



THE GILWELL GAZETTE



Issue 1

7-577-24

October 4, 2024

Schedule				
Time	Duration	Activity	Method	Location
8:00	105 min	Check In & Club Trail	Patrol	Scout Craft
9:45	30 min	Gilwell Field Assembly	Pack	Gilwell Field
10:15	30 min	Course Overview	Troop	
10:45	40 min	Drive Vision, Mission, Values	Troop	Training Center
11:25	55 min	Know Thyself	Patrol	Patrol Area
12:20	70 min	The Ticket	Troop	Training Center
1:30	55 min	Opening Luncheon	Patrol	Nature Area
2:25	100 min	Den Meetings	Pack	Patrol Sites
		Introductions	Patrol	Patrol Sites
		Aims, Methods Scouting	Patrol	Patrol Sites
		Woggles	Patrol	Patrol Sites
		Skit Prep	Patrol	Patrol Sites
		Close	Patrol	Patrol Sites
4:05	80 min	Communicate Effectively	Patrol	Patrol Sites
5:25	70 min	Include & Optimize Diverse Talent	Troop	Training Center
6:35	10 min	Break (Den 1 Retire Colors)	Patrol	Gilwell Field
6:45	80 min	Blue & Gold Banquet, Bridging	Troop	Dining Hall
8:05	40 min	Getting to Know You Game	Patrol	Patrol Area
8:45	25 min	Leadership Connections	Patrol	Patrol Area
9:10	40 min	Instructional Campfire	Troop	Camp Site 2
9:50		Cracker Barrel	Troop	Training Center
11:00		Lights Out		

Message from your Scoutmaster!

Welcome to Camp Karankawa and the Fall 2024 Wood Badge Course!

I appreciate your dedication to learning and growing in Scouting by taking the time to participate in Wood Badge. I invite you to participate whole heartedly and with an open mind, so you may receive the most that this course has to offer. Wood Badge can truly be a life-enhancing experience. Please know that me and my staff are here to support you through your Wood Badge Journey. Please reach out to any of us if you have any questions or concerns as we navigate this journey together.

Yours in Scouting,

Jennifer Swan

Wood Badge 7-577-24 Course Director



WOOD BADGE TICKET TRADITION

The ticket is one of the great Wood Badge traditions. In Baden-Powell's military men at the end of their service were expected to pay their own way back to England. To economize, officers nearing completion of their duties sought assignments at posts closer to home – a process known as “working your ticket”.

During the Wood Badge course, we ask each participant to develop a ticket – a list of goals that will allow you to use your new leadership skills in ways that will strengthen Scouting in your home units, districts, and councils.

“A Scout is never taken by surprise; he knows exactly what to do when anything unexpected happens”

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The Troop Scribe publishes *The Gilwell Gazette* (the Troop’s newsletter) daily during the course. The Gazette provides the day’s schedule, information, articles, and interesting facts or events from each of the Patrols. *The Gilwell Gazette* will be emailed to everybody each morning.

Your Patrol Scribe should submit your Patrol article for the next day’s *Gilwell Gazette* by 5pm each evening to be published. Pictures and articles can be submitted to the following email: saida.d.ramirez@hotmail.com. The success and content of the newsletter depends on the daily contribution from each Patrol.

GAZETTE PATROL ARTICLE SUGGESTIONS

Each daily Patrol article provides the entire Troop information about your Patrol.

The Patrol Scribe may include, but is not limited to, the following ideas for the Patrol article:

- ☛ A Brief bio from each Patrol Member
- ☛ What the Patrol accomplished that day (no repeats of course content)
- ☛ Funny and/or serious occurrences from the day
- ☛ Goals or challenges for the Patrol
- ☛ Appropriate challenges for other Patrols.

Please assist the Patrol Scribe with ideas and information needed.

Please have the Patrol article and pictures turned in no later than 5pm each day.

Please design your Patrol Totem and submit a copy of it to the Troop Scribe.

