



Dear (Participant),

I am pleased to welcome you to the upcoming Wood Badge for the 21st Century course and to acknowledge receipt of your application. Let me give you an overview to help you prepare for the course.

First, please do the following before August 1st, 2010:

1. Ensure your full course fee, \$250, has been paid. Payments should be made directly to the Great Southwest Council, 5841 Office Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109-5820.
2. Send your completed medical form to the Great Southwest Council (attached).
3. For planning purposes, please let me know of any special dietary or physical limitations.

Note: We cannot allow you to participate in this course without a current, complete medical form.

The course requires participating in two three-day training events, and you must attend both events. The dates for the events are:

Thursday, September 9th, 2010 to Saturday, September 11th, 2010.
Thursday, September 23rd, 2010 to Saturday, September 25th, 2010.

On both weekends the course will start at 8 A.M. on Thursday and conclude at 5 P.M. on Saturday. In addition, you will have one or two patrol meetings between the two training events. The date and time will be established by your patrol. You will be assigned to a patrol when you arrive on the first weekend.

The first weekend the course will be held at the Rancho del Chaparral Girl Scout Camp near Cuba, NM. A map to the camp is attached. I have also attached a suggested equipment list to assist you in planning. For the first weekend, we will be staying in shelters in the camp so a sleeping bag or blankets and a pad will be required, but there will be no need to bring a tent. Most of the time will be filled with instruction and activities involving various leadership development skills. All of your meals will be prepared by staff members.

The second weekend of the course will take place at Camp Frank Rand at the Gorham Scout Ranch, near Chimayo, NM. A map to this camp is also attached. This portion of the course will take place in an outdoor setting, where you will camp and cook as a member of your patrol, using the principles of Leave No Trace. A tent will be required for this weekend. Participants are encouraged to hike in from the parking lot to their campsite; however, alternative transportation will be available for anyone that needs it.



During the Wood Badge course, please wear the uniform of your position in Scouting. If you serve in more than one position (for example, as both an Assistant Scoutmaster and a Cubmaster), wear the uniform representing the position in which you are most active. Enclosed with this letter is a BSA Uniform Inspection Sheet. Please inspect your uniform before coming to the Wood Badge course and make any corrections. Should you have any questions, refer to the current BSA *Insignia Guide*, No. 33066. In addition to your official uniform, you may at times during the course wear an “activity uniform” consisting of uniform pants (short or long) and a Scout-themed t-shirt or knit shirt. Non-Scouting shirts are not acceptable. Also, in commemoration of the 100th Year of Scouting, we’ve created a special Centennial Wood Badge version of the Council shoulder strip. As a course participant your course fee includes one of these patches, which we’ve included in this letter. You are not required to wear it on your uniform, but if you wish to you can wear it in place of your existing Council shoulder strip. Additional patches can be purchased at the Scout Office: \$10 for one, or \$15 for two. Proceeds will go to help provide scholarships for Wood Badge courses.

During the course we ask that you not carry any cellular telephones, beepers, pagers, radios, MP3 players, or any other devices that might interrupt the course and your experience. For emergencies only, you may be reached by contacting the scout office, 505-345-8603, ext 100, and they will be able to contact the course location and relay the message.

To help you begin considering issues that will be important during the course, please set aside time in the coming weeks to consider and answer the 20 questions on the enclosed sheet. The assignment is to your benefit; no one but you will see your answers.

I would also like to let you know that much of this, and additional, information is also available on the course website, at <http://woodbadge.gileszone.com/>, under the “Participant Resources” link. I encourage you to visit the website and familiarize yourself with its contents.

If you have any questions, feel free to call me at 505-750-8633, or via email at todd.giles@gmail.com. I join with the rest of the Wood Badge Staff in welcoming you to the upcoming course. I am certain it will be a mountaintop experience for all of us.

Yours in Scouting,

Todd Giles
Wood Badge Course Director
WE6-412-10