

ORDER OF THE ARROW | BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

National Bulletin

ISSUE 1 | VOLUME LXXIV SPRING 2017

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ORDER OF THE ARROW

National Bulletin

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The *National Bulletin* is a publication of the Order of the Arrow. Its content and design are developed by youth Arrowmen under the guidance of adult advisers.

If you have an article and/or photo (with caption) for submission, or if you're interested in writing for the *Bulletin*, please email communications@oa-bsa.org.



#OABSA

oa-bsa.org

Eagle Scout congratulatory letters

2017 National Chief Forrest Gertin and National Vice Chief Talon Parker have authored a letter to congratulate any Arrowman who earns the rank of Eagle Scout this year.

You can download and customize the letter by visiting this web page:
- tinyurl.com/2017EagleLetter

Special announcement

Dear reader,

We are just a few months shy from the Order of the Arrow's 102nd birthday — July 16, 2017. Nearly two years ago, the organization we love celebrated its centennial birthday — 100 years of cheerful service! This accomplishment was celebrated at the capstone national conference at Michigan State University in August 2015. This conference focused on celebrating our past century, while also looking forward to our next. Fast forward a year and our lodge leaders convened at Indiana State University for NEXT: A New Century in August 2016, which was focused on innovation and building a better future for tomorrow.

With innovation in mind, I want to inform you that the key leadership of the national communications committee (NCC) decided to rethink and restructure the way we publish the *National Bulletin*. For over 90 years, the *National Bulletin* has been sharing the story of the OA. It has, however, gone through

revisions and revamps intended to better share the story of the OA. We feel it is the best time to revise our strategy again.

While we have many ideas for how the revision will look, they're merely concepts for now. We plan to take the next few months to finalize our ideas, build a team to implement them, and then work to publish the first *National Bulletin* under this new design in May 2018. This letter is intended to serve as a notice that we will not publish another bulletin until then.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to email me at communications@oa-bsa.org. We appreciate your patience as we work to determine the best way to serve our membership through this historic publication.

WWW,

Michael T. Swalberg
Coordinator
National Communications
Order of the Arrow, BSA



CHIEFLY SPEAKING



FORREST GERTIN

2017
National
Chief

Brothers,

It's conclave season, the second most wonderful time of the year! For Arrowmen around the nation, that means joining their lodge contingent at an event designed to be a weekend full of fun. You get to make friends from other lodges in your section or area, learn from expert trainers, and enjoy other activities like shows and competitions. I'll have the privilege to travel to eight conclaves this year, and each one that I've been to has left me feeling invigorated, and more optimistic about the future of the OA than before. Your spirit of cheerful service always pushes me to do more – never lose it!

At the most recent conclave I attended, I was invited to lead the walk that occurs prior to the Brotherhood Ceremony. As I led the Arrowmen along the trail to the ceremony circle, the questions that I asked caused me to reflect as well. The light of the torch and the meandering trail through the woods took me back to my Induction experience.

I wondered, for a moment, if I had really understood the depth of my original commitment to cheerful service. That question was easy to answer: originally, no. Over time, however, seeing what the Order of the Arrow has done to expand my leadership skills, I felt more and more of an obligation to give back. Okay, simple: commit to cheerful service, see just how much other Arrowmen are willing to do for you, and eventually you feel the same commitment.

My second question was, frankly, much more interesting: Did the ceremony serve to clarify the trail that I was starting down, or did it obscure the path? In our induction sequence, we tell a story of individuals who were confronted with a "dark cloud" of adversity, find a common purpose, and then band together as a team to fend off the challenges in their way. This is an apparently clear example of servant leadership. But it isn't that simple. Our imagery blurs the lines.

Are the heroes of the story fighters or peacemakers? I, for part of my walk through the woods of Eastern Ohio, could not reconcile the image of a warrior with the mantras of leadership that the OA has taught generations of Scouts. Searching for opportunities to serve others and finding solutions to problems that manifest themselves as win-win scenarios conform instead to the symbol of a hand outstretched in friendship. It was only by extending that hand to each other that the heroes of our chosen parable survive the turmoil of their time.

True heroes are always peacemakers. Although the induction may muddy the waters by focusing on bows and arrows, the natural state of any community is peaceful harmony. As you travel to conclaves, the National Jamboree, or even on vacation this summer, try to emulate the traits of peacemakers. You can always be a hero to someone by understanding them, and then overcoming your adversity together.

WWW,

Forrest J. Gertin
2017 National Chief



**2017 National Chief
Forrest Gertin
represented the BSA
at the annual
Report to the Nation**



Meet your 2017 national youth officers

NATIONAL CHIEF Forrest Gertin

“This year presents our organization with the incredible opportunity to fuel Scouting’s adventure - both by providing Operation Arrow staff and jamboree participants with an excellent experience, and by providing our lodges with the resources they need to succeed through the LLD rewrite.”

Forrest hails from the city of Rochester, NY. He is an Eagle Scout and Vigil Honor member of Tschipey Achtu Lodge and is an assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 750 in the Seneca Waterways Council. Previously, Forrest served as section chief for NE-3A and is a recipient of the Founder’s Award from his lodge. Forrest is an international political economy major at Georgetown University. He participates in student government, theatre and debate, and enjoys playing percussion and cycling - and has even biked around one of the great lakes.

NATIONAL VICE CHIEF Talon Parker

“Planning and executing Operation Arrow will be a challenge, but I know we are ready to take this challenge head on!”

Talon’s hometown is Elm City, NC, and is an Eagle Scout and Vigil Honor member of Croatan Lodge and serves as an assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 752 in the East Carolina Council. Talon was previously the section chief of SR-7B. Talon studies nursing at Nash

Community College. In his spare time, he enjoys boating, hunting, backpacking and fishing. This past summer, he was a foreman for the OA Ocean Adventure program at the Florida Sea Base.

CENTRAL REGION CHIEF Taylor Giles

“I’m excited to serve my fellow Arrowmen and put together a great experience at the national jamboree and our other national programs this year.”

Taylor is from Charleston, WV, and is an Eagle Scout and Vigil Honor member of Takhonek Lodge and is an assistant Scoutmaster with Troop 5 of the Buckskin Council. Taylor was previously the chief of C-4B and is a recipient of the Founder’s Award. Taylor studies political science and economics at West Virginia University. In his spare time he golfs, skis, goes white water rafting, and goes hiking. He is also the first national officer from his lodge.

NORTHEAST REGION CHIEF Jon Hagenow

“I’m looking forward to a great year through supporting Operation Arrow, the Lodge Leadership Development rewrite and most importantly the Arrowmen of the Northeast Region!”

Jon resides in Suffield, CT, and is an Eagle Scout and Vigil Honor member of Tschitani Lodge and is an assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 66 of the Connecticut Rivers Council. Jon was previously the section chief



for NE-2A and is a recipient of the Founder’s Award and his lodges Silver Lodge Flap recognition. In his spare time, Jon enjoys swimming, skiing, paintball and spending time outdoors with friends. Jon is a huge theater fan and has been behind the scenes for The Lion King on Broadway.

SOUTHERN REGION CHIEF Harrison Fry

“I’m very excited to represent the Arrowmen of the Southern Region in the next year. We will engage Arrowmen like never before at the jamboree.”

Harrison is from South Fulton, TN, and is an Eagle Scout and Vigil Honor member of the Nguttitehen

Lodge and is an assistant Scoutmaster with Troop 43 of the Lincoln Heritage Council. Harrison was previously the section chief of SR-6 and is a recipient of the Founder’s Award, James E. West Fellowship, and Arrowman of the Year from his lodge. Harrison majors in management at Murray State University. In his spare time, he enjoys playing and writing music, carpentry projects and camping. He has travelled to six countries and is very active in his church and on campus.

WESTERN REGION CHIEF Manny Lopez

“2017 is going to be a great year for the region and the Order as we move to inspire, involve and empower our fellow Arrowmen.”

