

Two Tiny Wooden Beads

Two tiny wooden beads on a leather thong. It doesn't sound like an outstanding badge and mark of distinction but it is known and respected as such around the globe. It is symbolic of the efforts and interest of one man who launched the greatest movement for boys the world has ever known.

It is the mark of people who have demonstrated that they are people of character and who are devoted to a cause. People who strive for perfection well knowing that even the best is not enough. People that hold the welfare of others before self: Scouters who live up to all that name implies. Awarded to a Scouter on the basis of what he or she thinks and is more than on what he or she knows.

They must demonstrate that they have 'know-how' too. Good intentions count for little until, by the application of ability and determination, they produce results that count. Striving for perfection in themselves that they might train others better.

To this end exists the Wood Badge.

It is doubtful that the thought ever entered the mind of Robert Baden-Powell, that his efforts on Brownsea Island would grow to influence the youth of the world and that, in the days ahead, thousands upon thousands of people would carry his efforts forward to an ever increasing number of boys.

Who knows but that this effort, this crusade, may flourish to the end that two tiny beads on a leather thong may yet become the symbol of a succeeding effort to bring about a world brotherhood of man under a Fatherhood of God.

To that end may the Wood Badge serve and her men and women never falter or fail.

Two tiny wooden beads on a leather thong.

They could symbolize the hope of the world - it's up to you.

Source: Scouting Magazine (Britain) December 1987.