

National Bulletin

VOLUME 95, EDITION 2018

EDELRID


ORDER OF THE ARROW



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
ORDER OF THE ARROW

Adventure Awaits



Welcome,

Arrowmen, Scouts, Scouters and all of you that support the Order of the Arrow.

To start, let me say that I am an OA publications enthusiast, an engaged fan from my earliest days. I have been since my first day as a scout and certainly since my induction into the OA, always reading and studying the pages of our handbooks and bulletins. I was first absorbed in their images and stories, later using the materials to learn the youth leadership and then adult leadership skills to lead a lodge and now the National OA Committee. In fact, I am pretty sure I read the entire OA Handbook twice on the way home from my Ordeal at Camp Rokilio in 1978. I was hooked!

I believe that no matter whether a magazine is delivered to your doorstep or to your computer, printed on glossy stock or cheap tabloid paper, appears on your iPad or your cellphone screen, it is still and foremost the work of an editorial/development team. The publication is built for a discerning audience, a beautiful and meaningful—we hope—package of ideas, words, and images that a group of experts prepares for its readers.

While technology efficiently delivers news and stories to our desktops, laptops and mobile devices, magazines are all about content — how ideas and images are presented in relation to one another and within a larger point of view. Magazines are about trust and partnership: We, the leadership of the OA and the many editors of this publication, will always strive to keep you engaged; you, the readers, are free to engage with us or not, but I think you will love what we are embarking on with this publication. But enough theory: Let me tell you about this transitional *National Bulletin* issue. The first of many we expect to come.



Mike Hoffman

There is a story in this issue that I particularly like because it recounts the stories of two multi-generational OA families, the Kellys of Kaysville, Utah, and Hausers of Ft. Myers, Florida. Both families have long ties to the respective communities; the Hausers going back to post-war Southwest Florida, through four generations. The Kellys bring something unique in that they are longtime Utah Scouters, but also third generation Arrowmen.

From Utah and Florida, we travel to the Northeast Region where we will focus on following up on a lodge from the region who used their OA service grant to implement STEM technology into their council's camping program. This article may motivate you to gather your lodge leadership and write an application for a grant.

These days New Mexico, Minnesota, West Virginia and Florida host Order of the Arrow members who participate in the OA High



Nat. Vice Chief Mike Hoffman leading the 75th Anniversary of the BSA Caravan pledge.

Adventure programs. You will find an article that is a retrospective on the founding and impact of the OA High Adventure programs, both on those individuals involved in the early years, and also on the Order at large. From my perspective and those of the men who have served as National Order of the Arrow Chairmen, there is no better use of our energy and resources than watching the results of the personal growth that happens while participating in these outstanding programs. We make better men because of these High Adventure programs.

The summer is a time to relish the outdoors; for many it's about summer vacation and scout camping. It's about camp staff assignments and joining your buddies for some fun. In late July we'll all gather for NOAC 2018. In the meantime, you'll find some spotlights on why the new NLS has raised the bar on what youth training in Scouting should be.

You will hear about the initiative and programs to help lodges reach high performance, and you will see some inspirational essays from youth Arrowmen on why they are making a choice to be involved with the Order. All things to start

thinking about as you start back leading your lodge after summer!

There is certainly a lot more in this *National Bulletin*, and I hope you will read it cover to cover, just like many of us did our first copy of the Order of the Arrow Handbook on the way home from our Ordeal!

Yours in Service,

Mike Hoffman
1978 Ordeal Inductee
National Chairman
Order of the Arrow



1985 Nat. VC Hoffman, 1985 Nat. Chief Mimnaugh and 83-84' Nat. Chief Bob Wade

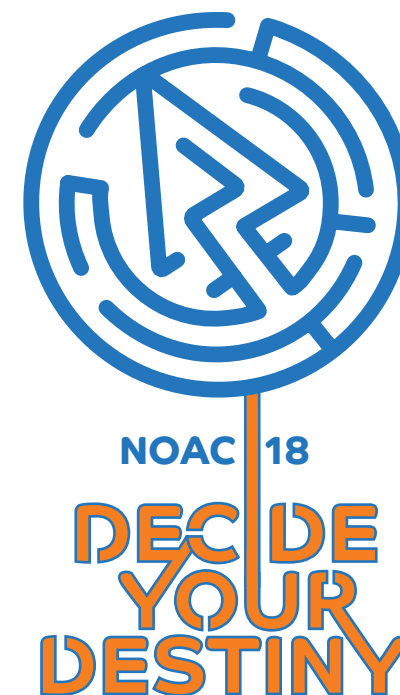
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National Bulletin

Publisher	KYLE KIPPLE
Editor	NICK OSCHNER
Art Director	MIKE DESOCIO
Writers	TYLER GREY KYLE HOFFMAN CORY JOHNSON JOHN MAZURIE WILL BENJAMIN

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Participant and staff slots are still open!

More information on the 2018 NOAC can be found at oa-bsa.org.

National Bulletin

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High Performing Lodge Spotlight

OCTORARO & ECHOCKOTEE

EVERY LODGE has a program or feature that make it truly unique. Some lodges, however, excel by the numbers – high event turnout, high membership retention and near-perfect unit involvement. Octoraro and Echockotee Lodges are two that fit this bill.

Sustained around 900 members, Octoraro Lodge serves the Chester County Council in southeastern Pennsylvania. In the last year, Octoraro saw the fourth-highest membership increase in its history. Lodge Adviser Gus Sauerzopf first says the lodge was blessed with the close geography and well-connected community they serve. “We have a strong commitment

and dedication to our council and surrounding communities within Chester County. Our lodge sets the bar high and continues to exceed our own expectations through a strong collaborative effort with our youth leadership, our council, and our troops and crews.”

Octoraro puts on three inductions weekends each year in conjunction with their service weekends in late April and early June as well as their fellowship weekend in the fall. Both Spring weekends typically see 200-300 attendees and the fall fellowship sees 300-400 attendees. The staff is the most important aspect of the induction weekends, and the Elangomat team have a strong

identity and presence during the weekend. The staff is proud to show off the lodge's tee shirt, minted in the lodge's famous color – man-genta pink. Lodge Chief Steven Winn states that the Elangomat program wasn't always strong; however, "We went from begging for Elangomats to having a surplus of volunteers after revamping our program in 2014," he said. The refreshed program set much higher standards for the staff, with performance reviews after events where ineffective Elangomats were reassigned to a different committee.

Octoraro Lodge is also heavily integrated into its summer camp. The lodge estimates

maintenance of the property. After a series of severe storms in March, the lodge scheduled a service day for the very next weekend with over 70 members participating. Gus and Steven say that there's always something going on in the lodge, and that it's important to have a strong 12-month program to keep members engaged. Octoraro tries to keep its events evenly spread through the year to avoid have busy and empty months. Their largest event is in October, called "C5" which stands for Chester County Council Cub Camporee. The lodge totally prepares and executes this council-wide event that sees more than 600 Cub Scout participants each year. Their annual



Octoraros's Buzz the Beard Gala Dinner, September 2017.

that 90% of the camp staff are active members of the lodge. Octoraro supplies two camp chiefs to Camp Horseshoe to focus on the OA program in camp. The camp chiefs spend much of their time visiting every unit in camp to promote the lodge's events and conducting unit elections when necessary. The lodge also sponsors a social event every Thursday as well as weekly call-out ceremonies and candidate information sessions. Likely due in large part to their heavy ties to summer camp, the lodge remains highly committed to year-round

banquet this March saw 235 members plus guests. Throughout other times in the year, the leadership of the lodge focuses on visiting units – typically more than once in a year. The visitation team uses this time to promote lodge events, connect with the Scoutmasters and, of course, conduct annual elections.

Perhaps one of the most remarkable accomplishments from Octoraro was its "Buzz the Beard" event that raised funds for forest replenishment. Their original goal

was to raise \$5,000 by leveraging the idea that their long-time camp ranger would finally shave his beard. In about a year's time however, the lodge managed to raise more than \$25,000.

Echokotee Lodge services the North Florida Council, spanning across 17 counties and serving more than 57,000 youth in and around Jacksonville, FL.



Innovative games help keep members wanting to come back to fellowships!

Echokotee achieved a top JTE score last year. According to Lodge Adviser Marty Heesacker, the culture of excellence started three lodge advisers ago. "We began focusing on the specific deliverables of Journey to Excellence (formerly the Quality Lodge program) and spending our time on mission-critical elements," said Marty.

Like his recent predecessors, Lodge Chief Wyatt Wiltse holds weekly conference calls with his officers and chairmen. These virtual meetings focus on JTE performance updates and general accountability of the team. Marty and Wyatt describe their Scout Executive and staff adviser as extremely helpful and supportive of the work of the lodge. They also give a lot of credit to the districts in the council who are integral in implementing their program.

Despite covering 17 counties, the average drive time is only about an hour for most members to their camp events – with fellowships in every season and service/ induction events in the spring and fall. "Communication is key," Wyatt says. "The more exposure we get the better. We believe it's an ongoing process for membership retention and we'll never



Echokotee Lodge Chief Wyatt Wiltse and North Florida Council Scout Executive Jack Sears, Jr. (left).

become complacent." The lodge's leadership stresses that their officers should always be available for feedback, helping to set a tone for future leaders of humility and zero-arrogance. They truly try to embody servant leadership in everything they do. "I am constantly identifying and cultivating talent, both youth and adult. When I am at an event, I am constantly interacting with Arrowmen with an eye toward how that person can help move the lodge forward," Marty stated. Marty frequently reminds his advisers that they are exactly that: advisers, and will do anything to guide the youth leaders into success without interjecting too much. ●

For more information on the OA Journey to Excellence program, visit oa-bsa.org/resources/ucl-support/journey-to-excellence.



