



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

Dear Employer,

This past month, your employee participated in Wood Badge, the Boy Scouts of America's advanced leadership training course. On behalf of the Scouts and Scouters of the Boy Scouts of America, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to share important information about this exciting training session that impacted your employee and, I believe, will also impact your company.

Wood Badge for the 21st Century is advanced leadership training for Scout leaders. The course draws upon some of the most current leadership models used by corporate America and in academic circles and successful leadership organizations throughout the country, presenting the latest in leadership theory and team development. Wood Badge is more than just mechanical coursework; it is the embodiment of scouting spirit. Like many intense training experiences, Wood Badge relies on a busy schedule forcing the participants to work together, organize and develop an enthusiasm and team spirit to accomplish the tasks and challenges placed before them. Carried out in the context of Scouting ideals and service to young people, the course brings out a deep dedication and spirit of brotherhood and fellowship in most participants.

Part of the success of the Wood Badge training is that participants "live the training" for the six days of the course. As individuals learn about being a part of a highly effective team, each person is a part of a team with goals and projects to accomplish, in a real live experience! Participants also learn team and leadership skills and experience the roles of team member and team leader. The combination of classroom style learning coupled with experiential learning provides each person with many opportunities to exhibit their knowledge of the skills that they are receiving. Wood Badge concentrates on five central themes that encapsulate the course content:

- 1) Living the Values
  - a. Values, Mission, and Vision
  - b. Aims and Methods
- 2) Models for Success
  - a. Stages of Team Development
  - b. Situational Leadership
- 3) Tools of the Trade
  - a. Project Planning and Problem Solving
  - b. Managing Conflict
  - c. Leading Change
- 4) Bringing the Vision to Life
  - a. Listening to Learn
  - b. Communicating
  - c. Giving and Receiving Feedback
  - d. Leveraging Diversity through Inclusiveness
  - e. Coaching and Mentoring
- 5) Leading to Make a Difference
  - a. Leaving a Legacy

Additionally, these skills are Taught and Practiced

- Communication Skills Conflict Resolution
- Project Planning
- Problem Solving
- Stages of Team Development Listening Skills
- Presentation Skills

The training materials included resources from renowned authors and leadership experts such as Ken Blanchard, Stephen Covey and Max De Pree. Courses of this caliber usually require more time away from work, cost far more than this one did, and, in my opinion, would not have been as highly effective as Wood Badge!

In addition to the incredible content presented in the Wood Badge course, your employee was introduced to some of the senior leaders and philanthropists behind the Scouting movement's recent transformative commitments and growth. I encourage you to discuss this experience with your employee and learn first-hand the impact the training and overall experience had in developing their leadership abilities even further.

I was blessed to serve as the Course Director of this Wood Badge course at the Summit Bechtel Reserve and would be more than happy to answer any questions you might have about your employee's experience. But I wanted to personally thank you for your support and belief in your employee. I believe that both your organization and ours will benefit from their experience.

All the best,

John F. Stewart

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