Although the three councils serve very different populations, they were able to gather under one goal: showcasing Scouting across the nation.

Scouts and their families were both involved in this celebration. Younger helpers worked on the large display of 121 merit badges that were carried by some of the Eagle Scouts in the parade, while the older Scouts and adults positioned and planted the grasses and flowers that covered the float. Over 1,000 Scouts and family members helped to prepare the float for the big event.

Several members of Wiatava Lodge, of the Orange County Council, who were either involved in the march or decorating process, said that it was truly an experience of a lifetime. It was tiring, with some workers staying as late as 11 PM some nights, but the end result was incredibly rewarding.

In addition to marching in the parade, there were also Scouts working in supporting roles. For example, some members sold programs, with proceeds helping to support their summer camp or unit.

Another aspect of the 100th Anniversary kick-off was Adventure Base 100. The Adventure Base is a mobile Scouting extravaganza complete with a museum, hands-on exhibits, a movie dome, and a ropes course.

Many OA members assisted with setting up the Base, the activities, and as he promised the The Mysterium Compass would be the number-one event at the Jamboree – and not just for the air-conditioning. Not to be outdone, the American Indian Village and the OA Service Corps are also developing plans deserving of a spot at the event.

celebrating the first 100 years of Scouting in the United States. The 2010 Jamboree OA Service Corps is gearing up to manage every service request that comes from anywhere within the Jamboree. With 150 Arrowmen serving in the Corps, and the implementation of new technology to help streamline the process, Service Corps Jamboree Vice Chief Will Scott hopes to improve upon the success of the 2005 OA Service Corps. The Corps is divided into chapters that began communicating among their members in late January 2010. “The idea is to arrive knowing other Arrowmen in your chapter,” Scott explains. The Corps will be treated to special evening programs including special trips to “The Mysterium Compass” and movie screenings, among other benefits.

The American Indian Village also plans to beat a 2005 record. “Our goal is to increase the Indian Lore merit badge completions by 10% from the

On January 1st, a year-long celebration of Scouting began in Pasadena, California where over 300 Eagle Scouts marched five and a half miles down Colorado Boulevard as they took part in the 121st Tournament of the Roses Parade.

The float, which included a zip line and two working waterfalls, was fifty feet long and decorated by Scouts from three different councils. Members of the Orange County, Los Angeles Area, and San Gabriel Valley Councils joined forces with the Phoenix Decorating Company to create the flower-covered spectacle. Although the three councils serve very different populations, they were able to create the flower-covered spectacle.

by BRENDAN BERTAGNOLL
Staff Writer

A bout of snow flurries is a memorable way to close out the end of a year marked by great success. However, for 50 section chiefs, the final pages of this decade will be remembered not only as a period of great success, unprecedented innovation, and new transitions, but also as a beginning of something great – namely, the OA’s transformation of their typical National Jamboree responsibilities into an awe-inspiring spectacle equal in caliber and magnitude to what the US Scouting movement has accomplished during its first 100 years.

The OA experience at the 2010 National Scout Jamboree will begin with this year’s OA theatrical production: The Mysterium Compass. “This augmented reality game will be a live-action adventure, combining elements of video gaming with theme-park style immersion, actors, and theatrical settings,” said Shows Jamboree Vice Chief Jordan Hammons. “The Mysterium Compass will be seen by 20,000 – 25,000 participants and will challenge them to evaluate what they believe in, why they believe it, and what values guide them, all while they navigate elements which will include two 40 foot-high waterslides and three 130 foot-long obstacle courses.” Hammons added. “The Mysterium Compass” will showcase over $7 million worth of Scouting memorabilia and include a seated theatre. “Being lost has never been this much fun,” Hammons explained.

The float, which included a zip line and two working waterfalls, was fifty feet long and decorated by Scouts from three different councils. Members of the Orange County Lodge, of the Orange County Council, who were either involved in the march or decorating process, said that it was truly an experience of a lifetime. It was tiring, with some workers staying as late as 11 PM some nights, but the end result was incredibly rewarding. In addition to marching in the parade, there were also Scouts working in supporting roles. For example, some members sold programs, with proceeds helping to support their summer camp or unit.