WOOD BADGE TOTEMS

“Sometimes the little things in life are the big things”

What is a totem? The dictionary says it is an animal, plant, or natural object that is associated with a clan or smaller group of a tribe, regarded by the members of the group as a protector or sacred ancestor. The name of the group is often derived from the totem. The word **“totem”** originated from the Ojibwa word – ototeman – meaning *“his relation.”*

Although that description describes much of what a Wood Badge patrol totem is, it does not capture the whole meaning that a totem encompasses. Among the synonyms, we can think of the following words: charm, coat of arms, crest, emblem, ensign, hallmark, insignia, mark, mascot, seal, sign, symbol, talisman, token, and trademark.

The Boy Scouts obviously borrowed the term from the north American Native Culture, who gave “totem” a mystical or metaphysical meaning. In Wood Badge, we give our totems sentimental, nostalgic, and imaginary meaning. Wood Badge participants often use their totems to mark correspondence and notes.

A well-executed totem should include, but is not limited to the following elements:

- ☛ The patrol animal
- ☛ The course date
- ☛ The course number
- ☛ The Wood Badge course location
- ☛ Quickly or easily drawn by hand
- ☛ Simplicity
- ☛ A unifying symbol of all patrol members
- ☛ Some indication of individual patrol member



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TROOP 1 ROLES AND RESPONSABILITIES

Patrol Leader

- Take a leading role in planning and conducting patrol meetings and activities.
- Encourage patrol members to fully participate in the Wood Badge course and to achieve all they can.
- Represent the patrol as a member of the patrol leaders' council (PLC).
- Set a good example by living up to the Scout Oath and Law.
- Practice using the leadership and team skills being presented during Wood Badge presentations.
- Ensure that daily patrol self-assessments are carried out in a timely, effective manner.
- Provide patrol members with all the resources and information they need to succeed.
- Empower the patrol to become the best it can be.
- See that the patrol is prepared for all course presentations and activities.

Assistant Patrol Leader

- Assume the responsibilities of the patrol leader whenever the patrol leader is unable to do so.
- Encourage patrol members to fully participate in the Wood Badge course and to achieve all they can.
- Assist the patrol leader in empowering the patrol to become the best it can be.
- Set a good example by living up to the Scout Oath and Law.

Patrol Chaplain Aide

In concert with the chaplain aides of the other patrols and with the Staffer assigned to coordinate their efforts, the patrol chaplain aide will:

- Learn what resources are available that can be used for religious observances during the course and make that information available to the rest of the patrol.
- Develop and help present the participant's interfaith worship service.
- Assist in conducting any other religious observances that may arise during the Wood Badge course.
- Set a good example by living up to the Scout Oath and Law.

Patrol Scribe

Provide interesting and timely material about the patrol to the publisher of The Gilwell Gazette – the daily newsletter of the course. (The publisher of the Gazette may hand out guidelines to help scribes fulfill their duties or may briefly meet with all the patrol scribes to discuss how best they can assist in making the Gazette a worthwhile publication.) · Set a good example by living up to the Scout Oath and Law.

Patrol Member

For a patrol to succeed as a team, each of its members must:

- Fully participate in the Wood Badge course and achieve all he or she can.
- Practice using the team development skills introduced during Wood Badge presentations.
- Help his or her patrol meet its obligations to fulfill assignments, including the development and presentation of the patrol project.
- Set a good example by living up to the Scout Oath and Law.
- Have fun!



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MEET YOUR STAFF



Jennifer Swan – Scoutmaster / Course Director

Jennifer is currently a Scoutmaster for Girl Troop 529, Unit Commissioner, and CCFD Fire Explorer Post 343 Committee Chair. Her past positions have included Pack Committee Chair, acting Cubmaster, den leader, district committee at large, Council Training Chair, and many others. She lives and breathes almost all levels of Scouting except for Venture Crews. She is also a Certified Level 1 Archery Range Master. When she is not busy with all her scouting activities, she is a data analyst in the health industry. She is also passionate about reading and fiber arts.



