

**MEGA LODGE ADMINSTRATION –LOGISTICS AND ORGANIZATION**

**TRAINER PREPERATION**

Session Length: 50 Minutes

**The theme of NOAC 2015 is “It Starts With Us”.**

**This session will relay this theme by enabling guests to be the catalyst for positive development of their lodges by taking home with them the fruits of the discussion in this training session.**

**Through this session you will be able to:**

**Explain** the strengths and challenges that large-sized lodges uniquely face in administration.  
**Demonstrate** ways to play up the strengths in order to meet those challenges.  
**Guide** our guests in discussion of best practices to address those issues.  
**Enable** our guests to take back to their lodges ideas that they can actually employ.

**This session will help the Lodge with the Journey to Excellence Requirements:**

* Membership impact #3
* Membership Retention #4
* Lodge event participation #7
* Leadership Development #16

**Required Materials:**

* Box of Large paperclips
* Flipcharts (2)
* PowerPoint Presentation file
* Adult & Youth Resource Survey to determine skill set available (HandOut)

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**SESSION NARRATIVE**

**Trainer Tip**: In improve participation and customize the discussion, ask one member of the lodge represented to write on the board or flip chart in the front of the room 1) Lodge name, 2) Location and 3) How many members in their lodge.

* **Use an ice breaker to get the group started.**
* One of my favorites is to divide up on groups of 5-7, pass out a large paperclip , then get out a sheet of paper and write down how many ideas you can get with the common paper clip. Have a contest for the most answers…Time them for 90 seconds and in the end , ask each group who had the most.
* Remind them that a “*mind once stretched, never regains it original shape*”
* So they need to be open minded about this session.

**INTRODUCTION 5-7 Minutes**

Introduce yourself and share your background and experience. Based on the size of the group and time, have the participants introduce themselves where from, lodge name and how many members.

In this session we will be discussing how the problems and needs of the lodge influence its organization

How the unique character of a large-lodge can be leveraged to increase member’s interest

*The Journey To Excellence provides a clear road map to a path/plan for continuous improvement for the Lodge.*

**Start with Ice breaker paper clip contest.**

**Using The Membership 10-15 minutes**

The *Order of the Arrow Handbook* strongly recommends that all members, no matter the size of the lodge, be given some sort of assignment. In larger lodges, this is even more important, as the sheer size of available membership makes it easy for a member to be swallowed up and forgotten. It is critical for each member not only to have a role but also to know that each is making a meaningful contribution to the program.

There are some general rules for effective use of your membership that can get more out of each member’s service. Remember: “Large” does not mean “has everything” or “needs no more.” Also, just because a lodge is large on paper does not mean that it is effectively using the talents of all its members.

Members who are needed (I e have a reason to come to something) tend to participate more and over a longer period – they stay active. Everyone also brings unique talents to the table, and it is important to know who can do what and who wants to do what.

**Membership Inventory**

Set up a simple data base for positions needed and member’s prospective positions/skills. Like a Quartermaster in the troop, this info can be in a data base on computer or simple index cards in a box. Pass out the Adult & Youth Resource Survey to determine skill set available

*Remember information is power, so keep that information handy to use to recruit and fill position.*

**Personal Information**

Age, school, phone, interest, jobs, talent, address are essential to know in your lodge

Hint: How about manpower committee to do this? Remember for adult’s job type, list of hobbies is very important.

**Scouting information**

Rank, unit number, position, events attended. Honors held, years in position, training courses attended like JLT, Wood badge, University of Scouting, previous positions, and similar information

**Order of the Arrow information**

Status, position held, previous events attended, staff worked on, ceremony parts, Elangomat, national training and events, other area of interest.

Once inventory is done and resources identify, just connect the dots and have a backup for each position in case they are unavailable or decide on another position.

This is called succession planning.

**Trainer Tip:** Have everyone list three strengths of large-sized lodges, then three challenges smaller lodges face when it comes to administration. Use these to focus and guide your discussion of this session.

**Training**

Once you have a member assigned to a task, be sure to train him or her to do it well.

All great organizations and companies do it regularly.