Manny’s hometown is Aliso Viejo, CA, and is an Eagle Scout and Vigil Honor member of Wiatava Lodge and is an assistant Scoutmaster with Troop 774 of the Orange County Council. Manny was previously the section chief of W-4S and is a James E. West Fellow and a recipient of the Arrowman of the Year award from his lodge. Manny studies political science at Irvine Valley College. In his spare time, he enjoys cooking, singing, poetry and participating in the Model United Nations club. Manny is a huge Disney fan and has conducted choirs in concerts.



Youth leaders have begun final preparations for Operation Arrow

Last December, youth leaders from around the country gathered in Dallas, TX for the national planning meeting to select the leadership for Operation Arrow, the OA's effort to support the 2017 National Jamboree. The program will be led by National

Chief Forrest Gertin and National Vice Chief Talon Parker and will be powered by 750 youth Arrowmen -- the largest jamboree staff team ever assembled by the Order of the Arrow. A corps of jamboree vice chiefs will assist in leading the effort.

Operation Arrow's areas of focus are Service Corps, Trek Guides, Indian Village, Medical Transport Corps, Aerial Sports Team, Summit Center exhibit and headquarters support staffs.

Operation Arrow will cement the Order of the Arrow's reputation of service and impact thousands of scouts from around the world.

More than 630 Arrowmen have already signed up to be a part of this historic service effort but a number

of openings are still available. You can apply to be on staff by visiting event.oa-bsa.org. We hope you will join us as a part of Operation Arrow at the 2017 National Jamboree for what is sure to be the experience of a lifetime!

Here are the youth leaders selected to help lead Operation Arrow through their service as a jamboree vice chief:



Patrick Mapp
SERVICE CORPS

"I'm excited to continue and expand the outstanding legacy of the OA Service Corps at the 2017 National Jamboree."

Past SR-9 Section Chief Patrick Mapp is an Eagle Scout and Vigil Honor member of Ini-To Lodge and a member of Troop 11 in the Flint River Council. Patrick is a recipient of the Centurion Award and the Founder's Award. He is a political science and pre-law major at Columbus State University. In his spare time, Patrick enjoys kayaking, hiking, and travelling. A fun fact about Patrick is that he has worked as the seasonal operations manager at the Summit Bechtel Reserve the past two summers.



Matthew Watson
INDIAN VILLAGE

"The OA has a pivotal role in sharing a glimpse of the Shawnee people, from the hills of the Summit to the plains of Oklahoma, with Scouts from all over the world. I look forward to opening eyes to the American Indian culture that is very alive and diverse today."

Past SR-5 Section Chief Matthew Watson is an Eagle Scout and Vigil Honor member of Atta Kulla Kulla Lodge and a member of Troop 159 in the Blue Ridge Council. Matthew is the recipient of the Centurion Award and the Founder's Award. He is a biology/pre-med major at North Greenville University. In his spare time, he enjoys camping, traveling, fishing and storytelling, especially about the Cherokee - he even wrote his lodge's history book.



Chris Craig
TREK GUIDES

"I'm excited to watch the jamboree be awesome! It'll be exciting leading the Trek Guides at the forefront of the journey."

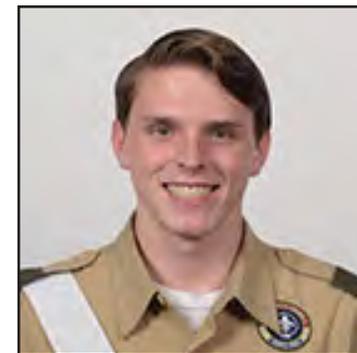
Past NE-6A Section Chief Chris Craig is an Eagle Scout and Vigil Honor member of Amangamek Wipit Lodge and a junior assistant Scoutmaster with Troop 1410 in the National Capital Area Council. Chris is a senior at St. John Paul the Great High School and hopes to study political science and business administration next year. Outside of Scouting, he enjoys playing lacrosse and soccer, going hiking, and volunteering with the Special Olympics.



Justin St. Louis
PROGRAM

"I look forward to delivering an exceptional program that fuels Scouting's adventure in a meaningful and impactful way."

NE-1 Section Chief Justin St. Louis is an Eagle Scout and Vigil Honor member of Pennacook Lodge and is an assistant Scoutmaster with Troop 7 in the Spirit of Adventure Council. Justin attends the University of Massachusetts at Lowell where he studies political science. In his free time, he enjoys graphic design, swimming and taking road trips. For three years in a row, Justin has participated in a three mile swim fundraiser for his summer camp.



Tanner Maris
RECREATION

"I'm excited to provide a destressing and comfortable environment by devising innovative activities."

SR-3 Section Chief Tanner Maris is an Eagle Scout and Vigil Honor member of Aina Topa Hutsi Lodge and is an assistant Scoutmaster with Troop 1021 in the Alamo Area Council. Tanner is a business management and finance major at San Antonio College. He enjoys playing ultimate frisbee, rugby, FIFA and running. Tanner also speaks four languages.

**#FUELSCOUTINGS
ADVENTURE**

**@OPERATION
ARROW**

Looking back at NEXT: A New Century

Clayton Carte

SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR

Lodge leaders from across the country gathered last summer to take part in NEXT: A New Century. Over the course of five days at Indiana University, NEXT delegates learned how to improve their local programs through an innovative program. With each lodge only allotted five Arrowmen to attend, the goal of the event was to foster networking and idea-sharing within small group settings. This was accomplished through the use of crews, where every participant was separated from their home lodge and grouped with fifteen other participants from across the country. At the center of this were the crew guides, experienced Arrowmen including past national and section officers, who led their crews through all trainings, discussions and activities during NEXT.

Patrick Mapp, who served as the experience CVC at the event, said the use of crews formed the foundation for NEXT. "The crew guides were there to develop a supportive group in which everyone could pitch-in new ideas and share constructive feedback," Mapp said.

NEXT was designed to create an environment where local programs and ideas could be shared with others. This was best exemplified through the Innovation Center and NEXT Factor. The Innovation Center was a brainstorming workshop with staff on hand to assist participants in developing their ideas. If a crew guide heard about a great program or idea during the conference, the guide referred it to the Innovation Center. Some of these ideas were selected for the NEXT Factor, a live-show hosted by the region



chiefs. Contestants would present their ideas in front of a live audience who selected their favorites. Each winner from the three shows was given a \$500 grant to further develop their idea back home.

Each full-length day of the conference was themed around a main element of the Order of the Arrow. The first day, Innovation Day, saw participants explore LeaderX. Innovation CVC Tyler Harris described LeaderX as "a simple approach to creative problem solving and continual improvement." The LeaderX model is meant to examine the viewpoint of all involved parties before making a decision and was used throughout the conference to innovate new solutions to the common problems facing lodges and chapters. In addition, the Innovation Day Gathering saw two guest speakers address the NEXT audience. The speakers,

Gregg Fraley and Drew Mitchell, whose company was featured on the popular show Shark Tank, explored the challenges one must overcome as an entrepreneur. Tyler described Innovation Day as "unleashing the creative potential of those you work with."

On the third day of the conference, participants looked at membership and its subsequent decline within recent years. All participants took part in big idea discussions where they were asked about their views on current OA Induction policy. Their feedback will be used by the National OA Committee to steer the future of the OA. Also, the SURGE and Link programs were unveiled. The SURGE program has been developed by the Western Region to increase OA and unit relations with members of the LDS Church. This program is

designed to help bridge the gap between the two organizations. Link is a new national program which examines what areas of the OA have the greatest room for improvement nationwide; this is done by analyzing Journey to Excellence on an annual basis. Each section will lead trainings and workshops geared to improving these areas within their lodges. For 2016, the three areas of focus were youth membership retention, unit election rates and lodge event attendance. The Membership MAZE, only offered during Membership Day, was an exclusive event for participants to explore. This program offered Arrowmen the chance to dive deep into the membership decline and gather resources to address topics such as unit elections and brotherhood conversion. During MAZE, the new OA initiative #ChooseOA was launched, a

program designed to assist local lodges with building support for the OA among troop leaders and parents.

