

The Gilwell Gazette



The Official Newsletter of the 12-615-21 Badge Course

Precourse Issue #2

Looking
Forward To
Your Arrival!

When you arrive
report to the
**Wood Badge
Welcome Site.**
(See map on page 2)

Weekend #1: September 10—12

Camp Mountaineer

Arrive on

Friday September 10 at 7:00 am
and stay through

Sunday September 12 at 5:15 pm

Weekend 2: October 9—10

Camp Mountaineer

Arrive on Saturday

October 9 at 7:00 am

and stay through

Sunday October 10 at 4:30 pm

**Your attendance at all
sessions is mandatory
to complete the course.**

MEET OUR WOODBADGE STAFF



Brian Westfall, Scoutmaster and Course Director

Brian currently serves as the District Chair for the Heart of West Virginia District.

An Eagle Scout, Brian has over 45 years of Scouting experience and has served in a variety of positions at the unit, district, council, and area level. He has staffed Wood Badge courses in five councils, including the first 21st

Century course held in West Virginia.

Brian comes from a Scouting family. His wife, Valerie is Quartermaster on the course; and his stepson, David, is an Eagle Scout.

Patrick D Bowen, Assistant Scoutmaster for Program and Assistant Course Director

Patrick is an Advisor to the Council, Past Council President, Properties VP, 3 Bead Wood Badge Staffer, Past County FOS Chair, served as Assistant Scoutmaster, Cubmaster, Den Leader, and currently serves as Shooting Sports Committee Chair.

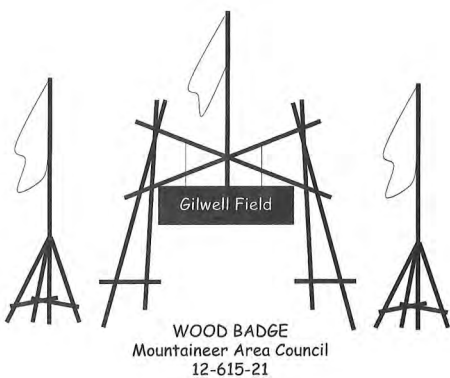


Meet your Staff continues on page three



Remember to bring your Annual Health & Medical Record —

Each person attending Wood Badge must bring a current BSA Annual Health and Medical Records Form (Parts A, B, & C) with them as well as a copy (front and back) of your insurance card. The physical must be valid through the end of the course October 10, 2021.





John Sausen , Assistant Scoutmaster for Physical Arrangements

John is a retired Architect who has been with Scouting since Cub Scouts. He is married to Anne, retired Kindergarten teacher, and has a son Garrett, Eagle Scout, and daughter, Emily, and has 3 grandchildren and another one on the way. John is also an Eagle Scout and Vigil Honor in the OA and has had great experiences in Scouting. He has been to Philmont for 6 treks, 2 Jamborees and served on the 2015 Jamboree Staff. He has also served on the He is a Merit Badge Counselor for Architecture, Stamp Collecting, Pioneering, Wilderness Survival, Hiking, Camping and Computers to indicate his interests. John has served on the Mountaineer Area Council Board in many capacities over the years in Finance, Facilities, and as Council President. He also serves on a BSA National Subcommittee for Alumni. John participated in Wood Badge in 2008 and served on Wood Badge Staff in 2009 and is really looking forward to this year's course. Of great joy is grandson, Griffin, has just joined Scouting as a Lion Cub.

The Last Surviving Person To Attend The First Wood Badge Course Died In 2004

Don Potter was 17 years old when he staffed the first Wood Badge course in 1919. During his life,



he became a prolific artist and sculptor. Potter decorated many buildings and gateways around Gilwell Park, including the iconic wooden gates at the entrance to Gilwell.

When he died in 2004 at age 102, Potter was the last surviving person to have attended the 1919 Wood Badge course.

The first Wood Badge course ran from Sept. 8–19, 1919. That's 12 days.

(more to come in next edition of the Gazette)

Valerie Westfall, Quartermaster



Valerie currently serves as the District Roundtable Commissioner for the Heart of West Virginia District.

