

WOOD BADGE HISTORY TIMELINE

1936: Gilwell Camp Chief John Skinner Wilson conducts Experimental Scout and Rover Wood Badge courses at Schiff Scout Reservation, New Jersey.

1948: First official BSA Wood Badge courses held, one at Schiff and one at Philmont. Scouting legend William “Green Bar Bill” Hillcourt serves as Scoutmaster at both nine-day courses.

1948-1958: Mostly national courses conducted, all run with oversight of the BSA’s Volunteer Training Division.

1953-54: A few councils allowed to hold their own courses, including one in Cincinnati in 1953 and one in Washington, D.C., in 1954.

1958-72: Two variations of the course exist: a national one for trainers and a sectional one for Scoutmasters, commissioners and other local Scouters. The courses focus exclusively on Scoutcraft skills, the patrol method and requirements a boy would need to earn First Class.

1964: The BSA evaluates leadership skills offered in a junior leader-training course from the Monterey Bay Council, Calif., called White Stag.

1967-72: The BSA conducts experimental courses that add leadership skills to Wood Badge.

1975: First Wood Badge course held in the Gulf Stream Council. SE-93 – Bill Wagner.

1973-2002: All Boy Scout Wood Badge courses held nationwide move to leadership development format and away from Scoutcraft.

1974: First weekend courses held (previous courses take place over consecutive days).

1976: First women attend Boy Scout Wood Badge.

1976-1999: Cub Trainer Wood Badge courses held nationwide.

1997: Discussions begin to revise Wood Badge and offer one course for all programs.

1980: First woman staff Gulf Stream Council Boy Scout Wood Badge. June Fox -- SE-254 – George Border.

1980: First women attend Gulf Stream Council Boy Scout Wood Badge. SE-254 – George Border.

2000: Two pilot Wood Badge for the 21st Century courses held —the Florida Sea Base & Philmont.

2001: National Wood Badge for Vietnamese Scout Leaders held at Camp Tanah-Keeta.

2002: First Gulf Stream Council Wood Badge to have 100% participant ticket completion. SR-434 – Tom Peer.

2002-today: BSA requires all councils teach the course.

2003: First Gulf Stream Council Wood Badge course not held entirely on council property. SR-517 – Bob Katz.

2005: Bill Wagner is presented the *Bill Wagner Spirit of Wood Badge Award*. Award is presented annually thereafter.

2006: First female course director in Gulf Stream Council. SR-743 – Jane Forbes.