

## Introduction to the Wood Badge Ticket

*...Wood Badge is the only activity I know where you need a ticket to get out!*

While preparing for your upcoming Wood Badge Course, you may have come across the term "Wood Badge Ticket". You may have even had a chance to talk with other Wood Badge trained Scouters who offered their own words of advice on the subject. There are also lots of internet sites full of information. Although given with good intentions, its best if you do not take any of these "tips" or other commentary too seriously.

The staff of your Wood Badge Course is committed to providing you with the most complete learning experience possible, and to helping you successfully complete the course. Everything you will need to know will be provided to you during the course activities. Since many participants find the Wood Badge Ticket to be the single most challenging aspect of the course, we hope the following information and exercises will help to guide your thoughts and help you to prepare for the experience.

### ***How is the Wood Badge Course organized?***

The Wood Badge course is composed of two distinct parts: the *instructional phase*, and the *application phase*. The instructional phase consists of the six days of scheduled course activities. During this time, you will learn the skills you will put to use during the application phase, which begins upon conclusion of the instructional phase and lasts up to 18 months. During the application phase, you will use your leadership skills to make meaningful improvements in your scouting unit or committee. Completion of both phases is required to receive your Wood Badge recognition.

### ***What is a Wood Badge Ticket?***

You will learn all about the Wood Badge Ticket on the first day of the course. Simply stated, the Ticket is a plan that you will write during the *instructional phase* that will guide you to the successful completion of the *application phase* of the course.

The Wood Badge Ticket has several other important features as well:

- It will help you to see planning and leadership in a way that's probably different than you have seen them before.
- It is a written personalized commitment to serve our youth by making specific and meaningful changes in your scouting unit.
- It will give you a new set of skills for you to use for planning as a leader in your family, business, religious organization, and community.

Because of these things, preparing and writing the Wood Badge Ticket will be different than other planning processes with which you are familiar. Many people who come to Wood Badge are already successful planners and leaders - and while at the course they want to try to continue to use the processes that have worked for them in the past. If the process appears different than what you are used to, we ask that you give it a chance. Remember, Tiger Woods was already a successful pro golfer when he realized that the only way to get even better was to completely change his golf swing. It wasn't easy and his record suffered for a while, but ultimately the change propelled him to greater heights.

*The best thing that you can bring with you to the Wood Badge course is an open mind.*

***What can I do before the course that will prepare me to write my ticket?***

Doing the following things before the course begins will put you ahead of the game when you arrive:

1. Know who you are - Complete the 20 questions exercise that you have received from our Scribe. Give yourself the time you need to do it right.
2. Know what you do - To be an effective leader you have to know your role or position. Know your primary scouting position. Choose only one position. If you have more than one position in Scouting, for the purpose of this course choose the one that has the greatest direct interaction with youth. If you do not know what your position is, contact the other adult leaders in your unit right away for clarification. Write you primary scouting position below.

My Primary Scouting Position is:

3. Know your current situation - What does your scouting organization look like today? What are its strengths and challenges?

Describe your organization in a short paragraph:

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the user to write a short paragraph describing their scouting organization.

4. Know what you want - Picture in your mind what your Troop, Pack, Crew or Committee would look like if everything was the best it could be. What would you see?

Describe that picture in the space below in 15 words or less. (Five words or less if you can!)

5. Bring these pages with you and be prepared to discuss what you have written on the first day of the course.

That's enough for now. Throughout the course you will be receiving additional material and instruction from staff members to guide you along the path of success. We are all looking forward to meeting you and working with you during your Wood Badge Course.