Valerie has over 35 years of Scouting experience, and has served in a variety of positions at the unit, district, and council levels. She is a long-time staff member at Camp Mountaineer, and you may remember her as Shooting Sports Director, or more recently, Trading Post Manager. She has previously staffed Wood Badge courses in three different councils.

Valerie comes from a Scouting family. She is the mother and wife of Eagle Scouts, which makes her very proud.

She is a retired educator and resides in Fairmont.



Steve Blosser, Senior Patrol Leader

Steve has been involved in Scouting for almost 25 years. He has a very supportive wife, Lori, and 2 sons Cody 17, and Chase 15. Cody is currently working on his Eagle project. He is the current Scoutmaster for Troop 120B in Fairmont. Over those years he has held many roles as a youth and adult. He started his time in Scouting with troop 67 in Mountaineer Area Council as a youth; during that time he was fortunate to attend the National Jamboree and go to Philmont in New Mexico. He earned his Eagle in 1991 to finish out his Scouting experience as a youth.

After college Steve moved to King, North Carolina and joined troop 409 in the Old Hickory Council as an Assistant Scoutmaster. On the District level he attended Commissioner College and became the Unit Commissioner for 4 units, and he sat on the district's Eagle Board. On the Council level he was

on the Council Training Team and codirected the Junior Leader Training, today's version of NYLT. He completed his Wood Badge training in 2001

He moved back to West Virginia and joined Pack 120 as a Wolf Den Leader and later became the Assistant Cubmaster. When his oldest son moved up to the troop level, he became an Assistant Scoutmaster with troop 120 and eventually became the Scoutmaster which he has been serving for the past 5 years. During his time as Scoutmaster he has taken the troop to Philmont, Florida Sea Base, and had a slot for Northern Tier in Canada, but it was canceled due to the pandemic. He also sits on the committee for our unit's girls troop which was the first and still the only female troop in Marion County.

He is active on the district and council level in the Mountaineer Area Council. He serves on the Council Advancement Committee, Council Properties Committee and Heart of West Virginia District Committee. Steve was the Past Council VP of Program.

His latest adventures in Scouting has put him in contact with a Scout leader in the country of Uganda in Africa. They have been working together to bring the World Scouting to our Scouts. They have met with each others troops to discuss how Scouting is conducted in each others countries and have worked with each others Scouts on advancement opportunities and Scout skills.



Jeff James, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader

Jeff is an Eagle Scout and Vigil member of the Order of the Arrow. As a Scout, he was an "Old Style" dancer with the Kootaga Dancers, was the Kootaga Lodge #201 Lodge Chief, and served on summer camp staff at Camp Kootaga for two years. He is an Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 40 in Bridgeport where his son also earned the rank of Eagle. Jeff attended two National Jamborees and served on Staff at the last "non-Summit" jamboree in 2010 at Fort A.P. Hill. He attended Philmont Scout Ranch as a Scout and again with his son in 2012. Jeff attended Wood Badge in 2011 (shout out to the Owls) at Camp Mahonegon and served as a Troop Guide at Camp Mahonegon in 2014. He also has served as the Vice President of Youth Protection on the Executive Board of the former

Allotah Council, an Executive Board Member of the Mountaineer Area Council, and remains an Advisory Council Member at the present time. Jeff is a retired federal agent with forty years of public service.

A Scout is Prepared—work your Pre-Course Assignment

An important focus of the upcoming Wood Badge course will be a consideration of our roles as leaders in Scouting in the workplace, in our communities, and in the Nation. Among the most valuable discussions that will occur will be an ongoing process of setting leadership goals and then determining the manner in which those goals can be reached.

The pre-course assignment is intended to help you lay the groundwork for the course by developing a clearer understanding of your personal interests, values, and sense of the future.

At Wood Badge, you will have the opportunity to channel that information into the development of specific goals and effective means of action working with your Troop Guide.

The questions can be found on page 10 & 11 of this edition.

