

Wood Badge Highland Dress – For the Ladies!

By Ted Severe, CMSNA National Wood Badge Co-Ordinator

In Scotland, ladies wear kilted skirts, not kilts. It's because ladies and gents are "built" differently. Several of our CMSNA lady Wood Badge members have asked, "What about Highland dress for us? How do we wear MacLaren tartan with *OUR* Scout uniforms?"

There are several options open to lady Scouters. Lady Scouters can have a kilted skirt made in MacLaren tartan fabric (not an inexpensive proposition). Once the kilted skirt is acquired, the lady Scouter simply substitutes her MacLaren tartan kilted skirt for her Scout uniform skirt, shorts or long pants. If the lady Scouter is handy with needle and thread and/or a sewing machine, she can go the do-it-yourself route and make her own kilted skirt in MacLaren tartan fabric. MacLaren tartan fabric can be purchased from Highland dress vendors for about \$60.00 per yard and she will need about 2 yards of "double width" (about 60 inches) MacLaren tartan wool fabric. Another way to get the fabric for a lot less would be to contact StillwaterKilts.com and purchase one of their "piper's plaids" for about \$50.00 (not including shipping). This fabric is acrylic (non-wool) and is "double width" and about 3 yards long.

If the kilted skirt is not an option, the lady Scouter can acquire a lady's MacLaren tartan sash. From Highland dress vendors, these run about \$40.00 and are lightweight wool about 11 inches wide by about 100 inches long. StillwaterKilt.com also has a lady's sash in their MacLaren tartan acrylic fabric for about \$20.00. For directions on the various ways to wear a lady's tartan sash, please refer to Thompson's book, *So You're Going to Wear the Kilt*. This book is available from most Highland dress vendors for about \$15.00. This book is also available from Amazon.com for under \$10.00.

Ladies can also obtain a MacLaren tartan mini-sash with rosette for about \$20.00. These mini-sashes are worn with the rosette at the shoulder and the "tail" of the sash hanging down the back. The rosette is fastened to the blouse or jacket with a Scottish-style brooch. A MacLaren clan crest badge can be used as a brooch. MacLaren clan crest badges are also available from Highland dress vendors for about \$20.00.

If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Ted Severe via his email contact on the CMSNA website.