The fourth day was Program Day which showcased the strengths of the OA. The training sessions on this day were centered around four unique topics: Strengthening Our Bonds, Igniting our Culture, Cultivating Our Future and Sharing Our Story. Program CVC Preston Podolske added, "As the backbone of the Order of the Arrow, service is arguably the most important aspect of the organization." Igniting Our Culture looked to engage more members in leadership and build up youth to be leaders at the chapter and lodge levels. Encouraging youth to get involved and show ownership makes them more likely to stay active in the program. The third training session, Cultivating Our Future, examined the Induction process and how the Scouts we induct as new Ordeal members today are the future of the OA tomorrow.

Podolske discussed the significance of not only focusing on the candidate but engaging the parents also. "Most often, parents and Unit leaders are the mode of transport for new members. If we get them on board, we can get the new members to meetings and events for years to come."

The final session, Sharing Our Story, highlighted the significance of lodge communications. The course broke down communications into three parts: what you're talking about, who you're talking to and how you're talking to them. By remembering those three parts, the wide array of communication methods can all be put to good use. The Program Day activities closed

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NEXT Factor champions

with the Fellowship Festival, full of exhibits showcasing the programs and resources available from the national level of the Order. Booths on-display included OA High Adventure, Journey to Excellence, Operation Arrow, the Inductions process and communication workshops.

At the conclusion of NEXT, each lodge departed with a new vision as a result of the event and were tasked with completing the NEXT challenge. This comprehensive exercise was designed for lodges to thoughtfully analyze their local program and how best they could use the skills learned at NEXT to improve program once they returned home.

"[Lodges] were bringing together all of the ideas they gathered from each of their crews during the conference and applying it to their lodge," Podolske said.

After this thought-provoking activity, the final night festivities began. The event closed with one final Gathering and the Brotherhood Bonfire. The Brotherhood Bonfire took place in the heart of campus and brought together participants as a final send-off. Experience CVC Patrick Mapp was in charge of the event and described the bonfire as "a chance for Arrowmen to socialize with their newfound friends, reconnect with Arrowmen from their lodges and reflect on the ideas they had gathered during the conference. The Brotherhood Bonfire was appropriately named to promote the brotherhood of our Order."

After NEXT, participants returned home ready to create positive results within their local chapters and lodges. NEXT was meant as a way to ignite our Order as we enter the second century, allow the national OA committee to discover how they can best assist lodges and prepare our youth leaders for the challenges they will face in the upcoming years.



Kyle Hoffman
ARROWMEN PRESS CORPS LEAD

Last summer at NEXT: A New Century, the Order of the Arrow (OA) placed emphasis on innovation. The world we live in is constantly changing and the OA must constantly adapt in order to continue to grow and spread our message of cheerful service. To fuel a spirit of innovation, lodges were invited to submit ideas for a competition prior to NEXT. This competition, known as the NEXT Factor, was a highlight of the event. Those who won the competition walked away with prizes and pride for their lodges.

All lodges were given the opportunity to submit a video highlighting their innovative idea. Just about anything was fair game. Following the video submission, each region chief selected two lodges that were

to meet at NEXT to compete against one another for the chance to win a \$500 check toward the implementation of their idea.

At NEXT, the eight lodges selected by the region chiefs, presented in two groups. Each lodge's representative showed their video and was asked questions about their idea in front of a live audience of NEXT delegates. The winner of each group was decided through a poll of audience members after all lodges had finished presenting. As soon as polling concluded, the winning lodges were presented their check and left as champions of the NEXT Factor. But what were these winning ideas?

Sunday's winner was Wapashuwi Lodge from the Greater Western Reserve Council. Their idea was to create digital membership cards. Unlike physical

membership cards that could easily get lost, these were sent directly to members via email. It streamlined the process of keeping members in the lodge, as members typically received their digital cards only 24-36 hours after paying dues.

Monday's champion was Ajapeu Lodge from the Washington Crossing Council. They thought of having Ordeal candidates eat dinner with their parents before starting the Ordeal. In doing so, the whole family will be able to appreciate the OA program and the Scout will be more likely to return to lodge functions after his Ordeal.

The NEXT Factor events of Sunday and Monday proved to be such a hit at NEXT that a third round was conducted at the closing gathering. This time though, instead of lodges, NEXT crews would be competing against each other.

Delegates who had known each other for not even a week were challenged to create an innovative idea to bring back home after the conference had concluded. Here, the stakes were higher as all NEXT delegates and staff voted on the winner. Crew 27, represented by Wyatt E. from O-Shot-Caw Lodge, came out on top with their idea of a "Sash and Bash," an event designed for new Ordeal members to bond with more experienced brothers at lodge functions after they complete their Ordeal and go through the ceremony.

As Scouts, we are naturally resourceful and competitive. The NEXT Factor turned these traits into a driving force behind the Order of the Arrow's progress into its second century. Look out for these winning ideas, because innovation like this is what's next for the OA.

2017 Hillcourt scholarship recipients announced



The “Green Bar Bill” Hillcourt Foundation is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2017 Hillcourt Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to youth Arrowmen (16-20) committed to serving the OA and Scouting as members of the OA’s staff for a national jamboree.

Upon learning about the unique group of Hillcourt Scholarship recipients, Mack Zewalk, lead adviser for Operation Arrow affirmed, “We could not be prouder of the young Arrowmen selected for this scholarship. The selection committee received an impressive group of applications and I am incredibly impressed by this excellent class of recipients. I look forward to joining with them and hundreds of our fellow Arrowmen as we cheerfully serve our fellow Scouts and Scouters from all over the country and world at the Summit Bechtel Reserve.”

The following Arrowmen have been selected for this scholarship:

Pedro Baylon Saint Cloud, FL Central Florida Council Tipisa Lodge	Ryan Hansen Fergus Falls, MN Northern Lights Council Pa-Hin Lodge	Cory Johnson Wauseon, OH Black Swamp Area Council Mawat Woakus Lodge	Kaden Rickett Fort Collins, CO Longs Peak Council Kola Lodge	Jared Sullivan Salisbury, MD Del-Mar-Va Council Nentego Lodge
Sebastian Bodkin Niagara Falls, NY Greater Niagara Frontier Council Ho-De-No-Sau-Nee Lodge	Thomas Hauser Monroe, NC Central North Carolina Council Itibapishe Iti Hollo Lodge	Kyle David Kipple Jacksonville, FL North Florida Council Echokotee Lodge	Kyle Silligman Vernalis, CA Greater Yosemite Council Toloma Lodge	Michael Joseph Valenti Lutz, FL Greater Tampa Bay Area Uh-To-Yeh-Hut-Tee Lodge
Addison Broon Goodwater, AL Tukabatchee Area Council Alibamu Lodge	Colin Howard Albuquerque, NM Great Southwest Council Yah-Tah-Hey-Si-Kess Lodge	Ethan Alexander Mooney Zelienople, PA Moraine Trails Council Kuskitannee Lodge	Joshua Squirrel Orrville, OH Buckeye Council Sipp-O Lodge	John Alexander Warren Lynchburg, VA Blue Ridge Mountains Council Tutelo Lodge
Seth Greiling Chesapeake, VA Tidewater Council Blue Heron Lodge	Chris Iverson West Long Branch, NJ Monmouth Council Na Tsi Hi Lodge	Bryton Moore Everett, WA Mount Baker Council Sikhs Mox Lamonti Lodge	Grant Sullivan Salisbury, MD Del-Mar-Va Council Nentego Lodge	Thomas Driscoll Zephyrhills, FL Greater Tampa Bay Area Uh-To-Yeh-Hut-Tee Lodge

The “Green Bar Bill” Hillcourt Foundation is the literary and financial executor of the estate of William Hillcourt (1900-1992), one of the world’s most widely known and respected Scouters and a member of the national BSA staff from 1926 to 1965. A Scout since 1910, Bill was a protege of Robert Baden-Powell and Scouting’s most prolific author, having written hundreds of articles for *Boys’ Life* and *Scouting* magazine, three editions of the *Boy Scout Handbook*, the first editions of the *Handbook for Patrol Leaders* and the *Scout Fieldbook*, and the best-selling biography of Scouting’s founder, *Baden-Powell: The Two Lives of a Hero*. He was America’s first Wood Badge Scoutmaster, and spent his retirement years traveling the globe to train leaders, for which he was recognized as “Scoutmaster to the World.” He was recognized with the Silver Buffalo and Bronze Wolf Awards. He was a Vigil Honor member of Unami Lodge (Paragraph adapted from “Hillcourt Jamboree Staff Scholarships Awarded,” 2013).

