



# WOODBADGE SR 637



September 22, 2004

Dear Participant,

Welcome to Wood Badge! I am pleased to acknowledge your acceptance of invitation to SR-637. Many Scouters consider Wood Badge to be a peak experience of their Scouting careers. Wood Badge training has served as a source of inspiration to thousands of leaders around the world and will enable you to make an even greater contribution as you help deliver the promise of Scouting to our youth.

Your Wood Badge training will be conducted over two 3-day weekends.

- **October 8-10, 2004** – Camp Strake Conference Center – Begins 7:30 AM Friday; ends 5:45 PM Sunday.
- **October 29-31, 2004** – Kuester Training Area at Camp Strake – Begins 7:30 AM Friday, ends 5 PM Sunday.

Your staff is hard at work preparing for your Wood Badge experience. To help us most effectively meet the needs of yourself and the other participants, please return the following information to the council service center (Sam Houston Area Council, ATTN: Wood Badge, P.O. Box 924528, Houston, Texas 77292-4528) ASAP!!

1. Completed Class 3 Personal Health and Medical Record – BSA requires each individual attending Wood Badge (regardless of age) to have a current, complete Class 3 Medical Form.
2. Appropriate course fees
3. Personal Resource Questionnaire
4. Dietary or Physical Needs/Limitation Form

You can find items 1, 3, and 4 on the course web site. [www.sr637.org](http://www.sr637.org) and you can also send items 3 7 4 electronically to [scoutmaster@sr637.org](mailto:scoutmaster@sr637.org).

The enclosed Gilwell Gazette, our Wood Badge course newsletter, contains highlights of what to expect from your Wood Badge experience. Please review the information about troop organization and the Wood Badge ticket. A second pre-course edition of the Gilwell Gazette will be mailed to you approximately 30 days prior to the start of the course and will include more detailed information about check-in, as well as a recommended equipment list. It will also be available on the course website.

Wood Badge attendees should plan to be appropriately attired in the field uniform of their position in Scouting. If you serve in more than one capacity (as both an assistant Scoutmaster and a Cubmaster, for example), please wear the complete uniform for the position in which you are most active.

One of our Wood Badge staff members will be contacting you to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to also call me at any time at 281-362-1122. I join with the rest of the Wood Badge staff in welcoming you to SR-637. I am certain it will be a great experience for all of us.

Yours in the spirit of Wood Badge,

William M. Berry, Jr. “Bill”  
Course Director SR-637  
281-362-1122  
[scoutmaster@sr637.org](mailto:scoutmaster@sr637.org)

Enclosures: Gilwell Gazette, Pre-course Edition 1  
Personal Resource Questionnaire  
Class 3 Personal Health and Medical Record  
Dietary or Physical Needs/Limitation Form



# WOODBADGE SR 637



September 22, 2004

Dear Participant,

Your staff of SR-637 had another great work day on Saturday to prepare for your arrival and we are ready to get **GOING!** This should be my last written communication to each of you, but I learned early on in Scouting to never commit to a "final draft".

Attached is a map to Camp Strake for those of you that have not had a chance to visit this beautiful facility just south of Conroe on I-45 North. Once inside the camp, follow the signs to Strake Conference Center, where you will be directed to parking and check-in. **Please plan your arrival no earlier than 7:00 a.m., but no later than 7:30 a.m.** Yes, we will have a supply of fresh morning beverages upon your arrival - be sure to bring your cup. Our first meal served at camp will be lunch, so please eat breakfast before you arrive at camp. The map can also be downloaded from the course website: [WWW.SR637.org](http://WWW.SR637.org).

Also I will e-mail a list of participants for SR-637 early the week of the course. We highly encourage car-pooling. Parking is limited, and the drive early on Friday and Sunday evening is much more enjoyable with others from your area with like interests and similar Scouting values. Hopefully the attached list will enable you to contact others within your district or area of town and arrange a carpool.

