



HOW TO BE ON WOOD BADGE STAFF



Interested in being on Wood Badge staff? If so, here's some information for you. Staff members perform different roles during the course. Wood Badge staff members volunteer their time and energy (and finances) to conduct a top-level experience. They are among the finest Scouters we have. They are cheerful and they help each other. They must be models of Scouting character and leadership. They must be good presenters, and they must be selfless team members committed to Scouting's vision, mission, and values.

Wood Badge staff members contribute to the growth of each participant and the strength of all the participant's units. You make a big difference in the lives of many people, even though many of them may not get to know you. Staff members also benefit directly. You grow in leadership skills and in understanding of Scouting. The Wood Badge program is so extensive that every time you staff, you learn more of what it offers!

The Wood Badge Course Director, following the BSA Wood Badge Administrative Guide, is responsible for selecting and recruiting their Wood Badge course staff.

Staff Qualifications:

Course Directors select potential staff members and seek to build a diverse staff from the Los Padres Council who represent the different program areas (Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Varsity Scouting, and Venturing who are involved in unit, District, and Council levels). To the greatest extent possible, the staff represents the cultural diversity of the communities from which the participants are drawn. Course Directors use Wood Badge course rosters to help identify potential staff members and seek recommendations of previous Course Directors and other Council and District training staff.

To serve on a Wood Badge staff, a Scouter must:

- Be a registered member of the BSA and a strong supporter of the local council
- Have completed a Wood Badge course and received the Wood Badge beads.
- Demonstrated the ability to train, counsel, and perform the specific skills, duties and responsibilities of an assigned position.
- Be enthusiastic, open-minded, flexible, people-oriented, and committed to implementing the course in a positive manner and according to the syllabus.
- Be a role model who is well-respected by volunteers and professionals.
- Exemplify the Scout Oath and Law.
- Be approved by the Council Scout Executive, Council Training Committee Chair, and the Area and National offices of the BSA.
- Have participated in a Trainer's EDGE course within the last three years (course will be provided as part of the staff development prior to Wood Badge).
- Have a complete Annual BSA Health and Medical Record (Parts A, B, and C) within past year.

How to Be Invited:

How do you get invited to be on staff for Wood Badge? If you are interested and eligible to staff Wood Badge, complete the Staff Application which is available on the LPC website under Training>Wood Badge and submit the application to the Council Executive. He will make the information available to the upcoming Course Director and Council Training Chair so they know you are interested and available.

Significant consideration is given to an individual's skill as a trainer and facilitator, more so than his or her Scouting experience. When completing the Staff Application, you will need to provide contact information for prior training experiences. (Wood Badge, NYLT, unit, District, Council Training courses). A course director has many considerations in building a Council-wide diverse staff for a course, and most Course Directors find there are people they really wanted to have on staff but whom they couldn't ask and still fulfill these considerations. The number of positions is limited but, at a minimum, one third of staff must be first timers.

What Is Expected Of Staff:

Staffing Wood Badge is a very significant commitment. It takes a lot of time and heart. Wood Badge staffers must commit to participating in approximately 35-40 hours of staff development activities, which typically involves one 5 hour and three 8 hour staff development sessions spread over several months or may involve a multi-day staff development session. In addition Wood Badge staffers must commit to two four-day weekend sessions for the course that require you to be on-site for the entire time and know a very complicated syllabus. Along with the expectations listed below, every staff member is expected to participate and perform enthusiastically at his or her best, arrive promptly for everything, be prepared, be cheerful, wear a full uniform correctly, help everyone else, and do whatever is necessary to support the success of the course. It's the Scouting way.

- **Make Wood Badge a Priority** – Most of us wear several Scouting hats. Because Wood Badge training is a BSA National Training Course administered at the council level, staff is held to the highest standard. During your limited time as a Wood Badge staffer, you are expected to make course preparation and responsibilities your priority. The course participants deserve no less and the Course Director expects the highest level of commitment from every staffer.
- **Participate in All Staff Development Sessions** – Staff development takes approximately 35-40 hours spread over multiple sessions. These Staff Development sessions start about 4 to 6 months before the course. They may be at the Council Office, at the camp where the course will be held or at other locations which are conducive to training. Some staff, especially Troop Guides, usually have additional planning meetings aside from the staff development sessions. Staff is also expected to arrive at camp a day before the course starts to help prepare the facility. You **MUST** be able to commit to all staff development sessions.
- **Prepare Your Presentations** - Wood Badge is the height of training for Scouters, and every presentation must be the best possible. You must follow the Wood Badge syllabus for every presentation, prepare diligently and practice your presentation.



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- **Recruit Participants** – Staff members are expected to actively recruit at least two participants.
- **Pay Staff Fees** – Staff members must pay fees to cover food, camp facilities, course T-shirt and cap. The fee is less than that for participants and will be determined by the Course Director based on a budget analysis. Staff will be advised of the fee prior to final staff assignments. Staff should wear full uniform with correct patches for their Scouting position. An Activity shirt and cap will be provided.
- **Course Dates** – Wood Badge course dates will be posted on the Wood Badge Training link on the LPC website (www.LPCBSA.org) once they are confirmed. Historically, the course has taken place in September at Rancho Alegre. A brochure outlining the course will also be posted for download.
- **Questions?**
If you have questions, contact the Council Training Chair or Scott Oldenburg, Council Program Chair. (Scott.Oldenburg@scouting.org)