Dr. Dan McNeil, Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop Guides



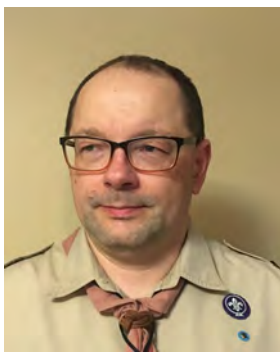
Dan is an Eagle Scout, and a Vigil Honor member of the Order of the Arrow. Previously a Troop Guide for Wood Badge, he serves this course as Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop Guides. A proud Owl, Dan finds joy in working with all Wood Badge species! (His father was a Bobwhite and a Wood Badge course director.) Dan is married to Cheryl McNeil, who is a Clinical Child Psychologist and professor at West Virginia University. They are proud to have two sons, both Eagle Scouts.

Dan has served Scouting in various roles, including Cubmaster, District Chair, Council Vice President of Finance, Executive Board Member, Jamboree Assistant Scoutmaster and Scoutmaster, and on the staff of a National Jamboree and a World Jamboree, among others.

In other arenas of life, Dan is a Clinical Psychologist and an Eberly Distinguished Professor at West Virginia University. A licensed psychologist, he trains doctoral students to become Psychologists and researchers. His research focuses on the intersection of pain, anxiety, and fear. An avid fisherman and boater, Dan appreciates that Scouting brings youth, and adult Scouters, into the outdoors. He also is an enthusiastic patch collector.

Dan is the immediate past president of Mountaineer Area Council, and presently serves on the Council's Executive Board, Executive Committee, and as Vice President for District Operations. He is thrilled that Mountaineer Area Council is hosting this Wood Badge course after a decade-long hiatus, and feels honored and grateful to serve on the staff.

Marek Soczowka, Troop Guide



Marek was born and raised in Poland, and was a Scout there. All his children were or are currently in BSA programs. Oldest son is an Eagle Scout. In US scouter life, he was a committee member, committee chair for Pack 39 and advancement chair for both Pack 39 and Troop 40, and now also for Heart of WV District. This year he will mark 13 years of involvement in US Scouting.



Lori Ludas, Troop Guide

Lori has been married for 14 years to her wife Melissa. They have 3 children: Charlotte (Star scout T152), Dylan (First Class T52), and Juliette (Wolf P52). She was in Girl Scouts as a youth and leader today. She became involved in BSA in 2014 when her son wanted to join in Kindergarten and she became his Den Leader. Lori is active in three units: Pack 52 COR and Wolf Den Leader, Troop 52 Assistant Scoutmaster, and Troop 152 Scoutmaster. She is also Council STEM Committee Chair, Leave No Trace Trainer, Certified Angling Instructor, and Supernova Mentor/Nova Counselor. While Cubmaster of Pack 52, she attended Wood Badge Course N4-527-18 in 2018 and received her beads on October 18, 2019. She is excited to be on staff this year as one of the

troop's Guides.

Amy Smith, Troop Guide



Amy Smith (pictured with younger son, Fisher Rector)

Amy became involved in BSA in 2004, when her older son became a Tiger Cub in Pack 39 in Bridgeport. Since that time, Amy has served in official capacities as a Cub Scout Den Leader, Pack 39 committee Chair, and Allohak Council Advancement Committee Chair. Amy has been a merit badge counselor at several merit badge universities, and she also has been a counselor for the Ad Altare Dei emblem, which is awarded by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting. Amy has provided adult leadership for many Scouting campouts and other activities. Through those activities, Amy has made the youth Scouts look good at biking, canoeing, hiking, and rock climbing, among other things. Amy has received the James E.

West Fellowship award. Scouting has been a family affair for Amy. Amy's husband, Larry Rector, is an avid Scouter who is currently serving on the Mountaineer Council Executive Board. Her two sons are Eagle Scouts who have accomplished much through Scouting. Amy has been fortunate to accompany members of her family on many Scouting adventures throughout the country. She has visited three National Scout Jamborees at fort A.P. Hill in 2010 and at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in 2013 and 2017. Amy is perhaps most proud that she completed a trek at Philmont Scout Ranch with her entire family in 2015. Amy completed the Wood Badge course 2011.