Brian Chassels – Mentor

Brian has been involved in scouting almost all his life. He is an Eagle Scout, has served as a Den leader, Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, 3 years as Council Commissioner for the South Texas Council and is currently the Commissioner-Elect for National Service Territory #7 which covers all of Louisiana and the southern half of Texas. Wood Badge experience includes serving as a Troop guide, SPL, ASPL, Back-up Course Director and now serving as your Course Director for WB 7-577-23. I previously served as a Contingent Scoutmaster for the National Jamboree in the summer of 2010, Council Coordinator for the 2013 National Jamboree, and assisted with the trip planning for 2017 Jamboree. He is currently the Committee Chairman for Pack 255 and serves as the VP of Technology on the Council board.

Noteworthy awards include the Scoutmaster Award of Merit, District Award of Merit, Silver Beaver, various training awards and 21 Eagle Scout Mentor recognition pins. In his “spare” time, he enjoys golf and target shooting.



Ruth Luna – Mentor

I am a longtime scouter with the South Texas Council. I have worked with packs. I've worked with troops. I have worked with Venture Crews, and I am here to help in any way that I can. I am a 2009 Woodbadger and was a course director in 2014. I'm trained and ready to serve. Currently I work with Council in Membership.



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Gloria Basham – ASM-Programs / Backup Course Director

I became involved with Scouting in 2017 when my son stated Cub Scouts as a Webelo, in 2019 he joined Troop 255 in Corpus Christi, and I became a committee member for that Troop, later in 2019 my daughter joined scouts, she joined Troop 183G in Corpus Christi but participated with Troop 16 in Flour Bluff. she is currently full time at Troop 183G where she is now Jr. Assistant Scoutmaster. I became Scoutmaster for Troop 16 at the end of 2020, beginning of 2021. in January 2023 I became Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 183G. Attended the 2020 Wood Badge course at Camp K. Go Beavers!



Misty Mealer – ASM-Logistics

I have been in Scouting since my son was a wolf. He is 22 now and earned his Eagle in 2019. I am the Committee Chair for a linked Troop 183 for Boys and Girls. I have a Webelo, Bear, and future Scout for grandchildren. I took Wood Badge in 2017, GO BOBWHITES (but I wanted to be a bear). A BobBear? I have been helping the Wood Badge Quartermaster for about 7 years. I am a Vigil Honor Member with the Order of the Arrow. I am a Certified Range Safety Officer and assist Muffin with shotgun ranges. In my personal life, I work with Camping Life RV Mobile Repair Service.



Sheena Thetford – ASM-Troop Guides

I am affectionately called “Grandma” by my Scouts. I have been a part of Scouting for a long time with my 2 boys, one who has already achieved Eagle, and the other only has his project left. I took Wood Badge in 2016, and this is my 3rd time staffing the course. I am the Scoutmaster for Troop 450 and the Associate Advisor for Crew 1216, both out of Sinton. My hobbies include long walks on the beach, reading romance novels, and crocheting cocoons for future butterflies.



Franco Ramirez – Senior Patrol Leader

He started scouting in 1st grade. He earned the Arrow of Light and then Eagle Scout in 2001 with Troop 262 in Plano, TX. In January 2021, Franco, his wife Saida, and their two youngest children joined Pack 52 at Jackson Woods Presbyterian Church in Corpus Christi, TX. He has served as a Lion, Tiger, and Wolf Den Leader and is now Pack 52 Cubmaster. In July 2023, Franco was one of the founders of Troop 652, where he serves as Assistant Scoutmaster. With South Texas Council, he volunteers as Camp Karankawa’s Aquatics Director. Franco participated in Wood Badge S3-577-21 class, and this is his second time on the staff team. Franco is the corporate safety manager for Liberty Tire Recycling. He earned his undergrade from Texas A&M University Corpus Christi and a Master of Science Degree in Occupational Safety & Health from Southeastern Oklahoma State University. Franco is a CSP and OHST from the Board of Certified Safety Professionals. He enjoys spending time with his family, playing music, fixing up the house, and fishing. He is a deacon at Calallen Baptist Church and plays bass guitar and drums on Sundays.