Scouters and Brothers,

It's unbelievable to think that we are already five months into 2018. Looking ahead, this summer promises to be one to remember. From the excitement of summer camp, and thrills of high adventure trips, to the new friendships and unforgettable memories that these experiences will create.

As we gear up for the adventures to come, we couldn't help but reflect on the past experiences that got us to the present day. Amidst the hassles of everyday life, it's easy to get caught up in the moment. It's easy to become discouraged and forget why we do what we do. That's why it is so important to stop and look around every once in a while; and to appreciate everything that we have to be grateful for. When we really look at the bigger picture, at the true meaning of cheerful service, it becomes evident that the love we share for this organization stems from a desire to be a part of something greater than ourselves.

We are moving into some exciting times within Scouting. For the first time, starting next February, any young man or young woman will be able to wake up and have the opportunity to become an Eagle Scout.

People often talk about the word "progress." Some use it in an attempt to push their political agenda. Others refer to progress as simply making more money or improving their personal status. The true meaning of progress, however, is moving the entire human race forward by creating an atmosphere of inclusion, where everyone has the opportunity to succeed. Through the Boy Scouts of America's decision to expand its program offerings to both young women and men, we are truly setting the progress standard in regard to inclusion and equal opportunity for everyone.

In today's society, it's easy to feel as though the world is becoming increasingly divided. As Scouts, however, we are united by a

common oath that transcends all day-to-day quarrels. When we say "help other people at all times", we say it without regard to whatever personal views or differences we might have. Helping someone else doesn't mean you have to always agree with them, it just means you have to be a friend who

Let's each recommit ourselves to helping others at every opportunity we get, even when it's inconvenient.

is there for them when they need it. "At all times" is not limited to when it is convenient for us, but even when helping someone else might require us to go slightly out of our way. As we move forward throughout 2018, let's each recommit ourselves to helping others at every opportunity we get, even when it's inconvenient.

We hope that you have an adventure-filled summer, and look forward to seeing you along the trail! Until then, today and everyday, reach out to someone who needs it. Be a friend to them - let them know that you're there for them; let them know that you care.

In the Spirit of Scouting,

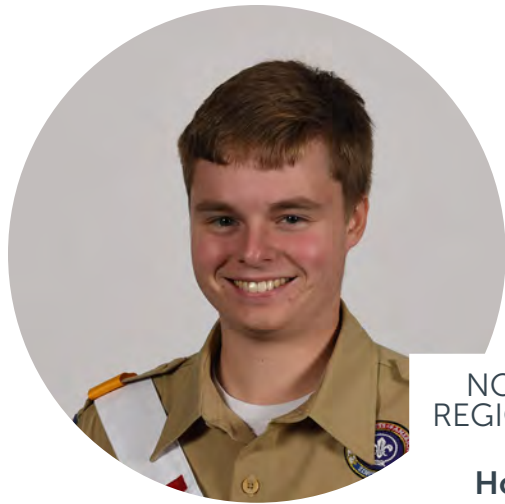
Anthony Peluso

Anthony Peluso
2018 National Chief

Michael Kipp

Michael Kipp
2018 National Vice Chief





NORTHEAST
REGION CHIEF

Hometown:
Lowell, MA

Section NE-1

**Pennacook
Lodge**

Justin ST. LOUIS

Interesting Fact: Over the past four years, I have participated in a three mile swim across Northwood Lake in New Hampshire to fundraise for local Scouting programs.

Favorite Quote: "The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why." – Mark Twain

Favorite OA memory: Bearing a canoe on my shoulders and traversing over 175 miles, during my OA Wilderness Voyage, in some of the most remote wilderness provided me a new perspective on Scouting, the Order of the Arrow, and my life.

Do you have any words for the Arrowmen of your region? Scouting and the OA are a vast network of people who strive to help us succeed – like the older Arrowman who encouraged you to come to your first chapter meeting. I would be willing to bet you can think of whom that someone is to you. Whenever you are presented with the opportunity to serve, I challenge you to make a commitment to be like your mentor, to use your time and talent to ensure that the opportunities you've had continue to be available for future generations.



WESTERN
REGION CHIEF

Hometown:
Portland, OR

Section W-1S

**Wauna La
Mon'tay Lodge**

Jordan JEFFERIS

Interesting Fact: I have bucked through lava vents of a dormant volcano.

Favorite Quote: "Word are just words until you put them into action." – Mom

Favorite OA memory: Providing service by chopping down trees to help repair the island after Hurricane Maria as a part of ArrowCorps Puerto Rico.

Do you have any words for the Arrowmen of your region? You guys are truly amazing! I have thoroughly enjoyed the conversations that I have had with you guys. I am excited to serve as your Western Region Chief and roll out our new NLS program. I would encourage to attend if it is in your area; the skills you learn can be valuable to your lodges and chapters.

FOLLOW THE CHIEFS ON TWITTER



@OANorthChief
@OAWestChief
@OACentralChief
@OASouthChief



CENTRAL
REGION CHIEF

Hometown:
Oregon, IL

Section CR-7

**Wulapeju
Lodge**

Will COOTS

Interesting Fact: Won the "Cutest Baby of the County" Contest in 1999.

Favorite Quote: "Whatever you value, be committed to it and let nothing distract you from this goal. The uncommitted life, like Plato's unexamined life, is not worth living." – Fr. Ted Hesburgh

Favorite OA memory: When I was a lodge chief, one of our ceremonialists backed out the day of the ceremony. At the eleventh hour, my brother memorized the entire Nutiket part in a day and performed the ceremony flawlessly.

Do you have any words for the Arrowmen of your region? One of my big goals is to lay a solid foundation for the region that will last far beyond my term. By building a strong region committee structure, establishing a brand that truly embodies the Central Region, and facilitating this new NLS program across the midwest, we will enable youth so they can carry on the Central Region tradition for years to come. No matter who you are, I encourage you to reach out to me at NOAC, NLS, or even on Twitter to see how you can be a part of this.



SOUTHERN
REGION CHIEF

Hometown:
Oxford, MS

Section SR-6

**Chicksa
Lodge**

Zach CALLICUTT

Interesting Fact: I am a member of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity and the Trent Lott Leadership Institute at the University of Mississippi.

Favorite Quote: "If everyone else is working 40 hours a week and you are working 100 then even if you're doing the same thing you will accomplish in 3 months what it takes them a year to do." – Elon Musk

Favorite OA memory: The first time I got to be a part of my lodge's ceremony team. I got to be Nutiket for the Ordeal ceremony and I fell in love with performing ceremonies. Every induction weekend after that I was always on our ceremony team.

Do you have any words for the Arrowmen of your region? If something is important enough to you then even if the odds are against you, you should still do it. I think this speaks volumes to what a persons will and determination can do. We as Arrowmen can accomplish anything we put our minds to, as long as we are focused and determined.

Trail Crew

the story of

How the OA High Adventure program got started – almost by accident – by an ambitious group of Arrowmen in 1995.

In early July 2010,

about a dozen Arrowmen set off on a six-day trek across Philmont Scout Ranch, literally.

The group, which ranged in age from young high schoolers to those preparing to graduate college, came from across the country. Some were experienced backpackers who lived to be in the outdoors. Others hadn't hiked one mile with a backpack on his back until stepping foot on Philmont.

Nevertheless, the group, together, with backpacks loaded down with too much food (and, due to a commissary mix-up, too many breakfasts and not enough dinners) set out for a challenging adventure that would change their lives.

The Arrowmen were among the first participants of that year's Order of the Arrow Trail Crew (OATC), a program where OA members between 16 and 21 get to design their own week-long trek across the property in exchange for a week of work building trail and a low fee.

Instead of choosing an easy journey across the ranch's scenic north country or bouncing around the peaks of the southern



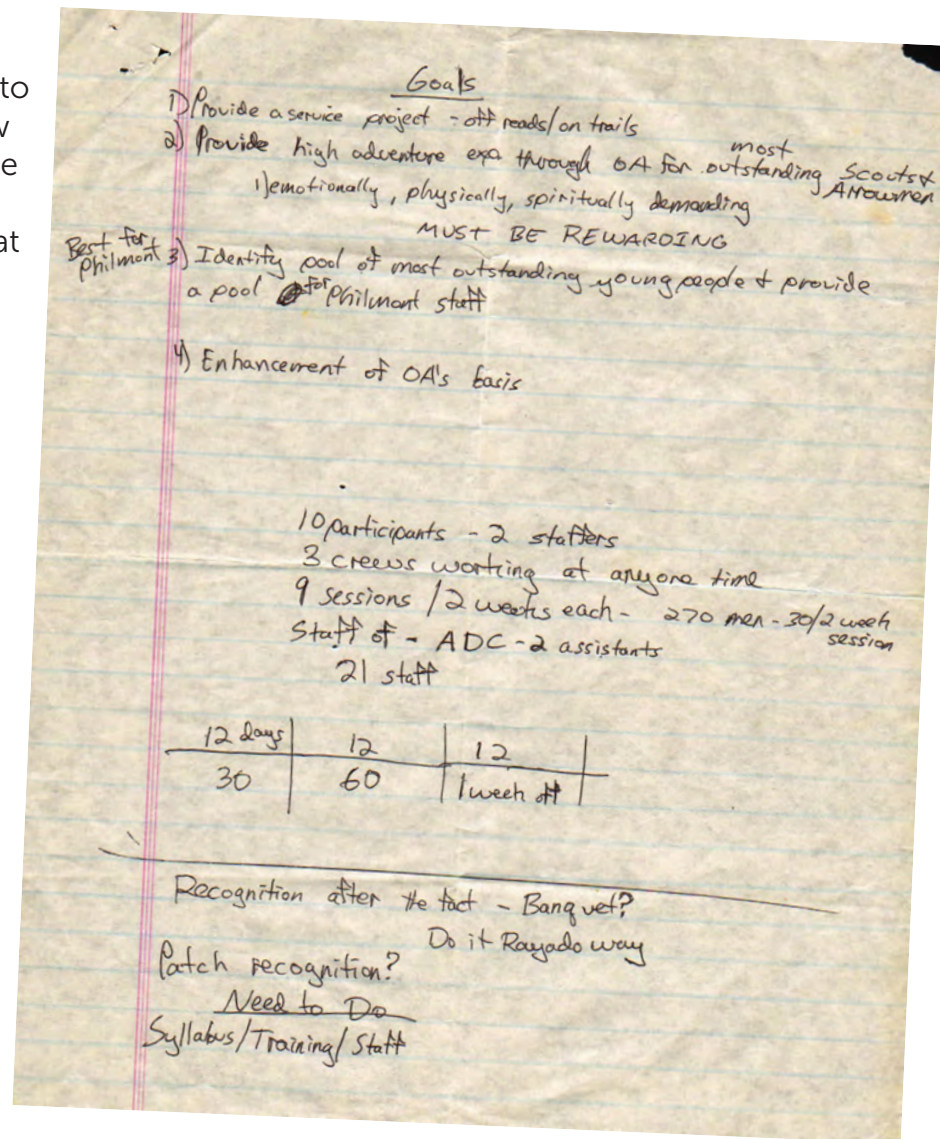
part of the property, the Arrowmen on this trek chose to attempt to see both. The crew had decided to attempt to hike an itinerary known as 'sash and dash', a challenge trek that would involve hiking each of the seven trails the OA had built on the property.