Pete Knapp, Troop Guide

Pete has been an active Scouter in the MAC for almost 15 years, starting when his oldest son was a Tiger Cub. He served as a Den Leader and Cubmaster with Pack 52 for 7 years, and 7 years as Assistant Scoutmaster, and now is a Committee Member of Troop 93. He is the proud father of two Eagle Scouts, his youngest son earned his Eagle earlier this year. Pete attended WB C-12-08 as a member of the Fox Patrol, and staffed C-33-09 as a Troop Guide for the Eagle Patrol both held at Camp Mountaineer. Pete is looking

forward to getting back to Gilwell!



Charles Gerhart, Troop Guide

Charles was a Boy Scout as a youth, but never reached Eagle, to this day he regrets that decision. He has been a Scouter since his son, Ben, was a Tiger. Charles has been Ben's Leader through his Cub Scouting years and was the Cubmaster for Pack 39 in Bridgeport, WV for 2 years. Charles crossed over with his Son to Troop 40 in Bridgeport and is currently an Assistant Scoutmaster. He attended Wood Badge in 2019 in the Simon Kenton Council in Ohio and really enjoyed the course particularly the lessons on leadership! He finished his Ticket in January 2021 and was presented with his Beads in April 2021. Charles hopes the participants of this course finds Wood Badge to be as educational and enjoyable as he did!



Alan H. Smith, Troop Guide

Alan Smith is a retired petroleum geologist, a fifteen year Scouter and the proud father of two Eagle Scouts. He was active with Pack #39 for 9 years during which he served as a Den Leader and Cubmaster. At the Stonewall Jackson Day Camp he was the Director of Webelos World for 10 years. He was also Assistant Race Director for the WV State Pinewood Derby for more than a decade. As his sons continued to be active in Boy Scouts, Alan served as Patrol Dad, Assistant Scoutmaster and Scoutmaster for Troop #40 in Bridgeport, West Virginia. In 2011, he completed Wood Badge training in the Owl Patrol. He served as Contingent Leader for two National Jamborees (2013 & 2017) and again as Contingent Leader for the 2019 World Jamboree held at the Summit Bechtel Reservet

Alan received the District Award of Merit in 2012 and was awarded the Silver Beaver in 2015. Currently he is still active with Troop 40, because he believes that, now more than ever, our country and our world needs young people who are better prepared to make sound decisions in an increasingly complex world.



Greg Godwin, Scribe

Greg is an Eagle Scout ('73), one of five Eagle Scout brothers from the former Troop 128 in Buckhannon. A highlight of his youth experience was attending the 13th World Scout Jamboree (1971) in Japan. His son, Jordan ('03), is an Eagle Scout.

He has served Scouting in a variety roles, including Assistant Scoutmaster, Unit Committee Member, Cubmaster, Den Leader, Council Board Member, Council Commissioner, Council Vice President and Area Vice President. He currently serves as VP Membership for Mountaineer Council.

In March, he completed Wood Badge for the second time as part of the National Model Course Linked Troop, BSA-20-1, held at the Summit in January 2020. During the 2017 National Jamboree, the National Catholic Committee on Scouting honored him with the St. George Emblem for his service to Catholic youth through Scouting. He is a veteran of the US Marine Corps assigned to US Diplomatic security details in the Middle East. Greg retired last year with 36 years of service in West Virginia as a United Methodist Pastor and is currently the Resident Chaplain at the Summit Bechtel Reserve. Greg is married to Lisa, who is very tolerant of his Scouting activities particularly his two month absence while living at the Summit. They have an adult daughter, Lauren, who earned the Girl Scout Gold Award. He is looking forward to the opportunity to serve on the Wood Badge Staff.

