



**Boy Scouts of America
Wood Badge
“Leadership for Scouting- Leadership for America “**

Information for Employers Regarding the BSA Wood Badge Leadership Development Program

Wood Badge is an advanced, national leadership course open only to Scouting volunteers and professionals. While it is rich in Scouting traditions and practices, participants will spend six full days and nights learning the modern theories related to leadership in an outdoor setting. The BSA Wood Badge course is modeled after contemporary business leaders such as Ken Blanchard, author of the *One Minute Manager* series, Stephen R. Covey, author of *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People* and *Principle-Centered Leadership*, and Spencer Johnson, author of *Who Moved My Cheese*.

The purpose of Wood Badge is to develop skilled leaders who can strengthen Scouting units in achieving the mission of the Boy Scouts of America. “The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.” Wood Badge achieves this purpose with a series of classroom lectures, games, hands-on activities in large and small groups as well as participant presentations. Each participant is also challenged with a personal project that entails of finding their vision and writing 5 goals related to that vision and their Scouting position that will strengthen their home Scouting unit. They are given 18 months to complete these goals as an application for the lessons taught during the weekend sessions.

The Wood Badge curriculum has five central themes that focus on different leadership concepts: Living the Values, Bringing the Vision to Life, Models for Success, Tools of the Trade, and Leading to Make a Difference. These are emphasized through a series of workshops: Listening to Learn, Communications, Managing Conflict, Leveraging Diversity Through Inclusiveness, Generations in Scouting, Problem Solving and Decision Making, Leading Change, Coach and Mentoring, Stages of Team Development, Leading EDGE, Teaching EDGE (Explain, Demonstrate, Guide, Enable), Servant Leadership, Values, Mission, and Vision, and Leaving a Legacy.

The BSA encourages Scout leaders to attend Wood Badge to assist in bringing their Purpose and Mission to fruition. These key leadership concepts also benefit other areas of the participant’s life; home, community, and employment. Leaders of many companies (such as IBM and Intel) have recognized the value this training is to their employees and many agree to pay the course fee and/or give time off as part of professional development and training plan.

If you would like more information or details about what BSA’s Wood Badge does for Scout leaders, please contact Josh Kirkham at jkirkham@atlantabsa.org or 770-989-2998.

Thank you,

Josh Kirkham
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