

Wood Badge Testimonial

Greetings fellow Scouting volunteers! My name is Matt Pagliaro and I have been involved in Scouting for the past 35 years. As a youth, I participated in Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts (now Scouts BSA), and Order of the Arrow. Like many of you, I became an adult volunteer when my own children joined Cub Scouts. I am currently a Cubmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster, and I also lead the Gateway Scouting Roundtable Team.

I would like to take a moment to share an amazing training opportunity with you. Wood Badge is the highest level of training available for BSA volunteers. I took the course in 2019 because I wanted a more thorough and hands-on training experience. By taking the Wood Badge, I was able to have fun while making new connections with Scouters from Gateway Area Council and beyond, all while learning valuable leadership and interpersonal skills. For me, perhaps the most valuable takeaway from Wood Badge was that it helped me to develop a VISION for my unit and my leadership roles, and it gave me tools to put that vision into ACTION. It was one of the most enjoyable and valuable experiences I have had in Scouting!



If you have already taken a Wood Badge course, please encourage other Scouters to do the same. If you have not taken the course, I would like to invite you to join us in the Fall of 2024. The course is open to leaders and volunteers from Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, and Venturing. Regardless of your role in Scouting, you will benefit from taking Wood Badge!

Here are some more reasons why you should attend:

- **Stronger Units** – Strong leadership will make your Scouting unit and child’s unit stronger. Stronger units provide more opportunities and more fun for youth.
- **What and Why of Scouting** - Go way beyond Basic Leader Training – gain a deeper understanding of what Scouting is and why we do it. You will experience firsthand the Cub Scout and Scouts BSA programs from the perspective of a youth member. Understanding how both programs are connected and what the youth experience will allow you to create positive transitions and opportunities in your local Pack and Troop.
- **Experience** - Learn things that will stay with you in Scouting and other aspects of your life. Build skills in communication, conflict management and teaching methods.

- **Fun** - Have fun and meet new people. I maintain connections with several other adults that I met at Wood Badge.
- **Other Groups** – The skills you learn at Wood Badge will also make your other groups stronger - work, church, and even family.

These are just a few benefits of taking Wood Badge, and there are so many more! If you have questions, find someone who has taken the course. After talking to others who have attended, I'm sure you will want to experience Wood Badge for yourself!

In Scouting,

Matt Pagliaro