Over the course of six days, the group would hike nearly 100 miles, hiking to the summit of Baldy, climbing to the top of the Tooth of Time and even walking through base camp and back into the backcountry with two days left to complete their goal of stepping foot on every OA-built trail on the property.

In accomplishing their goal, the crew was re-tracing the history of an OA program that started almost by accident more than a decade earlier in 1995.

Now, more than two decades since that first summer of OA Trail Crew, the Order of the Arrow hosts service-trek programs at each of the BSA's four high adventure bases. In addition to OATC at Philmont, Arrowmen can attend OA Wilderness Voyage or OA Canadian Odyssey at the Northern Tier High Adventure base in the Boundary Waters of northern Minnesota; OA Ocean Adventure at the Florida Sea Base in the sunny Keys; and the OA Summit Experience at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in the mountains of West Virginia.

The popular OA High Adventure programs at each of the BSA's four high adventure bases have helped Arrowmen experience the outdoors in a way they may otherwise never have a chance to, which is exactly what the Arrowmen behind that first summer of OA



Trail Crew had in mind when they pitched the program to the OA's leadership in 1994. Scribbled on a lined sheet of paper ripped from a legal pad, the goals for the first summer of OA Trail Crew were relatively simple and straightforward:

1. Provide a service project - off roads/on trails
2. Provide high adventure experience through OA for most outstanding Scouts & Arrowmen (emotionally, physically, spiritually demanding - MUST BE REWARDING)
3. Identify pool of most outstanding young people and provide a pool for Philmont staff
4. Enhancement of OA's basis

The program was conceived by a youth

Arrowman and section chief who was working at Philmont as a staff member in the early 1990's as a way to re-emphasize the camping part of the OA's goal to be the BSA's honor camping society.

A trio of young Arrowmen pitched the OA Trail Crew idea to the National Order of the Arrow Committee, which at the time, was led by Chairman Ed Pease, in 1994 to coincide with the OA's 'year of service' in 1995.

Originally billed as the 1995 National OA Conservation Service Project at Philmont Scout Ranch, the program was commissioned as a one-year endeavor.

The first year of program drew youth including Scott Beckett, who had just finished serving a term as National OA Chief and is now a Vice Chairman



July 4, 1995

Marty Tschetter
Assoc. Director of Conservation
National O/A Conservation Project
Philmont Scout Ranch
Cimarron, NM. 87714

Marty:

I thought I would take a moment to drop you a note to congratulate you on the establishment of one of the best O/A programs I have ever seen. The O/A trail crew program fills a need the Order has desperately needed for many years.

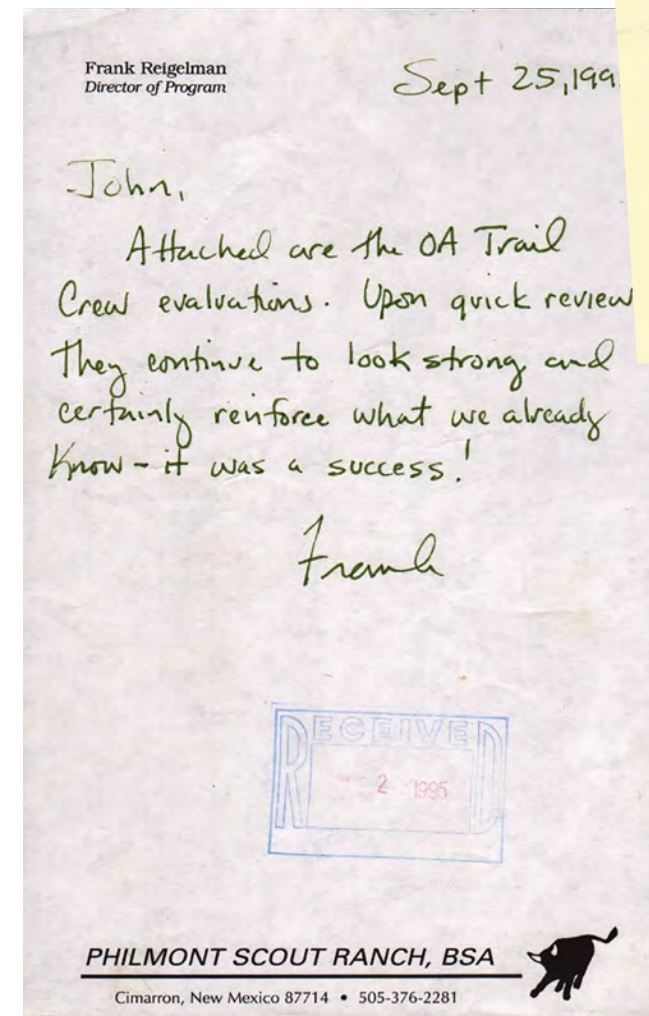
The quality of the program is testament to your insightful leadership. The ability to bring young Arrowmen closer to the Order's service and camping traditions, is something you and your staff will treasure for your entire life.

on the National OA Committee, and Matt Dukeman, who now serves as OA Director.

The project's creators expected to have roughly 250 participants, and only got about 130 to sign up but still considered the event a success.

"Some things I liked about the OATC are you get to make new friends from all over the US and doing the service because if I come back when I am old I will know I helped build this trail," one youth participant wrote in evaluating the 1995 program.

"I think that national should continue the

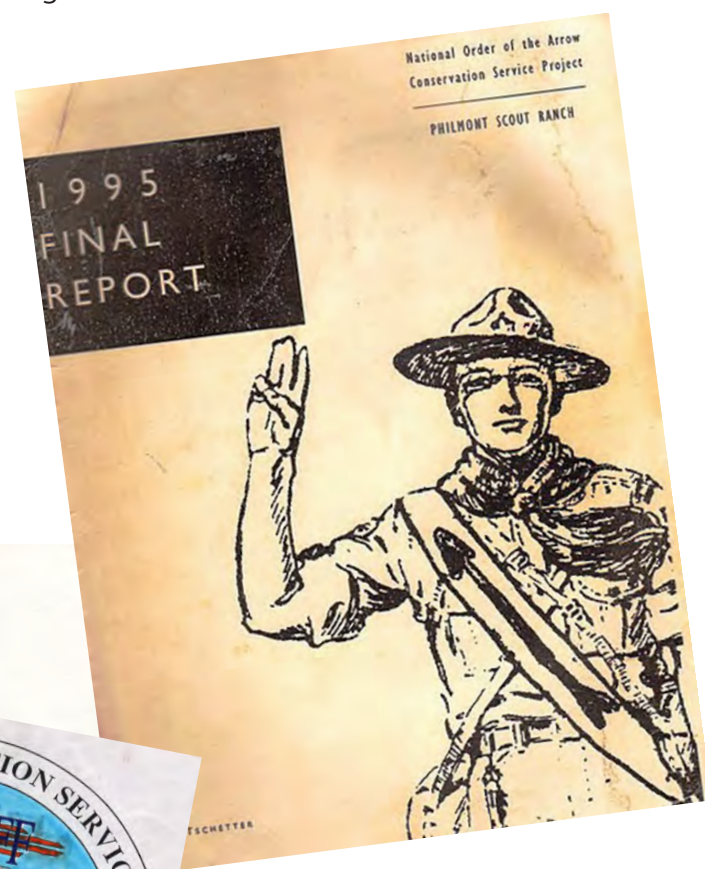


program because it teaches you a lot about yourself and the outdoors and cheerful service," the evaluation ended.

The 1995 OA Trail Crew program received similarly glowing reviews from Mike Hoffman, a former National OA Vice Chief who worked on the staff at Philmont in 1983, 1984 and 1985 and who had, at the time, recently joined the National OA Committee. Today, Hoffman chairs the National OA Committee.

"I thought I would take a moment to drop you a note to congratulate you on the establishment of one of the best O/A programs I have ever seen," Hoffman wrote in a letter to the program's director, Marty Tschetter, in July 1995. "The O/A trail crew program fills a need the Order has desperately needed for many years."

summer. "I think I've managed to get past the wishing I was there every morning, at least to the extent that it was becoming a distraction on getting my work done here, but there is no doubt that my heart is still with you and our men who are doing such vital work in the molding of the next generation."



Pease, the national committee chairman whose support of the original concept for such a project was instrumental in making it a reality, kept in touch with Tschetter and the staff throughout the summer.

