

**Arrowman 101**: Looking in the Rearview Mirror

2015 National Order of the Arrow Conference

Session Length: 50 Minutes

Through this session, you will:

**Explain** The History of the Order of the Arrow;

**Demonstrate** Review the Timeline of important OA dates and events to illustrate how far the organization has come from its humble beginnings;

**Guide** Participants in understanding where and how they fit into our history;

**Enable** Participants to look back at our past, to help them chart their course for the future.

This session does not specifically address any Journey to Excellence Requirement(s).

The theme of NOAC 2015 is “It Starts With Us”. This session will relay this theme in the following ways:

* History and legacy – they are the sum total of individual journeys seeking the arrow and the resulting contributions, efforts and impacts made by individual Arrowmen.
* The Order is celebrating the past 100 years of its history and the legacies that our predecessors left for us. The next 100 years of history and legacy starts today. It starts with us. Our present, our future – they are tomorrow’s history.

**SESSION NARRATIVE**

**Trainer Tips:** Keep an upbeat tone throughout the presentation. It is absolutely vital that you utilize the powerpoint slides during this presentation to provide visual interest and excitement to the presentation do that it doesn’t just become a boring time line recitation of events. Although all Arrowmen take an obligation to “observe and preserve the traditions of the Order of the Arrow”, they don’t all necessarily enjoy a history lecture!

Also watch your clock! The information here can easily extend pass 50 minutes unless you move quickly!

Finally, KNOW the material. Nothing could be drier or more boring than having someone read a timeline or powerpoint frame!

First Slide

**INTRODUCTION 1 Minute**

The trainer should take this opportunity to introduce himself. He should focus on his own induction and journey to where he is at today and the stops along the way (positions held, OAHA, milestones, NOAC’s, etc.).

Advance Slide

**WHY WE HAVE A REARVIEW MIRROR 1 Minute**

In order for you to know where you are, or where you are going, you must first know where you have been.

By studying history, we can learn what led to both success and failure. That enables a present generation to avoid mistakes and wrong turns, while at the same time building upon the foundations that have been laid by past generations.

Today, we are on a journey. In this session, you will see where that journey began and how far we have come. In the second session, you will discover we you currently are. And in the third session, you will decide where you – and we – are going.

**OA MILE MARKER 1 Minute**

When you were younger, how many of you would play travel games when you were on car trips with your parents? Maybe you played “I Spy”, “Punch Bug”, or tried to spot a license plate from as many states as possible.

Today we are going to play a game as well. We are going to play OA Mile Marker! The object of the game is to quickly count off the mile markers as we look back on the Order’s journey. Every now and then we will pull off the side of the road and take a longer look at some historical markers and roadside attractions. Pay attention, during the session, quizzes will pop up. Record your answers. Remember, Scout’s Honor!

Advance Slide

So buckle up, and let’s get started.

Advance Slide

**THE PARKING LOT – WHERE IT ALL BEGAN 10 Minutes**

Advance Slide

**1915**

The Order of the Arrow was founded in 1915 at Treasure Island Scout Camp in the Philadelphia Council. Its formation was at a time when the BSA was scarcely five years old. Amazingly, it was accomplished by two 24-yearold men, Camp Director E. Urner Goodman and Assistant Camp Director Carroll A. Edson.

The name was not originally “Order of the Arrow”. It was Wimachtendienk Wingolauchsik Witahemui. These three Lenni Lenape Indian words meant the “The Brotherhood of those who Serve Cheerfully”.

Contrary to what many people believe, it was not started as an Indian Lore group. They wanted to establish a camp fraternity as a means to honor worthy Scouts and staff members. The format, rituals, hierarchy, atmosphere and early terminology were and are very reminiscent of college fraternities and other fraternal organizations.

While almost all fraternities – whether they admit it or not – have very similar core beliefs and even rituals, it is often the theater or themes of those rituals which set them apart. Some use medieval knights, or 19th century military, or ancient Greek or Roman culture as the vehicle or basis for their ritual. But historically, and factually, it is almost always a very loose interpretation.

The same can be said of the OA. Contrary to popular belief, our ceremonies are not some historically accurate representation of Native American rituals. The Founder’s probably chose an Indian theme because it was popular at the time, because of Ernerst Thompson Seton and Dan Beard’s influence on early American Scouting, and because it provided a local flavor to the organization since the Lenni Lenape or Delaware Indians had once inhabited the area.

