venturing leaders are considered trained when they have completed Venturing Leader Specific Training. Chartered Organization Representatives for all units are considered trained when they have completed the Chartered Organization Representative training.

Question: Who should attend?

Answer: All adult Scout leaders regardless of the position are encouraged to attend within the first two years as a registered adult leader.

Question: How much does Wood Badge cost?

Answer: The next course for Narragansett Council (N1-546-21) will cost \$300. However, if you sign up before February 16th, 2021, you will receive the early bird discount of \$25 off!

Question: Wow, that seems high, why so much?

Answer: The costs cover your meals for five days, housing, course materials and copyright fees. Please realize that this course is comparable to the leadership courses that Fortune 500 companies put on for their executives at a cost of several thousand dollars. Ask any Wood Badger if he or she felt the cost was worth it. I believe that a person will say it was worth a lot more. The material that BSA has developed is based on contributions from such people as Ken Blanchard author of "One Minute Manager" as well as many others. Our council will make every effort to hold the cost to a minimum.

Question: What if I cannot afford the Course fee?

Answer: We want Wood Badge to be available to all Scouters. Often, participants are partially sponsored by their units or their chartered organizations. Camperships are also available from the Council for a portion of the fee if required. Camperships applications are at the Council Service Desk.

Question: What happened to Cub Scout Wood Badge?

Answer: The same thing that happened to Boy Scout Wood Badge --they are both replaced with the new Wood Badge. There are no longer separate Cub Scout Wood Badge and Boy Scout Wood Badge courses.

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Question: How does Wood Badge training relate to the Council National Youth Leadership Training program?

Answer: They are very much related. Both teach the same leadership skills. Wood Badge is directed to adults, emphasizing how to develop youth leaders. NYLT is directed at the youth themselves. Both teach through a combination of presentations and practice, with strong reliance on the patrol method. An ideal situation is for the adults to attend Wood Badge and the youth leadership to attend NYLT, and then together they apply their new knowledge and enthusiasm.

Question: How can I find out what patrol I will be in? Can I choose? Should I prepare anything before the course?

Answer: Much of Wood Badge is about Patrol Method. It is the forum for practicing the Leadership and Scout skills on course. You will likely develop a special fondness for your patrol and members. Before arrival on the first day of weekend 1, please be sure to look at the Equipment List for any supplies you need. Our staff will also be in contact via email with any additional information you may need!

Patrols will be assigned by the Course Director, based on many criteria including balancing the experience and background of the participants, and distributing people from the same district or units to different patrols. The Course Director will rarely if ever honor specific requests. It is best to not get too concerned about which patrol you will join -- the purpose is to learn the patrol method not join any particular group. Some enthusiastic Wood Badge participants like to make or collect specific items reflecting their patrol. If so, this can occur during or after the course -- you do not need to prepare anything in advance.

Question: How much should I prepare my ticket before the Course?

Answer: You need to have a clear description of your job in Scouting, and your goals for the course. These are critical so that as you learn the leadership skills you can identify ways to put them to use in your current role. Please do not develop your ticket prior to the Course --on Course you will learn more about an ideal troop program and about the leadership skills you personally want to practice. Only after that will you be able to write your ticket. For example, if you believe that your troop suffers from a lack of boy leadership, you might talk with the Scoutmaster about running a Youth Leader Training session. Or you might chat with the Council Leadership Development Chair if you are thinking about joining the training team. But again, don't make commitments or try to write your ticket ahead of the Course -- experience shows it is guaranteed to change!

Question: Who should I contact for more information?

Answer: Course Director: Matt Lang at mjlang42@gmail.com

Staff Advisor: Matthew Goudreau at 401-569-0075 or matthew.goudreau@scouting.org.