"It seems that every day, the work of you and your staff at Philmont are on my mind," Pease wrote in a letter to Tschetter that

By the time the summer had concluded and the program evaluations were tabulated, it was clear the program was a success.

The short note from Philmont Program Director Frank Reigelman to John Alline, then-Associate OA Director and staff adviser to the 1995 OA Trail Crew, summed up the event's success succinctly: "Attached are the OA Trail Crew evaluations. Upon quick review, they continue to look strong and certainly reinforce what we already know – it was a success!" Reigelman wrote.

Two years later, in 1997, the OA would celebrate the completion of its first trail: the Vaca Trail. It was the first of many to be completed by the OA Trail Crew. And, years later, it would become one of seven trails the group of Arrowmen would hike on their journey across Philmont in the summer of 2010, a voyage made possible by the vision, support and hard work of youth and adult OA leaders decades earlier.

up when he was a Rayado Ranger. The story I remember is that Mike was hiking the saddle of Baldy or some mountain thinking, why can't the OA, an honor organization of campers, actually camp and provide service to our National High Adventure Camp - Philmont. It was a put our money where our mouths were concept. 1995 was the 'Year of Service' so this idea of providing service to Philmont was a perfect match. Marty



WE ASKED three of the Arrowmen behind the creation of OA Trail Crew to reflect on their idea, the summer of 1995 and the legacy of service and high adventure that has come in the decades since. Their answers below have been edited for length and clarity.

Who came up with the idea for OA Trail Crew? Why?

Seth Brown, a 1995 section chief who served on the planning committee and worked as a foreman for the first year of OA Trail Crew: "I remember Marty talking to me about this idea that Mike [Edwards] dreamed

The idea for OATC started as something of a rebellion against soft beds and patch traders.

and Mike had a basic framework and during the National Meeting of section chiefs in Dallas, we formed a sub-committee of section chiefs that planned the program part of OATC. I was the only chief that served on staff that year and served as the committee chair of that group. The section chiefs divided up responsibilities and mainly planned the program part."

Mike Edwards, a 1993 section chief whose idea while hiking atop Baldy while working on Philmont staff would eventually become OA Trail Crew: The idea for OATC started as something of a rebellion against soft beds and patch traders. Marty, myself, and a small group of other Philmont staffers that were active in the OA mused that the "honor camper's society" didn't seem to do a whole lot of adventure camping, at least not at the national level. "We wanted

and looked around. The view, the moment and the paramount camping experience motivated him mention to myself and to a couple others "What if we were able to create a program to teach Arrowmen how to actually be honored campers?" (This is what Philmont always did well, rugged adventure).

"Gene Schnell was a longtime Philmont staff member and also a member of the national OA committee. Another longtime staffer was Steve Willis from Alabama who received the

that lodge, Greg Hazlehurst, and others. We were fortunate to already know by association other committeemen like Ed Pease too. So when he became the national OA Committee Chairman, the new general manager at Philmont was Bill Spice, who knew Ed from Indiana. In 1995, the national theme was "A Year of Service," so the national program was earmarked at Philmont."

It was a ton of work – but absolutely it lived up to my expectations.

to see all those shiny uniforms experience the real outdoors, because we realized our high adventure experience at Philmont was transformative."

Marty Tschetter, the first OA Trail Crew Director, who was instrumental in organizing the 1995 OA Trail Crew as a recent college graduate: "[Mike Edwards] had his 'vision,' which became an inspiration of sorts of what eventually became OATC. A challenging hiking day climbing Baldy Mountain, he stopped to catch his breath



Butler, Gene Schnell, and others were instrumental in supporting the idea."

Marty Tschetter: "What makes how OATC came to be so special is that key Scout volunteers listened. I often point out how easy it would have been for an adult to simply reply to us "Do you know how much money that will cost?" The other major point – we approached developing OATC from the Philmont staff perspective. We knew Philmont inside and out, the people, the system to make it work."

What was the initial reaction when you pitched this idea?

Seth Brown: "Marty and Mike pitched the idea. I remember how big a support Ed Pease was. He was a major part of the reason this program was sustained. He believed in the concept, in the program, and in us. Having a man like that behind you really helped motivate us. I still have the framed quote he gave us in my office."

Mike Edwards: "To their credit, all those "shiny uniforms" at the national level were enthusiastic about the idea, at least those that came to Philmont. I don't know what strings had to be pulled within the OA Nat'l Committee Meetings but Ed Pease, Jack

What were the biggest hopes before the OATC program started? Fears?

Seth Brown: "Biggest hope was to infuse the OA with the spirit of high adventure. An "honor camper's" society meant that we actually had to camp! And there is no better place to do that than at Philmont."

Mike Edwards: "I wanted to make sure the program made sense and was something the participants would remember. I remember Marty and I working at Camp Bonner at a Croatan Lodge Ordeal



DSA

in 1981. And the ranch always brought national folks, so I already had a very positive rapport with Jack Butler. In fact, I went to an Echokotee Winter Fellowship in 1990 and worked at Philmont several summers with an active Arrowman from

developing the first draft of the ceremonies. We had to print it out on an old dot matrix printer, on green and white paper. I remember being under the oak trees typing, reading, and having good conversations about the flow of the ceremony and how it related to the Ordeal Ceremony that we all knew. I hoped the elements, like the Mountaintop Sunrise impacted the guys. I hoped they would be able to live the phrase “Moments spent in thoughtful silence are worth more than days and days of talking” during the night under the stars. One of the big fears was that the program would not integrate into Philmont. Marty was key to making sure the OATC staff were part of Philmont staff and not separate. I

because I realize not all parents would. I didn’t go to graduate school during this time, rather worked a job in Greenville for income while I worked on this program.”

What are your favorite memories from the first year of OATC?

Seth Brown: “I remember the Mountain Top sunrise in the saddle of Baldy. A big storm rolled in that evening as we got to the peak and we hunkered down as it blew in and below us. We were above the storm that evening and when the sun rose, it was like we were in heaven. We were in our own version of heaven. We then walked into those clouds. We spent the next 28 hours

I remember knowing that a disease that could kill me one day, would not define who I was. That summer at Philmont showed me that I defined who I was by who I hung out with and who I learned from, and how hard I pushed myself.”

Mike Edwards: “The ceremonies under the Tooth of Time and Rayado. Awesome!”

Marty Tschetter: “My favorite memory from the program is walking our first site – the Vaca Trail. Michael, myself, and Greg Hazlehurst made an effort to “lead by example,” to work at least a day or two with the crews. I can still remember working with specific kids at certain land formations. A handful of these youth later returned on our staff, which was also satisfying.”

handful of these youth later returned on our staff, which was also satisfying.”

Did the program live up to your expectations?

Seth Brown: “The program started as a dream for one year. It’s still going on and expanded across the high adventure bases

and beyond. OATC is an example of how one small idea can spark a huge blazing fire. I’m still amazed that we were all in the right place at the right time with the right folks that first year as a huge OATC team.”

Mike Edwards: “I think so, because the program was renewed.”

Marty Tschetter: “Oh man, it was a ton of work – but absolutely it lived up to my expectations. Having autonomy was incredible, which also afforded us to be extremely creative. The last thing a participant expects to see in the wilds of Philmont is someone wearing a 1930s Scout uniform, to see ceremonies, to



experience an actual program, to bond with other youth, to eat a buffalo at a banquet and eating off linen table cloths.”

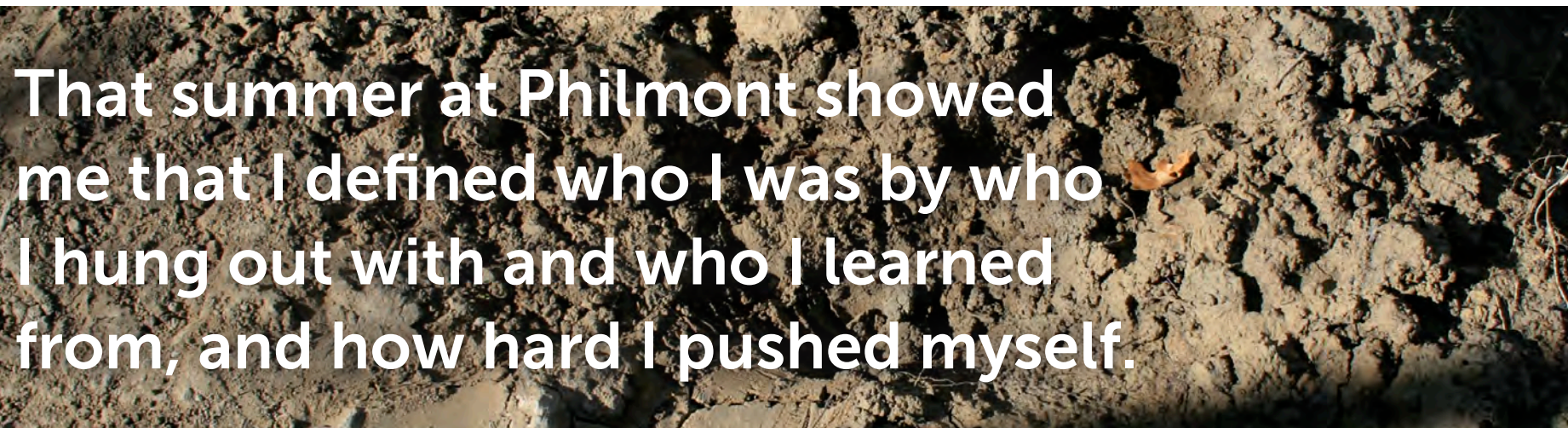
“The first summer it was only slated for that one summer. After participants heard this – at least two youth, on their own initiative, wrote Ed Pease to explain why the program shouldn’t end. That touched Ed and made an impact.”

