

## A WOOD BADGE TESTIMONIAL

I first heard about Wood Badge from a friend of mine, Ron Knapmiller, who had taken Wood Badge a couple of years before. I was new to Scouting, not starting until my son was 11 years old. The Scoutmaster was going to Scoutmaster Fundamentals (SMF) and encouraged me to go. When Ron was talking about Wood Badge, I expected an extension of Scoutmaster Fundamentals. The council was running a Wood Badge course in the fall of 1998, so I signed up for the course. While there were a few aspects of Wood Badge that were like SMF, much more was focused on leadership training, working on communication, leading by example, and many other valuable leadership skills. But more importantly, was the comradery and networking that came with the course. So many that were in that course are still involved with Scouting and are valued friends after 25 years.



The principles learned in Wood Badge are useful not only in Scouting, but also in so many areas of everyday life. I certainly wouldn't be the person I am today if it had not been for my Wood Badge experience. Because of Wood Badge, I was Scoutmaster, involved in seven courses, including being the course director of C-10-10, served on medical staff for two National Jamborees and continue to serve on the council board.

I cannot thank those who made me feel welcome to Scouting in my early years of leadership, enough.

Yours in Scouting,

Chester Hilton

For additional information about Wood Badge 2024, check out the Gateway Area Wood Badge web site at: <https://www.gatewayscouting.org/WoodBadge>

