



Rio Grande Council, Boy Scouts of America

GILWELL GAZETTE



Wood Badge Course SR-1054 Daily Newsletter

March 18, 2010

Pre Course Edition

WELCOME TO WOOD BADGE SR-1054

YOUR WOOD BADGE TICKET

One of the great traditions of Wood Badge is the "Ticket." A Ticket is simply a personal vision, a contract with a set of goals that you write for yourself to help apply the skills you learn at Wood Badge. Keep in mind that the 21st Century Wood Badge Ticket is different from that of former Boy Scout Leader and Cub Scout Trainer Wood Badge courses. So, please do not come with preconceived ideas about what you should include in your Ticket. The 21st Century Wood Badge Ticket process begins with you determining your own vision of success for the group that you work with in Scouting – your Den, Troop, Pack, Varsity Team, Venture Crew, Unit Committee, Roundtable Staff, Commissioner Staff, District Committee, Executive Board, etc.

The first weekend of the course we will discuss the Ticket and guide you. We will teach you the tools and skills needed to help you achieve five significant goals to accomplish within 18 months. You will plan and write the Ticket goals over the weeks before the second weekend of the course. This method will help make your vision of success for your group a reality. Your Ticket is a very personal contract that you write for yourself. The goals that help fulfill one person's plan for success may not work toward the success of another person's vision. That's why we want you to come open-minded about your Ticket. Your Ticket will be meaningful to you and enable you to practice and share the skills learned in the course all while making a difference in the lives of youth.

**If you have any questions, please contact the Course Director directly:
Heather Blakemore at (956)459-4245 or email: leighheather52@aol.com**

Arrival and departure schedule for the first weekend of Wood Badge Course SR-1054:

Arrive Thursday, April 8, 2010 between 6:00 a.m. - 7:00 a.m.

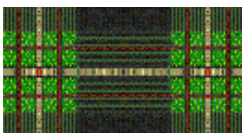
Arrive at **Central Christian Church** located at **1100 E Alton Gloor Blvd., Brownsville TX** (Last shuttle leaves at 7:00 a.m. sharp to Camp Lula Sams, Brownsville. Participants will leave their cars parked at the church during the course, so make sure you take everything you need for the three-day experience with you on the shuttle.)

Please make sure you bring all necessary materials and required paperwork and that you are in your complete Scout uniform. And then enjoy the Wood Badge Spirit!

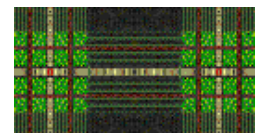
Depart Saturday, April 10, 2010. 6:00 PM – Leave camp on shuttles back to your vehicle.

The staff members of SR-1054 have been hard at work the past few months preparing for your Wood Badge experience. We look forward to your arrival and pledge to make this a leadership training experience that is both meaningful and memorable.

Not only will we teach techniques that can help you lead groups to achieve objectives, but our learning environment models the "patrol method" found in Boy Scout troops. We want to enable you in leading youth to having more fun, being more confident, showing more self-reliance and becoming better citizens.



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MEET YOUR STAFF

Scoutmaster: Heather Blakemore
Asst. Scoutmaster, Support: Tom Goodman
Asst. Scoutmaster, Program: Patricia Garcia
Asst. Scoutmaster, Troop Guides: Marion Velarde
* Senior Patrol Leader: T. Mark Blakemore
* Assistant SPL: Cherie Camacho
* Troop Scribe: Mike Henry
* Assistant Scribe: Roy Sheneman
* Quartermaster: Richard Sanchez
Head COW: Larry Jokl

* Troop Guide: James Blair
* Troop Guide: Herlinda Farias
* Troop Guide: Jesus Franco
* Troop Guide: Robert Lyle
* Troop Guide: Vickie Lyle
* Troop Guide: Marty Martin
* Troop Guide: Dennis McCrea
* Instructor: Harsha Puttagunta
* Instructor: David Enos
Staff Advisor: Ernest Castro

**Considered youth leaders during the course*

REQUIRED ITEMS TO BRING



- **Official Scout Uniform(s)** for your current Scouting position. (NOTE: A complete field uniform includes the official shirt for your program; uniform shorts, long pants, skirts, or culottes; uniform socks; and scout belt. A Troop neckerchief, slide, and cap will be provided.)
- **Scout activity uniform(s)** – (NOTE: An activity uniform includes a Scouting-related t-shirt or knit shirt, and Scout shorts or pants.)
- Boots or shoes suitable for walking over uneven terrain. (Although we will be in a conference center setting, we will also be walking to outdoor sites during this first weekend. Please, no white shoes.)

