Heart of America Council
Course 5-307-27 Information

If you are committed to delivering the best possible Scouting experience for youth, invest in yourself and attend Wood Badge. The skills, relationships, and inspiration you gain will benefit not only you, but every Scout, leader, and unit you serve for years to come.

Wood Badge is more than a training course. It is an opportunity to become a stronger leader, mentor, and advocate for youth. Participants gain leadership skills that apply both inside and outside of Scouting, experience the Patrol Method firsthand, and build lasting friendships with dedicated Scouters from across the movement. The course challenges leaders to think beyond running a program and focus on developing others, while the ticket process provides a framework for making a meaningful impact.

Important Dates and Times

- Pre-course meeting - Mandatory: August 19, 2027, at 6:30 pm at the Council Service Center. Registration starts at 6:00 pm. All fees, if not previously paid, are due at this time. This is also when you turn in a copy of your current health form (Parts A, B & C) and a copy of your health insurance card.
- 1st Course Weekend: September 10, 2027, at 7:00 am to September 12, 2027 at 5:00pm at Camp Theodore Naish in Bonner Springs, Kansas.
- 2nd Course Weekend: October 2, 2027 at 7:00 am to October 3, 2027, at 5:00pm at Camp Theodore Naish in Bonner Springs, Kansas.
- Post-course meeting: January 2028 at 6:30 pm; date TBD at the Council Service Center.

Contact Information

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Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. I am honored and excited to lead this course, and I look forward to serving everyone who attends and participates. It is truly a rewarding experience!

Register Soon - Space is Limited!

What To Bring:

More important than any piece of gear is a willingness to participate, an openness to new ideas, and a commitment to growing as a leader. Wood Badge works best when participants fully engage with their patrol, embrace the experience, and step outside their comfort zone. If you come prepared to learn, contribute, and have fun, you'll leave with new skills, lasting friendships, and a renewed enthusiasm for delivering the best possible Scouting experience for youth.

- Positive Mental Attitude
- A current Annual Health and Medical Form. You cannot participate without one.
- Medications
- A packing list will be provided at the Pre Course meeting in August

What To Expect:

A participant should expect Wood Badge to be engaging, challenging, fun, and inspiring. It is not a classroom course filled with lectures. Instead, participants learn by doing, working as members of a patrol while experiencing many of the same methods and principles that make Scouting successful for youth.

- An experienced, helpful, and friendly staff.
- Scouting immersion – Learn and live the Patrol Method
- Quality training materials and presentation methods.
- Build your Scouting community.
- Leadership skills – conflict resolution, change management, mentoring
- Personal Growth – invigorated commitment to Scouting
- The greatest 5 days of Scouting fun and learning you have ever had!!!

Outcomes

Many Scouters leave Wood Badge with renewed energy, fresh ideas, and a broader perspective on Scouting. For experienced volunteers, the greatest value is not earning the beads, but becoming the kind of leader who multiplies their influence by helping others succeed.

- Deeper understanding of Scouting's mission and methods
- Lead teams effectively in different environments
- Have a plan (ticket) to improve your unit
- Gain recognition for your dedication to Scouting

What is the main goal of Wood Badge? The main goal of Wood Badge is to help Scouters become the leaders that young people deserve. By developing practical leadership skills, building lasting relationships, and creating a plan for future growth, Wood Badge empowers participants to make a greater impact on youth and strengthen Scouting for years to come.

How long does Wood Badge take to complete? The formal training portion of Wood Badge takes about five days, but real learning happens afterward. Participants spend the following months applying leadership principles through meaningful projects that benefit their unit, district, council, or community. Most complete the full course within 18 months.

Is Wood Badge only for Scoutmasters? Absolutely not. While Scoutmasters often attend Wood Badge, the course is designed for all Scouters. The leadership skills taught in Wood Badge apply across every program of Scouting and can help participants improve communication, teamwork, planning, and servant leadership regardless of their specific role.

What is a Wood Badge ticket? The Wood Badge ticket is where real learning happens. It consists of five personally chosen goals that challenge participants to apply their new leadership skills, grow as leaders, and leave a lasting contribution to the youth and volunteers they serve (at the unit, district, or council level).

Do I have to pay for Wood Badge? Yes, participants pay a registration fee to attend Wood Badge, but the value goes far beyond the cost. The course provides nationally recognized leadership development, networking opportunities with other Scouters, and practical skills that benefit participants in Scouting, their careers, and their communities. The fee generally includes meals, materials, program resources, and course support. If cost is a concern, many councils offer scholarships or payment plans, so prospective participants should contact the course director or council service center for assistance.

What are the requirements to attend Wood Badge? Wood Badge is open to registered adult Scouting leaders who meet a few basic requirements. Participants must be currently registered with Scouting America, have completed Safeguarding Youth Training, and have completed the position-specific training required for their role. Because Wood Badge focuses on practical leadership applications, participants should be actively involved in a unit, district, or council position.

What happens if I can't complete my ticket in 18 months? Don't let the possibility of running out of time keep you from attending Wood Badge. The ticket is designed to be challenging but achievable, and your ticket counselor is there to support you throughout the process. If unexpected personal, family, work, or Scouting obligations arise, communicate early so available options can be explored.

Will Wood Badge help me become a better leader in my unit? Absolutely. One of the primary purposes of Wood Badge is to help leaders strengthen their units by becoming better leaders themselves. Participants learn practical leadership tools that improve teamwork, delegation, problem-solving, and goal setting. As a result, you return to your unit better prepared to lead, mentor others, and deliver an outstanding Scouting program.

Can I attend Wood Badge if I'm new to Scouting? Yes. Attending Wood Badge early in your Scouting career can be a tremendous advantage. The course provides leadership tools, mentoring opportunities, and a network of fellow Scouters that can help you become more confident and effective in your role from the very beginning. Wood Badge is open to both experienced and new Scouters.

What makes Wood Badge different from other leadership training? It's a leadership experience. Many leadership courses end when the classroom session is over. Wood Badge is different because the learning continues through your ticket and your service to others. It combines proven leadership skills, a strong Scouting network, and practical application, helping participants become more effective leaders long after the course concludes