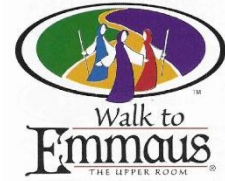




# Wood Badge for Christians & Emmaus for Scouters



Are you ready to take the next steps on your journey in either Christian Discipleship or Servant Leadership? If so, there are two remarkably similar volunteer/lay-led retreat programs that I hope that you will consider.

**Wood Badge** is advanced leadership training for adults in the Boy Scouts of America. It truly is “leadership” training that is simply delivered in a Scouting setting, because the foundational principles that help Scouts grow as leaders can help adults, as well (<http://www.woodbadge.org>).

**The Walk to Emmaus** is a non-denominational Christian experience, intended to truly fan the flames of the Holy Spirit in ways that many people describe as being almost as powerful a catalyst in their walk as their initial surrendering to Christ (<http://emmaus.upperroom.org>).

To be clear, Wood Badge is not Christian-centric, nor are there any other direct connections between the programs. My hope is that by sharing some parallels, those that may have realized the blessings of one might consider the other.

<b>Both are a retreat, in order to help you truly focus on your own growth – <i>you will come back changed!</i></b>	
WB is six days, or two 3-day weekends	Emmaus is one 3-day weekend
<b>Both use small groups to help you build life-long bonds as you experience new ideas together.</b>	
WB uses Patrols <i>“I was in the Beaver Patrol of Circle Ten Wood Badge 94.”</i>	Emmaus uses Table families <i>“I sat at the Table of Paul on Dallas Emmaus Walk 113.”</i>
<b>Both are structured curriculums that are delivered in your local area by volunteers who have been where you are.</b>	
WB curriculum is from the Boy Scouts of America, but then taught by a volunteer staff – where each lesson has key points that are consistent but then adapted by the personal experiences of the speaker.	Emmaus curriculum comes from the Upper Room and is then taught by a lay-led staff, with a handful of clergy. Each lesson has key scripture and core ideas that are then adapted by the personal experiences of the speaker.
<b>Both have opportunities to re-experience and refine your learnings while serving in future events.</b>	
Recent WB graduates can serve as Troop Guides for new participants or behind the scenes as Scribes or Quartermasters; and in later courses as SPL, ASM’s or Scoutmaster in future courses.	Recent Emmaus pilgrims can serve as Table Leaders for new pilgrims or behind the scenes in the “Outside” or “4 <sup>th</sup> day” teams; and in later weekends as ALD’s or Lay Director in future courses.
<b>Both foster communities for fellowship, but are intended to better equip you to serve those in your normal world.</b>	
WB graduates are recognizable by the wooden beads on their uniform, but it is not a clique. The purpose of WB is to grow leaders that can then go serve their Scouts, their families, their churches and their workplaces.	Emmaus has reunion groups and other fellowship events, but the purpose of the Emmaus experience is to help you grow as a Disciple of Christ and leader in service to God, your family, church, and the world.

**CALL TO ACTION:** If you are a Christian Scouter who has experienced the blessings of either of these programs, then you know how powerful they can be. Please consider taking the other journey as well. Search the web for “Emmaus” and your local major city ... or ask about Wood Badge from your BSA Council representative.