So too, these Arrowmen selected “have demonstrated a dedication to their communities through work with their local Scouting programs,” remarked 2017 National Chief Forrest Gertin. “We are excited to have them join the Operation Arrow team, and deepen their commitment to unselfish service.”

Please join us in congratulating the Hillcourt Scholarship recipients. We look forward to fueling Scouting’s adventure with them this summer!

Operation Arrow will inspire thousands of Scouts through the journal program



"I am very excited to help fuel Scouting's adventure on Operation Arrow staff at the 2017 National Jamboree. Since my brother was on jamboree staff in 2013, I have dreamed of the same great experience." — Seth Greiling

In 2017, the jamboree program will encourage Scouts to intentionally reflect and record how Scouting has impacted their lives and communities in journal entries throughout the experience. Scouts will also collect program stamps in their journals. Trek Guides will be instrumental

in introducing the program to Scouts on arrival day and facilitating the program on the Day of Service and trek to Garden Ground Mountain.

Inspiration for the program comes from National Geographic Fellow Paul Salopek, who is on a 21,000 mile "Out of Eden Walk" from Africa to South America. As

he treks, he reflects on his own life, and on the people and events around him.

Two Scouts or Venturers will have the opportunity to join Salopek for two days on his trek in Asia. Applicants must attend either the 2017 National Jamboree or a 2017 trek at Philmont Scout Ranch, and write an essay about

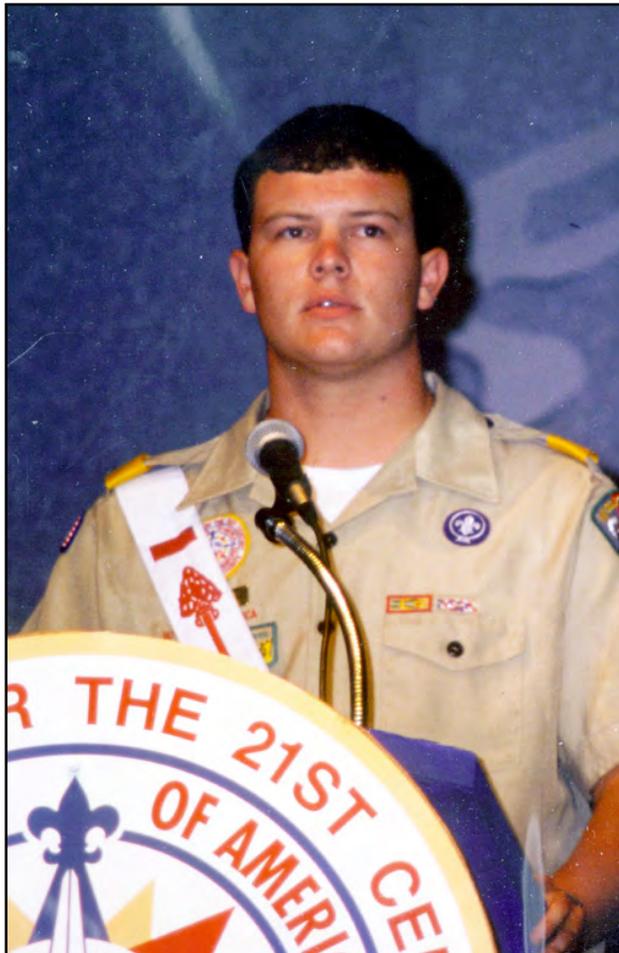
the value of slowing down to absorb one's surroundings, record milestones from their jamboree or Philmont experience, and finish other Out of Eden Walk tasks.

One Scout has already joined Salopek on his walk; you can read about Boy Scout Nicholas Fahy's September 2016 walk with

Paul in Uzbekistan. For more information, you can also read Bryan on Scouting's blog entry about this opportunity.

Operation Arrow leadership invites you to learn more about this program and to think about how character, citizenship and cheerful service impact your life as part of Scouting!

2017 Josh Sain Memorial Scholarship recipients



Pictured above: Josh Sain

Honoring the spirit and the memory of Josh Sain

The National Order of the Arrow Committee is pleased to announce the recipients of the Josh Sain Memorial Scholarship for 2017. This scholarship was established in 1998 to honor the spirit and

memory of Josh Sain, a former national vice chief of the Order of the Arrow. This scholarship is provided to immediate past national officers and section chiefs based on exceptional service and scholastic achievement.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



CHRISTOPHER J. BOYLE

Christopher J. Boyle is member of the Theodore Roosevelt Council, Buckskin Lodge, headquartered in Massapequa, NY. Chris is the former Northeast Region chief. He is a senior majoring in public policy at SUNY-Albany.



AARON H. GLUCK

Aaron H. Gluck is a member of the Gulf Stream Council, Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge, headquartered in Palm Beach Gardens, FL. Aaron is a junior majoring in political science at the University of Miami. He is the past SR-4 section chief.



JONATHON G. CHESTER

Jonathon G. Chester is a member of the Juniata Valley Council, Monaken Lodge, headquartered in Reedsville, PA. Jonathon is a junior majoring in environmental studies at Shippensburg University. He is the past NE-4B section chief.



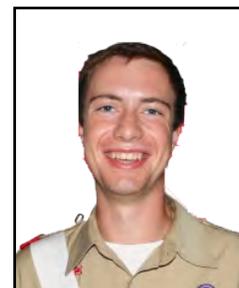
LOGAN M. GREENE

Logan M. Greene is a member of the Hoosier Trails Council, Nischa Chuppecat Lodge, headquartered in Bloomington, IN. Logan is a junior majoring in professional aviation at Indiana State University. He is the past Central Region chief.



RODRIGO E. CORDOVA

Rodrigo E. Cordova is a member of the Puerto Rico Council, Yokahu Lodge, headquartered in Guaynabo, PR. Rodrigo is a sophomore majoring in astrophysics at Harvard University. He is the past NE-5A section chief.



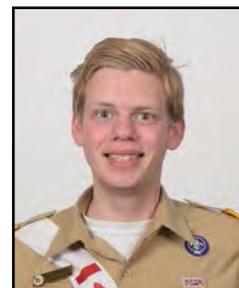
TYLER G. HARRIS

Tyler G. Harris is a member of the Pathway to Adventure Council, Lakota Lodge, headquartered in Mount Prospect, IL. Tyler is a junior majoring in finance and theology at the University of Notre Dame. He is the past C-7 section chief.



FORREST J. GERTIN

Forrest J. Gertin is a member of the Seneca Waterways Council, Tschipey Achtu Lodge, headquartered in Rochester, NY. Forrest is a freshman majoring in international public policy at Georgetown University. He is the past NE-3A section chief.



TYLER J. INBERG

Tyler J. Inberg is a member of the Cascade Pacific Council, Wauna La-Mon'tay Lodge, headquartered in Portland, OR. Tyler is a junior majoring in electrical engineering at Oregon State University. He is a past national vice chief.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



HUNTER N. JONES

Hunter N. Jones is a member of the Middle Tennessee Council, Wa-Hi-Nasa Lodge, headquartered in Nashville, TN. Hunter is a junior majoring in animal science at the University of Tennessee. He is a past national chief.



