

WOOD BADGE

Central Wyoming Council

Boy Scouts of America



How to be on Staff for Wood Badge

If you might like to be on staff for a Wood Badge course, here is some information for you. With the exception of the Course Director, everyone on Staff is an Assistant Course Director. As such, they are “in training” to perhaps one day become Course Directors. During the Course they each play a unique roll that is vital to the presentation of the course. Wood Badge Staff are volunteers who donate their time, energy and money to help bring Wood Badge to us.



Why Be On Staff

Those that serve on a Wood Badge Staff contribute to the growth and leadership skills of the participants on the Course. In turn, the participants return from the course and contribute to the growth and strength of their home units. Their unit and leadership positively affect the lives of the Scouts and the communities they serve. Your service positively impacts the lives of many people, sometimes for generations, even though they never know you personally.

Every time that you serve on Staff you will learn more about what Wood Badge has to offer. The best way to learn something is to teach it. Your Leadership and understanding of Scouting will grow. You will make new friends and the friendships that you have with fellow Staffers will become stronger. Wood Badge has always developed deep and lasting

friendships for all involved. As an added benefit, you get to work with some of the best Scouters in the Council.

Qualifications

Wood Badge Staff members are among the finest Scouters we have. They understand the program, set a good example and they are among our best trainers and presenters. They are cheerful and ready to help others. They must be models of Scouting character and leadership.

To be eligible, you need to have participated in a Wood Badge for the 21st Century course and have earned your beads, or else have already staffed on Wood Badge for the 21st Century. In other words, you must have taken this new Wood Badge to be on staff, but there is an exception for people who already staffed this version and there are other exceptions. . If you are unsure whether you qualify, talk it over with the current Course Director. The new version started in our council in 2002, though some courses were held elsewhere in 2001.

You do not need to have been in Scouting any particular number of years or have held any particular job in Scouting. Course Directors seek staff from the different programs (Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Varsity, and Venturing, as well as professional Scouters). It is important that you are an experienced and effective trainer in Scouting. However, if you don't feel that you are particularly good at presenting or training, there are a few positions on Staff that do not require you to be. Please discuss these opportunities with the director.

Because this new course is presented with multimedia, those individuals that have skills with computers, software, video projectors, sound systems and networking are greatly needed. Please mention any of these skills to the director.

The Course Director invites staff members to be on his Course. Each Staffer must be approved by our Council and by the Western Region office of the Boy Scouts of America. A Staff member from another council has to be approved by their home council too.

How To Be Invited

The **best way** to let the director know you are interested in being on Staff is by contacting him or her directly. Make sure that you let the director know why you would be a good choice.

It is fine to call or write the Course Director and say you would like to be considered. You should give some information about your background to show that you are an experienced and effective trainer, that you are an active Scouter

and things like that. If you know someone who could recommend you to the Course Director, that would help too -- especially your district training chair or other Wood Badge Staff members past or present.

Course Directors often ask the district training chairs, past and present Staff members, and the Council Executive for suggestions. You could let any or all of them know that you are interested and ask that you be mentioned to the Course Director.

Every year, people who would be an outstanding staff member, do not get asked. Course Directors have many considerations in picking staff, and most directors find there are people they really wanted to have on staff but whom they couldn't ask. There are many reasons for this. Anyway, not being invited does not mean the course director did not want you on staff.

What Is Expected of Staff

Staffing Wood Badge is a major commitment of time, energy. Every single Staffer is expected to do all these things, enthusiastically and at his or her best:

Participate enthusiastically in all the staff development sessions. Usually there is a one-day orientation, and then three, day-and-a-half staff developments. These sessions start about four to six months before course. They may be in any community served by the council, which may mean travel. Usually, parts of the staff will arrange to have additional meetings to work on their parts of the course. Staff also goes to camp a few days before the course starts for each session.

Prepare your presentations. Wood Badge is the height of training for Scouters, and every presentation must be the best possible. There is a syllabus so you don't have to invent the presentation, and indeed you must follow the syllabus, but still you need to prepare diligently.

Recruit participants. The more participants attend a course, the more value the Council and the community get from the course. We would like every course to be full. Staff members are among the most important recruiters. As a Staff member, you may be asked to recruit a minimum number of participants.

Costs. There is a staff fee, which has been about \$125. That covers your food on course and at staff development, camp insurance, and other things. National policy states that staff must pay their own way, not have their expenses paid from the participants' fees. Also, all staff need to be in full official BSA field uniform. Most Staffers do incur some other expenses in the preparation for the course. If this cost would be a problem, talk to the Course Director about it before you agree to be on staff.

In general, every staff member is expected to arrive promptly for everything, be prepared, be cheerful, wear uniforms correctly, help every one else, and things like that. It's the Boy Scouts way.



How Are Course Directors Chosen?

In our Council, Course Directors are grown. You generally need to serve on Staff for more than one Course. In the past, our Course Directors have severed on anywhere from 3 to 7 courses before being chosen. Our Council Executive in consultation with former Wood Badge Course Directors, professionals (council advisors) and the Council Training Chairman, has chosen a Wood Badger to serve as the Course Director. The Council Executive follows a prescribed set of criteria established by the National Council for selecting a course director. The recommendation is forwarded to the Western Region office of Boy Scouts of America who must also approve the course director.

Questions?

If you have questions, call the course director. Or you could send email to: cwyoming@bsamail.org