



How to be on Wood Badge Staff

Interested in serving on Wood Badge staff? If so you probably have lots of questions. Here's some answers to some commonly asked questions:

What do Wood Badge staff members do?

Staff members perform assigned roles during the course that emulate how a Cub Scout pack and Scouts BSA troop should function. They also train and facilitate the core skills that make up the Wood Badge curriculum. Wood Badge staff members volunteer their time and energy to conduct a top-level training experience. They are among the finest Scouters we have. They must be good presenters. And they must be selfless team members committed to Scouting's vision, mission, and values.

Wood Badge staff members contribute to the growth of each participant and the strength of all the participants' units. You make a big difference in the lives of many people, even though many of them may not get to know you. Staff members also benefit directly. You grow in leadership and in understanding of Scouting. The Wood Badge program is so extensive that, every time you staff, you learn more of what it has to offer.

How do I apply and get selected to be on Wood Badge Staff?

To be considered, you first must complete and submit a staff interest form for Wood Badge. This is located on the Samoset Council Wood Badge page. Staff is selected approximately 9 months prior to the start of the course. Those that are selected will be contacted by the Course Director with specifics on staff development meetings, roles, etc. The Wood Badge Course Director, following the BSA Wood Badge Administrative Guide, is responsible for selecting and recruiting their Wood Badge course staff.

The two most important factors that Course Directors take into account are skills as a trainer and the ability for the staff member to recruit people to attend Wood Badge as participants. When completing the Staff Application, please provide training courses you have helped staff, other experiences as a trainer or presenter, and any insight you can share into your ability to recruit people.

A Course Director has many considerations in building a council-wide diverse staff for a course, and most course Directors find there more people that want to be on staff than can be asked. Also, with the limited number of staff positions, Course Directors must ensure that at least one-third of their staff are first time staff members.

What requirements do I have to meet?

Course Directors select potential staff members and seek to build a diverse staff across Samoset Council who represent the different program areas (Cub Scouting, Scouts BSA, Venturing, and STEM) and who are involved at unit and council levels. To the greatest extent possible, the staff represents the cultural, experiential, and geographic diversity of the communities from which the participants are drawn. Course Directors use Wood Badge course rosters to help identify potential staff members and seek recommendations of previous Course Directors and the Council training committee.



To serve on a Wood Badge staff, a Scouter must

- Be a registered member of the Boy Scouts of America and strong supporter of the local council.
- Have completed a Wood Badge course and received their Wood Badge beads.
- Demonstrate the ability to train, to counsel, and to perform the specific skills, duties, and responsibilities of an assigned position.
- Be enthusiastic, open-minded, flexible, people-oriented, and committed to implementing the course in a positive manner and according to the curriculum and administrative guide.
- Be a role model, one who is well-respected by volunteers and professionals.
- Exemplify the Scout Oath and Scout Law.
- Be approved by the Scout Executive, Council Training Committee Chair, Wood Badge Council Coordinator, and Area and National offices of the Boy Scouts of America.
- Have participated in a Trainer's EDGE course within three years of the last day of the course
- Have a complete Annual BSA Health and Medical Record Parts A, B, and C

What is Expected of Staff?

Staffing Wood Badge is a very significant commitment. It takes a lot of time and heart. Wood Badge staffers must commit to participating in approximately 35-40 hours of staff development activities, which typically involves 4-5 eight-hour staff development sessions spread over several months and also includes at least one multi-day staff development session. In addition, Wood Badge staffers must commit to 2 four-day weekend sessions that require you to be on-site for the entire time and know a very complicated curriculum. Along with the expectations listed, every staff member is expected to participate and perform enthusiastically at his or her best, arrive promptly for everything, be prepared, be cheerful, wear uniforms correctly, help everyone else, and do whatever is necessary to support the success of the course including course set-up and take-down. Besides the training aspects, staff members are expected to recruit 2-3 participants.

Staff members are expected to:

- Make Wood Badge a Priority
- Participate in All the Staff Developments Sessions
- Prepare Your Presentations
- Recruit Participants
- Pay Staff Fees

If you have questions, contact the Samoset Council Wood Badge Coordinator or Council Training Committee Chair or email samosetwoodbadge@gmail.com.