When you first thought of or heard about the idea for OATC, did you imagine it would spawn the OAHA program that exists today?

Seth Brown: “I had no idea. We were trying to make a quality program for one year. Once it kept going, it made sense. I remember talking with Marty as it expanded to the OAHA program slowly. It was cool to hear stories about the first year of the canoe program and the other trail building programs off BSA property.”

Mike Edwards: “I did not. I believe all of us thought it would be a one to two year program.”

Marty Tschetter: “I will admit that I thought something ‘bigger’ was possible after our first summers, but I wasn’t exactly sure what. I’m touched that similar programs were started at the other bases.” ●



That summer at Philmont showed me that I defined who I was by who I hung out with and who I learned from, and how hard I pushed myself.

think having Philmont guys (who were OA guys) on staff helped integrate OATC into Philmont.”

Marty Tschetter: “Personally I wanted to prove that our idea would work and that it could be sustained as a viable program to motivate youth to be inspired to remain active in Scouting. I absolutely believed that and was hell-bent to prove. I knew what was at stake and the time commitment involved. I graduated from college in December 1993, worked at Philmont in 1994 as an associate chief ranger in 1994, and was selected for the OATC director later that fall. I’m also fortunate that my parents supported and encouraged me,

hiking in rain with a full meal resupply on a 28 mile hike. Needless to say logistics was good, but didn’t always listen to how many meals we wanted at each meal restock. I remember the satisfaction of being able to dry out and knowing that we just did that. I remember hiking through a mountain meadow and watching a porcupine climb a tree. It was a noisy creature. I remember the last night I spent at OATC on the trail. We slept on the Tooth of Time beneath the stars. About 2am it started to drizzle and I put my head in my sleeping bag briefly. It stunk so bad from a season in the backcountry, it was easier to breath with my head under my hat. I was just diagnosed as a Type 1 Diabetic the year before and

I didn't really know what I wanted to do in the OA until someone encouraged me to try the ceremonies committee. Joining ceremonies even helped me in drama at school.

José L. – Belmont, NH

Adventure. Opportunity. Service. Leadership. Why wouldn't someone want to join the OA?

George S. – Austin, TX

When I joined the OA, I met an adviser who worked at an accounting firm I dreamed of working for. He ended up helping me get an internship there. It really taught me the OA helps in your professional life, too.

David W. – Wellington, KS

When thinking about why I am involved in the Order of the Arrow, the first thought I have is friendship, the second would be giving back to the community. I think of these when I wonder why I'm in the OA because I have made so many good friends whom I am still connected with and with those friends come experiences and memories that can never be forgotten.

Jacob G. – Winchester, VA

I am involved in OA because my peers saw in me the kind of person who would tend to the metaphorical fire, and as I grew through my Ordeal and Brotherhood ceremonies and my experiences in Scouting, I saw that same person in myself.

Matt D. – Alexandria, VA

I am in the OA in order to take the step into the unknown. Every OA trip I go on or event I do it's always a new experience where I learn something or meet someone new.

TJ C. – Zebulon, NC

Why do you #ChooseOA? tweets to the editor

All of the different people I have met and unique stories they share is why I will always continue to #ChooseOA.

Michael P. – Hutchinson, KS

The OA is filled with all sorts of different opportunities and when I wanted to learn a new skill, the OA could help me with that. I think that's something unique about the OA ... everyone knows someone who is willing to help you.

Justin R. – West Nyack, NY



I remember watching the closing show at the 2015 NOAC, and was motivated to serve my lodge in a new role. Whenever I think about my favorite memories, the centennial NOAC ranks among them.

Tyler G. – Green Bay, WI

When Hurricane Irma hit Florida, my council executive asked the lodge to help clean up one of our camps. We did a whole day of service and the camp was able to reopen the following week! It shows we truly are a brotherhood of cheerful service.

Austin S. – Jacksonville, FL

What is your favorite OA memory?

I went to NOAC in 2015. I didn't know the OA was that big and that so many people loved it just as much as me. NOAC is unlike anything you've ever been to, and if you've never been, it will change your life.

Gregory L. – Plainview, TX

When I first joined the OA, my receiving of the handclasp in the Ordeal ceremony was special to me. I never would have guessed that that commitment to service would have changed my life all these years later.

Mark B. – Denver, CO

Being able to perform at the OA powwows during summer camp every year is amazing. Everyone is excited to see you dress in regalia, listen to the beats of the drum, and dance around the circle.

Alex H. – Jasper, IN

The Saturday evenings during lodge events, where my friends and I just relax and talk and have a good time. Those are the best moments in the OA, bonding with my closest friends.


Michael W. – Oakland, CA

Going to Wapichi was awesome because we were all interested in American Indian Activities. The powwow at the end with all the dancers was the best part.

Michael W. – Springfield, OR

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my OA story

The Order of the Arrow engages with pre-teen youth members through senior Scouters well into their golden years. Each Arrowman has their own unique stories to tell of how or why they became involved with the OA. In this edition Will Benjamin, a youth Brotherhood member of the Mowogo Lodge in Northwest Georgia, shares his story of what being a part of the Order of the Arrow means to him.

"Grab your gear, jump in and swim to shore!" yelled the first mate. I was on a large pontoon boat in about 7 feet of water, off the Florida Keys, roughly 200 meters from the shore of Big Munson Island with about 30 other OA members. Each of us carried three days worth of gear. I was caught totally off guard. I don't think any of us expected this. Even as a strong competitive swimmer, I was worried. What if my gear gets soaked? What if my shoes fall off? What if I can't make it to shore?

I nervously walked towards the edge of the boat. I looked over the edge and jumped. I was immediately thrown off by the cold ocean water and struggled to stay afloat. I kicked my legs and tried to use my bag as a flotation device, which didn't work. I kicked faster but one of my shoes slipped off. I reached down and put it back on barely staying afloat. I tried to keep my gear above water as my feet searched for the ground. I finally made it to where I could stand on my toes. I held my bag above my head as I walked to the shore. Welcome to SeaBreak.

SeaBreak was a one time event hosted by the Florida Sea Base High Adventure Camp where a group of about 40 OA members from all over the country volunteered to



spend a week doing service work to help repair and clean up Hurricane Irma damage at Sea Base and Big Munson Island. When I first heard about it, I knew I wanted to go and help provide service. I was the second-youngest participant, the only Scout from my lodge, and in fact, the only one from my state. Needless to say, going alone and not knowing anyone, I was nervous from the start.

But that's the great thing about the OA. Even if you don't know anyone, everyone treats each other as if they've been friends for years. It gives you special opportunities to grow (even if you're shy) and pushes you to go beyond what you think you are capable of. Whether it's speaking in front of a large group of people, running for a leadership position or jumping off a boat into ocean water over your head with all of your gear, you always know your OA brothers have your back.

When I first arrived at Sea Base there was a small group of people waiting to figure out what would happen next. An OA brother named Andrew decided that it would be good for us to get to know each other while we waited. He asked us to introduce ourselves and we played a game of volleyball. We got to know each other and immediately formed a bond. Our group worked well together the entire week, and by the end of the week, we all felt like family.

Welcoming experiences like this are common in the OA, which is just one reason why I love the brotherhood. The quality of people and

leaders exceeds anything else I have found in Scouting. These experiences have made me want to become a better leader and take on more responsibilities to help the OA and the people involved in it.

Being an OA brother has given me the confidence to do more than I thought I was capable of. From working as an Elangomat [an Arrowman who supervises a crew of candidates] to becoming Vice Chief of Membership for my chapter to going to SeaBreak in just my first year in the OA, I've had opportunities to do things and grow that I wouldn't have gotten from my troop alone. I know that what I learn in the OA, I will be able to bring back to my troop to make it better and stronger. The best part is I will only continue to learn from my peers, to grow and improve my abilities as a leader.

Whatever challenges or opportunities life throws at you, whether it be your Ordeal, the path to Eagle or taking on bigger responsibilities in your troop or the OA, face them head on and jump in. You are capable of more than you think. For those adults not certain if the OA is right for their council, their district or their unit, I beseech you to discover its many benefits. I would not be where I am today if it wasn't for the opportunities the Order has provided me. Shouldn't every Scout get the chance to experience that?

I eagerly await my next OA adventure, and hope that you'll be able to have one of your own. ●

THROUGH *the* GENERATIONS

There are moments

in every boy's childhood that he'll never forget: losing his first tooth, learning how to ride a bike and playing catch in the yard with his dad.

For some lucky Arrowmen, they will also know the feeling of extending the family tradition in the Order of the Arrow.

It's not uncommon to see fathers help induct their sons or to watch sons take part in their parent's Vigil but there are some families who can trace their history in Scouting's honored camping society even further.

We tracked down two families whose involvement in the Order of the Arrow span at least three generations to find out what got them started, what keeps them going and how the OA has changed their lives.

The Kelly Family

Awaxaawe Lodge. Trapper Trails Council. Ogden, Utah.



Brandon Kelly can trace his family's Scouting lineage all the way back to 1911.

As he described it in a recent interview, Kelly's great grandfather, Marcus Kelly, was asked to join the Boy Scouts.

He liked it so much, he named his son Howard Boyce Kelly, his middle name a tribute to the man who created the Boy Scouts of America, William D. Boyce.

"My great grandpa loved scouting so much and how it helped people that wanted his sons to know how it made a difference for him," Brandon Kelly explained.

Flash forward more than a century later and the men who have descended from Marcus Kelly still have Boyce as their middle name and they still wear a khaki and green uniform.

In fact, some of Branon Kelly's favorite scouting memories involve trips with at least three generations of Scouters, all of whom are also members of the Order of the Arrow.

Brandon Kelly completed his ordeal as a youth in 1987 and obtained his Brotherhood the following year. He would go on to earn the Vigil Honor in 1994

A year before obtaining the Vigil Honor, Branon Kelly's father, Randy Kelly, was inducted into the Order of the Arrow in 1993 and obtained his Brotherhood the following year in 1994.



