



## Welcome to Wood Badge!

Established in 1919 by Robert Baden-Powell, Scouting's founder, Wood Badge has been the ultimate training experience for hundreds of thousands of Scouters around the world. As the challenges in the world have changed, Wood Badge has evolved to give leaders the skills they need to strengthen Scouting in meaningful ways.

Wood Badge is designed for leaders from all Scouting programs—Cub Scouting, Scouts BSA, Venturing, Exploring, and Sea Scouting—and all levels of the BSA's professional staff. Today Wood Badge builds on all that has come before it, drawing upon the most current leadership models used by businesses, corporate America, university programs, the military, and other leadership entities and organizations to present the latest in leadership theory, competencies, and behaviors.

Want to learn more about this exciting training but aren't sure where to start? Here are some frequently asked questions that provide everything you need to know to prepare for a Wicked Awesome experience!

## Wood Badge Frequently Asked Questions

### Question: What is Wood Badge?

*Answer:* Wood Badge is the ultimate leadership development program for adult leaders of the Boy Scouts of America. It has been widely recognized as Scouting's most advanced training program. It is a practical course designed to inspire and empower volunteer and professional members to achieve their individual potential and to assist the BSA in reaching its vision, mission, and goals for young people.

### Question: How is Wood Badge structured?

*Answer:* A Wood Badge course has two components—a practical phase and an application phase.

In the practical phase, Wood Badge participants attend a five-day course, offered in five consecutive days or as separate sessions over two weekends (a three-day weekend plus a two-day weekend). In Narragansett Council we offer the Wood Badge course utilizing the two-weekend format as we believe that best fits the schedule of most participants.

The application phase is the 18-month period after completion of Day 5 where each participant works to complete the goals that they developed over the two weekends.

### Question: Who can attend?

*Answer:* To attend a Wood Badge course, individuals must

- Be registered members of the Boy Scouts of America and age 18 or older.
- In addition to Youth Protection Training, have completed the basic position-specific training courses for their Scouting role.
- Be capable of functioning safely in an outdoor environment. All staff and participants are required to complete Parts A, B, and C of the Annual Health and Medical Record form.
  - Every effort is made to support the participation of Scouters with disabilities.

### Question: Who should attend?

*Answer:* All adult Scout leaders, regardless of position or program level, are encouraged to attend a Wood Badge course within the first two years as a registered leader.

### Question: What does the course fee cover?

*Answer:* The course fee covers course materials, one course tee shirt and hat, recognition items, facility costs, copyright fees, and meals for weekend 1 and the closing luncheon on Day 5. Staff pay their own way for the course as well.

Please realize that this course is comparable to corporate leadership training which can cost \$950 to \$1,300 per 8-hours (or up to \$8,500 for a similar length course).

Narragansett Council makes every effort to keep the cost of the course to a minimum.



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### **Question: Is there financial assistance available?**

*Answer:* We want Wood Badge to be available to all Scouters. Often participants are partially sponsored by their units or chartered organization. Some employers will also pay a portion of the fee.

The council does have a limited source of funds to provide scholarships for those that may need it. The scholarship form can be downloaded from the council website at [www.narragansettbsa.org/woodbadge](http://www.narragansettbsa.org/woodbadge). The link can be found at the bottom of the web page.

### **Question: How does Wood Badge relate to National Youth Leadership Training?**

*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 a strong reliance on the patrol method.

An ideal situation for a unit (other than a Cub scout pack) 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?**

*Answer:* Much of Wood Badge is about the Patrol Method. It is the forum for practicing leadership and Scout skills on the course. You will likely develop a special fondness for your patrol and fellow members.

Participants cannot choose their patrol. Patrols are assigned based on many criteria including balancing the experience and background of participants and distributing people from the same unit and district to different patrols.

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.

### **Question: How much should I prepare my ticket before the course?**

*Answer:* Please do not develop your ticket prior to the course. What you need to do is to have a clear understanding of your role in Scouting and to complete the Wood Badge Pre-Course Assignment before you arrive on Day 1 of the course. The assignment is intended to help you develop a clearer understanding of your personal interests, values, and a sense of the future.

During the Wood Badge course you have the opportunity to channel the information from your pre-course assignment into the development of specific goals and effective means of action.

Again, don't make commitments or try to write your ticket ahead of the course, experience shows it is guaranteed to change.



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