

V. Appendix: Example letter to unit leaders announcing award opportunity

Dear unit leader,

Thank you for your service to the youth of the Boy Scouts of America. As Scouting's National Honor Society, the Order of Arrow is committed to serving and supporting the Scouting program on all levels. The National Order of the Arrow Committee is focusing on a concerted effort to create tools and develop resources for local-area Scout leaders. In order for the Order of the Arrow to provide the best support to units, we have created the **Order of the Arrow Unit of Excellence** recognition program.

This program incentivizes your unit to participate in local Order of the Arrow events, hold annual elections for those Scouts/team members who are eligible for OA membership, and implement the OA Troop/Team Representative Program. Our hope is that units that complete these criteria will benefit from the support programs that the Order of the Arrow has implemented to strengthen unit-delivered program. Units who qualify for **OA Unit of Excellence** recognition will be presented with a ribbon from your local lodge to be displayed on your unit flagpole. In addition, your unit's Troop/Team Representative, Troop/Team Representative Adviser, and Scoutmaster/Coach are eligible for awards associated with their roles in supporting the achievement of your troop's/team's **OA Unit of Excellence** status. Requirements for the award are attached.

As new members are elected into the Order of the Arrow from troops/teams, they experience leadership development opportunities that build upon the lessons learned in their units about living a life of character and leading by example. Lodge and chapter events are designed to improve upon the experience of OA members so that they can bring back greater value to the Scouts in their unit.

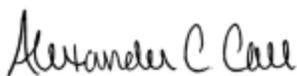
The OA Troop/Team Representative program offers a youth in your unit the chance to develop leadership and communication skills as an officer of the troop/team and bring greater connectivity between your OA lodge and the youth of your unit. In order to effectively implement the OA Troop/Team Representative program, you should also appoint an adult leader to serve as an OA Troop/Team Representative Adviser. The OA Troop/Team Representative Adviser is a new, official BSA adult position of responsibility that has been created in conjunction with this award, and formally establishes the role for an adult to guide and mentor the youth Troop/Team Representative.

If you have any questions about the Order of the Arrow or the programs your unit can participate in, please contact:

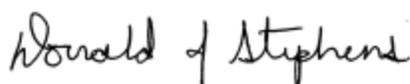
Chapter / lodge contact: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Thank you again for your service to Scouting and we hope you will participate in the **OA Unit of Excellence** program.

Yours in Scouting,



Alex Call
2015 National Chief



Donald Stephens
2015 National Vice Chief