

How to Be Eligible to Attend Wood Badge

WELCOME TO BSA MYTH BUSTERS

Time Available

10 minutes.

Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to:

- Be aware of the history of Wood Badge in the United States of America
- Understand the evolution of Wood Badge for Scoutmasters (emphasis on scoutcraft) to one where all Scouters are encouraged to take (emphasis on leadership skills.)
- Understand how completion of their Wood Badge ticket they will benefit the youth
- in their unit, district, and/or council

Suggested Presenter(s)

Have one or more of the following people present this topic:

- One Scouter that has attended Wood Badge and one Scouter that has not

Presentation Method

Team presentation like the television show “MythBusters”.

BSA Reference Materials

- [Wood Badge](#)
- Scouting Magazine: [Why Wood Badge](#)
- Your Local Council Website as pertaining to your Councils Wood Badge Course(s)

Presentation Content

Fact or Myth:

Wood Badge is advanced training that is only available to unit leaders with five or more years' experience.

Before we can answer that we need to look at some facts

When one mentions Wood Badge,

Scouters that attended Wood Badge

- Reminisce about their “critter”
- Relate how their ticket helped their unit
- Sometimes sing “Back to Gilwell.”
- Encourage others in their patrol “to work their ticket”

Scouters that have not attended Wood Badge

- Look at those that attended Wood Badge as elitist, clannish, perhaps “a bit over the top”
- Wonder what Wood Badge is all about.

- Believe Wood Badge is only for unit leaders. Or scouters with several years tenure.
- The den leader, the committee member, and others wonder why should I take Wood Badge just so I can brag about my critter and wear a special neckerchief and two wooden beads.

History of Wood Badge in the United States:

- 1919: First Wood Badge course Gilwell Park (Scoutmasters only)
- 1936: Experimental Scout and Rover Wood Badge courses at Schiff Scout Reservation.
- 1948: First official BSA Wood Badges held (Schiff and Philmont)
- 1951: Explorer Wood Badge
- 1958-1972: Two variations of Wood Badge – (a) national one for trainers and (b) sectional one for Scoutmasters, commissioners, and local Scouters. The aim of each course was on Scoutcraft, the patrol method, and the requirements for First Class.
- 1967-1972: Experimental courses add leadership skills to Wood Badge
- 1973-2002: Wood Badges courses move to leadership skills and away from Scoutcraft.
- 1974: First weekend courses offered
- 1976: First women attend Boy Scout Wood Badge
- 1976-1999: Cub Scout Trainer Wood Badges courses offered
- 2000: Two pilot Wood Badge for the 21st Century courses held
- 2002: BSA requires all councils to teach Wood Badge for the 21st Century courses.
- Walking Wood Badge, Rafting Wood Badge, and Canoe Wood Badge courses were also offered.

Wood Badge Eligibility

According to the most recent Wood Badge Administrative Guide

- Registered Scouter – Cub, Scout BSA, Varsity, Venturing, Sea, Explorer, commissioner, district, council, or professional
- Eighteen years of age or older
- Has not attended a Wood Badge course prior to 2002. If they attended a Wood Badge course prior to 2002 they must agree to write and complete a Wood Badge ticket and not wear their Wood Badge beads or neckerchief until they have completed their ticket.
- Completed New Leader Training.
- Completed Leader Specific Training for their Scout position.

- Completed outdoor skills training courses for their Scout position.
- Capable of functioning in an outdoors environment
- Complete an [Annual Health & Medical Record](#) form Parts A, B, and C are required. Part C is required for everyone, including people who are not present for more than 72 hours. Note: Participants should not email the medical form, and course leaders must not suggest they do so. Also, the course leaders must not keep medical forms in electronic form.
- Individuals who have attended Wood Badge in the past (either Cub Scout Trainers' Wood Badge or Boy Scout Leader Wood Badge) may attend Wood Badge provided that (1) they agree to write and work a Wood Badge ticket; and (2) they agree not to wear Wood Badge beads until they have satisfactorily completed their Wood Badge ticket.
- Eagerness to learn and willingness to have fun.

Wood Badge Requirements

Training session – Course

- Course is two three-day weekends (with a minimum of two weeks apart) or one six-day week
- Attend all course sessions as there are no make sessions
- Midweek patrol meeting, if attending a two weekend course

Wood Badge Ticket - Application

- Completion of five projects that will benefit the Scouter's unit and community
- Based on the training presented in the course.
- Completed within 18 months after the conclusion of the Wood Badge course.

Why Wood Badge?

- Wood Badge trained Scouters provide for better trained leaders for the youth in their unit.
- Better trained leaders tend to create stronger units.
- Every Scout deserves trained leaders

Conclusion: Myth busted! All fully position trained Scouters are eligible to attend Wood Badge.

Questions