For your family's peace of mind, the **emergency number while you are at Camp Strake is 713-508-3158**. Please be sure they indicate you are a Wood Badge participant so you can quickly be located in camp. This pager # is for **EMERGENCY situations only**. To maximize you and your fellow participants' experience at Wood Badge, we ask that all cell phones and pagers be left in your car. We appreciate your understanding that those interruptions are very disruptive and distracting.

If for any reason you experience **last minute changes or delays please call my cell phone (713)-885-1397** as soon as possible on Thursday afternoon/evening or Friday morning.

According to council records you have an outstanding balance on your fees of \$ ( **Contact Council**). Please contact them if this amount is not the same as your records. Also contact Mike Sheets at [Mike.Sheets@SHAC.ORG](mailto:Mike.Sheets@SHAC.ORG) for any financial aid you may need. If you have not sent in your Medical, Personal Resource Questionnaire or Dietary Needs forms, **please send them in immediately** along with any outstanding fees to: Sam Houston Area Council, Attn: Wood Badge, P. O. Box 924528, Houston, Texas 77292-4528. We're not able to make your patrol assignments until we receive all these items. SR-637 is limited to 56 participants and we are currently at capacity. We realize schedule changes may arise beyond your control or emergencies may come up, but we also want to make sure we utilize all 56 slots. We do have a short waiting list.

Please remember that you should arrive in your Field Uniform (official shirt for your program; uniform shorts, long pants, skirts, or culottes; uniform socks; and scout belt). Please refer to Gilwell Gazette, Pre-Course Issue 2 for required items to bring, as well as a list of optional items you might want to include. You will be in a conference setting the first weekend so you don't need heavy hiking boots.

Our Quartermasters, who have responsibility for weather during Wood Badge, have indicated that Friday, October 8 will dawn bright, mild and refreshing - just a wonderful day to be in the beautiful woods of Camp Strake. Drive safely and arrive with a winning attitude, receptive mind, caring heart, and be ready to have a lot of fun!

If you have any questions please give me a call. See you in a short three weeks.

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William M. Berry, Jr. "Bill"  
Ofc Phone: (281) 540-4838  
Cell Phone (713)885-1397

Res Phone: (281)362-1122  
E-mail: [scoutmaster@sr637.org](mailto:scoutmaster@sr637.org)



# Gilwell Gazette



Fall 2004

## Welcome to Wood Badge!

### 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY WOOD BADGE

Welcome to Wood Badge course SR-637, the 637<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

### Inside this issue:

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Your Staff	2
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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:

Bill Berry, Jr.  
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.**





# Gilwell Gazette



Fall 2004

## SR-637—The Countdown to Adventure Begins!

### COURSE PREPARATIONS

The staff members of SR-637 have been hard at work the past few months preparing for your Wood Badge experience. We look forward to your arrival and pledge to make this a premiere leadership training experience that is both meaningful and memorable.

### ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE

You should plan to arrive at Camp Strake Conference center by 7:30 AM well-rested and ready for a full day of activities. Although we are in a conference center setting, dress for the weather as many of our activities will be out-of-doors. However, heavy hiking boots are not needed.

Troop 1 will dismiss at approximately 5:30 PM on Sunday afternoon.

### WORLD FRIENDSHIP FUND



On Sunday morning, Gilwell Troop 1 will participate in an interfaith worship service known as a Scouts' Own Service. During this time you will have the opportunity to contribute to the World Friendship Fund. This fund, administered by BSA, assists Scouting organizations around the world. Contributions are used to help provide uniforms, program materials, and equipment as well as funding literature and leadership training to Scouting organization in those countries who are in need. Recent uses for money raised this way include sponsoring Republic of Georgia Scouts to come to the US and take back knowledge and equipment.

The Tiger Cub motto includes the word "share." The Cub Scout Promise and the Scout Oath ask for a pledge to "help other people." And the Varsity Scout Pledge and the Venturing Code encourage members to

"recognize the dignity and worth" of others. Members of Gilwell Troop 1 are encouraged to fulfill their promise to help others by participating in this worldwide Good Turn.