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2010 National Planning Calendar

March
26–28 NLS/NLATS, Alpine, NJ
9–11 NLS, Orange, CA
16–18 NLS, Plymouth, MA
23–25 NLS, High Ridge, MO
30 NLS/NLATS, Western Region, TBD

April
2 NLS/NLATS, Western Region, TBD
25 National OA Committee Meeting, Dallas, TX
25–28 BSA National Annual Meeting, Dallas, TX

May
2 NLS/NLATS, Western Region, TBD
31 Lodge Charter Renewal Deadline

June
8 Philmont OA Trail Crew Begins
9 Northern Tier OA Voyage / Odyssey Begins
20–26 OA Lodge Adviser Conference. Cimarron, NM
30 OA Service Grant Distributed

July
26–31 2010 National Scout Jamboree, Ft. A. P. Hill, VA

August
1–4 2010 National Scout Jamboree, Ft. A. P. Hill, VA
16 Philmont OA Trail Crew Ends
18 Northern Tier OA Voyage Ends
18 Northern Tier OA Odyssey Ends

September
10–12 NLS/NLATS, Alpine, NJ
11 SOS, Southern Region, TBD

October
1 OA Charter Renewal Kits Distributed
1–3 NLS, Jacksboro, TX
11 OA Steering Committee Meeting, Irving, TX
11–13 BSA National Meetings, Irving, TX
15–17 NLS, Metamora, MI
22–24 NLS/NLATS, Cimarron, NM
29–31 SOS, Western Region, Tempe, AZ
31 OA Service Grant Applications Due

November
5–7 NLS/NLATS, Parkville, MO
10 SOS, Northeast Region, Alpine, NJ
19–21 SOS, Central Region, Parkville, MO

December
27–30 National OA Planning Meeting, Dallas, TX
28 National OA Committee Meeting, Dallas, TX
31 Lodge Charter Renewal Deadline

2010 National Officer Directory

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lichotab@gmail.com

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Lake Zurich, Illinois
chief@central.oa-bsa.org

Northeast Region Chief
Brian Ahrens
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chief@northeast.oa-bsa.org

National Vice Chief
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swingle.william@gmail.com

Southern Region Chief
Don Combs
Pikeville, Kentucky
chief@southern.oa-bsa.org

Western Region Chief
Fred Gross
Santa Fe, New Mexico
hikenm@aol.com

www.oa-bsa.org
www.wcentral.oa-bsa.org
www.western.oa-bsa.org

www.scouting.org
www.southern.oa-bsa.org
www.northeast.oa-bsa.org

11 lodges receive OA National Service Grants

Each year the National Order of the Arrow Committee allocates matching grant money to assist lodges with service projects in their local council. During the National Planning Meeting in Dallas, TX, the recipients were announced. This year, eleven lodges were selected out of the total of sixty-three lodges that applied. The National Order of the Arrow Committee was able to provide $30,000 in total matching grant assistance for 2010.

Central Region
Kit Ke Hak O Kut Lodge of the Mid-America Council received $4,125 dollars to assist with the construction of a flag plaza at the Little Sioux Scout Ranch.

Nendawen Lodge of the Alloha Council received $3,750 dollars to assist in the construction of a new administration building at Camp Kootaga.

Pa-Hin Lodge of the Northern Lights Council received $2,850 dollars to build an observatory to jumpstart the astronomy program at Camp Wilderness.

Mischigonong Lodge of the Lake Huron Council received $2,500 dollars to build a yurt to be used for year-round camping and programs at Paul Bunyan Scout Reservation.

Michigamea Lodge of the Calumet Council received $2,250 dollars to revitalize the waterfront at Camp Frank Betz.

Northeast Region
Octoraro Lodge of the Chester County Council received $4,400 dollars to restore trails at the Horseshoe Scout Reservation and connect the trails to the Goat Hills Public Wild Plant Sanctuary.

Kaskiannee Lodge of the Moraine Trails Council received $2,500 dollars to install emergency warning and communications equipment at Camp Agawam.

