



**17-2 PRE-COURSE ISSUE 1**

## Welcome to Wood Badge!

Welcome to Wood Badge course S3-576-17-2, known as "SHAC Seventeen Two" (SHAC 17-2). This Wood Badge course designation is the new BSA National method. Our course will be held in the Southern Region (S3), in the Sam Houston Area Council (576), in 2017 (17), and it will be the second course offered this year (2).

Wood Badge is the most advanced training available for adult leaders in all programs of the Boy Scouts of America. Your participation in this training shows your commitment to the organization and to providing a quality program for our youth.

Wood Badge training focuses on leadership, team-building, and "people" skills, which apply to all areas of Scouting. You will learn techniques to guide you to be a better leader and how to facilitate groups to achieve goals and objectives.

### Course Format

SHAC 17-2 will be held over two separate weekends (Friday-Sunday). The first weekend, September 8-10, will be held at McNair Cub Adventure Camp; weekend two, October 6-8, will be at Tellepsen Scout Camp. These facilities are located on the property of Bovay Scout Ranch.

Personal tents are required for all participants the first weekend, and meals will be served in the Dining Hall. Showers are available. Plan to dress according to the weather because many activities will be conducted outdoors.

Use of a camp cot is highly advisable for your health and comfort. Bovay is not able to offer cots for loan or rental.

Three weeks later, (weekend two) we will camp in personal tents again. Patrols will plan, purchase, and cook their own meals during these three days.

Participants are required to arrange and attend two interim patrol meetings between the first and second course weekends.

### Your Ticket: The Wood Badge

One of the great traditions of Wood Badge is the "ticket." A ticket is simply a contract or set of goals that you write for yourself to help you apply the skills learned at Wood Badge. It is a personal commitment to develop goals and teams which help to put your plan into action.

The Wood Badge ticket process begins with your determining your own vision of success for the group that you work with in Scouting – your den, troop, pack, roundtable staff, commissioner staff, etc. Then you will write five significant goals that you can accomplish within 18 months. This procedure will ensure that your vision of success will become a reality.

Your ticket is a very personal contract that you write for yourself. 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 during the course while making a difference in the lives of youth in your unit.



### History of the Wood Badge Ticket

Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of the world Scouting movement, served in the British Army.

In Baden-Powell's day, men in the military were expected to pay their own way back to England at the end of their service. The British Army would, however, pay for travel tickets for command transfers. In order to economize, soldiers nearing completion of their duties would seek assignments at posts increasingly close to home – a process known as "working your ticket."

We use the same principle in Wood Badge. Our ticket is the road map we follow. Going from point to point in achieving our goals, we are "working our ticket" to get us closer to home in our challenge to become better Scout leaders.

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### Your Gilwell Gazette

The Gilwell Gazette will be published daily during the course.

Look to the Gilwell Gazette for important information you need to know to enjoy the complete "Wood Badge Experience".

The Gazette will provide a daily record of the exciting and fun times you will have!



Wood Badge training is for adult Scouters in all program areas of Scouting – Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Varsity Scouting and Venturing. While at Wood Badge, you will be a member of a **troop**. Every Wood Badger around the world is a member of **Gilwell Troop 1**, linking that course to the first course held by Baden-Powell in 1919 at Gilwell Park near London.

The Boy Scout troop has been chosen because it is a good framework for practicing the leadership skills introduced during the course. These skills are easily transferred to all areas of Scouting, as well as to family, school, church, and other community organizations.

For those of you not familiar with troop organization, you will want to review the *Boy Scout Handbook* and/or talk to some Boy Scout leaders to familiarize yourself with the fundamental concepts described below. You might even wish to visit a troop meeting to see a troop in action.

Some helpful hints for understanding the structure of Troop 1:

- Upon arrival, you will be temporarily assigned to a Webelos Scout den that is ready to graduate into Boy Scouts. A den chief will help orient you to troop facilities.
- Shortly after arrival, participants crossover into Boy Scouting and are divided into patrols of six people who will work together on projects and activities during the Wood Badge course. Each patrol is assigned a name from the list of traditional names used for Wood Badge courses: Beaver, Bobwhite, Eagle, Fox, Owl, Bear, Buffalo, and Antelope.
- The Wood Badge staff will be role-playing responsibilities of troop leadership. Some will be representing youth positions; others will be representing adult leadership.
- In an ideal boy-run troop, the Senior Patrol Leader (youth leader called the SPL) is in charge of troop meetings and activities and has the up-front leadership role. This may be a new concept for Cub Scouters, who are accustomed to the up-front leader being an adult leader, the Cubmaster. The Scoutmaster, who has been working with the SPL and other youth leaders to develop plans for these meetings, is leading from behind-the-scenes.
- When new members join a troop, they are often placed in a New Scout Patrol. An experienced youth leader, called a troop guide, is assigned to work with this patrol on the skills required for the rank of First Class Scout. When patrol members have attained that goal, the troop guide is assigned to another leadership position within the troop, allowing the patrol to function independently.

## MEET YOUR STAFF

**Scoutmaster:** Wayne McLeland, Phoenix

**Asst. Scoutmaster, Program:**  
John Wisinger, Tall Timbers

**Asst. Scoutmaster, Troop Guides:**  
Bill Doss, Soaring Eagle

**Asst. Scoutmaster, Logistics:**  
Rich Harrison, Brazos

**Asst. Scoutmaster, Camping:**  
Tom White, Copperhead

**\*Senior Patrol Leader:** Chris Green, Big Cypress

**\*Asst. Senior Patrol Leader:** Cindy Scanland, Phoenix

**\*Troop Scribe:** Elizabeth Scherer, Texas Skies

**\*Quartermaster:** Michael Cawley, Phoenix

**\*Assistant Quartermaster:** Shawna Weston, Brazos

**\*Troop Guides:** Trish Baker, San Jacinto  
Joe Dante, Texas Skies  
Nina Dodgen, Flaming Arrow  
Mel Haynie, Soaring Eagle  
Abdu Kishk, Phoenix  
Ramage Milby, Orion  
Travis Sellers, David Crockett  
James Yaklin, Texas Skies

**Mentor:** Don Cullum, Aquilla

*\* Indicates youth leadership positions that will be modeled by the adult leaders of your Wood Badge staff.*

If you have any questions concerning Wood Badge or SHAC 17-2, contact:

**Wayne McLeland**  
**19307 Navarro Mills Drive, Tomball, TX 77375**  
**wayne.mcleland@sbcglobal.net 281-433-7535**

## NEXT ISSUE...

About three weeks prior to the course

- Check-in information
- Map to Bovay Scout Ranch
- Recommended equipment list
- Uniform information

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

**BSA Annual Health and Medical Form—Parts A, B and C are required for all participants and staff members, regardless of age.** Part C requires a medical exam within one year of the start of the Wood Badge course. Send medical forms to Wayne McLeland via U.S. mail prior to the course and bring copy to check-in.

**All fees are due 30 days prior to the start of the course.** Scholarships, grants, or loans are available through gifts designated for the council's Wood Badge scholarship fund. Scholarship requests should be made to Nathan Doherty, Program Director, at 713-598-4632.