

The Last Two Days of Wood Badge



Though the training component of Wood Badge lasts only two weekends, that time can be pretty intense. There's a lot of material put in front of you along with lots of games and activities that are designed to reinforce that material. By simulating the journey of our youth in the scouting program, the Wood Badge course also speeds up the process of team-building. This allows the patrols to experience the 4 stages of team development during the relatively short time they are together.

Everything was new and exciting back on March 20th. You met your Den Chief who then shuttled you from one activity to another. Your Den became a Patrol and started to learn a bit about each other and maybe even at some point, personalities started to clash as different methods of communication and leadership came out.

There were presentations on subjects you hadn't heard about in Scout training before, like vision, leveraging diversity, and leading change. You learned some details about team formation and methods for teaching others. You learned the basics about listening and communication.

Continued . . .

Saturday, April 18, 2015

DAY FIVE SCHEDULE

- 7:00 a.m. Breakfast and Assessments
- 8:00 a.m. Gilwell Field Assembly
- 8:30 a.m. Coaching and Mentoring
- 9:20 a.m. Break
- 9:30 a.m. Conservation Project

11:30 a.m. – Self-Assessment

- Noon Lunch and PLC Meeting
- 1:00 p.m. Project Setup and Break
- 1:30 p.m. Project Presentations Bobwhite, Eagle Fox, and Owl
- 2:45 p.m. Project Setup and Break
- 3:15 p.m. Project Presentations Bear, Buffalo Antelope, and Beaver
- 4:00 p.m. Ticket Review and Staff Departure
- 5:30 p.m. Patrol Dinner
- 7:00 p.m. Patrol Meeting/Patrol Project Self-Assessment
- 8:00 p.m. Patrol Campfires and Cracker Barrels

The Last Two Days of Wood Badge - continued

As your patrol worked together on your patrol project and flag, you started to know more about each other and discover the value in the diversity of your unique skills.

So, here we are in Weekend Two with only two more days left to go. Most patrols are working pretty well together and are starting to enjoy each other's company. Your Troop Guide is able to pull away as your patrol is able to lead itself. After all, the Troop has made great progress in a very short time.

Early this evening of Day 5, many tickets will be revised, polished, and signed off - and then the staff will depart, leaving the Troop on its own. Tonight's final patrol campsite dinners and evening campfires are opportunities for reflection and celebration. You'll even find patrols joining together in celebration. Despite all the hot air that everyone blows about their own critter, we're all Wood Badgers here.

The shared experience of going through Wood Badge creates many lasting friendships. We are a troop of diverse and different people, but every one of us has the common bond of scouting. During these last two days, take time to enjoy your final hours in this very special situation. Meet as many of your fellow scouters in Troop 1 as you can. You will never come across a better group of people anywhere.



Patrol Horoscopes

Beavers

You will be on your way to a meeting next week when you will be struck by an odd thought. Fortunately it will bounce harmlessly off your head.

Bobwhites

Everything you read today may turn out to be a complete sham, or alternatively contain very insightful details that you've been looking for.

Eagles

There are lots of great ideas screaming to be let out of your head. Let them free, and they'll scream in other people's heads too.

Foxes

Try as they might, the stars see no point in telling you about the near future as you'll do whatever you darn well please anyway.

Owls

It's important to remember this week that when life gives you lemons, make lemonade. Then quickly, while life least expects it, throw that lemonade right in life's spiteful face.

Bears

Many things that people say over the coming days will seem nonsensical, but may start to make sense towards the end of 18 months.

Buffaloes

Romance is in the air today, just over northern France. Too bad you're not near the north of France because that would really be something to see.

Antelopes

Dogs can be man's best friend or woman's best friend. They can also be a child's best friend, or even a cat's best friend. Dogs are awesome.

A Scoutmaster's Reward

A man dared to tell me once that he was the happiest man in the world! I had to tell him of one who was still happier - myself.

You need not suppose that either of us in attaining this happiness had never had difficulties to contend with. Just the opposite.

It is the satisfaction of having successfully faced difficulties and borne pin-pricks that gives completeness to the pleasure of having overcome them.

Don't expect your life to be a bed of roses; there would be no fun in it if it were.

So, in dealing with the Scouts, you are bound to meet with disappointments and setbacks. Be patient: more people ruin their work or careers through want of patience than do so through drink or other vices. You will have to bear patiently with irritating criticisms and red tape bonds to some extent but your reward will come.



The satisfaction which comes of having tried to do one's duty at the cost of self-denial, and of having developed characters in the boys which will give them a different status for life, brings such a reward as cannot well be set down in writing. The fact of having worked to prevent the recurrence of those evils which, if allowed to run on, would soon be rotting our youth, gives a man the solid comfort that he has done something, at any rate, for his country, however humble may be his position.

This is the spirit with which Scoutmasters and Commissioners, Committeemen, instructors, organizers and secretaries-the word "Scouter" describes them all-work in the Boy Scout Movement.

The credit for the Organization and the spread of the Scout Movement is due to this army of voluntary workers. Here we have remarkable if silent evidence of the fine patriotic spirit that lies beneath the surface of most nations. These men give up their time and energies, and in many cases their money as well, to the work of organizing the training of boys, without any idea of reward or praise for what they are doing, They do it for the love of their country and their kind.

