

Mother and Daughter Join Boy Scouts



Dec. 9, 2010 --More than 1,000 local adults volunteer to lead dens, packs and troops in Edmond and the surrounding area. They are required by Boy Scouts of America (BSA) to be fully-trained before leading youth. The training provides skills that are used in the Boy Scout program, at home, at work and at church according to Training Chair Sheryl Morsman.

Venture Scout leader Rhonda Rodericks, left, completed rigorous training by the Boy Scouts of America to provide adult leadership support for her daughter's venture unit. Emily Rodericks, right, is the president of venture crew 344 based in Luther, Oklahoma.

“We owe it to our youth to be the very best we can possibly be,” said Morsman.

She explained that a leader who isn't trained can't provide the program the way it is designed. The rigorous BSA training program teaches leadership skills comparable to those in expensive corporate training sessions, but with more fun and outdoor cooking included. Each leader begins by taking the required Youth Protection course to learn how to spot and prevent abuse.

The premiere BSA training course is Wood Badge. Adults must first pass lower level required training before applying to a Wood Badge course. Wood Badge enhances adults' team building, communication and leadership skills. Leaders are taught to accomplish goals with small groups of youth and work more effectively with adults. Each participant must develop and complete five challenging projects to demonstrate the skills learned. At the conclusion of the projects, which can take up to 18 months to complete, the participant is awarded two wooden beads. The beads signify passing the course and are a tradition dating back to BSA founder Lord Robert Baden-Powell.

Rhonda Rodericks, of Wellston, took a little more than a year to complete Wood Badge course SR967. She received the coveted beads at a special ceremony Nov. 11. Rodericks serves as Venturing Advisor for Crew 344 in Luther and Vice Chairman of Venturing for Eagle District.

The coed crews, for boys and girls ages 13-21, plan and execute an annual program that teaches life skills and service to the community along with high adventure experiences like shooting sports, winter camping and a 25-mile hike.

“Scouting is literally a game with a purpose,” Rodericks said. “You learn without knowing you're learning.”

To learn more about Boy Scouts, visit the web site <https://beascout.org> or call Brenda Humann, Eagle District Membership Chair at 405/740-0190.