Southern Region
Mikanakawa Lodge of the Circle Ten Council received $2,400 dollars to build Philmont style campsites at Clements Scout Ranch.

Tejas Lodge of the East Texas Council received $1,600 dollars to build a water purification station at the George Pirtle Scout Reservation.

Western Region
Kola Lodge of the Los Padres Council received $2,500 dollars to build an additional BB gun range and a creative shooting sports range at Camp Jack Nicol.

Chumash Lodge of the Los Padres Council received $1,125 dollars to refurbish and expand the low COPE course at Camp Rancho Alegre.

Multicultural Markets replaces Scoutreach
OA mentoring will continue to serve Scoutreach with the Multicultural Markets Team.

Official Publication of the National Order of the Arrow, Boy Scouts of America

The National Bulletin is published quarterly. If you have an article and/or photo (with caption) for submission, please e-mail it to Mark Hendricks at mphendricks@gmail.com. Alternatively, submissions may be mailed to: Boy Scouts of America, Order of the Arrow, P.O. Box 152079, Irving, TX 75015.

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Fill-able OA Forms online
OA forms are available on oa-bsa.org that include text fields that allow them to be filled out online. Forms include high adventure applications, national award applications, the Vigil Honor petition, and the Distinguished Service Award nomination form.

2009 Quality Lodge pins
Pins are now available for ordering. Lodges may purchase pins for $1.50 each.

NATIONAL UPDATES

National Service Grants

the home page of the OA Web site to purchase great recognition items and gifts. Click on the National Endowment page to review the selection of coins, figurines and prints.

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JOLY LODGES

Es-Kaielgu Lodge completed work on a new BB Gun range at Cub Country at Cowles Scout Reservation. Es-Kaielgu Lodge was awarded a national service grant in December 2008.

NATIONAL UPDATES

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Personal communication

By DAN DICK
Section C-7A Vice-Chief

Finding the best position for members of our troops, chapters, and lodges is a key component in running a successful program. As leaders, we want to ensure that every person is able to use their talents while also enjoying their work. This, in turn, creates a reliable team of leaders, ready and willing to take on that next challenge.

Leaders usually match people with tasks based on skills or resources. Those who write for their school newspaper often join the lodge publications team, Arrowmen involved in drama or public speaking clubs are recruited for ceremonies, anyone with a car and a driver’s license ends up on a unit election team. However, a person’s talents and activities are only a small subset of what makes them uniquely suited for a task. A stronger leader will consider not only his team’s skills, but also their individual motivations.

It can be said that people are motivated by three primary factors: recognition, learning, and belonging. To those seeking recognition, Scouting and the OA provide a tangible way to measure their growth and development as a leader and as a person. Others join our organization to learn outdoor skills, leadership styles, and project management techniques that will serve them in their careers, communities, and family lives. A third group enjoys our Order as a brotherhood—a way to meet new people and strengthen existing friendships.

Every task is best suited to individuals of a certain motivation. Projects with measurable outcomes, such as service projects or fundraising, often attract Scouts who enjoy seeing their work recognized. Those Arrowmen looking for leadership skill development would enjoy serving on committees that plan and manage lodges budgets, chapter events, or troop outings. Members looking to expand their social network are excellent candidates for elangomat and camp promotion positions, where they will interact with many new people.

Finding the “right person for the job” is not always the same as finding “the right job for the person.” A team member’s motivation helps determine how compatible they are with the task and how successful they will be.

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Chiefly Speaking

I am truly honored to lead and represent the Order of the Arrow as we celebrate our storied accomplishments, but more importantly, recommit to our next century of service. 2010 marks an exciting milestone for the Boy Scouts of America and the Order of the Arrow. The Centennial Anniversary of the Scouting Movement is fundamental proof that when youth leadership is coupled with the dedication of millions of Scouts, Scouters, and Arrowmen from across the United States of America, a driving force is created that continues to strengthen this tradition-rich organization.

In late July, we will gather in Virginia at the 2010 National Jamboree to celebrate and reflect upon Scouting. I urge you to “look back on Scouting”, and consider the path you’ve taken throughout your Scouting career. Consider the experiences, friendships, and memories you have created and discover how to build upon your previous success.