Robert Craig and Gilpin Allen were the first two inductees on July 16, 1915

During that first summer a total of 25 members were inducted into the new order; 23 youth and Goodman and Edson, who were initially considered honorary members.

E. Urner Goodman was selected as the first Vigil Honor member, then known as the Second Degree, at the end of the 1915 Treasure Island camping season. He kept his Vigil at a high bluff known as

the Devil’s Tea Table overlooking Treasure Island. He was given the Indian name Nuwingi meaning the willing.

Following the success of the [Wimachtendienk W.W. during the summer of 191](http://history.oa-bsa.org/node/3041)5 and reflection upon the experience at [Treasure Island](http://history.oa-bsa.org/node/3035) it was decided that this new Honor Campers Society needed to be formalized and moved forward. To that end, Goodman he wrote an invitation to all [25 inductees](http://history.oa-bsa.org/node/3047). The meeting was held at Camp Morrell on November 13, 1915

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**1916**

Initially there were no Ordeals as we know them today during the 1915 camping season. Candidates were announced and went straight to the ceremony with the whole camp observing. In 1916, the first use of a more formal Ordeal induction process began.

1916 also saw the framing of the first Constitution of Wimachtendienk for Unami Lodge.

The “tortoise” was selected as the general insignia of the Order. The First Degree insignia was an arrow

superimposed on the tortoise (this would later correspond to the Second Degree – Brotherhood). The

Second Degree insignia was defined as a triangle superimposed on the back of the tortoise (this would

later correspond to the Third Degree – Vigil Honor).

It was established that these would be made into pins and that the pledge pin (later to be the First Degree insignia) would be an arrow.

Advance Slide

At the close of 1916 Unami Lodge held its first Annual Banquet; a practice maintained to this day. Many

lodges would later hold such banquets during the winter holidays. This was the first fellowship type

“event”, as opposed to a working meeting held by a lodge. These evolved into our conclaves, fellowships

and conferences of today.

At this Banquet it was resolved that Wimachtendienk consider themselves a National organization and not a local organization. That was a pretty bold statement considering they were the only lodge that existed!

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**1917**

Co-founder Carroll A. Edson became our second Vigil.

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**THE TRIP BEGINS 8 Minutes**

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**1919**

The Order flourished at Treasure Island, but it was not until 1919 that the first documented expansion

took place with the addition of Trenton Lodge (later known as Sanhican Lodge) across the river from

Philadelphia in Trenton, New Jersey. Later in 1919 the third lodge Pamunkey (later known as Nawakwa)

was formed in Richmond, Virginia. Expansion occurred informally as word spread, and more importantly as members transferred to other councils.

Howard L. Seideman became the first youth Vigil Honor Recipient. He kept his vigil with [Horace P. Kern](http://history.oa-bsa.org/node/3052) and is considered to be the fourth person to receive the Third Degree.

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**1921**

The first Meeting of the Grand Lodge was held. This was a predecessor to today’s NOAC’s. It was

attended by delegates from 8 of the 11 known lodges and was hosted by the two lodges of Philadelphia

Council, Unami and Unalachtigo. Because there was no official record keeping or chartering process at the time, it is almost certain that there were other lodges in existence at the time but that were unknown to the other lodges.

A Constitution was framed and ratified for the Grand Lodge and Goodman was elected the first Chief of the Grand Lodge. Insignia was provided for in the constitution for each of the three degrees (later to be known as honors). This early insignia was pins (not patches).

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**ROAD HAZARD AHEAD 8 Minutes**

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**1922**

 During the 1922 meeting National Council meeting of the Boy Scouts of America there was great concern about [fraternal and secret organizations](http://history.oa-bsa.org/node/3089) at Scout camps. The unease was understandable. There did exist secret societies at the time that were not in keeping with Scouting principles. Some groups involved cliques, undemocratic principals and overtly racist foundations. So it was not unreasonable for Scout executives to have apprehension about secret societies operating in their Scout camps. The result was a motion to pass a resolution “that camp fraternities be discouraged in connection with Boy Scout camps”.

A discussion and vote was held on the subject of Camp Fraternities.

