History of Wood Badge

You will be surprised to know how Lord Baden-Powell have introduced incentives for the young leaders for their achievement to recognise their success. He wanted to retain the heritage of the victory he earned during the Zulu War in 1988.

The presentation of Wood Badge is the recognition f the highest training of Unit Leaders.

On going through this Module you will understand the importance of the training course and the history of inventing the Wood Badge

Objectives:

At the end of this Module, you should be able to ;

1. State what is the purpose of Wood Badge.
2. Explain from where this Wood badge is adopted.
3. Demonstrate the importance of this Badge.
4. Tell how the Badge is worn in uniform.

Thought for Reflect.....

Ever since I knew what Wood Badge was, I couldn't wait to go through it. I went through it as a "yute" staff, then as a participant, and now I am going to be a Troop Guide. Each time I have taken away something new. This is something that I am proud to be part of.

--Kimberly Vasquez.

What is the purpose of Wood Badge?

The ultimate purpose of Wood Badge is to help adult leaders d highest quality Scouting programme to young people to help them ach highest potential. It models the best techniques for developing leade teamwork among both young people and adults.

Powell founded Scouting early in the 20th century, and in just a few short years, the movement exploded. Baden-Powell quickly recognized the need for adult leaders to complete training in a hands-on outdoor environment. On Monday, September 8, 1919, 20 men clad in shorts and knee socks gathered around a flagpole at Gilwell Field near London. Organized into three Patrols, these men launched the precursor for what eventually has become Wood Badge for the 21st Century. Baden-Powell's Scouting for Boys and Aids to Scoutmastership were 'textbooks' for this outdoor classroom, and during the 11 day course, the Scouters learned the skills to pass on to their eager Scouts: Troop organization, campcraft, pioneering, woodcraft, signcraft, games, fieldwork, study circle work and pathfinding. Upon completion of the course, Baden-Powell awarded each of the Scouters a hand-carved bead tied to a leather thong, the beads a prize he collected from Zulu Chief Dinizulu during the British' Ashanti Campaign in 1888. The Boy Scouts of America conducted its first official Wood Badge course in the United States in 1948. Since that time, training professionals and volunteers have updated the Wood Badge syllabus to provide the best methods to adult Scouters for teaching leadership and program delivery. **Source:**

The first Scoutmaster's training course was held at Gilwell on 8th Sept. 1919. It followed the pattern B.P. had used with boys on Browne sea twelve years before. The patrol system was again put to test with the nineteen participants divided into patrols and living a patrol life. The instruction also to the same form as Browne sea. Each day a new subject was introduced and covered in demonstrations, practices and game. The Kudu Horn that had called the boys into action on Browne sea was used for all signals. B.P. laid it down that the training courses should run in a camp with the Scoutmaster forming a Scout troop or in the case of Cub master, a cub pack B.P. intended that as far as possible instruction is put into practice to make quite sure that the training of the boy is also kept very practical and very active.

What should these men be given as a token of having finished their training camp? The usual and obvious thing would be some kind of certificate but B.P. did not care for Certificate. He rummaged his trophies and Souvenir for suggestion and pulled out the long string of wooden beads he had found in Dinizuliu's deserted hut in Ceza bush during the Zul War in 1888. He presented each man who had taken part in the camp with one of these beads.

These simple wooden Beads signifying the completion of the training course soon became one of the most highly prized possessions a Scoutmaster could want. The beads gave the training its name of Wood Badge Course.

As the number of courses all over the world increased, and as the stock of these beads in the necklace of Dinizuliu exhausted the Gilwell Park started preparing own beads for presentation to the Scouters.

It is satisfying to note that even though with the change of times, the Associations in various countries and also the World Bureau have brought about considerable change in the syllabus content and conduct of these courses, the Beads are still accepted as the insignia for these Scouters who complete this training.

It is also happy sign that in our country also after the formation of the Bharat Scouts & Guides in 1950, the Wood Badge (now named as the Himalaya Wood Badge) was retained as insignia for completion of Adult Leader Training and also as a symbol of unity in World Scouting, and our National Training Centre at Pachmarhi prepare and issue the beads from the wood available at the Centre itself.

In 1934, three courses Cub, Scout and Rover were held at Pachmarhi on the bank of the Lake near Pachmarhi Bazaar and in 1956, the M.P. Government made a grant of land in Pachmarhi for the establishment of the National Training Centre. This Provided a Most suitable place for Wood Badge Courses for the country.

Conclusion ;

Hope by now you will be able to explain the history as the how the Wood badge is taken into in the Scheme of Training of Unit Leaders in Scouting. What an unique idea of B-P to retain the historical background of his life experiences, through a symbolic presentation, which is now recognised throughout the world.

Here are some questions which you can answer straight way:

1. Where the first experimental camp was held ?
2. When the Camp was held ?
3. When & Where the 1st Wood badge Course was held ?
4. Where the Wood badge necklace was found ?
5. From where the idea of Wood badge came in ?
6. What is the name of Zulu Chief ?
7. What the wooden Beads signify ?
8. When did the Bharat scouts & Guides formed ?
9. When the scheme of Wood Badge was recognised ?
10. Where is our National Training Centre and which year it was established ?

Reference Books:

1. Wood Badge 90 Handbook, By Boy Scout of America.
2. Scheme of Training, by BS&G/NHQ
3. Trainers Handbook, by BS&G/NTC.

Kindly check your memories to the questions you have answered:

1. The 1st experimental camp was held at Brown Sea Island, England.
2. The camp was held in July 1907.
3. The 1st Wood badge Course was held on 8th sept, 1919.in Gilwell.
4. It was found in Dinizuliu's deserted hut in Ceza bush during the Zul War in 1888.He presented each man the beads found as a token who had taken part in the camp with one of these beads.
5. He presented each man the beads found as a token who had taken part in the camp with one of these beads.
6. He name of the Zulu Chief was Dinizuliu.
7. These simple wooden Beads signifying the completion of the training course.
8. The formation of the Bharat Scouts & Guides was in 1950,
9. In 1934, three courses Cub, Scout and Rover were held at Pachmarhi.
10. It is in Pachmarhi, M.P.