### TWENTY QUESTIONS

Enclosed with this packet is a pre-course assignment of "Twenty Questions." Please complete this assignment and bring it with you for your personal use at the course. No one will see it but you. Completing this will be of immense help in writing your ticket. These questions are designed help you formulate your thoughts as you begin to write your ticket. They will help you sort out what is important to you, what roles you play in Scouting and your life, and where you see yourself in the future.

Remember that your ticket is a very personal commitment that you write for yourself. — a set of goals that you will pursue with the Scouting group that you work with. Begin now thinking about where you see that group in the future, how the group can make a greater impact in the lives of youth, and how you can help the group reach that vision.

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### INTERIM PATROL MEETINGS

Each patrol will conduct two interim patrol meetings between the first and second weekend of the Wood Badge course. Please bring along your calendar to assist your patrol in setting a date for these meetings.

### Weekend 1 General Schedule

Time	Activity	Location
Friday 7:30AM	Participant Check-in	Camp Strake Conference Center
Friday Night	Spend the night	Camp Strake Dormitories
Saturday Night	Spend the night	Camp Strake Dormitories
Sunday ~5:30PM	Leave Camp Strake	Destination: Home



## WHAT-TO-BRING LIST: WEEKEND ONE

### Required items to bring

- Complete official Scout field uniform(s) for your current Scouting position. NOTE: A complete field uniform includes the official shirt for your program; uniform shorts, long pants, skirts, or culottes; uniform socks; and scout belt. A troop neckerchief, slide, and cap will be provided.
- Scout activity uniform(s) - NOTE: An activity uniform includes a Scouting-related T-shirt or knit shirt, and uniform Scout shorts, long pants, skirts, or culottes.
- Shoes suitable for walking over park like terrain. Windbreaker or jacket appropriate to outdoor weather
- Rain gear (poncho or rain suit)
- Underwear
- Handkerchiefs
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Flashlight with spare batteries and bulb
- Pocketknife or multiple tool-type knife (No fixed-blade knives)
- Medication in labeled containers
- Toiletries and other personal items
- Towels and washcloths
- Pen, pencils, pocket notebook
- Canteen or water bottle and cup
- Handbook for your Scouting program
- Personal calendar to plan interim patrol meeting

### Optional items to bring

- Pillow
- Change of shoes
- Footwear for shower
- Clothes hangers for uniform and jacket
- Sunglasses
- Religious book(s)
- Books of camp songs & skits
- Camera and film
- Earplugs (in case of snorers!)
- **Extra money for course photos, World Friendship Fund, Wood Badge clothing items for delivery the second weekend of the course with a paid order, and other items.**



**Note - The following electronic devices may not be used during this course:** Cellular telephones, pagers, radios, televisions, CD players, tape players, and any other devices that could interrupt Wood Badge presentations or activities.

**Remember: Forms may be downloaded from the course Website: [WWW.SR637.ORG](http://WWW.SR637.ORG)**

## ACCOMODATIONS: WEEKEND ONE

During the first weekend you will be staying in the dorms at the Camp Strake Conference Center. Your dorm accommodations will have 8 beds per section and two sections sharing a common restroom facility.

**The following will be provided by the staff for your sleeping comfort:** bed, mattress pad, top and bottom sheet, pillow and pillow case, blanket, towel, wash cloth, soap. We suggest you bring an extra blanket and towel along with your personal toiletries.

*All meals on the first weekend will be eaten in the Dining Hall and prepared by the Camp Strake staff.*



## REMINDERS:

**The following items are now due to the council service center or by return Email to [Scoutmaster@SR637.org](mailto:Scoutmaster@SR637.org):**

- **Class 3 Medical Form** — required of all participants and staff members, regardless of 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.
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- **Personal Resource Questionnaire** will help us prepare for your Wood Badge experience.
- **Dietary and Physical Limitations** sheet will help us anticipate any special needs that you may require.

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



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218 Heather Lane  
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