Sample Employer Support Request Letter for Wood Badge

Subject: Request for Support: Leadership Training Opportunity (Wood Badge)

Dear [Manager's Name],

I'm writing to request your support in participating in **Wood Badge**, a premier leadership development course offered by Scouting America. Rooted in modern leadership theory, the course is designed to enhance skills in communication, team-building, problem-solving, and organizational leadership—skills directly applicable to our work environment.

The 5-day training is immersive, interactive, and modeled after leadership programs from thought leaders like Ken Blanchard and Stephen R. Covey. Many employers, including IBM, Intel, and Motorola, recognize and support this training due to its strong professional value.

I'd like to request the following support to attend:

- **Financial assistance** for the $350 course fee
- **Paid time off** to attend the course (5 consecutive days, plus potential travel time)
- Recognition of this course as part of my professional development

I believe this experience will sharpen my leadership abilities and bring added value to our team. I'm happy to provide a course overview or discuss how the training aligns with our goals.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,
[Your Full Name]
[Your Position]

WOOD BADGE

Information for Employers Regarding Wood Badge

Wood Badge is the highest and most advanced training course offered by the Scouting America. While it is rich in scouting history and tradition, participants will spend 5 full days and nights learning modern leadership theories from contemporary scholars such as Ken Blanchard (author of the One Minute Manager series of books), Stephen R. Covey (author of The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People and Principle-Centered Leadership), and John Kotter (author of Leading Change). A complete set of references are listed below.

Wood Badge Five Central Themes

The themes and associated workshops that follow encapsulate the course content of Wood Badge for the Twenty-First Century.

LIVING THE VALUES – ABOUT PERSONIFYING THE SCOUTING VALUES AND SETTING THE EXAMPLE
- Drive Vision, Mission, and Values
- Know the Territory
- Inspire the Heart

GROWING – ABOUT KNOWING AND GROWING THYSELF FIRST AND A COMMITMENT TO CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT AND LIFELONG LEARNING
- Know Thyself
- Apply Interpersonal Savvy
- Learn to Listen, Listen to Learn

CONNECTING – ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS
- Communicate Effectively
- Manage Conversations
- Include and Optimize Diverse Talent

GUIDING – FOCUSING ON ENABLING AND DEVELOPING OTHERS
- Develop Individuals and Teams
- Plan with A Bias for Action

EMPOWERING – ULTIMATELY HELPING OTHERS PEOPLE TO BECOME HEALTHIER, WISER, FREER, MORE AUTONOMOUS, AND MORE LIKELY THEMSELVES "TO SERVE AND TO LEAD"
- Coach and Mentor
- Embrace and Lead Change
- Create a Culture: *"Train Them, Trust Them, Let Them Lead!"*

These workshops are taught through lecture, group discussion, hands on exercises, and through the creation of goals that apply the leadership training received. At the conclusion of the course, attendees will have created at least 5 goals. A counselor will be assigned to work with each attendee for 18 months to ensure application of the training they received and the completion of the 5 goals.

Dr. Blanchard's courses and workshops, offered through The Ken Blanchard Companies, run $900 per day ($5,400 for 6 days). Scouting America has negotiated royalty fees and intellectual property rights which allows them to offer the entire 5-day course for under $400 in most cases.

Leaders at many companies (such as IBM, Motorola, and Intel) have recognized the value this training is to their employees. As such, many agree to pay the course fees and/or give time off as part of their employee's professional development and training plan. Individual company policies vary, however. If you would like additional information, please feel free to contact the local Council in your area, or the Scouting America's National Headquarters.

WOOD BADGE

Wood Badge Training Resources

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