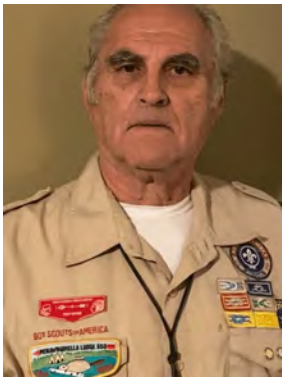
Paul White, Wood Badge Medical Officer



Paul White is a 20 year veteran of the scouting program. Paul is a Vigil Honor Member of Menawngihella Lodge #550 - Order of the Arrow. As a youth Paul earned the Arrow of Light Award. As an adult volunteer, Paul is extremely active in the Mountaineer Area Council. Paul has served in various leadership positions such as the Executive Committee / Board, Vice President of Training, Assistant Council Commissioner, Venturing Crew Advisor, and Cubmaster. Paul served on the Council Summer Camp Staff for 2012 - 2015 and the 2013 National Jamboree Staff. Paul has been awarded the Medal of Merit Award, Venturing Leadership Award (Council Level), Scouter's Training Award w/Clasps, Adult Religious Award, Emergency Preparedness Award, Unit Leader Award of Merit w/Clasps, Scouter's Key w/Clasps, William D. Boyce Award w/Clasps, Commissioner Arrowhead Honor, Commissioner Award of Excellence w/Clasps, Doctorate of Commissioner Science Award, Distinguished Commissioner, Alumni Award, International

Scouter's Award, Philmont Masters Track Award, Whitney M. Young Jr. Service Award, Special Needs Scouting Service Award, BSA Torch of Gold Award, District Award of Merit, & Silver Beaver Award. Paul has completed Powder Horn, Wood Badge, & Sea Badge Training.

Tony Wayne, Quartermaster Staff



Tony has over 50 years in Scouting, 32+ years with Kootaga Area Council, and 21+ years with Mountaineer Area Council. He has served as an Assistant Cubmaster, Cubmaster, Den Leader, Committee Member (both Cubs and Scouts) Assistant Scoutmaster, Merit Badge Counselor, Unit Commissioner, Council Training Vice Chairperson, Council Advancement Chairman, served on Camp Mountaineer Staff as Camp Commissioner, and Summer Ranger, and as Central Region Camp Accreditation Team. Tony has completed Wood Badge and has served on Wood Badge Staff.

Charlie Seccurro, Quartermaster Staff.

Charlie took Wood Badge in 2008 in Mountaineer Area Council and served on Wood Badge staff the following year. He is an Eagle Scout class of 1979, Vigil Honor member of the Order of Arrow and served as Lodge Chief in 1978. He is self employed at his auto repair shop in Fairmont that his father established in 1947. He was a Scoutmaster of Troop 3 in Baxter for 13 years and currently serves on the Council Board, Council Advancement, Training, and Nominating Committees. He is looking forward to serving on Wood Badge staff and making it a great experience for all the participants.





Rick Sausen, Wood Badge Cook Staff

He has been in Scouting for 54 years and is currently serving as VP of Properties on the Mountaineer Area Council Board. For 15 years Rick lived and worked in the Cumberland, MD area where he served as an Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 69 in Fort Ashby, WV in the eastern panhandle.

Rick and his wife Dottie have three daughters, two sons in law, and three grandchildren. He works for Mon Power (First Energy) as a Consultant for Safety and Training. Rick and Dot live near Morgantown, WV. Born and raised in Morgantown, WV, he practically grew up at Camp Mountaineer where he just happened to meet his wife Dottie. Her father was the Camp Ranger there for 20 years. Rick is the recipient of the District Award of Merit, the Silver Beaver, and is a Vigil Honor Member of the Order of the Arrow.

Rick took his Wood Badge training in 1986 (Course EC-334-W) held at Camp Mountaineer and served as Course Director for Wood Badge Course C-13-01 at Camp Chief Logan in 2001. Rick has served on many Wood Badge Staff's Support since taking his WB Training on 1986.

He loves camping with his family and is very active in Scouting.



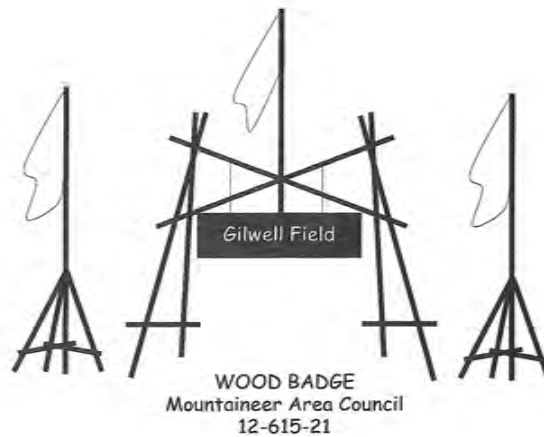
Dottie Summers Sausen, Wood Badge Cook Staff