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Jo-Len Perkins – Assistant Senior Patrol Leader

Welcome to Wood Badge! I am Jo-Len Perkins and will be serving as your Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, song leader and bugler. I have been married for 20 years and have 4 children. Scouting was an activity that my husband and kids were involved in as I watched from the sidelines. I registered as a leader in December 2022 and 4 months later was in your shoes as a participant at Wood Badge. During those two weekends, I found a passion for scouting and now am able to share in the adventure with each of my children and husband. When I am not scouting, I am coaching at Windsor Park, very active in our church, and being a full-time wife and mom. Do your Best. Be Prepared. Lead the Adventure. Learning for Life.



Scribe & Chaplain

I'm an Eagle Scout father of four Scouts (1st Class, Scout, Bear, Tiger), and the Cub Master of Cub Scout Pack 259. I teach at Ray High School in the International Baccalaureate Program, and am in my second year of a doctoral program at TAMU-CC. I will serve as Scribe and Chaplain for this Wood Badge course. I'm committed to helping you become the leader you need to be, and I have especially high expectations for the Eagle Patrol!



Saida Ramirez – Assistant Scribe/Photography

She started scouting with her husband and two children when they joined Pack 52 at Jackson Woods Presbyterian Church in Corpus Christi, TX. She has served on the Pack Committee, Lion and Tiger Den Leader, and now the Pack's Grubmaster. In July 2023, Saida was one of the founders of Troop 652, where she leads as Scoutmaster. She has assisted the South Texas Council by helping her husband with the aquatics program. In her native country, Saida was a member of the national karate team through the Honduras National University (UNAH), winning two All Central American Women's Championships. She is Certified Safety & Health Official and working on the HSE team for an I&E company while pursuing a Master's Degree in Industrial Engineering at Texas A&M University Kingsville. She loves cooking, sewing, construction, designing, and gardening.



Chelise Hyatt – Assistant Scribe/Photography

I have four kids, a devoted husband, and a passion for Scouting that is only exceeded by my obsession with caffeine. I would camp every day if I could.



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Justin boatman – Quartermaster

I am Justin (AKA Precious). It is all my mother-in-law (AKA Misty Mealer’s) fault that I am in Scouting. I am the Cubmaster for Pack 183. I was a participant in the 2020 “COVID” Wood Badge Course, and now this is my second-time staffing Wood Badge, and I was a Bearded Balding Bobwhite. I work at Camping Life with Robert (Muffin).



Tony Martinez – Assistant – Quartermaster

I’ve been in scouting and outdoor activities since I was a Boy Scout. I’m currently Pack 52 AOL Den leader and Troop 52 volunteer adult leader. I will cross over with my Pack Den group into Troop at the turn of the year. I want my scouts to become good leaders and citizens. Ultimately, I want them to be good people.



Adan Gomez – Assistant Quartermaster

My name is Adam Gomez. This will be my 3rd year as a Den 9 leader (Bear den) but have participated with the Pack for 5 years now. I have a 12-year-old scout in Troop 652 and an 8-year-old Bear in Pack 52. I completed Wood Badge last year (2023) and was beaded at a Blue and Gold Banquet. I am assisting as a Quartermaster during this training



Billy – Assistant Quartermaster

I have 2 girls in Troop 450 out of Sinton. I am an electrician. I was participant in the last Wood Badge, GO FOXES! I like to fishing, hiking, watch football, and meeting awesome people at scouts. I love this program and I enjoy doing Scouts with my girls, a journey that we will share for life.



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Laura Edmonson – Den Chief 1

This is my 3rd Wood Badge course as staff after being a participant in 2016. I joined scouting when my eldest son was in 1st grade. He is now almost 20 and an Eagle scout. I have been Den Leader, Cubmaster, Assistant Cubmaster, Committee Chair, Treasurer, LaSalle District committee Awards Banquet Chair, and am currently also LaSalle District Training Chair. I have my master's in accounting, work full-time, am currently studying to become an LSSP, as well as haul my kids around to Select and Varsity Soccer functions, football, and FFA activities. German is my second language, and my ultimate dream would be to live in Germany after refreshing my skills a bit.