PRESTON R. PODOLSKA

Preston R. Podolske is a member of the Bay-Lakes Council, Kon Wapos Lodge, headquartered in Appleton, WI. Preston is a junior majoring in accounting information systems at University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire. He is the past C-1B section chief.



JEFFREY M. SEDLACEK

Jeffrey M. Sedlacek is a member of the Old Hickory Council, Wahissa Lodge, headquartered in Winston-Salem, NC. Jeffrey is a junior majoring in public administration at Appalachian State University. He is the past Southern Region chief.



COLLIN D. METSCHER

Collin D. Metscher is a member of the Denver Area Council, Tahosa Lodge, headquartered in Denver, CO. Collin is a sophomore majoring in business at Colorado State University. He is the past W-2S Section chief.



ZACHARY K. SAGER

Zachary K. Sager is a member of the Baltimore Area Council, Nentico Lodge, headquartered in Baltimore, MD. Zachary is a sophomore majoring in lighting design at Boston University. He is the past NE-6A section chief.



NATE A. STEELE

Nate A. Steele is a member of the Muskingum Valley Council, Netawatwees Lodge, headquartered in Zanesville, OH. Nate is a junior majoring in ecological engineering at the Ohio State University. He is the past C-4B section chief.



Portage Lodge service grant in action on the field

Portage Lodge of Northeast Ohio was awarded this grant to construct a human foosball court for their council summer camp. This project was particularly meaningful. In the words of Lodge Adviser Richard Geyser;

“This is extra special to us as our lodge will be merged with two other lodges next week. This donation to camp and a lodge work day at camp made for a fitting finally to our lodge’s history.”



Information on these recipients, along with additional details regarding the award itself can be found here: tinyurl.com/2017ServiceGrant

Since 1999, the National Order of the Arrow Committee has annually selected lodges from each region to receive matching service grants. Matching grant money is given to lodges for camp or service center projects in their local council. The OA will provide up to one-half of the money for a service project, with a \$5,000 maximum amount granted for any lodge project.

In 2017, 31 lodges in councils across the nation were chosen to receive a combined total of \$50,000 in matching grants via the OA Service Grant program.

2016

NATIONAL SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

CENTRAL REGION:

Agaming Maangogwan Lodge
Water and Woods Council
Flint, Michigan

NORTHEAST REGION:

Lowanne Nimat Lodge
Longhouse Council
Syracuse, New York

SOUTHERN REGION:

Mikanakawa Lodge
Circle Ten Council
Dallas, Texas

WESTERN REGION:

Cahuilla Lodge
California Inland Empire Council
Redlands, California

The National Service Award was established in 1999 to recognize lodges in each region that have performed outstanding service, both in a qualitative and a quantitative sense, to their council.

Service for this award is defined as any project that has directly benefited the Scouting program in the council.

The award was developed by past National Vice Chief Ryan Miske. The National Service Award is always presented the year following the service being recognized.



OA Hackathon: #HackOA

Chuck Coutteau
NATIONAL PROGRAM LEAD

Are you an Arrowman interested in computers, web development, or technology? Then you will probably be interested in the 2017 Order of the Arrow Hackathon taking place in sunny California this upcoming October. But what exactly is a hackathon?

The use of the word “Hackathon” in mainstream culture has skyrocketed due to its increasing popularity in the world of technology. Simply put, a hackathon is an event, typically lasting several

days, in which a large number of people meet to engage in collaborative computer programming and create something new.

The Order of the Arrow will be holding its first Hackathon the weekend of October 6-8, 2017, and is inviting any youth or adult Arrowmen interested in technology to come contribute. Arrowmen from around the country will converge onto the Intel Office in Sacramento, CA, joining forces with Intel Engineers armed with the latest technology to create new and innovative solutions. Whether you are interested

in web development, mobile development, database infrastructure, mobile apps, or anything else, the Order of the Arrow is interested in your help in shaping our technological resources.

As an attendee, you will have 24 hours to hack together new tools for the Order of the Arrow, including (but not limited to) the national registration system, OA LodgeMaster, and the OA mobile app. 2016 National Vice Chief, and aspiring electrical engineer Tyler Inberg commented on why an Arrowman should attend this

event: “If you’ve been looking for opportunities in the Order of the Arrow to expand your technological experiences, provide groundbreaking technological advances around the organization, or create the next big thing to be used across the nation, here’s your chance!”

The national technology committee is putting on an OA hackathon that will allow you to put your skills and ideas to the test and work with brand new software and hardware! This is an event unlike anything the OA has ever put on so if you’re

interested, you’ll definitely want to check it out and sign up fast so you can be a part of the innovation and drive that pushes our technology into the next century!”

To reserve your spot at this exclusive event, simply register by visiting oa-bsa.org/hackathon2017. The prices range from \$175 (fold out sofa bed), \$200 (double bed), and \$225 (king bed) and include transportation provided from the Sacramento International Airport (SMF). Sign up now and be sure to book your plane ticket soon. See you in sunny Sacramento, California on October 6-8, 2017!

National Leadership Seminar update

The current NLS program was originally written in 1993 with a minor update occurring in 2010. After 23 years, it is time to take a detailed look at the current NLS program, make needed updates, and ensure this training is the premier youth leadership training in the BSA. The need to refresh is even more vital due to other Scouting groups adopting large portions of the current program. While imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, participants in the NLS program deserve a unique training experience.

After collecting stakeholder feedback, it has become clear that there is a consensus for an update of the current NLS program.

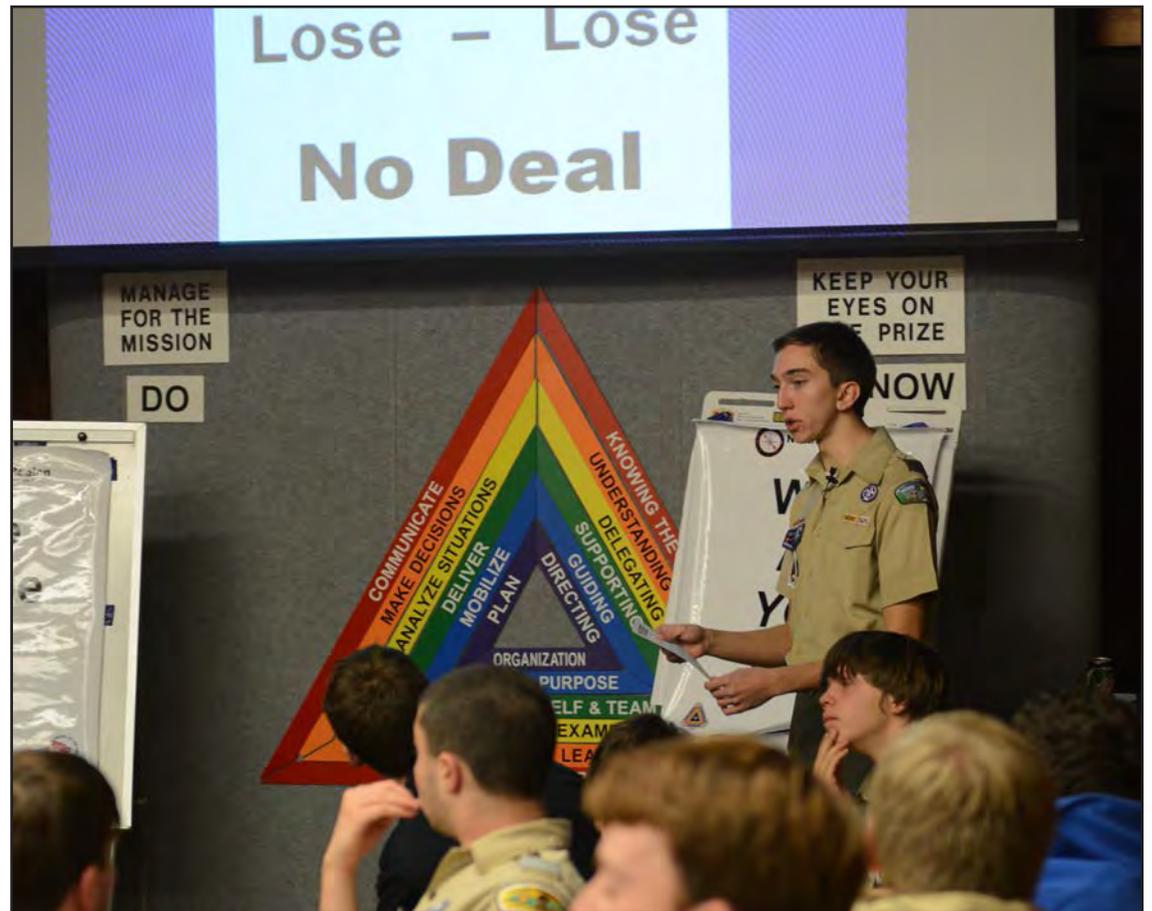
A committee has been formed to lead this update effort ensuring every region has representation and input. The committee will consider suggestions made in the stakeholder feedback