Dottie moved to Camp Mountaineer in 1971 when her father, Thomas James Summers, Sr., became the Camp Ranger. She worked summer camp 2 years on the cook staff. She met Rick Sausen at camp and they were married in 1978. Dot has helped with the Ox Roast every year since it started and also helps with OA weekends cooking with Rick. She also has cooked on multiple Wood Badge courses. Rick and Dot have three beautiful daughters, Marie, Kristina, and Rebecca; 2 Sons-in-law, Bruce and Andy; 2 wonderful granddaughters, Emilia and Madilyn; and 1 rambunctious grandson, Bradley. Dot works at Ruby Hospital as an Administrative Assistant in Infection Control.



Michael Adkins, Quartermaster Staff

Michael has been involved with Scouts for over twelve years. He was a Cub Scout and a Boy Scout. As an adult, he got re-involved when his son wanted to join the Cub Scout Pack that was reopening in his neighborhood. Michael served as the Bear Den Leader and then the Webelos Den Leader. He took the last Wood Badge Course that the council held in order to become a better leader for the new pack and loved the course. After, the pack ran out of boys and folded, he became an Assistant Scoutmaster in his son's troop. He remained there until the last of scouts received their Eagle Rank and then the troop folded. He currently serves on the Heart of West Virginia District Committee. He is looking forward to serving the participants during Wood Badge at Camp Mountaineer.



Pre-Course Assignment

- **This assignment is for you to do on your own.**
- **No one except you will see the results of this assignment.**

Use this opportunity to take a good look at where you are now in terms of interests, leadership skills, and opportunities, and where you would like to be. Be as honest as you can. Enjoy the experience.

What to do:

- Set aside time to think seriously about the following questions.
- Answer the questions as fully and honestly as you can.
- Write down your answers and bring them to the Wood Badge course. You will find them to be a helpful reference—only you will see the answers.
- Don't worry about what the "right" answers are or about satisfying someone else's idea of how you should respond. No one except you will see what you write.

The questions:

1. What are my top 3 strengths as a leader? How can I apply these skills or talents so that I could be of service to youth in my Unit, District, or Council?
2. What do I consider my top three growth opportunities for my leadership abilities? How can I improve myself in these areas while serving in my current role? Are there other trainings or classes I can take to improve myself?
3. What is my most impactful experience so far in Scouting? Thinking about this experience, is there a way I could allow others to have the same experience?
4. What qualities of character do I most admire in others I view as a strong leader? Do I have these qualities? Is there anything I could do to change my approach to be a stronger leader?

5. Who is a leader that has significantly impacted my life, and why? In my Scouting role, can I make the same impact? How would I do it?
6. If there were no barriers, what improvements would I make in my local Scouting program? Is there anything I could do to effect change or have a role in these improvements?
7. What do I consider to be my most important roles in life (*e.g.*, parent, mentor)? Are any of these roles something I can improve in tandem with Scouting?
8. In two years, what role do I see for myself in Scouting? What is one thing I could do to help get myself there?
9. If I could make a difference in just one child's life, what would I do? If I can impact one child, can I lead others to impact many children?
10. When I think of "diversity and inclusiveness", what do I think of? Does my Scouting Unit, District, or Council practice this type of inclusiveness? Is there anything I could do to increase the practice of inclusiveness?
11. What Scouting experience have I had that I should have handled differently? What could I have done differently? How can I change my current approach or prepare others to do handle this type of thing better?
12. What do I hope the youth will gain by participating in Scouting? Am I doing things now, to help Scouts gain what I envision they will achieve? If not, how could I?
13. How does my current role support the Scouting movement?
14. What are my top three personal values? How have my core values been shaped throughout my life? What could I do to also help shape the core values of the youth/adults I work with? If working with adults, how could I lead differently, in a way that more mimics my core values?
15. What do I hope to achieve by taking Wood Badge?