"Scouting has just been an integral part of our family way back to 1912"

Brandon's father-in-law, Keith Hadley, is also an Arrowman who served for years as a chapter adviser.

In 2010, a third generation of Kelly boys joined the Brotherhood of Cheerful Service. Brandon Kelly's

oldest son, Logan—who, like his father and grandfather carries the middle name Boyce—completed his ordeal in 2010. His brother, Baden, is also an Arrowman who was recently selected to receive the Vigil Honor.

When Baden completes his Vigil, Brandon Kelly and his two sons will each have attained the highest level of membership in the Order of the Arrow. And, the proud father said, that's no accident.

Kelly said the family has attended everything the National BSA Jamboree, to National Order of the Arrow Conferences, to local camping trips with his troop, chapter and lodge.

"Every time we go camping, it's a three-generation campout," he said.



Among Kelly's fondest Scouting memories was the chance to be with his two sons, two daughters, wife, father and father-in-law at the 2010 National Scouting Jamboree.

Not only was it a time filled with special memories created by multiple generations of Scouters, Kelly said, it was also a point of reflection on a life filled with overcoming obstacles.

"When I was a young teenage I was diagnosed with stage four cancer and given five to six months to live," Kelly explained recently. "One of the goals that I set was I wanted to go to the 100th anniversary of the BSA, which was 23 years down the road."

through (his ordeal), and my father in law and the last of my brothers-in-law went through, we go to every BSA event we can," Brandon Kelly said.

The Order of the Arrow has helped more than one Kelly come into his own, Brandon Kelly said.

His oldest son, Logan, has autism.

Instead of letting what most people would call a disability hold him back, Kelly said his son has thrived over the eight years since he was first inducted.

In fact, Logan served three years as vice chief of Awaxaawe Lodge; a ceremony competitor; section secretary and section vice chief.

In addition to being recognized with the Vigil Honor, Logan Kelly has also received the Founders Award.

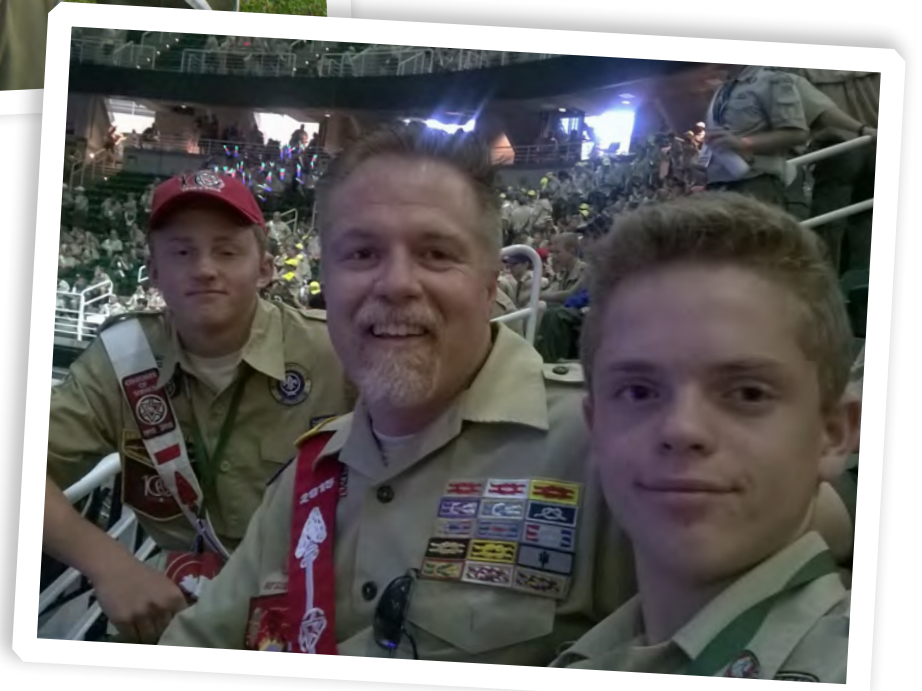
Kelly said the Order of the Arrow has been key to helping his autistic son grow into a young man.

"Scouting has really been his faucet of life," Kelly said. "It's afforded him to learn ceremonies, to get out of



In fact, Kelly said, he wanted to attend the 100th Anniversary BSA Jamboree, 100th Anniversary World Scout Jamboree and the 100th Anniversary National Order of the Arrow Conference. He did all three with his family by his side.

"That's been the greatest thing. Ever since 2010 when my son went





them to do uncommon things to succeed.”

Kelly, who has participated in Scouting through his LDS church, said his time in the Order of the Arrow has also helped prepare him for schooling, missions and other aspects of serving the church.

If Kelly has anything to say about it, his family’s involving in the Order of the Arrow won’t stop anytime soon.

“Scouting has just been an integral part of our family way back to 1912,” he said.

Two things are certain: there will be more Arrowmen and more sons with the middle name Boyce. ●

his comfort zone and the Order of the Arrow has really been what’s helped him to become mainstream.”

In total, Brandon Kelly said, he is aware of 15 total Arrowmen in his family spread across four generations.

Not only has it made for memorable family moments, he said, it’s also helped him and the men before him and after him develop into the people they are today.

“Now that I think about it, the skills I learned as a chapter chief and lodge officer-Chief changed my course and helped me to gravitate to business. Running ordeals, helped me to build multiple businesses,” Kelly said. “It also helped me understand how to organize groups of people and get



The Hauser Family

Osceola Lodge. Southwest Florida Council. Ft. Myers, Florida.



Sean Hauser has been going to Order of the Arrow events long before he was inducted.

As the son and grandson of Arrowmen, he said he grew up going to Boy Scout and OA events.

Hauser’s family traces its roots in the Order of the Arrow back to roughly 1940, when his grandfather, Ralph Hauser, was inducted into Calusa Lodge.

Decades later, Hauser said, his grandfather remains one of the oldest founding members of the current lodge. The eldest Hauser was honored with the Centurion Award in 2015 for his lifetime of service to the Order of the Arrow.

But, looking back on it now, Sean Hauser recalled decades of guidance his grandfather lent him during his time as both a youth and adult in the Order of the Arrow.

Sean Hauser served as a chapter chief, lodge vice chief and held other committee positions in his lodge. Among the tasks he remembers most fondly was serving as the Logistics Committee Chairman for the first section conference his lodge hosted during his time in the OA.

Hauser served as the chairman and his grandfather served as his adviser.

It was a grandfather-grandson duo living out the family's history of serving together that had gone on decades before.

Sean Hauser's father was a fancy dancer and traveled across the southeast; toting his family when Sean was a child. Indian lore was just a way of



life for Sean, even as his friends outside of Scouting focused on other things.

The Order of the Arrow's familiarity is comforting to the Hauser family.

"Lodge history is like family history," Sean Hauser said in a recent interview.

In addition to his father and grandfather, Hauser's grandmother is also a Vigil Honor member of the Order of the Arrow. He served as her Vigil guide in the late 1990's. Hauser's uncle is also an Arrowman.

So it wasn't much of a culture shock when Hauser's son got inducted into the Order of the Arrow this spring.

In a picture snapped at the end of the youngest Hauser's induction weekend, you can see his son smiling, with a fresh white Ordeal sash draped across his chest, sandwiched

"Lodge history is like family history"

in between his father and grandfather; no doubt proud to know the legacy will continue.

Now, there's a fourth branch of the Hauser family tree in Osceola Lodge. Hauser hopes he's just the latest in what will continue to be a long line of Arrowmen in the family. ●



OA + STEM

The Order of the Arrow is helping local lodges outfit their council camps and update programs to teach kids about science, technology, engineering and mathematics – commonly referred to as STEM.



Over the past two years, the Order of the Arrow has awarded OA Service Grants to two four lodges that sought the funds to help install or purchase technology that would aid in creating or enhancing a STEM program.

Since 1999, the National OA Committee has annually selected lodges from each region to receive matching service grants. Each year, the Order of the Arrow awards roughly \$50,000 in total grants.

The Order of the Arrow awarded a combined total of more than \$12,000 in grants specifically targeted at STEM initiatives in 2016 and 2017.



In 2016, the following OA Service Grants were awarded to help fund STEM projects at local council camps:

- The Theodore Roosevelt Council, headquartered in Massapequa, New York, was awarded \$4,120 to enhance the facility and curriculum for its Cub Scout and Boy Scout STEM and Arts programs.
- The Chester County Council, headquartered in West Chester, Pennsylvania, received \$2,100 to provide high speed internet connectivity for STEM program offerings for Macaleer Lodge at Camp Ware.
- The Redwood Empire Council in Santa

Rosa, California, received \$2,100 to acquire a 3D printer for the council's STEM MakerLab.

In 2017, the following OA Service Grant was awarded to help fund a STEM project at a local council camp:

- The Conquistador Council, headquartered in Roswell, New Mexico, was awarded \$4,500 for the construction of a pavilion/technology center for STEM-related programs at the Wehinahpay Mountain Camp.

You can find the complete guidelines for your council's lodge to submit an OA Service Grant application online at oa-bsa.org.

Questions can be directed to Michael Thompson of the National OA Committee at thompson1994@msn.com or Travis Rubelee, Associate Director of the Order of the Arrow, at travis.rubelee@scouting.org.



Partners in Service

It is not a coincidence that there are 271 local councils and also 271 OA lodges; each council has an OA lodge to support its youth program. This is a perfect partnership, a youth led lodge that can serve the council, while the council executive board supports the lodge's larger goals. In cases where both groups understand this partnership between lodge and council, outstanding results are achieved and sustained over many years to the betterment of the entire local Scouting program.