survey to update the NLS program. Jeff Sedlacek is serving as the youth lead on this effort along with Jason Riley as the adult lead.

To assist in the refresh is Dr. Rich Whitney, doctoral professor from Laverne University specializing in organizational behavior. Also assisting is Samuel Aronson, Assistant Dean in the Georgetown University Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service.

The expected outcome of an updated NLS program will be the development of better leaders, not only in our organization, but in our country. The updated NLS program will also work to produce stronger Arrowmen by providing them with tips and tools on how they can better serve their lodges, chapters and units.

The update committee is excited to work in bringing NLS into the next century of the Order of the Arrow.



Developing Youth Leadership Conference



2017 marks the launch of the Order's new adult training program — the Developing Youth Leadership Conference (DYLC). DYLC will deepen an adviser's capacity to develop youth leadership within the lodge and chapter. Conference topics will include fostering a growth mindset, promoting resilience, providing constructive feedback that leads to changes in youth behavior and creating a life-long coaching/mentoring relationship. Conference participants will

gain insights necessary to successfully coach youth applying the leadership skills they gained during the National Leadership Seminar.

The Developing Youth Leadership Conference will move beyond lodge mechanics and operations to establishing a lodge and chapter culture that grows youth who are capable of establishing goals, building teams, and guiding the lodge's work to achieve Journey to Excellence. So far the response to

the conference has been phenomenal.

Each region will host at least two Developing Youth Leadership Conferences annually.

For more information and details on how to register for these regional conferences, please visit

- central.oa-bsa.org,
- northeast.oa-bsa.org
- southern.oa-bsa.org
- western.oa-bsa.org

Lodge Leadership Development task force



During the most recent national planning meeting, a group of section chiefs and advisers were tasked with updating the Lodge Leadership Development (LLD) program. Since the planning meeting, the team has been working hard to produce the best possible program for lodges to put on across the nation. To date, the team has made their final list of sessions for the LLD along with outlines and first draft syllabi as well! The year seems to be going great for the team but a great deal more work is to come. In the next few months look

out as the team transforms the standard "syllabi" into a program that your lodge can more effectively present throughout the year.

The team is looking to rebrand LLD to make it more compatible with the new century branding. One of the most notable developments thus far is that the new LLD program is going to work off of your own lodge's JTE data from the previous year. By the end of the year the team, the plans to have a new website up and running that lodges can visit, type in their lodges name and have a suggested LLD

program, schedule and syllabi generated; tailored for your lodge! Every lodge may be able to present its own program over the next year! After soliciting feedback and ideas, the task force is thrilled to bring lodges the training and data that they would like to see incorporated into their program. Stay tuned with national publications over the next year as the LLD team keeps up the hard work and produces the LLD you have been waiting for. The goal is for the team to have the entire program done and ready to present by the 2017 National Planning Meeting!

OA ReliefCorps helps heal Louisiana after historic flooding

2016 SOUTHERN REGION
OA RELIEFCORPS
OPERATION LOUISIANA RELIEF



"In an effort to aid with the damage caused by flooding in the state of Louisiana, of early August 2016, the Southern Region re-launched the OA ReliefCorps. The effort was to aid in helping over 10,000 people who had been displaced by the flooding in the area. With the re-launch of the ReliefCorps, I am proud to say that we made great impact in helping the area. Through patch sales, the Southern Region was able to donate \$3,250 to the American Red Cross, earmarked for flood victims in Louisiana. The region was not only able to help out with donating money, but also providing service to victims in the area. With the coordination from Section 1A, local lodges were able to participate in over 2,250 service hours. I would like to extend a thank you to Frank and John Williams of Sections 1A and their help in organizing the efforts in the local area. In a time where people are in need, it is spectacular to witness what members of the Order of the Arrow can accomplish. With that, I would also like to say thank you to all the volunteers across the local area, region, and nation who helped this effort by donating time and money!"

Jeff Sedlacek, 2016 Southern Region Chief

The Order of the Arrow salutes 100 years of the National Park Service



Ronald Cain
CONTENT TEAM

“There is nothing so American as our national parks.”

- President Franklin D. Roosevelt

On August 25, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed into law the creation of the National Park Service. Today, having reached 100 years old, the National Parks Service (NPS) manages more than 400 sites across all fifty states and US territories. Throughout the combined history of the NPS and the Order of the Arrow (OA), there have been several joint

projects to benefit and enrich the American people who visit the parks.

Collaborations between the OA and the NPS stretch back decades. The Marnoc Lodge of the Great Trail Council in Akron, OH began work in the 1960s on the Cuyahoga Valley Trail in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. The present day Lodge Adviser Robert Saffle said, “The 13.1 mile trail received approval by the Activities Section of the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America on October 6, 1966 and received approval from the National Park Service in May of 1967. The

lodge has been responsible for the care and maintenance of this trail which has been extensively used by Scouts and the general public ever since.” Saffle added, “The lodge provides cheerful service to both Camp Manatoc and Camp Butler,” which are inside the national park. What began as an idea for a trail in 1966 has led to fifty years of OA service to the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

The OA committed unprecedented amounts of service hours assisting the National Parks through the SummitCorps event in 2011.

SummitCorps, appropriately named for its proximity to the brand new Summit Bechtel Reserve (SBR) in West Virginia, took place in the New River Gorge National River. Scott Beckett, co-chairman for the event, described SummitCorps as, “The national OA’s first act of service to the area of the new SBR. For four weeks, we took 400-500 people per week to build what would become Arrowhead Trail.” The completed project is over twelve miles of public access mountain bike trail. The trails have become a popular destination for mountain bikers in West Virginia and continue to be utilized today.

The end result of SummitCorps was not only the physical trail system but a new forged relationship between the OA and the NPS. Matt Walker, the incident commander for week four, described his favorite part of the project as, “working with the Arrowmen and the NPS.” Walker noted, “This is the truest servant leadership we perform, by volunteering our time to work on mountain biking trails, crushing rocks with sledgehammers, moving boulders and digging up trees.” This relationship continues today through the OA Summit Experience (OASE) program offered through OA High Adventure (OAHA). Each summer, participants spend their time volunteering and building trails around the New River Gorge National River following in the footsteps of all SummitCorps participants before them. The OASE program continues the legacy of OA service in southern West Virginia.

The OAHA program will be taking on a new challenge in this summer. The OA Ocean Adventure (OAOA) program will begin providing service at the Dry Tortugas National Park in South Florida. Nick Digirolamo said, “This project is an exciting extension of [the NPS] relationship that gives the OA another opportunity to serve not just Scouting, but the general public and its historic resources.” The Dry Tortugas will continue the OA and NPS relationship started in West Virginia.