A regular Lodge Leadership Development (LLD) program is essential, but also encourage members to attend training at Section Conclave, send delegations to the National Leadership Seminar and adults to the National Lodge Adviser Training Seminar or OA training at Philmont. (If funding is an issue for any of these, approach your council’s camping committee or training committee to map out strategies for getting your members to these training sessions).

Training is essential and the best training is service as an assistant to the leader of the job you will be taking. In a lodge of this size, who should conduct it and how often?

Ask how do you learn best? Ask for show of hands?

1. Who would like a book and read and do a project?
2. Who would rather see a demonstration and then try yourself?
3. Who would like to do trial and error to complete a task?

Be sure you understand the best training for the right person.

Match the job for the person. Please do not assume that just because you see someone at an activity they are competent to lead or interested in that task.

Make sure that the person recruited has someone who will be available to answer questions along the way and can give advice or help.

All jobs need a written job description to be sure everyone is on the same page.

Remember authority is seized, not granted, sometimes a well written job description will be sure the job gets done correctly.

Another great idea for new or young leaders is to be sure you show confidence.

**People follow leaders not managers.**

Be humble and admit you shortcomings or mistakes. Also if you make a mistake with your lines in a ceremony, be confident, as this is the first time they hear it.

If you forget a key food for lunch, improvise or send someone to get it!

What you know is better than what you think you know – membership inventory and succession plans.

Most youth positions change every year, so training is ongoing. Advisors are normally 3-5 years, so they can overlap new emerging youth leadership.

When selecting youth and adults for a position it is best to have an inventory list of needs and potential list of talents.

The wise leader will find out all they can about a prospect before he meets or speaks with them. A good leader will find a job for every member and understand the need and wants for that member, and takes into account level of commitment and also ability.

**Organization of the Lodge**

Lead a discussion on the size and structure of the leadership. What size executive committee does a large-sized lodge need, and how should be structured to allow an adequate voice for all without – at the same time – allowing too many voices in the room? What are the essential positions? What operating committees are needed? How do we cover everything that needs to be covered without burning out members by giving them too much to do?

It should go without saying that a larger lodge needs a successful system of chapters to operate. Some mega-lodges are very compact geographically, while others can be spread across hundreds of square miles of territory. Many mega-lodges delegate functions, such as conducting inductions, to the chapters that would be carried out at the lodge level in smaller-to-medium-sized lodges. In many of these cases, chapters are the size (in terms of members) of entire lodges elsewhere.

Another issue to consider with mega-lodges that are not only large in membership but also territory is that the outlying regions are well-served with the program. It is very easy to concentrate the program around the council service center city. The outlying counties and regions matter just as much.

***Let’s put in use what we learned* 15-20 minutes**

*Divide up into 3-5 members per group Chose a problem card from the deck and spend 7-8 minutes discussing it . Keep groups small for better interaction*

*Then have a member report back to the group. At the end and capture info on flip chart*

1. *What number of activities are enough for the large lodge? Which activities are best conducted at the chapter level?*
2. *What other events besides ordeals should be put on the calendar and why?*
3. *What activities are the best draws for the youth?*
4. *What programs ideas have been disasters and why?*
5. *How do you keep form conflicts like Band, Theater, sports, church activities overlap with OA and Scouting?*

*The unique ambiance of large lodges can be exploited to attract and retain the youth in the organization. By using a structured brain-storming technique, develop a list of ideas that can be used by larger lodges that will help in making the individual lodge member feel more a part of the organization.*

***Conclusion & Wrap up 5 minutes***

**This session did address four key components and will help the Lodge with the Journey to Excellence Requirements:**

* Membership impact #3
* Membership Retention #4
* Lodge event participation #7
* Leadership Development #16

Remember everyone has an opportunity to serve and with the Membership Inventory you can assign the right person with the right job or jobs.

Any closing comments or questions?

Where can I get more information?

BSA and NOAC resources are listed below.

Appendix Resources:

* 2012 Guide for officers and Advisors
  + Pages 1-10 Organization, Lodge Program
* Order of the Arrow Handbook
* Order of the Arrow National Bulletin – published quarterly and available online
* National Order Of the Arrow –Website
* Lodge Leadership Development, [http://lld.oa-bsa.org](http://lld.oa-bsa.org/)
* National Boy Scouts of America, [http://www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org/)