



**Recapturing the Vision of the Founders:  
What is the real meaning of the OA? Have we  
strayed away from that?**

**Session Length: 45 Minutes**

<b>Explain</b>	The “real” meaning of the Order of the Arrow
<b>Guide</b>	A discussion on the “real” meaning of the Order and how it relates to what we do today
<b>Enable</b>	A spirited discussion of the original intent and what we do today

**Learning Outcomes:**

- If we have strayed from the “real” meaning – is it important to re-focus our intent back to the “real” meaning or is it okay to continue along our current course?
- If we are still on course with the “real” meaning – how might this meaning be embellished within the Brotherhood?
- How can we, the Brothers do a better job at living the “real” meaning of the Order of the Arrow?

**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:

- How did the decisions made in 1915 shape the reality of today?

This session will help the **\*\*Lodge/Chapter/Section\*\*** with the Journey to Excellence Requirement(s):

- Program - Item #9, Service Projects
- Council Support - Item #14, Council Program Support
- Council Support - Item #15, Council Camping Support
- Leadership and Governance - Item #16, Leadership Development

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

- Power point presentation
- Projector that will accept a thumb drive
- Screen for ppt





- 2015 Order of the Arrow Handbook
- 1996 Order of the Arrow Handbook
- Dry erase board
- Markers

## TRAINER PREPARATION

1. Preparation: power point presentation on a memory “stick”

## Session Narrative

### Introduction

10 minutes

“Real” meaning of Order of the Arrow

### 1996 OA Handbook - Purpose of the Order

- *To recognize those campers – Scouts and Scouters- who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives and by such recognition cause other campers to conduct themselves in such manner as to warrant recognition.*
- *To develop and maintain camping traditions and spirit.*
- *To promote Scout camping, which reaches its greatest effectiveness as a part of the unit’s camping program, both year-round and in the summer camp, as directed by the campaign committee of the council.*
- *To crystallized the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.*

### 19 years later

### 2015 OA Handbook - Purpose of the Order

*As Scouting’s National Honor Society, our purpose is to:*

- *Recognize those who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives and through that recognition cause others to conduct themselves in a way that warrants similar recognition.*



- *Promote camping, responsible outdoor adventure, and environmental stewardship as essential components of every Scout's experience, in the unit, year-round, and in summer camp.*
- *Develop leaders with the willingness, character, spirit, and ability to advance the activities of their units, our Brotherhood, Scouting, and ultimately our nation.*
- *Crystallized the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.*

**First topic**

**12 minutes**

What has changed?

Other than these written words – how has the Order changed over the years?

Has the Order strayed away from the “Real” meaning?

**Second topic**

**12 minutes**

Are the changes perceived or real?

Are the changes beneficial to the Order?

Are the changes beneficial to the Brothers?

**Third topic**

**4 minutes**

1965 Vision of the Founder – E. Urner Goodman

“...Yes, in the Order each member is important, for what each does counts in establishing the Order's success.

Such an idea is basic to our democracy, just as it is offensive to totalitarians.

The Order of the Arrow is a thing of the out of doors rather than indoors. It was born on an island wilderness. It needs the sun and the rain, the woods and the plains, the waters and the starlit sky.

We pick up the lore and tradition of the American Indians and glorify them today. The Indian was a lover of the open air and his culture is important to preserve.

It is to be hoped that one of our greatest achievements will be the strengthening of the Scout movement as an out-of-door experience. In this respect we have a double task:

We have a quantity job to do, for still too large a percent of our troop and posts are not camping.



We have quality job to do to secure genuine camping that produces self-reliance in the individual camper.

For out of life in the open comes a precious ingredient which our country and any country needs if it is to survive-self-reliance that makes men strong in any time of stress.

The Order of the Arrow is a thing of the spirit rather than of the mechanics. Organizations, operational procedure, and paraphernalia are necessary in any large and growing movement, but they are not what counts in the end. The things of the spirit count.

Brotherhood – in a day where there is too much hatred in home and abroad.

Cheerfulness – in a day when the pessimists have the floor.

Service – in a day when millions are interested only in getting or grasping rather than giving.

There are of the spirit, blessed of God, the Great Devine Spirit.”

#### **Fourth topic**

**4 minutes**

Discussion of our Founder’s 1965 Vision and its application today.

#### **Takeaway Challenge**

**3 minutes**

What is the significance of the “real” meaning of the OA?  
Should we continue to along our present course?  
Are there changes to be considered for the future?

Please take out your notebook and pen. For these final minutes, think about the role that you will be playing next year in the OA and the years to come, 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 operates. During your break time later today, share these thoughts and ideas with others in your chapter or lodge.

### **Appendix: Resources and Source Material**