- Baden Powell of Gilwell

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PATROL ARTICLES

Beaver Patrol

The Beaver Patrol is excited to be back at Wood Badge for Weekend 2 of NO FUN!

It was great to meet up as a patrol and make our way to our camp. We all came together and got our site setup quickly.

We have all of our tickets filled out and are eagerly waiting to submit those for approval this morning.

The Beavers are also excited to work with the troop as we get to work with wood during the service project.

Back to Gilwell, Happy Land - we're going to work our tickets if we can.

Bobwhite Patrol

The Bobwhite Patrol did not submit an article.

Guess we'll have to embrace the suck.

Eagle Patrol

On Day 4 the Eagles swooped in to setup camp while the Bobwhites fluttered through the underbrush.

- Cullin Hall

Swamp Fox Day 4

The Swamp Fox Patrol had a great month and patrol meeting between the Wood Badge weekends to keep our synergy going. We have many accomplishments behind us now and functioning at the "performing" level as a productive team. We are as excited as a Fox can be as we return to Gilwell for our second Wood Badge weekend.

As the rain broke this morning, the sun began to shine on our troop as we setup our camp and transitioned to full ticket mode on the trail in our Journey to Excellence. That being said, we only have one thing to say . . .

Hey - Mr. Scoutmaster! What did the Fox say? Ring-a-ding-ding-ding!

Owl Patrol

Today, Troop 1 seized the opportunity during the problem solving round robin to display their mad skills at each station. We certainly have a lot of great ideas for fun and challenging activities for our Troops and Packs. The Owls particularly enjoyed solving the spider web challenge and demonstrating their aerial prowess.

Thanks to all the Patrols for showing off their Scout Spirit and great talents at the campfire. We're looking forward to an Owltstanding Saturday.



W & O

PATROL ARTICLES

Bearing Forward

The Bears are glad that lunch/everyone came back for Weekend 2. As we learned to deal with conflict and to work as a group, we ask you to remember to lower your our lunch bags down.

> Coming together is a beginning Keeping together is progress Working together is success

> > - Henry Ford

Remember to keep an eye on the sky, its not if you're going to get wet this weekend, when.

Day 4 - The Mighty Buffalo

First day back at Gilwell and all the staff and patrols are gathered in. Everyone is excited because the bar has been raised! Expectations of what we will take away from this week have grown. Patrols have met and carried on with instruction we have been given. The herd is a little wary as we work to grow our abilities to guide and protect our young even embracing our rising leaders. We are learning from all - each experience grows our herd.

One of the biggest ideas that we realize is change - even our environment is coming to all. We must adapt and encourage all our members to remain engaged in the communities and units in which we live and grow. Such is the need and times in which we live, where so many want to destroy and weaken our combined intertwined lives.

We must continue to grow together all generations benefitting the whole. May we

take away from our experience here those experiences, ties, and relationships that make us all stronger. Long Live the Buffalo! Tatanka!

Antelope Report - Day 4

Early Friday morning, the herd of Mighty Antelopes arrived at Gilwell ready to trample the rest of the Wood Badge Patrols. We eagerly drank in the methods of leading change. After a sumptuous lunch, we learned about generational differences in Scouting.

During the Round Robin problem solving excercises, through teamwork and forward thinking, we absolutely dominated, once again reinforcing the fact that the Mighty Antelope is, indeed, the superior Wood Badge species.

After successfully solving conflict, we retired to our campsite to dine together while having our patrol meeting. Finally, we put the finishing touches on the masterpieces that are our world-changing ticket items.



Dear Scribey,

So what did the Staff think of last night's campfire program? Was it fun? What do the staff really think of us?



Signed - Baiting with Weighted Breath

The general consensus of the staff is: it was an outstanding campfire program you scouts put on last night, Baity. Thank you very much, the Staff enjoyed it! It was both fun and meaningful. Now you can take that experience and do something similar for your home unit's outdoor experience.

After the fun last night, today will be another fun-filled day as the staff are all looking forward to learning from each patrol when they do their patrol presentations this afternoon. We can't wait to see all the patrols humming like a fine tuned engine. Remember, it's all about working together, having fun, and keeping up that scouting spirit!

Tonight is your last night together as a patrol. Tomorrow we will say our goodbyes. Some may never set foot on Gilwell Field again, but your memories should be fond and strong enough enough to carry you forward in Scouting and in life.

Some of you, after you complete your ticket, may be asked to join a future Wood Badge staff. I hope you would accept that challenge. I've certainly found it to be a LOT MORE WORK than I ever imagined it would be, but it's also been deeply meaningful. It's made me appreciate the wonderful staff I had for my own Wood Badge course more.

I'm honored to have served you and been a small part of the incredible staff of S5-420-15. Troop 1, you are an awesome collection of scout leaders.

- John Green, Scribe

Waite Phillips On Leadership

The boss drives his men; the leader coaches them.

The boss inspires fear; the leader inspires enthusiasm.

The boss says "I"; the leader says "We."

The boss assigns tasks; the leader sets the pace.

The boss says "Get here on time!"; the leader gets there ahead of time.

The boss fixes blame for the breakdown; the leader fixes the breakdown.

The boss knows how it's done; the leader shows how.

The boss makes work a drudgery; the leader makes it a game.

The boss says "Go!"; the leader says "Let's go!"



Waite Phillips, donated Philmont to the BSA.