- **1 ½ inch three-ring binder/View Binder**

- Pen, pencils, pocket notebook
- Change of shoes
- Windbreaker or jacket appropriate to outdoor weather
- Rain gear (poncho or rain suit)
- Underwear
- Handkerchiefs
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent (non-aerosol, please)
- School-sized backpack or tote to carry personal items
- Flashlight with spare batteries and bulb
- Pocketknife or multiple tool-type knife (No fixed-blade knives)
- Medication in labeled containers
- Toiletries and other personal hygiene items
- Towel and washcloth
- Canteen or water bottle
- Folding camp chair
- Handbook for your Scouting program
- Sock liners (silk or polypropylene, NOT cotton – 2nd weekend)
- Mess kit and utensils (2nd weekend)
- Backpacking tent or small regular tent (2nd weekend only)
- Backpack (large enough to carry all 2nd weekend camping gear)

OPTIONAL ITEMS TO BRING

- Extra pillow
- Sunglasses
- Footwear for shower
- Camera
- Religious book(s)
- Books of camp songs & skits
- Clothes hangers for uniform and jacket
- Earplugs (in case of snorers!)
- Extra money for World Friendship Fund collection

Note - The following electronic devices may not be used during this course: Cellular telephones, pagers, radios, televisions, CD players, ipods, and any other devices that could interrupt Wood Badge presentations or activities. Thank you for your cooperation.

TWENTY QUESTIONS

Attached to this original e-mail is a form entitled "Twenty Questions". Please complete this assignment and bring it with you for your personal use at the course. No one will see it but you. These questions are designed help you formulate your thoughts as you begin to write your ticket. They will help you sort out what is important to you, what roles you play in Scouting and your life, and where you see yourself in the future. Remember that your ticket is a very personal commitment that you write for yourself - a set of goals that you will pursue with the Scouting group that you work with. Start thinking about where you see that group in the future, how the group can make a greater impact in the lives of youth, and how you can help the group reach that vision.

The Beginning of Wood Badge

Baden-Powell took the first steps in the training of Scouters by organizing a series of lectures for Scouters in 1911. He made great strides by devising and instituting Wood Badge training in 1919. Today, more than 100,000 persons have received the Wood Badge throughout the world. The object of the Wood Badge course is to demonstrate as practically as possible the aims and methods of Scouting. When the course has been successfully completed, the participant receives a parchment certificate and the Wood Badge - two wooden beads worn on a leather thong around the neck. These beads replicate the beads found by Baden-Powell during a campaign in Africa in 1888. They belonged to Dinizulu, an African chieftain. Wanting a suitable recognition for those who completed the first course in 1919, Baden-Powell remembered the beads and decided to present a bead to each participant. At that time, the course was called "Wood Badge." The Wood Badge is worn with the official field uniform of the BSA. The Scouter to whom it has been awarded may also wear the tan neckerchief with its patch of Maclaren tartan at the back. The Wood Badge neckerchief may only be worn with the accompanying leather "woggle".



Wood Badge Training Gets a Permanent Home



In 1919, W. F. de Bois Maclaren, a district commissioner in Scotland, purchased Gilwell Park and presented it to The Scout Association of Britain. He wanted "to provide a training ground for the officers of the Scouting movement." Consequently, Gilwell Park became the permanent home of Wood Badge training in England and annually welcomes Scouters from around the world. The ax and log symbol associated with Wood Badge is actually the totem of Gilwell Park. Recently, The Scout Association announced that it would relocate its headquarters from London to Gilwell Park. In 1929, at the third World Jamboree in Birkenhead, England, Sir Baden-Powell was made a baron by his king, and became Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell.

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Chaplain's Moment

O God of the great outdoors, give me eyes to see the beauty of the world around me. Keep me from being blind to what you have created. Help me to recognize You in your creation. Surrounded by the works of your creation, may I honor You as the Creator. While I am in camp, may I do more than have a good time. Help me to enter into a deeper knowledge of You. May the fresh air and the open sky, the trees and the flowers, the water and the clouds all speak to me of your presence. As I gaze at the hills and valleys that surround me, and see the reflection in the still water of the lake, may I be reminded of your glory. When I return home, may I take with me the thoughts of You that have come to me at camp. May these memories help me to be true to You and to keep me clean and rugged like the outdoor world.

Amen.

———adapted from *Prayers for Scouts* by W. D. Cavert

WOOD BADGE MEALS

Wood Badge meals will be prepared for you the first weekend by our special staff of COWs (Crusty Old Woodbadgers). If you have any special requirements or restrictions, please provide that information as part of your Personal Resource Questionnaire. If you have serious health-related dietary restrictions, please e-mail the Course Director. We will not be able to offer any Jenny Craig or Weight Watcher meals, for example, for those on a weight-reducing program. You may need to bring anything needed beyond simply eating smaller portions of the meals provided by our COWs.



The Two Stars

“The two stars on the Boy Scout logo, as every Scout knows, stand for Truth and Knowledge. To 21st Century Wood Badgers, the stars will have an additional meaning. The stars will be a reminder of our commitment to provide leadership for scouting’ and ‘leadership for America.’ ”

——— from Wood Badge for the 21st Century

Check In Procedure

When the shuttle brings you to Camp Lula Sams on Thursday, April 8th, you will be instructed where to report and where to leave your gear. You will go through a check-in procedure where you will receive important course materials and you will turn in your 1.) *Annual Medical and Health Record*, 2.) a copy of your online *Youth Protection Training* certificate, 3.) a printout of your *DPS Criminal Background Check* and 4.) the *Rio Grande Council Camps Adult Leader Application for Participation*. You will begin your Wood Badge experience with one of our Orientation Guides. Again, please make sure you bring all necessary materials and paperwork and that you are in your complete Scout uniform. After that, simply enjoy the Wood Badge Spirit!



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