Trent Thetford – Den Chief 2

Welcome all! My names Trent Thetford and I've been in the scouting program since I was a Cub Scout! I eagled out of troop 450 and currently a Bobwhite from the last course! Thank you all for being here and do your best!



Marisol Gomez – Den Chief 3

My daughter started cub scouting in 2019 as a Wolf and I swore I would never wear the uniform. Five years later, I am Committee Chair and Asst Den Leader for Pack 52. I am one of the Founding members of Troop 652 (July 2023) where I serve as an Assistant Scoutmaster. Did I mention I very much wear and love the uniform? My kids and my Pack Family keep me motivated. Those smiles keep me pushing for a great program.



Rob Strathearn – Den Chief 4

I was a participant in the last Wood Badge course with the South Texas council in 2023. I am the Advancement Chair and one of the founders of Troop 652. I and the Assistant Cubmaster of Pack 52, both in Annville/Calallen area. I am and Eagle scout class of 2000. I have a daughter that is an AOL and a son who is now a Tiger cub.



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Robert Mealer – Den chief 5

I am Muffin, AKA Robert. My Scouts call me either Caveman or Dinosaur. I am the Scoutmaster for Troop 183. Overall, I have been in scouting for 45 years, starting as a Tiger and earning my Eagle Scout. I was an Owl when I took Wood Badge in 2014. I have been the Wood Badge Quartermaster for 7 years and now a Troop Guide. I am a certified Shotgun Instructor. I am a Vigil Honor Member with the Order of the Arrow. I am the owner of my own mobile RV repair center called Camping Life.



Shawn Dark – Den Chief 6

I grew up in the scouting program from Cub Scouts through Explorers. The highlight of my Cub Scout experience was winning my pack pinewood derby and the racing at Philmont to the council pinewood derby. The highlight of Boy Scouts was staffing Camp Wehinahpay and earning Eagle Scout. My parents moved and there wasn't a BSA troop so the camp ranger at Wehinahpay and I started a Mountain Explorer Post. Ask me about that adventure! As soon as I had a son old enough for Cub Scouts we were involved. I became the Tiger Den leader immediately. Not realizing what I had gotten myself into, I found myself as a new Cubmaster. I have sat in the position of Cubmaster for ten years. During this time, I have bridged my two sons into a troop both earning AOL. I pinned my Eagle Medal on my daughter and have served as Assistant Scout Master for both of Troops my kids have been in. I look forward to meeting you as we walk through Wood Badge together.



Pauline Pachacek – Branding

My name is Pauline Pechacek. I have been a scouter for 13 years. I am currently the Cubmaster for Pack 65G, committee chair for Troop 652 and advancement chair for Pack 65B. I am a founding member of both Pack 65G and Troop 652! I have run the Sea Breeze (and formally Brush Country) Cub Wcout Day Camp and am happy to pass it along so I can be a rangemaster! I work at East Elementary teaching Stem Lab. This is my first year as Staff and am excited for this new adventure! DA BEARS!



Monica Flores – General Purpose Staffer

I have been part of Scouts BSA for 10 years. I started out as a Den Leader for Pack 188, then moved to Victoria in 2017. We joined Pack 364 where I served as the Parent Liaison and Den Leader. We crossed over to Troop 364 in 2020. I currently serve as the Troop Treasurer. My son is my motivation. He earned his Eagle Rank last year. I am also the Committee Chair for Crew 307. Overall, I enjoy Scouting because of the people I work with.



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Michelle Karnesky – Kitchen

Shrouded in mystery and wrapped in an enigma, Michelle comes from parts unknown with imponderable motives. Who is this femme fatale? By the time you find out, it may be too late.



Sammantha Mealer – Medic (Camp K)

This caterpillar is still acquiring the nutrients to begin their transformation.

David Hebert – Staff Council Advisor

Hebert— An expatriate Connecticut Yankee and father of three Eagle Scouts, David “The Fixer” Hebert does a little bit of everything just about everywhere. Like Vanilla Ice, if you got a problem—yo—he’ll solve it.