

Karl Ward The course director for Wood Badge 2021

Karl Ward began his Scouting career as a Cub Scout in Black Beaver Council (now Last Frontier Council) in Altus, OK where his father was Air Force Scouting Coordinator and Kickingbird District Chairman. Karl completed Cub Scouts in Gulf Coast Council (Pensacola, FL). On moving to Alabama, he joined Troop 111 in Prattville and eventually moved into Explorer Post 111. His fondest memories include the summers he spent at Camp Tukabatchee along with the many Cub outings in that same camp after his son joined Pack 307. It is understandable, then, that the current Camp Hobbs holds a special place in his heart.

Karl served as Den Leader, Webelos Den Leader and Cubmaster in Pack 307 before his son bridged into Boy Scouting. Karl soon became the Troop Committee Chair for his son's troop and remained in that position until Chris received his Eagle and left for college. He has since served as a Unit Commissioner and is currently a member of the Ecunchatee District Committee.

Along the way, Karl was inspired by many of the fine trainers in our council and felt a strong urge to join them. He began training Scout Leaders while he was a Den Leader and would go on to serve as District Training Chair and, eventually, Council Training Chair. He helped to organize and execute many of the memorable Pow-Wows and University of Scouting events during those years.

In addition, he chaired many Cub events including Cub Carnivals (now Spook-O-Rees), Day Camps and a variety of Spring Cub camping events. It was during his time at those outings that Karl honed his skills as a storyteller and has continued to mesmerize audiences at annual Cub and Webelos events to this day. It was for both his efforts with training and for Cub camping events that he was awarded the District Award of Merit and then the Silver Beaver Award.

As a trainer, it was only natural for his initial Wood Badge experience to be a regionally-held *Cub Scout Trainer Wood Badge* course at Camp Ho Non Wah on Wadmalaw Island in South Carolina. Karl completed his ticket and earned his beads and, just two years later, attended *Boy Scout Leader Wood Badge* for which he would go on to earn his two-beads a second time. When both of those courses were later discontinued in favor of a new consolidated Wood Badge syllabus, then called *Wood Badge for the 21st Century*, Karl served as a Troop Guide for the first course to be held in Tukabatchee Area Council. He has since filled a variety of staff positions for many subsequent council courses.

When asked how he feels about heading up this brand-new Wood Badge course, Karl said, "The *Centennial Wood Badge* course has been in the works for years and I'm excited to be a part of the inaugural offering in our council. A number of Wood Badge veterans have worked very hard on this updated course and I'm confident that the exceptional leadership training has only been improved."