The partnership between the South Florida Council and the O-Shot-Caw Lodge has exemplified qualitative excellence in service and long term sustainability, and achieved the remarkable recognition of being awarded the Order of the Arrow's National Service Award 16 times over the prior 18 years. How has O-Shot-Caw lodge managed to persist in accomplishing this long-term success? "Empowered youth leaders, who understand the OA, and what Scouting is all about," according to past lodge adviser Ron Bell. For more than three decades, part of empowering the youth



leadership has been having the current lodge chief serve in an active role on the council's executive board. By taking an active role in the council the lodge chief is able to speak for the youth membership, while also learning the ins and outs of council operations. "Understanding the goals of the council board helped us to plan our lodge program, one which supported those goals," commented one past lodge chief.

At the same time the youth leaders of the lodge have taken an active role in the council, so have their advisers. The lodge adviser has an additional role within the council, often serving on the camping or properties committee. The current and immediate past council commissioners had both served as lodge adviser prior to taking on the Key 3 role. Across the executive board and districts one finds past youth leaders, now leaders within the community, returning to serve Scouting. Their youth leadership experiences prepared them for service later in life.

The hand and glove nature of council and lodge ensures that both are working to support each other and the common goals of growing Scouting in South Florida.



The properties committee is often the source for inspiration for future service projects at camp. The lodge is a key source for promotion and staffing for NYLT and summer camping programs. "The magic word is support. The lodge develops youth leaders by supporting the council's mission," according to current council commissioner, and past lodge adviser, Bill Gilliland.

Two examples of how O-Shot-Caw supports the council mission are the annual Haunted Forest, and the lodge's response to devastating damage caused to camp Jackson Sawyer following hurricane Irma. The Haunted Forest is an annual event held at Camp Elmore in Davie, FL, to allow all Scouting families a safe and fun filled evening of spooks and treats, while also raising money in support of the council's Joseph Aaron Abbot campership fund. The event was created by the youth leadership



of the lodge in the early 1990's, and over the past 25 year has donated more than \$220,000 in direct support to Scouts in need to ensure they can take part in summer camp. With the full support of the council board, this event is entirely planned, promoted, and operated by volunteer Arrowmen, with 100% of the proceeds going to camperships.

In September 2017, the first major hurricane to hit the Florida Keys in nearly 70 years made landfall just south of the South Florida Council's Camp Jackson Sawyer. This devastating category 4 storm destroyed nearly a thousand homes, hundreds of businesses, and caused major damage to the camp. As soon as the authorities had reopened the island chain to non-residents, members of the council executive board, along with key lodge leadership visited the camp to assess the impacts. In the weeks following that initial assessment a reconstruction plan was put in place, with the lodge leadership working closely with the council properties committee. The partnership approach ensured that repairs could begin quickly, that volunteer labor and talents could be utilized to their fullest, and that there would be no duplication of effort. The lodge took on the task of organizing the volunteer efforts, including the coordination of Arrowmen from around the country who came to Camp Sawyer to aid in the rebuilding. This allowed the council to focus its efforts on major infrastructure repairs and fundraising. Within six months of the storms landfall, dozens of volunteers had spent a week or more in camp working on restoration projects.

Brick Huffman, Scout Executive of the South Florida Council sums it up this way: "I truly appreciate the value of the strong working relationship between the council and the Order of the Arrow lodge. I have seen first-hand the dramatic impact the O-Shot-Caw Lodge has on our Scouts, leaders and camps, and in our communities." ●



These early calls, texts, WhatsApp messages, Facebook messages, and tweets, often asked if everyone was safe, then quickly turned to what they might be able to do to help. From offers of tarps for damaged roofs to whole trucks worth of building materials, water, and food, individual Arrowman did exactly what one might expect from a brother, they took action to help those in need.

On the island of Puerto Rico "Scouting almost became extinct, even though in a lot of areas, the first group of organized aid were Scout troops: kids opening up their camp equipment and feeding entire neighborhoods out of dutch ovens" said Area 5 Director Jim Hans.

LAST SUMMER'S HURRICANE SEASON was one the most active and destructive on record, from the flooding caused by Harvey in Texas, to the wind and storm surge damage brought by Irma to the Florida Keys, to the near total devastation of Puerto Rico by Maria. Fortunately, no Scouts lost their lives to these storms, but many suffered significant damage to their homes, schools, places of worship, and familiar Scout camps. The national high adventure Sea Base in the Florida Keys experienced major damage to its out-island property, Big Munson Island, while the main base in Islamorada, and the Brinton Environmental Center on Cudjoe Key were largely spared.

Quickly following these informal person to person aid efforts, sections, regions, and the national organization formalized coordinated programs to aid in the recovery. This formalized aid began with Section NE-5, which includes parts of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Transatlantic council, and the island of Puerto Rico. The section leadership took to social media with a fundraising patch sale. "We hoped to sell enough patches to raise \$2,000," recalled Section Chief Jeremy Bedient; by the end of the month-long sale more than \$60,000 had been raised and sent to fellow Arrowmen in need.

In the wake of Harvey and Irma, Arrowmen began reaching out to fellow Arrowmen who they knew lived in the areas impacted.

The initial success of the patch sale led Jeremy and the youth leaders of the section to believe that a larger scale project was

mending hope

How Arrowmen volunteered in the recovery of Puerto Rico



possible, and that Arrowmen could do more to support the recovery in Puerto Rico. The youth leadership team began working closely with Jim Hans, the Area 5 Director and María Molinelli, the Puerto Rico Council Scout Executive to identify a meaningful and lasting project they might

to help and support and help normalize these people's lives in some unique way." This was followed by Yokahu Lodge Chief Edward Colberg recounting stories of the tragedies he had seen in the days and weeks



undertake. Camp Guajataka had sustained catastrophic damage and was identified as an ideal site for a major service project. With the support of the Puerto Rico Council, and Jim Hans, the Area Director, the youth leadership's idea were presented to the senior leadership of the BSA. Scouting's leaders embraced the idea wholeheartedly and agreed to cover all but the transportation costs for any Arrowman who wished to take part. ArrowCorps Puerto Rico was launched, and within a week all spots had been registered.

following the storm, and giving his personal accounts of what daily life has been like since the storm. For many Scouts this brought the magnitude of crisis into focus, allowing them to better understand the needs of the local communities and the need of their fellow Scouts to return to a more normalized way of life, if nowhere else at least at Scout camp.

From March 11th to the 17th, 96 Arrowmen from 28 states, and 50 local volunteers worked tirelessly to restore Camp Guajataka. National Vice Chief Michael Kipp established the tone on the first day reminding everyone that "The things that happened to this island, to this camp and to this community are devastating and tragic and I know many of us are never going to fully grasp what that's like, but that's not what's important. What's important is that we recognize that we can all do something



At the onset the task of rebuilding an entire Scout camp seemed nearly impossible, yet with highly skilled adults and highly motivated youth working side by side, that was accomplished. Completed projects included the restoration of electrical service, structural and roof repairs to 20 camp buildings, the rebuilding of a foot bridge which connects the two sides of the camp, clearing downed trees and bamboo from road, campsites, and trails, and the construction of a new central campfire site.

At the conclusion of the week Jim Hans said "This camp has been reborn thanks to your efforts and the Scouts that are gonna come this summer are going to experience a camp that almost looks like a hurricane didn't touch it at all ... My faith in Scouting, my faith in people was reaffirmed this week more than ever before." ●



mending hope at SeaBreak at the Florida Sea Base

The second major service project undertaken by the OA came in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma. Harrison Fry knew watching the news coverage that the storm was making landfall very near the Florida Sea Base's Brinton Environmental Center, and that given the storm's size and destructive power there could be significant damage. Good fortune prevented the Brinton Center from sustaining major damage; however, Big Munson Island, which is the basecamp for the out-island adventure program did not fare as well.

Big Munson Island suffered significant damage to its tree canopy, had several feet of sand deposited across the island; and had all installed infrastructure heavily damaged. Sea Base General Manager Mike Johnson said "Big Munson Island will survive, the topography may be different, but the spirit of the island lives on."

42 Arrowmen answered the call to spend their spring break on the island, some chose to sleep in tents, others under the stars, but they all shared a common work ethic and desire to restore the island before the start of the summer camp season.

During SeaBreak, these Arrowman worked more than 1200 hours on the island restoring campsites, building tables, chuckboxes, and composting toilets, moving tons of sand, and clearing dead trees and underbrush. At the end of the week this island outpost had been transformed once again into a functioning Scout camp. For more on this experience please read Will Benjamin's account on page 30. ●



a pivotal year for the National Leadership Seminar

The National Leadership Seminar (NLS) is often regarded as one of the best youth leadership training programs available. From its inception, NLS has built confident leaders who are able to harness their creative skills and leadership personality to better their chapters, lodges and sections. This program not only helps participants positively affect Scouting at home, but it also helps them succeed in life. Now, with a recent update in place, participants of NLS courses should be prepared for an even more exciting event.

reevaluated. Beginning in early 2017, youth lead Jeff Sedlacek and adult adviser Jason Riley assembled a task force focused on developing an updated course. Through many conference calls, face-to-face discussions and even a meeting at Philmont Scout Ranch, the task force evaluated different leadership methods and created new and relevant curriculum. A pilot course was launched in November 2017, and it proved to be engaging and successful. Following the pilot, updates were made to the national Train the Trainer (TTT) event, which is where the regional NLS teams are trained on how to properly implement the NLS program. The 2018 TTT event was held in Houston, TX, and the new staff were taught how to facilitate the updated program.