E. Urner Goodman and Edson both discussed the successes of the Wimachtendienk and Chief Scout James West supported their position. The Order was cautioned to grow on its own merit (not through marketing), but was allowed to continue. The society, along with two other camp fraternal organizations became an official experiment of the BSA. It was recognized that a council’s Scout Executive, as Supreme Chief of the Fire, has the authority to disband a lodge within his council.

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**1924**

Upon E. Urner Goodman’s own recommendation the Wimachtendienk adopts “Order of the Arrow” as its

“public name”. It is surmised that this name was the popular name for the Wimachtendienk already in use in camp and was also less threatening to non-members who found the Lenni Lenape name to be too secretive and mysterious.

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**1926**

The lodges were retroactively numbered at the Grand Lodge Meeting in the order that they were initiated.

These numbers served as a record of when the Wimachtendienk came to each council. Patches were officially approved for the first time for wear by Second Degree (Brotherhood) members.

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**1928**

The first Regional meetings were held. These became the predecessors to today’s Section Conclaves.

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**1931**

E. Urner Goodman was appointed to the National Council staff as Director of Program, a position specifically created for him. Under his tenure Cub Scouts, Exploring and other Senior Scout Programs such as Air Scouts and Sea Scouts are developed. He was also responsible during World War II for the wartime programs. Goodman held this post until 1951.

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**1932**

The Order of the Arrow again became an official experiment and subsequently an official Senior Scout

Program under Goodman. A process was set up to formally approve Order of the Arrow Lodges throughout the country through the BSA. The Order grew rapidly often absorbing local camp fraternities and grand-fathering in their memberships.

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**1933**

On August 23, 1933, [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](http://history.oa-bsa.org/node/3136) became the first and only President of the United States to be inducted into the Order of the Arrow.  The induction took place at Camp Man of Ten Mile River Scout Camp. Recently film was discovered documenting the event.

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**1934**

The Grand Lodge began to modify Masonic terminology in our rituals and documentation. Instead of “Degree”, it became “Honor”. The term “password” became an “admonition”. The term “Lodge” was changed to “Tribe”. However the term was unpopular and was also used by the Lone Scouts. It reverted back to Lodge in 1936.

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**1940**

The Order celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary. It also creates the Distinguished Service Award (DSA)

which was awarded for the first time to eleven Arrowmen.

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**SETTING CRUISE CONTROL 10 Minutes**

Advance Slide

**1948**

The Order of the Arrow officially became a part of and fully integrated into the Boy Scouts of America. The Grand Lodge was disbanded and the National OA Committee was formed.

At the National Meeting that year, adults were informed that they no longer could hold lodge offices. Although the Founders had intended the Order as a youth organization, almost from the very beginning it had never really achieved that goal. Thirty-three years after its founding, it finally did.

Also in 1948, the first OA handbook was published. It was written by J. Rucker Newbery and included

Pictures of various lodge patches. One of them was a peculiar flap shaped patch, the first time many Arrowmen saw one.

The 1948 annual National Meeting is now considered the first NOAC.

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**1950**

1950 marked 35th anniversary of OA. The NOAC that year marks the first time youth Arrowmen actually planned and ran the conference.

The second national jamboree was also held that year and the OA began a tradition of providing an Order of the Arrow Service Corps at Jamborees. There was also a gathering of Arrowmen during the Jamboree, which attracted 3,500 members of the Order, the largest gathering of Arrowmen of its time

Advance Slide

**1954**

Flap shaped patches were officially approved by the National OA Committee and the National BSA Committee on Badges and Insignia. Although flaps had been made by lodges for almost a decade,

this is when they became official and many lodges issued their first flap in the subsequent five years.

Advance Slide

**1965**The Order of the Arrow observed its 50th anniversary during 1965. A special 50th Anniversary award was created that could be earned by youth members of the Order. There were 26,576 successful Arrowmen who received the award. The cloth emblem was to be worn in the designated location on the Arrowman’s sash.

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**1967**

Prior to 1967 the Order of the Arrow did not have a jacket patch. In fact, they really did not have a logo. They had of course used American Indian themes, but there was no standardized design. That all changed with the introduction of the first jacket patch featuring a multicolored American Indian chieftain. The design had been introduced circa 1961 and was used extensively starting at the 1961 NOAC.  The jacket patch was an immediate hit and became iconic in Scouting.

