

# What is Wood Badge?

Wood Badge is the Boy Scouts of America's ultimate leadership training designed to meet the advanced leadership needs of Scouters in all aspects of the BSA, whether unit, district, or council level – from assistant den leaders to Scoutmasters, from Cubmasters to Venturing Advisors, from committee members to commissioners. It is a fun, energetic, and inspiring course guaranteed to infuse you and your unit with fun and meaning – all designed to fulfill the mission of the BSA, and ensure our youth are getting everything they are promised from the program.

Reflecting the best of nearly a century of Scouting experience, Wood Badge draws upon the most current leadership models used by corporate America, academic circles, and successful organizations throughout the country. Participants can expect to develop skills in many areas, including leadership theory, team building, problem-solving, communication, project planning, and more. These skills are to be taken back to packs, troops, crews, and ships to help leaders guide youth in dynamic Scouting programs. Scouters will find these skills invaluable in their business and personal lives as well.

Wood Badge consists of two parts:

- Training – Five full days of group training held over two weekends – the first weekend is Friday through Sunday, and the second is Saturday and Sunday.
- Working the Ticket – Each participant applies the skills learned to complete a personal five-part plan (the “ticket”) within the next 18 months, leading to the individual participant’s vision of a better Scouting future.

## Pathway to the Rockies Council Wood Badge 2025

Course Dates:  
(BOTH weekends required)

**Weekend 1** August 22-24, 2025

Camp Alexander

(2182 Co Rd 96, Lake George, CO 80827)

**Weekend 2** September 6-7, 2025

San Isabel Scout Ranch

(18353 CO0165, Beulah, CO 81023)

Course cost: \$285  
Course Director: Vinny Maffia  
[pathwaytotherockieswoodbadge@gmail.com](mailto:pathwaytotherockieswoodbadge@gmail.com)

**For more information and to register:**  
[pathwaytotherockies.org/woodbadge](https://pathwaytotherockies.org/woodbadge)



# WOOD BADGE



**TAKE YOUR SCOUTING  
TO THE  
NEXT LEVEL**

# Wood Badge Myth Busting

## **Myth #10: Wood Badge is only for Scouts BSA leaders.**

**Fact:** Wood Badge is for all Scout leaders in BSA, including Cub Scout, Scouts BSA, and Venturing leaders, as well as District and Council leaders. Research has shown that units with trained leaders show a much more positive impact on the quality of programs, leader tenure, youth tenure, safety, and so much more. Units with Wood Badge trained adults (and NYLT trainer youth leaders) increase this impact even further.

## **Myth #9: Wood Badge is for lifelong, elite Scouters who have done everything else.**

**Fact:** Wood Badge is designed to provide both new and experienced Scouters skills they need to make their job easier and more fun. The only experience required is that you be considered “trained” for your registered position.

## **Myth #8: I'm too old (or too young) for Wood Badge.**

**Fact:** Wood Badge is for any registered Scouter. Recent Wood Badge courses have included participants more than 70 years old and as young as 18, which is the youngest age allowed to attend.

## **Myth #7: Wood Badge is another camping and outdoor skills course.**

**Fact:** The focus of Wood Badge is leadership skills. In fact, the leadership skills you learn in a Wood Badge course are the same skills that Fortune 500 companies send their executives to learn at multi-week seminars, costing as much as \$5,000. You will find yourself using your Wood Badge leadership skills not only in Scouting, but also at home, at work, and in your other community activities.

## **Myth #6: I will have to buy special uniforms and insignia just for the Wood Badge course.**

**Fact:** Your “Wood Badge” uniform is whatever uniform and insignia you wear in your home Pack, Troop, Crew, or Ship. During the course, you will

receive and wear a special neckerchief that will be provided for you.

## **Myth #5: I don't have the camping equipment or outdoor skills for Wood Badge.**

**Fact:** Your first weekend will be in cabins at Camp Alexander. During the two weekends, you might use some camping and outdoor skills if you have them, but those skills are not required. In fact, we will cook all your meals the first weekend of the course so you can focus on the learning experience. Many Wood Badge participants come to the course with no prior camping experience and have a fantastic time ... and you can too.

## **Myth #4: You need to be in top physical condition to attend a Wood Badge course.**

**Fact:** You will need an adult physical, but there are very few activities on a Wood Badge course that are strenuous. Scouters have attended Wood Badge in wheelchairs and walked with canes and crutches. You will not be expected to participate in any activity that is inappropriate for your physical condition. If you have any questions about your ability to participate, please contact the Course Director.

## **Myth #3: Wood Badge will take time away from my already jam-packed Scouting schedule.**

**Fact:** Like most Scout training, Wood Badge is designed to make your life easier. It will provide you with the skills you need to be a great and more effective leader.

## **Myth #2: The “ticket” is a series of arduous tasks that only benefit the Council.**

**Fact:** A Wood Badge ticket is a contract you make *with yourself*, with the aid of a member of the staff referred to as a Troop Guide. This contract is your commitment to practice using the leadership skills taught at Wood Badge in the performance of your Scouting job. The ticket contains 5 parts (goals) that

you develop to advance toward your vision in Scouting. Your Troop Guide will serve as your Ticket Counselor after you complete the second course weekend to aid you in completing your ticket.

## **Myth #1: I can't afford the cost of Wood Badge.**

**Fact:** The cost of the 2024 Wood Badge course is \$275, and covers all your course materials, participant neckerchief, food, and the Wood Badge award you receive when you complete your “ticket” (Wood Badge neckerchief, leather woggle, beads, and certificate). The value of Wood Badge training is many times the cost and is a worthwhile investment in yourself.

## **Requirements for attending Wood Badge:**

1. Be a registered member of the Boy Scouts of America and age 18 or older.
2. Have completed the basic position-specific training courses for your Scouting role.
3. Be capable of functioning safely in an outdoor environment. All participants are required to complete the Annual Health and Medical Record. Parts A, B, and C are required including the physical.

*Individuals who have attended Wood Badge, a different version of Wood Badge training, or who did not complete the course 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 while they are attending the course.*

A limited number of scholarships are available, contact the Course Director for details.