In addition to the national projects in West Virginia and Florida, lodges across the nation work with the NPS on local projects. Lo La’Qam Geela Lodge of the Crater Lake Council held a service day this August at Crater Lake National Park in Oregon. The project was conducted to celebrate the centennial anniversary of the NPS. Egwa Tawa Dee Lodge of the Atlanta Area Council coordinates with the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area in Georgia and provides service each October. Both projects assist the park management with trail construction and maintenance.

The NPS has limited resources to maintain trails and the trail construction experience found within the OA is an excellent resource we can help to provide. Thank you, NPS, for preserving this nation’s hidden beauties for the last one hundred years and the OA looks forward to our continued partnership to benefit the general public as they visit the national parks.

What you missed at OAHA last summer!

Ben Pycraft

CONTENT TEAM

If you did not know already, OA High Adventure (OAHA) is a fantastic opportunity for youth Arrowmen to experience a different perspective of the OA and Scouting. OAHA encompasses five programs that take youth Arrowmen to one of the four national high adventure bases: Northern Tier, Sea Base, and Philmont, and the Summit Bechtel Reserve (SBR). These programs are offered to Arrowmen at an extremely discounted price and are well worth the price, ranging between \$200 and \$500. The Northern Tier, Sea Base, and Philmont programs are offered to Arrowmen between the ages of 16 and 20, while the SBR program is offered to Arrowmen between the ages of 14 and 18.

One of the most unique aspects of OAHA is that participants coordinate their own travel to and from the adventure bases. It is designed for participants to meet new people from all over the country, rather than stay with a close knit group of Scouts from one area who already know each other. Because of that, everyone is placed in groups intertwined with Scouts from various parts of the country so that, by the end of the adventure, everyone has something to learn and someone to meet. This experience provides the ability to grow in brotherhood with other Arrowmen, but whether you travel with a council contingent or an OAHA crew, both options are great choices to get Scouts to our national high adventure bases!

See below for descriptions and testimonials on each OAHA program. Remember to sign up early and cheerfully for any or all of the OAHA opportunities.

Summit Experience

The newest OAHA program is the OA Summit Experience (OASE). OASE is a great 8-day, entry-level high adventure experience; four days will be spent building or maintaining trails around the SBR and the other four days will revolve around the SBR activities. JJ Conklin, a 2014 OASE participant, took pride in his experience, stating, "[even though] we rarely wore our sash, our actions showed everyone around us that we were members of the OA by giving service to the Summit Bechtel Reserve." This program teaches the fundamentals of trail building, how to minimize your impact on the environment, and, of course, how to have fun at the facilities. This fun includes whitewater rafting, the big zip line, canopy tours, and action point. Like all OAHA programs, this one starts with service and ends with fun - worthwhile to any Arrowman looking to test the trails of high adventure! OASE costs \$250 for each participant.

Canadian Odyssey

OA Canadian Odyssey (OACO) is offered at Northern Tier and starts at the Charles L. Sommers Canoe Base in Minnesota. It's a 14-day experience that takes participants to conservation projects on the portage trails in Ontario, Canada. After a week of maintenance, the

Arrowmen paddle their way back to the United States through international waters on a trek they select, and one week later they arrive back at base camp. This program is designed to seclude yourself from worldly distractions and grow closer to the outdoors. Craig Powell from Nguttitehen Lodge attended the program this summer and spoke highly of the experience, saying, "I got so much out of it. One week without a cell phone, distractions, obligations.... none of it. Just us." Powell's favorite memory from the trip is a surprise storm that hit his group one morning; it caused the crew to execute quick decisions and work towards getting their campsite set up efficiently. "There were no campsites nearby and we had one flashlight," he continued. Since the team of former-strangers had spent so much time together throughout the trip, they moved like a well-oiled machine and were able to set up camp quickly and safely. Overall, Powell had a great time and enjoyed the reward of creating the turnpikes so others could use the area in the future. OACO costs \$200 for applicants selected to attend.

OA Wilderness Voyage

(OAWV) is another program located at the Charles L. Sommers Canoe Base in Northern Tier, just like OACO. However, this 14-day adventure is located on portage trails near the Boundary Waters, inspired by voyageurs who traveled the wilderness in the 1700 and 1800's. Arrowmen spend

the first half of the voyage working on portage trails and campsite maintenance and then they get the privilege of planning a canoeing adventure for the remainder of the program.

Noah Kelly from Konepaka Ketitwa Lodge attended the program in 2015 and being able to paddle up to painted rocks and caves created by American Indians centuries ago made the experience for him. "It stands as one of my most memorable Scouting experiences," he commented. OAWV costs \$200 for applicants selected to attend.

Ocean Adventure

Ocean Adventure (OAOA) takes place at Florida Sea Base located in the Florida Keys. The 7-day adventure expands personal growth -- both physically and mentally -- with a primary focus on conservation. Talks are held to help participants reflect and find answers within themselves each night of the adventure. The main area of service is at the Dry Tortugas National Park. Located 70 miles from Key West, it comes along with all the great perks the Florida Keys have to offer, including snorkeling, kayaking, paddleboarding and swimming. In 2015, Sean Sedey from Cahuilla lodge attended OAOA and shared his experience. "We had to work as one team efficiently to get through the work in order to have fun," he explained. Some discussions focused on manhood and reinforcing important character traits that should be heavily used in life. "Overall, it was a refreshing way to look at life," Sedey said to sum up his experience. They worked on island time, not needing

to know the time of day. They ate when they were hungry, slept when they were tired, and grew in brotherhood through cheerful service as a team.

For this aquatic adventure, the cost is \$500 for applicants that are selected.

Trail Crew

OA Trail Crew (OATC) is located at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. This 14-day trek is a fantastic way to have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience Philmont differently from many others. The first week is about trail construction and maintenance, and the next week is a backpacking trip designed by the participants. OATC is a life changing program that tests Scouts to their limits; the value of the sights seen and the peaks summited are truly priceless. OATC costs \$300 for each participant.

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@OAHA

Ajapeu Lodge clears trails for a running start

Ben Pycraft
CONTENT TEAM

As Arrowmen around the country settled down for the holidays last year, members of Ajapeu Lodge of the Washington Crossing Council, headquartered in Pipersville, PA, laced up their boots and ventured to the Sol and Rose Preserve on the chilly Saturday morning of December 10th. The preserve is owned by the Heritage Conservancy - an organization that preserves over 14,000 acres of land, including historic farms, marshes and mines. This event was the first effort in a growing effort by Ajapeu Lodge to serve local organizations in their community.

Twenty Arrowmen from the lodge participated in the six-hour project, working to clear trails that had suffered damage over the past few years from storms. Even four years later, many areas of the reserve are still inaccessible from 2012's Hurricane Sandy and 2011's Hurricane Irene. As one piece of the project, they removed one hundred truck and tractor tires found along the trail they were clearing. Through their efforts, they were able to help make the once-overgrown trails accessible again.

Lodge Chief Jeremy Bedient described this project as a first step. "This first project was sort of a test run to see if this collaboration would be an effective one," Jeremy commented.

Throughout the entire process, the Lodge Executive Committee (LEC) was hands-on in organizing the project. However, since members of the lodge live in both New Jersey and Pennsylvania, getting enough attendance for the project was largely dependent on the location. In coordination with the Heritage Conservancy, the LEC decided to organize this first project at the centrally-located Sol and Rose Preserve in Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania. The towpath they worked on was close to their council service center and wasn't a far commute for the members of the lodge.

With this project being a success, Jeremy is confident there will be another. In fact, he's already working with the

service chairman in his lodge to organize another project in when the weather is warmer and Arrowmen don't have holiday commitments. Jeremy explained that the benefits of these upcoming projects are much more substantial than simply helping the nature preserve. "These projects are an easy taste of the service the Order of the Arrow provides," Jeremy said, "and will no doubt encourage continued participation among our members."

