Wood Badge - After the Course

Here is some information for participants after the completion of the Wood Badge Course.

What Happens When Life Gets in the Way of Scouting?

First, remember that you can modify your ticket goals if necessary. The most common reason for that is that you're scouting position changes. Additionally, sometimes a ticket goal involves more time than it originally seemed, or the goal is no longer necessary, or final approval to complete the goal is taking too long. No matter the cause, if you need to change your ticket item(s), contact your Troop Guide ASAP. Your Troop Guide will ask you to submit a revised write-up, complete with "who, what, where..." as well as SMART. Please remember: a change in one or more ticket goals does not change the completion time (a maximum of 18 months after completion of the last day of the Wood Badge Course.

Can I get an extension to the 18-month period? The Course Director has limited authority to grant an extension to the original 18-month period, for extenuating circumstances. Contact your Troop Guide if an extension is required.

What if you can't communicate with your Troop Guide? What if he or she fell off the face of the earth? Sometimes that happens, and it's not a problem. Well, not for you, though things may be awkward for the Troop Guide who fell off the face of the earth. Anyway, contact your Course Director, who will assign you another Troop Guide. If you are unable to reach your Course Director either, contact the Council Training Chairman.

If you move out of the geographic area of the Council before completing your Ticket, your Course Director will work with the Training Chairman of your new council to make sure you can still complete your Ticket and receive your beads. Work with your Troop Guide to begin the process.

How Do I Get My Beads?

When you have determined that you are finished working your Wood Badge Ticket, contact your Troop Guide. Your Troop Guide will talk with you a bit about your Ticket. When you and your Troop Guide agree that you're done, contact your Course Director to arrange for a Beading Ceremony. It is up to you to arrange a time and place, and to let the Course Director know, well in advance. The presentation can be most anything but do not request the Course Director to just mail the beads to you. The ceremony can be at any suitable event – a Pack meeting, Troop Court of Honor, Camporee, Council Training Event, Roundtable, or even a simple campfire. It is up to you to invite family, friends, other members of your

Wood Badge Patrol, etc. Your Course Director will also notify other staff members of your ceremony, who will attend as they are able.

Wearing the Wood Badge Beads

After your beads are presented, you wear them only with the field uniform – the main "official" uniform, with the khaki or yellow or green shirt. You do not wear your beads with activity uniforms, t-shirts, or any civilian wear. (If you are wearing the beads and then decide to take off the field uniform shirt and just wear a t-shirt, you can tuck the beads under the t-shirt so they don't show but they also don't get lost.)

You may wear your beads with the Gilwell neckerchief (dove-grey with MacLaren tartan patch) and Turk's head knot woggle, or with your troop/district/OA neckerchief and slide, or you may wear your beads with no neckerchief. For formal events, you would typically wear your beads with the Gilwell neckerchief and woggle.

Wearing the Gilwell neckerchief and woggle are more limited. They stay together. You don't wear the Gilwell neckerchief with a different slide, and you don't wear the woggle with a different neckerchief. And if you wear them, you need to wear the beads, too.

Wood Badge beads are always worn on a leather thong which is tied in an overhand knot. When worn with a neckerchief, the thong is placed under the shirt collar, followed by the neckerchief; thus the thong is worn under the neckerchief. The beads are then brought in front of the neckerchief and displayed below the woggle. Some Scouters thread the thong through the woggle before placing around the neck. If you cross the beads under the woggle and pull the ends of the neckerchief through loop formed, then the beads will appear immediately under the woggle without shifting.

Wood Badge is Not the End

"The Gilwell scarf does not entitle you to consider yourself as a thing apart. Your Troop or District must as much as ever command your first allegiance." ~ Baden-Powell, in the Headquarters Gazette of October 1923. Wood Badge is for the rest of your life. Work your Ticket right away, of course. Try to finish within nine months to a year. You are allowed to take up to 18 months, but try not to take that long. You know how Scouts have to get Eagle by age 18? Well, you have to finish your Ticket by 18 (months).

Do it;
Do it right;
Do it right now.
It's Your Turn