

Wood Badge MYTHS AND TRUTHS

Perhaps you've thought about signing up for Wood Badge training but hesitated? Or maybe you've resisted signing up because of myths you heard about Wood Badge? Listed below are some of the myths, and the truths.

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

Truth: Like most Scouting training, Wood Badge is designed to make your life easier. It will provide you with the skills you need to **reduce** the time it takes you to be a great leader.

Myth: Wood Badge is a clique for elite Scouters who have been around for years and have done everything in Scouting except Wood Badge.

Truth: Wood Badge for the 21st Century is designed to provide both new and experienced Scouters the skills they need to make the job easier **and more fun**. The only experience requirement is that you be considered "trained" for your registered position. In fact, the Boy Scouts of America has established a goal of having all new leaders attend Wood Badge within two years of becoming leaders.

Myth: Wood Badge is for Boy Scout leaders and I'm a Cub Scout leader.

Truth: Wood Badge is for all leaders in the Boy Scouts of America. It has been developed for Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, and Venturing leaders, as well as District and Council leaders.

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

Truth: 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 week-long seminars costing as much as \$5,000. The curriculum which follows the model established for leadership training by some of our country's experts in the field including renowned authors and leadership experts such as Ken Blanchard, Stephen Covey and Max De Pree.

Further Truth: *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: Female leaders are few and far between at Wood Badge.

Truth: Over the last couple of years, female attendance at Wood Badge has averaged between 20 – 30%. One-third of Wood Badge staff is comprised of female Scouters. Two of the former Flint River course directors were women.

Myth: I don't have the camping and outdoor skills to attend a Wood Badge course.

Truth: You will need to be comfortable with staying in an outdoor environment for two weekends. You might use some camping and outdoor skills if you have them, but **those skills are not required**. Some Wood Badge participants come to the course with no prior camping experience and have a fantastic time. And all of your meals will be provided and cooked for you in the first weekend of course.

Myth: I'm too old/young for Wood Badge.

Truth: Wood Badge is for any registered Scouter. Recent Flint River Council Wood Badge courses have included participants as old as 70+ and as young as 18.

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

Truth: There are a few activities on a Wood Badge course that can be fairly strenuous – but Scouters have attended Wood Badge in wheelchairs, on mobility scooters, canes and crutches. You would not be expected to participate in any activity that is inappropriate for your physical condition. If you have any question about your ability to participate, please contact the Wood Badge Course Director, David McLaughlin at mclaughlin247@gmail.com or (404) 277-0728.

Myth: The “ticket” is a series of arduous tasks assigned by the Wood Badge staff to benefit Council and make it hard to earn your Wood Badge beads.

Truth: A Wood Badge ticket is a contract you make **with yourself**, with the aid of a member of the staff called 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 continue to mentor you after the second course weekend to aid you in completing your ticket.

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

Truth: The cost of the 2018 Wood Badge course is \$250, and covers all of your course program materials, participant neckerchief and food. The **value** of Wood Badge training is many times the cost, and is a worthwhile investment in yourself.

- Register by January 31, 2018 and save \$20!
- Some employers recognize the value of Wood Badge and will pay or subsidize the cost; some will even give you paid time off to take the course.
- Some unions will pay or subsidize the cost. The AFL-CIO has a scholarship program.
- The American Legion offers Wood Badge scholarships for members.
- Many units and chartering organizations will pay or subsidize the cost, since they will benefit from your Wood Badge training.

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

Truth: Your “Wood Badge” uniform is whatever uniform and insignia you wear in your home unit. You *will* wear a special neckerchief and t-shirts, but those are provided as part of the course.

**EMPOWERING – ACHIEVABLE – MEMORABLE – INSPIRING
INTENSE – FUN – CHALLENGING – FUN – WORTH IT!**

WHEN IS WOOD BADGE? Wood Badge is only held once every year in the Flint River Council.

Orientation: February 17 (1:00 p.m. - 4:00 pm)

Weekend # 1: March 2, 3, 4 (Friday a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Sunday)

Weekend # 2: March 16, 17, 18 (Friday a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Sunday)

HOW DO I REGISTER? Space is limited. You can secure your spot with a \$50 deposit. Register at FlintRiverCouncil.org

Questions? Contact the Course Director, David McLaughlin at mclaughlin247@gmail.com or (404) 277-0728.