

The Gilwell Gazette



The Official Newsletter of the 12-615-21 Wood Badge Course

Precourse Issue #1

Welcome
To Wood Badge
We are glad
you are coming!
When to Report

Weekend #1: September 10 - 12

Camp Mountaineer

Arrive on

Friday September 10 at 7:00 am
and stay through
Sunday September 12 at 5:15 pm

Weekend 2: October 9 - 10

Camp Mountaineer

Arrive on Saturday

October 9 at 7:00 am
and stay through
Sunday October 10 at 4:30 pm

**Your attendance at all
sessions is mandatory
to complete the course.**

Why Wood Badge?

Here are some of the benefits:

- ◆ **Stronger units.** You will make your Scouting unit, or your sons' and daughters' units stronger.
- ◆ **What and why Scouting.** You will have a deeper understanding of what Scouting is and why we do it.
- ◆ **Experience.** You will learn and experience things that will stay with you in Scouting and the rest of your life.
- ◆ **Fun.** You will have fun and you will meet interesting people.
- ◆ **Other groups.** You will make your other groups, like work, church, and even your family stronger based on the material presented.



Wood Badge will build your skill in communication, conflict management and teaching methods. This is not just a Scouts BSA leader training program. Wood Badge is also for Cub Scout and Venturing leaders, too.

This course will help you better understand how all the Scouting programs tie together. It will provide you with many useful leadership tools to help enable the youth to have the best possible Scouting experience.



Remember to bring your Annual Health & Medical Record—Each person attending Wood Badge must bring a current BSA Annual Health and Medical Records Form (Parts A, B, & C) with them as well as a copy (front and back) of your insurance card. The physical must be valid through the end of the course October 10, 2021.



Course payments are due now! Thank you.

Uniforms

The Wood Badge training course is a uniformed activity. The uniform you wear will be the official Field Uniform for your registered position in Scouting. The Field Uniform includes an official BSA uniform shirt, long pants, shorts, skirt, and belt. An official Wood Badge neckerchief and slide will be provided to you as part of the course.

Looking Forward



Pack and Tent will be needed in October for an outdoor experience.

Personal Equipment List

- * Official BSA Field Uniform
- * Official BSA Activity Uniform
- * Clothing for indoor & outdoor
- * Shoes for indoor use
- * Scout cap, if desired
- * Underwear
- * Sleeping clothes
- * Personal toiletry items
- * Sunscreen
- * Raingear
- * Medications in labeled containers, including non-prescription
- * Backpack/ Day Pack for carrying your gear to and from the patrol site
- * Pens, Pencils, Notebook
- * Water Bottle/Hot Cup
- * Pocket Knife
- * Cell Phone & Charger
- * Pens, pencils, notepad

- * Flashlight/Head Lamp with Spare Batteries
- * Sleeping Bag
- * Pillow
- * Blanket(s)
- * Shower footwear
- * Camp chair
- * Insect repellent
- * Masks (COVID-19)

Optional

- * Ear plugs
- * Sunglasses
- * Camera
- * Spending Money
- * Watch
- * Indoor Slippers
- * Alarm clock
- * Scout Books—Camp Songs, Skits, etc.
- * Religious Books
- * Hand Sanitizer

The Meaning of the Wood Badge Logo

At the center of the Wood Badge logo is the Scout badge. This emblem originally stood for north on a mariner's compass. This design is also known as the trefoil, a flower with three leaves, or a fleur-de-lis which is French for an iris flower. While this is clearly the BSA Scout badge, it is also the basic shape of Scouting emblems used around the world.

To symbolize the fellowship of Scouting in the United States and throughout the world is the Wood Badge. A thin leather cord, or boot lace as described by Baden Powell. It has two small wooden beads attached near the bottom. The leather cord and beads encircle the Scout badge.

The Scout badge, beads and cord, are surrounded by an unfinished pentagon.

The colors of the pentagon Scouting red, blue, green, gold and black, represent the MacLaren tartan. The MacLaren tartan is closely associated with Gilwell Park near London, England where the first Wood Badge course was held in 1919. The pentagon also represents the five themes of Wood Badge:

Living the Values—about being the values, who you are personally, setting the example.



Growing—about knowing and growing yourself first, a commitment to continuous improvement and lifelong learning.

Connecting—with other people.

Guiding—focusing on enabling and developing others.

Empowering—ultimately helping other people to become healthier, wiser, more free, more autonomous, and more likely to serve and to lead other people themselves.

The corners of the open pentagon are mitered, symbolizing that each participant must internalize the content of the five themes and thus, by completing their ticket, join the corners together as an artisan completes his or her work.

The two beads symbolize the BSA's ideals of leadership and service to Scouting, America and the world beyond.

The First Wood Badge

On the morning of September 8, 1919, nineteen men dressed in short pants, knee socks, and their shirt sleeves rolled up, were assembled as patrols for the first Scoutmasters' training camp at Gilwell Park In Epping Forest, outside London, England. The camp was designed and guided by Sir Robert Baden-Powell, a 61 year old retired general of the British Army and the founder of the World Scouting Movement.

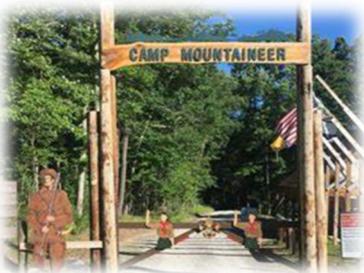
When they finished their training together, Baden-Powell gave each man a simple wooden bead from a necklace he had found in a Zulu chieftain's deserted hut when on campaign in



South Africa in 1888. The Scoutmasters' training course was a great success and continued to be held year after year. At the end of each course, the wooden beads were used to recognize the completion of training.

