



Gilwell Gazette



Fall 2004

Welcome to Wood Badge!

21ST CENTURY WOOD BADGE

Welcome to Wood Badge course SR-637, the 637th Wood Badge course conducted by the Southern Region of BSA.

Wood Badge is the most advanced training available for adult leadership in all programs of the Boy Scouts of America. Your participation in this training is an indication of your commitment to providing a quality program for our youth.

Wood Badge training focuses on leadership, team-building, and “people” skills which are applicable to all areas of Scouting. You will learn techniques to make you a better leader, and also how to guide groups to achieve goals and objectives.

COURSE FORMAT

SR-637 will be held over two 3-day weekends, separated by three weeks. The first weekend is scheduled at the Camp Strake Conference Center. All meals during the first weekend will be served in the Dining Hall and you will be housed in Conference Center dorms. Plan to dress according to the weather because many activities will be conducted outdoors.

For the second weekend, the course will move to Kuester Training Area at Camp Strake, where your patrol will cook its own meals. Participants will be housed in wall tents (which will be provided, but need to be erected). Participants should bring a ground cloth and cot to use with these wall tents. Hot showers are available at the Kuester Training Area.

Participants will also be required to attend two interim patrol meetings between the first and second weekends of the course (specific time and location to be determined by patrol members).

YOUR TICKET

One of the great traditions of Wood Badge is the “ticket.” A ticket is simply a contract or set of goals that you write for yourself to help apply the skills you learn at Wood Badge.

Keep in mind that the 21st Century Wood Badge ticket is different from that of former Boy Scout and Cub Scout Trainer Wood Badge courses. So do not come with pre-conceived ideas about what you should include in your ticket.

The 21st Century Wood Badge ticket process begins with you determining your own vision of success for the group that you work with in Scouting – your den, troop, pack, roundtable staff, commissioner staff, etc. Then you will write five significant goals that you can accomplish within 18 months. This method will help make your vision of success for your group a reality.

Your ticket is a very personal contract that you write for yourself. Goals that help fulfill one person’s plan for success may not work toward the success of another person’s vision. That’s why we want you to come open-minded about your ticket. Your ticket will be meaningful to you and enable you to practice and share the skills learned in the course while making a difference in the lives of youth.

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Your Gilwell Gazette

- ♦ *The Gilwell Gazette will be published daily during the course.*
- ♦ *The Gazette will provide the information you need to know in order to enjoy the complete “Wood Badge Experience”.*



History of the Wood Badge Ticket

In Baden-Powell’s day, men in the military were expected to pay their own way back to England at the end of their service. The British Army would, however, pay for travel tickets for command transfers. In order to economize, soldiers nearing completion of their duties would seek assignments at posts increasingly close to home – a process known as “working your ticket.”

So, we use the same principle in Wood Badge. Our ticket is the road map we follow. Going from point to point in achieving our goals, we are “working our ticket” to get us closer to home in our challenge to become better Scout leaders.





Troop Organization

Wood Badge training is for adult Scouters in all program areas of Scouting – Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, and Venturing. While at Wood Badge, however, you will be a member of a troop. Every Wood Badger around the world is a member of *Gilwell Troop 1*, linking your course to the first course held by Baden-Powell in 1919 at Gilwell Park near London.

The troop format has been chosen because it is an excellent framework for practicing the leadership skills introduced during the course. Be assured, however, that the leadership skills you learn will be applicable not only in every program area of Scouting, but in school, church, and community organizations in which you are involved as well.

For those of you not familiar with troop organization, you will want to review the *Boy Scout Handbook* and/or talk to some Boy Scout leaders to familiarize yourself with the fundamental concepts described below. You might even wish to visit a troop meeting to see a troop in action.

Some helpful hints for understanding the structure of Troop 1:

- Upon arrival, you will be temporarily assigned to a Webelos Scout den that is ready to graduate into Boy Scouts. A den chief will help orient you to troop facilities.
- Shortly after arrival, participants crossover into Boy Scouting and are divided into patrols of 6-7 people who will work together on projects and activities during the Wood Badge course. Each patrol is assigned a name from the list of traditional names for Wood Badge Patrols: Beaver, Bobwhite, Eagle, Fox, Owl, Bear, Buffalo, and Antelope.
- The Wood Badge staff will be role-playing responsibilities of troop leadership. Some will be representing youth positions; others will be representing adult leadership.
- In an ideal boy-run troop, the Senior Patrol Leader (youth member) is in charge of troop meetings and activities and has the “up-front” leadership role. This may be a new concept for Cub Scouters, who are accustomed to the up-front leader being an adult, the Cubmaster. The Scoutmaster, who has been working with the “SPL” and other youth leaders to develop plans for these meetings, is leading from “behind-the-scenes.”
- When new members join a troop, they are often placed in a “New Scout Patrol.” An experienced youth leader, called a Troop Guide, is assigned to work with this patrol on the skills required to attain the rank of First Class Scout. When patrol members have attained that goal, the troop guide is then re-assigned another leadership position within the troop.

REMINDERS:

- **Class 3 Medical Form** is required of all participants and staff members, regardless of your age. This form requires a medical exam within one year of the start of the Wood Badge course. Medical forms should be mailed to the council office prior to the start of the course.
- **All fees are due 30 days prior to the start of the course.** Scholarships, grants, or loans are available through gifts designated for the council’s Wood Badge scholarship fund. Requests should be made via e-mail to Mike Sheets, SHAC Director of Program (mike.sheets@shac.org).

MEET YOUR STAFF

- Scoutmaster:** Bill Berry, Jr., George Strake District
Asst. Scoutmaster, Program: Ed Simmons, Mustang District
Asst. Scoutmaster, Troop Guides: Kathy Wallace, Polaris District
Asst. Scoutmaster, Facilities: Brian Foster, Mustang District
Asst. Scoutmaster, Housing: Gary Greer, Polaris District
Asst. Scoutmaster, Camping: Drew DeFoor, Mustang District
 * **Senior Patrol Leader:** Viola Holloway, W. L. Davis District
 * **Troop Scribe:** Jay Walker, George Strake District
 * **Troop Historian:** Bob Christopher, George Strake District
 * **Quartermaster:** John Richard, George Strake District
 * **Assistant Quartermaster:** Jim Woods, Mustang District
 * **Troop Guide:** Ray Alverson, Tatanka District
 * **Troop Guide:** Ginny Boucher, Raven District
 * **Troop Guide:** Tina Cullum, Polaris District
 * **Troop Guide:** Mark Mabile, George Strake District
 * **Troop Guide:** Gary McFarland, Tomahawk District
 * **Troop Guide:** Karen O’Toole, George Strake District
 * **Troop Guide:** Larry Stehling, Mustang District
 * **Troop Guide:** Luis Velazquez, Golden Arrow District
 * *Indicates youth leadership positions that will be modeled by the adult leaders of your Wood Badge staff.*

If you have any questions concerning Wood Badge or SR-637, please contact:

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 218 Heather Lane
 Conroe, Texas 77385
 281-362-1122
 Scoutmaster@SR637.org

NEXT ISSUE: About 30 days prior to the course

- Check-in information
- Map to Camp Strake
- Recommended equipment list
- Uniform information



Course Web site: Information and forms are or will shortly be available for downloading from the course website. Checkout: **WWW.SR637.ORG.**