Advance Slide

**1969**

The Ceremonial Advisory Group was an unofficial group of arrowmen who were working to develop deeper understanding and symbolism in our ceremonies. Tipisa Lodge was the first lodge to introduce the use of an Elangomat in 1969.

Advance Slide

**1974**

The first National Indian Seminar was held. The semi-regular event would later go through program evolutions into the National Pow Wow and later into Indian Summer.

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**1975**

The Order of the Arrow celebrated its 60th Anniversary in 1975. In addition to the OA milestone, [America was also about to celebrate its bicentennial](http://history.oa-bsa.org/node/3349). To recognize these two historic events, the [National OA Committee](http://history.oa-bsa.org/node/3201) established the Order of the Arrow 60th Anniversary Bicentennial Award.

In late 1975 the Order of the Arrow began usage of a new logo that replaced the [original OA jacket patch](http://history.oa-bsa.org/node/3296) that had been in use since 1967.  There was a need for a simpler design that could more easily be re-created by local lodges and would reproduce well on the black and white photocopiers in use at the time. The emblem had first appeared at the [1972 National Planning Meeting](http://history.oa-bsa.org/node/3327) and was distributed as clip-art prior to the [1973 NOAC](http://history.oa-bsa.org/node/3331).

Advance Slide

**1978**

After two years of formal planning, [the National Leadership Seminar (NLS) program](http://history.oa-bsa.org/node/3346) was introduced in 1978.

Advance Slide

**1980**

The 1980 Arrowman’s Personal Involvement Award was created for Arrowmen to serve the Scouting program where their primary responsibility lies, at the unit level. It could be earned again in 1981.

On March 13, 1980 the Order of the Arrow’s Founder passed away at the age of 89. Goodman had

literally touched the lives of hundreds of thousands of Scouts and Scouters.

Advance Slide

**1981**

In 1981, The Founders Award was created allowing Lodges to honor members who exemplified the values and vision of our Founders.

The Elangomat Program was adopted as an official part of the Ordeal in August 1981.

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**1985**

In 1985 the Order of the Arrow was an integral part of the BSA’s Diamond Jubilee by holding its first National Philmont Trek and by providing a Service Corps for the National Jamboree.

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**1986**

On October 26, 1986 the Order lost its Co-Founder Carroll A. Edson at the age of 94.

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**OUR CAR TRIP GOES DOWN SOME NEW ROADS 10 Minutes**

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**1988**

Women leaders were officially allowed in the OA in 1988. In late 1991 and early 1992 the first women Vigil honor members are indicted.

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**1990**

The Order of the Arrow observed its 75th Anniversary in 1990. A special anniversary award was created that for the first time both youth and adults could earn. It was a turtle with a superimposed arrow, suspended from the OA pocket ribbon.

A tradition that started in 1990 was the [NOAC Museum](http://history.oa-bsa.org/node/3504).  [Ken Davis’s](http://history.oa-bsa.org/node/3414) [*Brotherhood of Cheerful Service*](http://history.oa-bsa.org/node/3413) book and the 75th Anniversary had stimulated interest in the history of the OA. The museum had a very modest start, one “small obscure room”. It has since grown to become a major must-see feature of any NOAC.

Advance Slide

**1995**

The popular OA Trail Crew began its operations at Philmont. Similar service programs would later be added at Northern Tier, called the OA Voyageur program and at Seabase, known as the OA Ocean Adventure. Recently, Summit Corps was added at the Bechtel Scout Reserve.

Advance Slide

**1998**

1998 saw the 50th anniversary of the Order of the Arrow having been formally and officially adopted by the BSA. A new logo – our current one – introduced.

The OA also entered the digital age when it officially launched the OA national website in the [National Bulletin](http://history.oa-bsa.org/node/3102) at the beginning of 1998.

Also, the OA changed its description from “Society of Honor Campers” to “Scouting’s National Honor Society”.

Advance Slide

**1999**

The OA took advantage of a year without a [NOAC](http://history.oa-bsa.org/node/3202) or [Jamboree](http://history.oa-bsa.org/node/3142) to hold the National Leadership Summit. The summit was held at Colorado State University, from July 31st to August 3rd, 1999. All lodge and section chiefs, advisers, and staff advisers were invited to attend. Never before had there been a national event targeted specifically for the 'Key Three' leaders from all the lodges in the nation. The focus for the conference was implementing the OA Strategic Plan. Training, workshops, and discussion groups on how to implement the new plan were a part of the summit program. The new unit positions of OA Troop and Team Representatives were introduced.

