



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

SOUTHERN REGION
50 Chastain Center Blvd.
P.O. Box 440728
Kennesaw, Georgia 30144
770-421-1601

May 24, 2007

To: Southern Region Scout Executives

From: Jim Denny, Regional Wood Badge Chairman
Larry Mahoney, Associate Regional Director/Program

Subject: 2008 Wood Badge Courses and Course Directors

All Wood Badge courses must be conducted in accordance with the 21st Century Wood Badge program. Enclosed is a brief summary of the guidelines that will affect your request to conduct courses and your consideration of Scouters nominated to serve as course directors. **All course directors and backups for courses must have at least two staff experiences in the Wood Badge for the 21st Century course – one as a troop guide and one other required staff position.**

Requests to conduct a 2008 Wood Badge course and nominations for course director and back-up course director require approval of both the volunteer area coordinator and the area director. These requests are to be sent to the Southern Region Service Center no later than **June 30, 2007**. Courses and nominations for courses in January through April 2009 should also be submitted at this time. **Please submit request on the forms enclosed instead of the forms in the administration guide.** If a request comes in on the incorrect form the form will be returned resulting in a delay in processing. If you have already submitted a request for a 2008 Wood Badge Course on the form out of the administration guide please resubmit on the enclosed form. All Final Ticket Reports, which are due 18 months after the conclusion of the course, must be submitted to the Southern Region Service Center before new courses for a council will be approved.

Nominated course directors and back-up course directors are required to attend a regional course directors' development conference. The Southern Region will host two conferences in 2007. They will be held on October 19 and 20, 2007, at the Circle Ten Council, in Dallas, Texas and November 2 and 3, 2007, at the Atlanta Area Council Service Center, in Atlanta, Georgia. Councils may also elect to have the professional advisor and the council training chairman or Wood Badge coordinator attend the conference, but only if they have not attended a 21st Century Course Directors' Conference in the past. Conference materials, information and registration information will be mailed directly to the persons listed on the enclosed forms in late August.

Special consideration should be given to the selection of course director to be nominated. The nominee not only must be capable of giving direction to this important training activity, but must also be capable and willing to pledge to accept the **content and spirit of the syllabus** and implement the material as closely to the official material as possible. It is very important that this course be presented as designed and not be degraded by a mix of old Wood Badge habits and material.

Any questions may be directed to Larry Mahoney at the Southern Region Service Center. (770-421-1601)

Enclosures: Summary of Wood Badge Course Guidelines
Request for Authorization to Conduct a Wood Badge Course
Invitations to attend the 2007 Wood Badge Course Directors' Development Conferences.

Cc: Regional Area Directors
Regional Wood Badge Committee

Summary of Guidelines for Wood Badge Courses

Course Length

- Weeklong (Six consecutive days)
- Weekend (Two weekends of three full days each). At least two weekends between the two course sessions)

Staff Development

- Start a maximum of 90 days prior to course
- Formal staff development shall consist of three days of meetings. (One meeting may be overnight)

Course Director and Back-up Course Director

- Requirements for selection as course director shall consist of at least two staff experiences in the Wood Badge for the 21st Century course – one as a troop guide and one other **required** staff position.
- Must be a registered member of the Boy Scouts of America and a strong council supporter.
- Must be enthusiastic, open-minded, flexible, people-oriented and committed to implementing a Wood Badge for the 21st Century course in a positive manner.
- Must be a role model who is well respected by volunteers and professionals and must know and exemplify the Cub Scout Promise, Law of the Pack, Scout Oath, Scout Law, Varsity Scout Pledge, and Venturing Code.
- Must have extensive experience in several Scouting programs as either a volunteer Scouter or a BSA professional.
- Must be able to demonstrate a practical understanding of the role of the unit leader in effective unit operation. Must be capable of employing and teaching the leadership and team effectiveness concepts found in the Wood Badge for the 21st Century curriculum.
- Must sign the Course Director's Pledge
- Must actively recruit participants for the course and insist that staff does the same.
- A backup course director with the same qualifications should be selected. This individual should serve as one of the assistant Scoutmasters of the course.
- Must attend one of the Regional Wood Badge Course Directors' Conferences.
- An individual may serve as a course director only once, except in special circumstances, and then only with the approval of the area and region.

Staff

- By design the staff of a Wood Badge course is diverse.
- A mix of Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Venturing and District/Council Scouters is desired
- To the greatest extent possible, the staff should also represent the cultural diversity of the communities of the participants.

Participation

- Wood Badge is open to all Scouters; Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Varsity, Venturing and District/Council Scouters
- Prerequisites for attending are program specific and in accordance with the new Training Continuum.
- Scouters who have attended Wood Badge courses prior to 21st Century are eligible to attend.
- Each course must have at least 30 paid participants registered by 30 days prior to the beginning of the course.

Final Course Director & Back-up Course Director Approval

- Following the Course Directors' Development Conference, by the Area Coordinator

Facilities

- Councils should determine in advance if the first half of the course(s) will be conducted in a camp environment or in a conference facility. Also, consideration should be given to the method of meal preparation for the first half of the course.

Reports

- Course Directors are required to submit a Course Director's Closeout Report within 30 days of the close of a course, and a Final Ticket Report 18 months after the close of the course. These reports should be filed with the Southern Region with a copy to the Area Wood Badge Coordinator.
- New course for a council will only be approved if all outstanding Final Ticket Reports have been submitted to the Southern Region.