



2018 National Order of the Arrow Conference

Creating, Improving, and Maintaining Lodge Traditions: Traditions

Session Length: 45 Minutes

Through this session, you will:

Explain: Participants will discuss what traditions are and why they are important.

Demonstrate: Participants will see that traditions are essential to the success of an organization.

Guide: Participants will be encouraged to dissect a tradition to see its importance and impact.

Enable: Participants will develop ideas about how they may use their knowledge of traditions to impact their Lodge/Chapter in a positive way.

Learning Outcomes:

- What are Traditions?
- Why are Traditions Important?
- What Purpose Do Traditions Serve?
- (Special Note) How Do Lodge Mergers Impact Tradition?

Theme Connection:

The theme of NOAC 2018 is “Decide Your Destiny,” emphasizing the message that today’s decisions shape tomorrow’s reality. This session will relay this theme in the following ways:

- Your destiny is impacted by the traditions you observe.
- You decide your destiny by the traditions you preserve.

This session will help the Lodge with the Journey to Excellence Requirement(s): 1-8

Required Materials: [tailor specifically for this session after the syllabus is done, e.g. handouts, flipcharts, projector, screen]

- Projector
- Screen
- Computer
- Marker board
- Markers

TRAINER PREPARATION

1. Prepare room so that small grouping may be used.
2. Be sure to have a marker board with markers.
3. A projector, screen, and computer will be needed for the accompanying PowerPoint presentation.

Session Narrative

Introduction

5 minutes

Consider the Obligation of the Order:

“... I will faithfully observe and preserve the traditions of the Order of the Arrow...”

What does this statement mean to you?

Tradition defined: *the handing down of statements, beliefs, legends, customs, information, etc., from generation to generation, especially by word of mouth or practice*

(State the Learning Outcomes)

What are Traditions?

10 minutes

A. Traditions

1. Development
 - a. Intentional
 - b. Accidental
 - c. Group Acceptance/Embracing
 - d. Can't force them
2. Type
 - a. Organizational
 - i. Dates
 - ii. Times
 - b. Symbolic
 - i. Logos
 - ii. Signs
 - iii. Legends
 - iv. Song of the Order



- c. Emotional—builds a common bond
- 3. Levels of traditions

Why are Traditions Important?

10 minutes

B. Importance

- Operations
- Unification
- Creating Culture
- Motivate—call to action
- Inspire
- Builds common expectations
- Routines and common practices
- Calls to remembrance
- Shapes our future (destiny)

Trainer Instructions: Ask the group why traditions are important. On a marker board, capture the comments from the class discussion. Use the suggestions in this section to prompt discussion, as needed.

What Purpose Do Traditions Serve?

10 minutes

C. In small groups, a) identify a Lodge tradition, b) explain its importance, and c) describe its purpose.

Ask a few groups to report to the class a, b, and c.

(Special Note) How Do Lodge Mergers Impact Tradition?

7 minutes

- D. Lodges may merge and even merge again.
- Why is it important to retain some traditions?
- Why is it important to develop some new traditions?
- What traditions are maintained regardless of a merger?
- What challenges have been encountered with traditions in mergers?
- What are successful practices related to traditions and mergers?

Takeaway Challenge

3 minutes

Please take out your notebook and pen. For the final three minutes, think about the role that you will be playing next year in the OA, or the role you hope to play. Write down three key ideas



related to this session that you could help improve your chapter or lodge traditions. During your break time later today, share these with others in your chapter or lodge.

Appendix: Resources and Source Material

- 2016 Guide to Unit Elections, available online at <http://www.oa-bsa.org/pages/content/guide-to-unit-elections>
- 2012 Guide for Officers and Advisers, available online at <http://www.oa-bsa.org/pages/content/publications#goa>
- 2008 Lodge Finance Manual, available online at <http://www.oa-bsa.org/pages/content/publications#lfm>
- Chapter Journey to Excellence Workbook, available online at <http://www.oa-bsa.org/pages/content/printable-forms>