Advance Slide

**2001**

The Arrowman Service Award was an Order of the Arrow award from 2001 through 2003. The award was a white ribbon with a red arrowhead attached on the bottom. The arrowhead had a compass face affixed to the front. Arrowmen earning the award subsequent times would be awarded with a device to wear on the ribbon. The award was worn as a temporary device on the field uniform.

Advance Slide

**2002**

The [National OA Committee](http://history.oa-bsa.org/node/3201) created the [Legacy of Servant Leadership Lifetime Achievement Award](http://history.oa-bsa.org/node/3475) in 2002 to recognize the Order's second and third generation "Founders"—Scouters who have built an enduring legacy to Scouting and the Order of the Arrow (OA) through a lifetime of cheerful service to others.

Advance Slide

**2004**

In 2004 the decision was made to no longer issue lodge numbers. All records are now kept by the national office using the council number and lodge numbers are not used. It should be noted that the council number did not replace the lodge number and the local lodge may still use lodge numbers, but they have no official national usage and lodge numbers are merely historical artifacts of the early days of the Order of the Arrow.

At the [2004 NOAC](http://history.oa-bsa.org/node/3480), the [National OA Committee](http://history.oa-bsa.org/node/3201) announced a new award aimed at honoring the Order’s heritage of service. To earn the Leadership in Service Award, an Arrowman provided 8 hours of service to his/her local camp and provided 6 hours of community service through a lodge or chapter run community service project. The award could be earned three times. The first time an Arrowman earned the award, he received a blue ribbon with a suspended red arrowhead attached at the bottom. The ribbon could be worn as a temporary device on the field uniform. Arrowmen earning the award subsequent times would be awarded with a device to wear on the ribbon. The Leadership in Service Award was active for the years 2005-2007.

Advance Slide

**2008**

The OA’s commitment to service extended far beyond Scouting with ArrowCorps5 in 2008. It was conducted as a joint project between the OA and the United States Forest Service (USFS) to provide service at five U.S. Forest Service sites across the country.  The tagline for the event was **“Five Sites, Five Weeks, Five Thousand Arrowmen.”**

Advance Slide

**2011**

SummitCorps “The New River Experience” was an OA service adventure in partnership with the U.S. National Park Service.  Modeled after [ArrowCorps5](http://history.oa-bsa.org/node/3498), 1,404 Arrowmen served during four one-week sessions throughout July 2011.  Together, they built 12.8 miles of hiking and mountain biking trails in the New River Gorge National River National Park located in West Virginia. The New River Gorge is located adjacent to the new Summit [Bechtel Family](http://history.oa-bsa.org/node/3260) National Scout Reserve, the new permanent home for BSA [National Scout Jamborees](http://history.oa-bsa.org/node/3412). The new trail was aptly named “Arrowhead Trail”. SummitCorps was the largest youth volunteer project in the history of the National Park Service (78,544 hours of service valued at more than $1.6 Million). The West Virginia National Guards’ Glen Jean Armory served as the Incident Command Center. In addition to trail building, $25,200 worth of non-perishable food was donated to local food pantries and $15,409.50 raised through patch auctions was donated to local charities, helping to build a climate of trust, gratitude, and bonds of friendship with the people of West Virginia.

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**2015**

Already in 2015 we have seen the introduction of a brand new Brotherhood ceremony and the largest NOAC in our history! What’s next on our journey? I don’t know, but it starts with us!

You are here today. We have seen in our quick road trip through our colorful history the impact that a single person, or a small group can have. Today it starts with YOU, and me, and the Arrowmen back home.

Advance Slide

**TRAINER PREPARATION**

It is recommended that this session be taught by an individual who has previously studied the history of the Order of the Arrow. Remember that most Arrowmen attending this session will only have a rudimentary understanding of the rich history of the Order. Typically they only know what is written in the current edition of the OA handbook (if that). Prepare for this course by reading Kenneth Davis’s *The Brotherhood of Cheerful Service* and the history section on the OA National Website. You should also be prepared when asked a question to say “see me after class” when the question is too specific for this session. Be prepared to move swiftly through the material. You have less than an hour to take your group through 100 years of history while offering detail and anecdotes.

Appendix Resources:

* PowerPoint presentation