When the last NLS program was released in 1993, the leadership theories and techniques used in the course's content were state-of-the-art. However, more than two decades later, the national Order of the Arrow training subcommittee decided that it was time for the program to be

Whereas the old NLS placed a higher emphasis on lecture-based instruction, the updated seminar includes more dynamic activities to engage all learning styles. Before every course, participants, now referred to as "learners", complete a learning assessment. This evaluation will give the learners a good sense of how they



absorb information and how easy it is to work with someone with a different learning style. Table guides, now referred to as "crew guides", are tasked with working alongside the learners and providing guidance throughout each session. Every learner will be given a trail map -- an interactive guide to take notes and fill in diagrams. The trail map also includes the learning outcomes and key points from each session so that the learners can better utilize the information once they return home.

The updated NLS course also includes much more technology in an effort to meet the needs of an increasingly tech-savvy society. Each crew will have access to a tablet that can be used to answer real-time questions on screen using Sli.do, an online polling application. The responses to these questions can help us understand how to constantly improve the program for the future. During one of the new sessions, Everest Challenger, learners work together to summit Mount Everest. Essentially a large-scale board game, Everest Challenger helps learners work together, overcome

obstacles, and make sure their decisions align with their personal values.

2018 is a pivotal year for the NLS course in its new form. Moving forward, regional and national leadership plan to gather information and data through surveys to help ensure the course stays current and relevant with smaller updates every couple of years. With this major update now deployed, the National Leadership Seminar continues to raise the bar for all BSA training and provide experiences and memories to last a lifetime. ●



taking the lead

10 Minutes with Little Rock's Top Youth



YOUTH LEADERSHIP is an essential part of the success of the Order of the Arrow. Through experiences, collaboration with other similar-aged leaders, and guidance from adult advisers, youth leaders learn communication, management skills and abilities first-hand. By allowing the youth to “drive the car,” the OA empowers young men to think critically, while they plan and execute events and programs which benefit their fellow Scouts.

The Order of the Arrow follows the same key 3-based organizational structure as the BSA. An OA chapter generally covers a same geographic areas as a district, with an elected youth chapter chief and an appointed adult chapter adviser, with the district-level professional serving as the staff adviser. This same model holds true for lodges and councils, as well as sections and areas. At the regional and national levels, the election process for youth leaders is slightly different, with region chiefs, the national chief and national vice chief being elected from the section chiefs rather than an entirely open to all members election.

During the years a Scout maintains youth membership of the OA, until age 21, many will seek to hold leadership roles. For some this may be aspiring to serve as the national chief, and for others it is a way to support their local Scouting program by serving as a chapter vice chief or chapter secretary. One thing holds true regardless: youth leadership works.

Noah Smith, Quapaw Lodge Chief of the Quapaw Area Council in Little Rock, Arkansas, tells us about his experiences in serving as a youth leader.

When did you first become involved in Scouting?

“Scouting began for me when I joined Tiger Cubs, about ten years ago.”

What made you want to serve in a leadership role within the OA?

“When I was inducted into the Order, I looked up to my friend Caleb Tubb, who was an older Scout. He inspired me to want to one day run for lodge chief.”

How did you become the Quapaw Lodge Chief?

“When David Ashley was elected to serve as SR-8 Section Chief, I was selected to fill the vacancy created in the lodge chief position.

Many of my friends supported me in finishing the remainder of David’s term, and so I decided to run for a term of my own in October, where I was successfully elected.”

What do you see as your biggest challenges as Quapaw Lodge’s top youth leader?

“It is most definitely communications. We’re trying to improve communication with our chapters to get them rallied together. It’s hard, but we know that the better the lodge communicates with the chapters, the more everyone will be able to succeed.”

How are you working on improving communication with your lodge members?

“We recognize the need to improve our presence on social media to engage with our members directly and to get more people involved. The lodge executive committee created a new social media committee, with appointed chairman for each of the platforms: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. The results were very successful. More people are engaged, and want to become more active on committees and take active leadership roles. It is very encouraging.”

How have your lodge advisers helped during your time as lodge chief?

“My lodge advisers are extremely supportive. They allow the youth to run the program and help us make it better. My advisers have helped me find opportunities for other youth, which is why I think our program is good – so many youth are involved and want to help.”

What kind of service do you provide to your council?

“Every year, more than 50 Arrowmen attend an event called ‘Beaver Day,’ where members of Quapaw Lodge come and provide service to local council properties.

The service the lodge provides to the Quapaw Area Council helps keeps the camps in pristine condition for unit camping and summer residence camp.”

Do you sit on your council executive board?

“Yes, I have a seat on the council executive board. As the only youth on the board, I provide updates on the progress of the lodge and if there is anything the lodge or chapters can do to assist any council initiatives. Sometimes, the lodge is asked to help with a special service project or event.”

“I want to encourage every young Arrowman to strive to want to be a part of leadership.”

Which lodge event is your favorite every year?

“My favorite event is definitely our Lodge Leadership Development. It is a weekend training event for lodge leaders (youth and adult) to work on goals and to grow together as a team for the upcoming year. Everyone gets there Friday night, and it is exciting to work with the chapter chiefs, lodge officers and committees to prepare for the rest of the year. We also play games and go through team building exercises to help us work together more efficiently.”

What advice do you have for a young Arrowman unsure about running for a position?

I want to encourage every young Arrowman to strive to want to be a part of leadership. It’s a great experience in which I have greatly benefited from and to any Arrowmen who have the opportunity to serve in a leadership position, I encourage them to take it! ●

Get ready for fun at NOAC 2018

It's been three years since the brothers of our Order last came together for the national conference. While our country and our world has changed significantly since then, our Brotherhood has remained steadfast as a vibrant part of the BSA program.

As the second NOAC taking place in our second century, the theme for the conference is fittingly Decide Your Destiny. In the words of Northeast Region Chief Justin St. Louis, "The Order of the Arrow is at a critical point in our history. Whether or not the organization thrives for our children and their children is entirely up to us. We can choose to settle for mediocrity, or we can strive to achieve excellence. At this conference, we're going to push beyond the status quo and chart the course for a destiny that proves the Order's best days are ahead of us."

Soon, as we converge on Indiana University for NOAC 2018, we will be reminded of

how much fun a week full of OA can be as we gather to celebrate a brighter, greater time for the Order than ever before.

Are you a big patch trader? Get ready! Each lodge typically creates a lodge flap designed specifically for NOAC, and patches will be changing hands for the entirety of the conference. Trading patches is an exciting way to meet new Arrowmen and new friends from all over the country. By trading patches one may strengthen the ties of brotherhood with their fellow scouts, and in doing so have the opportunity to gain new perspectives from different people in all parts of the country.

Do you like to learn new things? NOAC trainings will teach Arrowmen about all things OA. From the history of the Order to its ceremonies to how to become a better leader, all those in attendance will have the chance to return home equipped with new knowledge about our order and about themselves. Training will be an integral part



of the conference experience.

The Arrowmen Press Corps, another program at NOAC, will be one of the most interesting aspects of the program. Arrowmen will get the opportunity to make names for themselves as independent journalists reporting all over NOAC. Those with an inclination towards written reporting will be able to compose articles detailing the happenings of the conference. Whoever enjoys capturing moments in photographs will get the chance to have their work showcased as they highlight all the fun moments of NOAC 2018. Videographers will get to capture the conference as it happens, preserving snippets that will allow our conference to be remembered as it happened for many generations to come.

The NOAC program will be larger than life, and an experience that nobody would want to miss. Arrowmen will learn how to be successful leaders in their home lodges, will be able to live it up trading patches and attending shows, and will get to report on all the goings on of the conference via the Arrowmen Press Corps program. NOAC 2015 celebrated the Order's transition into its second century. This year, NOAC will highlight the continued service of our organization and how we, as leaders, can step up to decide our own destiny. When asked about what he's most pumped for, St. Louis noted that he is ready to meet Arrowmen from across the country, all while engaging in top notch training, watching inspiring shows, and participating in competitions.

This summer, coming from lodges all across the nation, we will converge in the spirit of Brotherhood. This summer, be prepared to be challenged to recommit yourself to a life in cheerful service. This summer, join us for the 2018 National Order of the Arrow Conference. ●



Don't miss a thing.

May 23-25
BSA National Annual Meeting (Dallas, TX)

May 23
OA National Committee Meeting (Dallas, TX)

May 27
OA Ocean Adventure Begins

June 8
Philmont OA Trail Crew Begins

June 10
OA Summit Experience Begins

June 13
Northern Tier OA Wilderness Voyage Begins

June 13
Northern Tier OA Canadian Odyssey Begins

June 15
Maury Clancy American Indian Campership Applications Due

July 22
OA Summit Experience Ends

July 24
OA Ocean Adventure Ends

July 25
Northern Tier OA Wilderness Voyage Ends

July 25
Northern Tier OA Canadian Odyssey Ends

July 27
Philmont OA Trail Crew Ends

July 30-August 4
National Order of the Arrow Conference (Indiana University)

September 14-16
SOS - NER (Alpine, NJ)

September 28-30
NLS/DYLC - SR (Richmond, VA)

October 1
OA Charter Renewal Kits Distributed

October 5-7
Lodge Key 3 Summit - NER (Alpine, NJ)

October 12-14
NLS/DYLC - WR (Larkspur, CO)

October 12-14
SOS - SR (Memphis, TN)

October 26-28
NLS/DYLC - CR (TBD)

October 26-28
SOS - WR (Lake Tahoe, CA)

October 29-31
BSA National Meetings (Irving, TX)

October 29
OA Steering Committee Meeting (Irving, TX)

October 31
OA Service Grant Applications Due

November 9-11
NLS/DYLC - NER (Alpine, NJ)

November 9-11
NLS/DYLC - SR (Pineville, LA)

November 16-18
NLS/DYLC - WR (Tahoe City, CA)

November 16-18
SOS - CR (Rochester, IN)

December 27-30
National Planning Meeting (Dallas, TX)

December 31
Lodge Charter Renewal Deadline

December 31
E. Urner Goodman Camping Award, Innovation Award & National Service Award Petitions Due

