



Lodge 102: Banquets People Want to Attend

Session Length: 45 Minutes

Through this session, you will:

Explain the basics of planning and running a Lodge Banquet

Demonstrate best practices on engaging and entertaining programs

Guide participants to plan outstanding banquets

Enable learners to take home new perspectives and implement them

Learning Outcomes:

- Learners will be able to successfully plan and run an engaging Lodge Banquet
- Develop an engaging program that will bring attendees back year after year
- Utilizing new ideas, attendees will be able to infuse life into often stale and monotonous Lodge Banquets

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:

- Through presenting new ideas, attendees will be able to bring inviting and engaging ideas to sterile and dry Lodge Banquets
- By adding elements of fun, young people will be able to take part in an interesting, yet engaging special event.

This session will help the Lodge with the Journey to Excellence Requirement(s): 1, 2, 5, 10

Required Materials:

- Computer with Projector and Screen
- Video clip from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nMsacoc9DnQ>
- Whiteboard with Markers and Eraser



TRAINER PREPARATION

1. Review Syllabus and Powerpoint
2. Develop examples of great lodge banquets and banquets that could use improvement.

Session Narrative

Trainer Instructions: If at any time the trainer should perform an action (play a video clip, ask prompting questions, etc) type the directions into boxes like this. Simply copy this box and paste wherever needed throughout the lesson plan, replacing this text with your own material.

Introduction

5 minutes

Today, we are going to look at the more formal, but fun aspects of the Order and its programs, Lodge Banquets.

Before we get too far, let us take a few minutes to look at a pretty formal engagement and see what we think.

Following this video, we'll talk about what we saw in the video and see how this represents the perception of Lodge Banquets and how we can change this.

Trainer Instructions: Show short clip of party from *Gatsby* (available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nMsacoc9DnQ>). After the clip is played, ask participants on their thoughts of the banquet, is it too formal? Could we do this in a different way?

Why do we have banquets?

10 minutes

Many lodges utilize annual banquets as an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of the dedicated Arrowmen of their Council. As a joyous occasion, we should be ever mindful of the programming that we utilize to best exemplify the mission, purpose and spirit of the Order of the Arrow.



With this in mind, knowing what we do about the Order, and Scouting, what would we want to accomplish with a Lodge (or Chapter) banquet?

Answers could include:

- Recognition
- Friendship/Brotherhood
- Fellowship

Additional Goals:

- Membership Engagement (**Activation Rate**)
- Membership Retention

Engaging Program

10 minutes

Deciding on the programming for a banquet is a tough thing to master. With such a wide audience of older and younger members, new Arrowmen, parents, families and guests, it's sometimes a significant challenge to figure out a program that can be engaging, yet meaningful for all.

Let's discuss this for a few minutes, break up into smaller groups of 3-4 people and come up with a list of 3-4 possible ideas for a speaker, or main portion of your banquet program. Lets take about 4 minutes and report back.

Trainer Instructions: Utilize a participant to act as a scribe on the whiteboard.

Adding Fun and Excitement

10 minutes

As we saw earlier in the clip from *Gatsby*, we realize that stuffy and overly formal banquets aren't for everyone. In fact, many of our young people will see them as increasingly boring. Boring, usually translates to people not wanting to come back the following year. Keeping this in mind, we need to add some fun and excitement to the event.

Some examples include:

Video or Picture Slideshow Year In Review

Door Prizes

BINGO or other game

Entertainment:

Musician/Band

Magician

Jugglers

What other ideas have you seen at work in your Lodge, or in other organizations that could work well here?



Trainer Instructions: Utilize a participant to act as a scribe on the whiteboard.

Fun and excitement goes beyond just having some entertainment. It is also a time for the Lodge to recognize Arrowmen, Chapters and Units that have done outstanding work throughout the previous year. In addition to Arrowmen of the Year, Chapter of the Year, the Founders Award, James E West Fellowships, and in some Lodges, Vigil Honor Call Outs; we can utilize this opportunity to engage our units with the Unit of Excellence program. Designed to assist the Lodge in the execution of its programs, this recognizes Units for outstanding participation in the Lodge and Chapter functions. A Lodge Banquet is a perfect opportunity to shine light on the benefits of this program.

What other recognitions do your Lodges and Chapters utilize to commend Arrowmen?

Sharing Best Practices

10 minutes

One of the greatest things that we can share with each other are the ideas that we have from our home lodges. This makes any Order of the Arrow gathering a real transaction of knowledge and best practices. I'd like to open the floor to everyone to share any experiences or ideas of banquets they've been to, or any Lodge events where recognition happens.

These don't have to be just positives. Feel free to share the uh-oh moments that we can all learn from.

If any of these ideas sound great to you, please write them down and share them with your Lodge Leadership during your free time today.

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 the way your chapter or lodge plans and implements their annual banquet, if you have one. If not, discuss the possibility of hosting an annual banquet. During your break time later today, share these with others in your chapter or lodge.



Appendix: Resources and Source Material

- *Gatsby* (2015).
- Unit of Excellence Award Guidance

<https://oa-bsa.org/uploads/resources/forms/unitexcellenceaward-2015.pdf>