While Ajapeu and its service committee will organize these projects moving forward, members of the Order of the Arrow aren't the only ones who will be making an impact on the reservation. They are working with the Washington Crossing Council to get packs,

troops and crews involved in the projects as well. At the end of the day, this leaves the potential for Ajapeu Lodge to see a growth in their inductions while the Heritage Conservancy could see hundreds of Scouts on their land before the end of the year.

Ajapeu Lodge is leading projects to address the immediate needs of the Heritage Conservancy but views that evolving into more long-term plans in the future. With this movement off to such a significant start, it won't take them much time to restore those overgrown trails. If you ever find yourself wandering on a property owned by the Heritage Conservancy, you can thank an Arrowman from Ajapeu Lodge for making your experience just a little bit brighter.

Malibu Lodge hosts spooky fundraiser

Tyler Grey
CONTENT TEAM

Many lodges across the country have different traditions for raising money to host activities for their members. Some have Christmas tree lots during the holidays and others hold spaghetti dinners. Some lodges, however, have less traditional and more unique traditions for raising funds. One great example of innovation at the lodge level for fundraising is from Malibu Lodge of the Western Los Angeles County Council in Los Angeles, California, who held a Cub Scout "Spook-o-ree" fundraiser last year. At this event, different chapters from the lodge each set up games and haunted house rooms at the council camp for

Cub Scouts from all around the area to have fun and get spooked.

The "Spook-o-ree" fundraiser was held at the end of October, right before Halloween. It has been sponsored by Arrowmen of the lodge for the past four years at Camp Josepho in Pacific Palisades, CA. Each chapter brought a game for Cub Scouts to play or set up haunted rooms to entertain the Cub Scouts as they walked through.

"In the months leading up to Spook-o-ree, the lodge was constantly reminding chapter chiefs to bring this to their chapters to brainstorm ideas," Malibu Lodge Chief Ian Hammock said. "We ended up with an animal graveyard, a funky light show and a spooky maze as our room themes."

In the animal graveyard, the Ta To Ka Dan Chapter brought and set up different animal skeleton props (including a horse) and animal tombstones. There were also various decorations around the room it was in. Inside was a light show; the Alliklik Chapter set up many different colored lights flashing against the almost pitch black room with some spooky elements included. There were people dressed up in costumes prepared to scare the Cub Scouts as they entered. In the spooky maze that the Serranos Chapter created, there was a guide at the entrance who would walk the Cub Scouts through the maze with decorations, occasional jump scares and candy at the end as a reward

for making it through. As for the games, Ian said that the lodge had a beanbag toss with a special Malibu theme set up for the Cub Scouts to play. "They were throwing beanbags into a shark's mouth - which is our lodge's totem," Ian remarked. He also noted that they also had a spider toss set up where a spider was thrown into a web and if it stuck, they received candy. "They seemed to enjoy it a lot," Ian added.

Later in the day, a few of the older Arrowmen gathered all of the Cub Scouts and took them on a hike down to an abandoned barn on the camp's property, which was said to be haunted. After telling stories around the old barn for a while, they took the Cub Scouts back to camp and fed them lunch.

After the Spook-o-ree had concluded, the lodge held its annual tradition of electing its new officers for 2017 at the Lodge Summit. Ian explained that with the recent addition of this Spook-o-ree fundraiser, the lodge has had a higher turnout for lodge elections at Lodge Summit. "In the past, we struggled to fill positions," Ian recalled. "This year, we had four Arrowmen [running for the role of lodge chief] going for the title of lodge chief!" Not only is this a great opportunity for Malibu to raise funds to support lodge activities every year but it is helping to strengthen the leadership of the lodge to build for a better tomorrow.

Lodge success stories: achieving gold



Cole Taylor
CONTENT TEAM

The Journey to Excellence (JTE) program was created by the Order of the Arrow (OA) a few years ago, and its purpose is to focus on the success and improvement of lodges. In order for my home lodge, Skyuka Lodge, to succeed in JTE, we go through several processes and program additions. One of the most important parts for success is planning and goal setting. As we begin our planning, we review our scores from the previous year to find the areas on which we need improvement. Once we have found the areas that we need to improve on, we begin our goal setting process.

When we plan our goals for JTE, we ensure that we follow

the S.M.A.R.T. goal method: specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and timely. As we set our goals, we consider the best ways to improve those areas and develop a plan to reach the goals we set. Along with planning and setting goals, an effective lodge executive committee (LEC) is crucial to success in JTE. In order for Skyuka to reach gold level, we had to have a functioning board. Our treasurer had to make sure that we met our financial-based criteria, while our inductions chief ensured that members completed their Brotherhood conversion; an active youth leadership team plays a major part in the success of the lodge's JTE.

In addition to following these steps, Skyuka Lodge uses other techniques and

methods to get members active and our lodge "hyped" for JTE. One thing that has helped my lodge with its JTE is communication. Keeping lodge members involved with what is happening promotes their attendance and contribution to the lodge. As a way for members to stay informed, we send out regular emails, postcards, social media posts, phone calls and / or any combination thereof to encourage brothers to stay involved.

Other areas that Skyuka Lodge tends to do extremely well in are service hours, membership and conclave attendance. For service hours, our lodge exercises an "all hands on deck" attitude that encourages all brothers to give service at lodge events and workdays. Another way that Skyuka

has advocated for service is having officers and advisers setting the example by taking initiative and organizing and participating in the service projects. For membership, the lodge does well for a number of reasons. When the candidates are called out, they receive numerous phone calls, postcards and emails ensuring they understand the journey waiting upon them. In addition, we keep our social media and website up to date with information that can be easily accessed. If the information does not present itself to the candidates, the chances of them continuing their path in the OA is significantly smaller.

Lastly, the lodge has a good record of sending many

delegates to our section conclave, the Section SR-5 Dixie Fellowship. To promote the conclave, our lodge utilizes spirit. By presenting the Dixie Fellowship as the huge, fun-filled weekend it is, more brothers become interested in attending. In addition to using spirit as a promotional device, we lead cheers and give items at the conclave that continue the spirit and help promote for the attendance at the next year's fellowship.

Journey to Excellence is a process that requires dedication and commitment. Having an effective youth leadership and the ability to run a quality program are the keys to leading a successful JTE campaign. Best of luck in the journey ahead!



2018 National Order of the Arrow Conference

July 30 – August 4, 2018
Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

NOAC 2018 key dates

- **April, 2017** – Quota notification to councils
- **August 1, 2017** – Registration information sent to councils (fee for the conference will be announced at this time)
- **October 2, 2017** – Registration system opens for staff and delegate registration (\$100 deposit per delegate charged)
- **January 2, 2018** – Deadline for councils to claim quota
- **January 16, 2018** – Quotas released
- **March 1, 2018** – Second payment charged to councils
- **April 2, 2018** – Contingent leader guide distributed
- **April 2, 2018** – Program registration opens
- **May 31, 2018** – Final payment collected (additions after May 31, will result in late fee)
- **May 31, 2018** – Program registration closes
- **July 2, 2018** – Delegate training and program schedules available
- **July 16, 2018** – Program and incidental fees charged
- **July 30 – August 3, 2018** – National Order of the Arrow Conference

Council quotas

Due to expected high interest coupled with capacity constraints at Indiana University, we will be instituting a quota for the 2018 NOAC and enforcing a 3:1 youth to adult ratio. Each council, regardless of current lodge membership, will receive slots for ten delegates. Additional delegates will be assigned as a percentage of your lodge membership as reported on your most recent charter renewal application.

Contingent leaders

Each council will be led by a youth and adult contingent leader. The adult contingent leader will be the primary point of contact for the conference and may or may not be the lodge adviser. Each council should consider appointing its adult contingent leader as soon as possible and no later than October 2, 2017, when the registration process begins.