When the original beads ran out, new ones were whittled to maintain the tradition established by Baden-Powell. Because of these beads, the course came to be known as the Wood Badge course. It continues to this day in England and around the world as an advanced training course for leaders Scouting. Although the program has changed over the years, the essence of the original Wood Badge still remains.

Gillwell Park - Camp Mountaineer



In September Camp Mountaineer will undergo a metamorphosis for your Wood Badge course and become Gilwell park. The camp will be transformed into this symbolic place that soon will be near and dear to our heart. It will be a place you call "Happy Land" and you'll sing about going back again and again. In 1919, the Boy Scout Association purchased Gilwell Park in England with funds donated by William

de Bois MacLaren. Later that year, Robert Baden-Powell held the first Wood Badge course on that site.

Scouting's founder felt that effective leader training was critical to a good Scouting program. Wherever a Wood Badge course is held, the location is transformed into Gilwell Park and those attendees become members of Troop 1, honoring this tradition.

When you arrive at Camp Mountaineer (Gilwell Park) in September you will become a member of Troop 1 and be part of that transformation.

More important than the symbolic transformation of Camp Mountaineer is how the Wood Badge course continues to transform its participants year after year into better leaders for our youth.



Wood Badge Pre-course Assignment



An important focus of the upcoming Wood Badge course will be a consideration of our roles as leaders in Scouting, in the workplace, in our communities, and in the nation. Among the most valuable discussions that will occur will be an ongoing consideration of setting leadership goals and then determining the manner in which those goals can be reached.

This precourse assignment is intended to help you lay the groundwork for the course by developing a clearer understanding of your personal interests, values, and sense of the future. At Wood Badge, you will have the opportunity to channel that information into the development of specific goals and effective means of action.

- **This assignment is for you to do on your own.**
- **No one except you will see the results of this assignment.**

Use this opportunity to take a good look at where you are now in terms of interests, leadership skills, and opportunities, and where you would like to be. Be as honest as you can. Enjoy the experience.

What to do:

- **Set aside time to think seriously about the following questions.**
- **Answer the questions as fully and honestly as you can.**
- **Write down your answers and bring them to the Wood Badge course. You will find them to be a helpful reference—only you will see the answers.**
- **Don't worry about what the "right" answers are or about satisfying someone else's idea of how you should respond. No one except you will see what you write.**

The questions:

1. What are my top 3 strengths as a leader? How can I apply these skills or talents so that I could be of service to youth in my Unit, District, or Council?
2. What do I consider my top three growth opportunities for my leadership abilities? How can I improve myself in these areas while serving in my current role? Are there other trainings or classes I can take to improve myself?
3. What is my most impactful experience so far in Scouting? Thinking about this experience, is there a way I could allow others to have the same experience?
4. What qualities of character do I most admire in others I view as a strong leader? Do I have these qualities? Is there anything I could do to change my approach to be a stronger leader?

5. Who is a leader that has significantly impacted my life, and why? In my Scouting role, can I make the same impact? How would I do it?
6. If there were no barriers, what improvements would I make in my local Scouting program? Is there anything I could do to effect change or have a role in these improvements?
7. What do I consider to be my most important roles in life (*e.g.*, parent, mentor)? Are any of these roles something I can improve in tandem with Scouting?
8. In two years, what role do I see for myself in Scouting? What is one thing I could do to help get myself there?
9. If I could make a difference in just one child's life, what would I do? If I can impact one child, can I lead others to impact many children?
10. When I think of "diversity and inclusiveness", what do I think of? Does my Scouting Unit, District, or Council practice this type of inclusiveness? Is there anything I could do to increase the practice of inclusiveness?
11. What Scouting experience have I had that I should have handled differently? What could I have done differently? How can I change my current approach or prepare others to do handle this type of thing better?
12. What do I hope the youth will gain by participating in Scouting? Am I doing things now, to help Scouts gain what I envision they will achieve? If not, how could I?
13. How does my current role support the Scouting movement?
14. What are my top three personal values? How have my core values been shaped throughout my life? What could I do to also help shape the core values of the youth/adults I work with? If working with adults, how could I lead differently, in a way that more mimics my core values?
15. What do I hope to achieve by taking Wood Badge?



WOOD BADGE

**Print and complete and mail by Sept. 1 to:
Wood Badge, c/o Mountaineer Area Council
1831 Speedway Ave.
Fairmont, WV 26554**

Personal Resource Questionnaire

Name: _____

I would like to be called: _____

Address: _____

Phone numbers: Home: _____ Cell: _____

Occupation: _____ Date of birth: _____

District: _____ Council: _____

Years in Scouting as an adult: _____, as a Youth: _____

Current primary Scouting position: _____

Other positions held, and how long?

Scouting awards you have received:

State what you feel is a fair evaluation of your physical condition.

List any dietary, physical, or other special needs. _____

Religious preference: _____

An interfaith service or services will be held. If you have religious needs, please specify them here, or otherwise inform the course director.

Camping: How much experience have you had, and how comfortable are you with it?

List your training experience in Scouting. (**Note:** You must have completed the basic and outdoor training required for the position in which you are registered.)

Have you taken a Wood Badge course prior to this one? _____ If so, when? _____

Where? _____ Course Number: _____ Patrol: _____



Were you recruited to attend by someone? _____

Why did you sign up for this course? _____

First aid training, including CPR: _____

Emergency Contact _____ Phone: _____