

## Sample Bead Presentation Script

### Ceremony Assignments

- Two escorts
- Person to remove Troop 1 neckerchief
- Person to present Wood Badge neckerchief
- Person to present woggle
- Person to present beads (should have them around his or her own neck)

*(Tell the team members that you will explicitly tell them when to perform their function during the ceremony; therefore they need not worry about missing a cue.)*

## Introduction to the Presentation Ceremony

### Explanation of Wood Badge

*(Intended for general information, especially if non—Wood Badge people are present.)*

**MASTER OF CEREMONIES:** “Wood Badge is designed to be advanced leadership training for Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, and Venturing adult leaders at the unit, district, council, and professional levels, taught in the living experience of a Boy Scout troop employing the patrol method.

“As the result of attending Wood Badge, participants will be able to:

- View Scouting globally as a family of interrelated, values-based programs that provide age-appropriate activities for youth.
- Recognize the contemporary leadership concepts utilized in corporate America and leading government organizations that are relevant to our values-based movement.

- Apply the skills they learn from their participation as a member of a successful working team.
- Revitalize their commitment by sharing in an overall inspirational experience that helps provide Scouting with the leadership it needs to accomplish its mission on an ongoing basis.

“The course follows the following central themes:

- Living the Values
- Bringing the Vision to Life
- Models for Success
- Tools of the Trade
- Leading to Make a Difference

“The Wood Badge program consists of two phases: the learning experience and the application phase.

- The learning experience is set in an indoor and an outdoor environment where the course reflects unit meetings and a unit camping activity. The Boy Scout troop simulation provides the frame work in witch to practice the leadership skills introduced in the course. A natural bridge between the various Scouting programs is modeled.
- The application phase involves the participant’s commitment to complete a set of personal goals relating to his or her Scouting position. This commitment is known as “the Wood Badge ticket.” In addition to strengthening the program in which the participant is involved, the ticket provides the opportunity to practice and demonstrate a working knowledge of the leadership skills presented during the course.

“When the participant has fulfilled the terms of his or her ticket, the Wood Badge recognition is presented.”

## How Wood Badge Began

**MASTER OF CEREMONIES:** “Baden-Powell, the founder of Boy Scouting, began the training of adult Scouters in 1911 by organizing a series of lectures. In 1919, he made a further advance in Scouter training by devising and instituting the Wood Badge experience. He said, ‘One of the purposes of Wood Badge training is to get Scouters to think about the practice of Scouting, to meet together, to exchange experiences, and to live together in the spirit of the Scout Oath.’

“The Scouter to whom the Wood Badge has been awarded is entitled to membership in the first Gilwell Park Scout Group. Membership of the group numbers in the tens of thousands; all are Scouters who have rededicated their service to Scouting through membership in the International Gilwell Park Scout Group. These Scouters are to be found today in more than 100 countries and on every continent of the world. Wood Badge training is now accepted throughout the world. It is covered by an International Training Center for Scouting at Gilwell Park, and in other countries as designated by the Scout World Bureau. Teams of selected Scouters offer Wood Badge courses in most Scouting countries. Wood Badge training forms an important link in the world brotherhood of Scouting. Scouters who take part in it are expressing in a practical way their belief in the brotherhood of Scouting. We are gathered here to recognize such a

person (persons)—Scouter(s) \_\_\_\_\_—who has (have) made this commitment and completed all of the steps to reach this point.”

## The Ceremony

**MASTER OF CEREMONIES:** “Would the award team now take their places?”

*(Call by name as they come forward.)*

**MASTER OF CEREMONIES:** “Would escorts (call by name) please bring forward our recipient(s) (call by name) to be recognized?”

*(Speaker turns and faces the recipient(s). Address them by name.)*

**MASTER OF CEREMONIES:** “*(Call recipients’ name(s))*, you have come a long way since you arrived at the training site and began your Wood Badge experience. In that course, you were introduced to many leadership and Scouting skills, and you wrote a ticket that was your

commitment to put into practice what you had learned. You also set certain goals, which you expected to accomplish. During the application period, you were coached and counseled by a Scouter, and together, you evaluated your progress. Finally, you and your coach/counselor agreed that those leadership skills had become a way of life for you and that you had reached your goals. Your counselor then recommended that you be awarded your beads.”

*(Speaker turns back and faces the audience.)*

**MASTER OF CEREMONIES:** “To prepare a candidate for acceptance into Wood Badge, we must first remove the Troop 1 neckerchief. This neckerchief has symbolized service to all that have seen it worn: service to the unit, the district, and the council. Wherever Scouters gather, at camporees, summer camp, Order of the Arrow—look around—there’s a Troop 1 neckerchief at work. To the candidate, the Troop 1 neckerchief is a reminder of so much more: of joining together as a den, bridging to become a Scout, coming together as a patrol and as a team, and experiencing a Venturing ceremony; learning skills, working and camping together, and growing in Scout spirit. So well have these Troop 1 neckerchiefs served that now they need not be retired, but rather they may now be worn with pride any time the Wood Badge Scouter answers the call for service.

“Please remove the Troop 1 neckerchief(s).”

*(Assigned team member does so.)*

## **The Meaning of the Neckerchief**

**MASTER OF CEREMONIES:** “When Wood Badge started in 1919, Mr. W. F. MacLaren, a district commissioner in Scotland, purchased Gilwell Park near London, England, and presented it to the Scouting Association as a training center. We honor him by wearing a patch of the MacLaren hunting tartan upon the neckerchief.

“Please present the Wood Badge neckerchief(s).”

*(Assigned team member does so.)*

## The Meaning of the Woggle

**MASTER OF CEREMONIES:** “In England, from patrol leaders to adults, all are recognized according to their position in Scouting by using various colors of woggles. Wood Badge Scouters the world over are recognized by a two-strand leather woggle.

“Please present the Wood Badge woggle(s).”

*(Assigned team member does so.)*

## The Meaning of the Beads

**MASTER OF CEREMONIES:** “Wood Badge is named for the badge given those who successfully complete the entire experience. The badge now consists of two wooden beads, worn on a leather thong around the neck. These are replicas of a bead necklace obtained in 1888 by Baden-Powell while he was serving in the military in Africa. In looking for a suitable recognition for the Scouters who completed the first course in 1919, Baden-Powell remembered the necklace and decided to give a bead to each of the participants. At this time the name Wood Badge became attached to the course.

“Please present the Wood Badge beads.”

*(Assigned team member does so.)*

### **Conclusion of Ceremony**

**MASTER OF CEREMONIES:** “It has been said that Wood Badge is the peak Scouting training experience. This may be true, but it is much more. It is a commitment—a commitment to lifelong learning, a commitment made by a candidate, toward service to Scouting and its ideals, and to one’s self. Every Scouter accepted for a Wood Badge course subscribes to this commitment both in words and deeds.

“In the words of Baden-Powell, ‘In every country the aim of the Scout’s training is identical. Namely, efficiency for service toward others; and with such and object in common, we can, as an international brotherhood of service, go forward and do far-reaching work.’

“The Wood Badge award carries with it a certificate that reads: Wood Badge, given by Boy Scouts of America, in recognition of completing the National Wood Badge requirements. It is signed by Wayne Brock, the Chief Scout Executive.”

*(Present the certificate.)*

**MASTER OF CEREMONIES:** “And now we would like to invite all Wood Badgers to come up for congratulations.”