I also challenge you to take a step further; seek to recommit to the spirit of Scouting in the Brotherhood of Cheerful Service that is founded upon an indomitable conviction, the Admonition. I challenge you to learn to love your fellow man. Search your heart to find the true and genuine meaning of Scouting in the Brotherhood of Cheerful Service that is founded upon an indomitable conviction, the Admonition. I challenge you to learn to love your fellow man. Search your heart to find the true and genuine meaning of Scouting in the Brotherhood of Cheerful Service that is founded upon an indomitable conviction, the Admonition. I challenge you to learn to love your fellow man. Search your heart to find the true and genuine meaning of Scouting in the Brotherhood of Cheerful Service that is founded upon an indomitable conviction, the Admonition. I challenge you to learn to love your fellow man.

2010 National Chief

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Burning Issues

How can my lodge apply for a national service grant?

Applications can be found online and are usually due in late October. The award decisions are made in December and recipients are announced at the National OA Planning meeting in Dallas.

Send your Burning Issues to Editor in Chief Mark Hendricks at mphendricks@gmail.com.

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Join the Outdoor Nation

The Boy Scouts of America is joining forces with the Outdoor Foundation to invite BSA members to join the Outdoor Nation. The Outdoor Nation is a nex-gen movement to champion the outdoors.

Connect with other “outsiders,” recruit your fellow Scouts and friends and get outside! As a member of the Outdoor Nation, you will help the BSA and other partners decode barriers to getting outdoors.

You will also have the opportunity to earn free gear by participating in the interactive Web site. The Outdoor Nation is for members ages 13 to 30. Visit www.outdoornation.org and join today and indicate that you were referred to the Outdoor Nation by the Boy Scouts of America!
Committees begin planning for Jamboree areas

Continued from page 1

On December 28, 2010, section chiefs gather in Dallas, Texas, to elect the four region chiefs. Each region chief will lead the National Leadership Seminars and the annual section gathering.

Region Chiefs will travel throughout their region attending lodge and section events.

Fred Gross
Western Region Chief

Fred is from Santa Fe, New Mexico and is a Vigil Honor member of Yah-Tah-Hey-Si-Kess Lodge. Fred has previously served as a chapter chief, lodge vice chief, lodge chief, section vice chief, and section chief. He was the CVC for Outdoor Adventure at last summer’s NOAC. Fred’s favorite Scouting memory was of building a trail on the Teton Pass with ArrowCorps; and as an extension of his experience there encourages all Arrowmen to participate in the Order of the Arrow’s high adventure programs. When asked what his goals for this year are, he responded, “To promote OA High Adventure in every form and to make sure people get a full understanding of the importance of the wilderness in becoming a leader in our daily lives.

Brian Ahrens
Northeast Region Chief

Brian is from Mount Holly, New Jersey and is a Vigil Honor member from Hunnikick Lodge. Some of Brian’s previous Scouting positions include patrol leader, lodge chief, section chief, and CVC of Activities and Recreation at NOAC in 2009. Brian’s favorite Scouting memory includes the 2007 World Scout Jamboree and ArrowCorps and agrees all Arrowmen should attend the OA High Adventure programs.

When asked what his goals for this year are, he responded, “To travel and work with great Arrowmen from all over the country and have a meaningful impact on the 100th anniversary celebration.”

Richie Ferolo
Central Region Chief

Richie is from Lake Zurich, Illinois and is a Vigil Honor member of Lakota Lodge. Some of Richie’s previous Scouting positions include assistant senior patrol leader, chapter chief, lodge chief, section secretary, section vice chief, and section chief. Richie’s favorite Scouting memory is of attending the National Leadership Seminar in 2006 that took place in Parkville, Missouri. Richie recommends that all Arrowmen who are offered the opportunity to attend a National Leadership Seminar should capitalize on it.

When talking about his goals for the next year, Richie says he hopes to “put on four great National Leadership Seminars, meet as many Arrowmen across the region and nation, and ensure that the family of section chiefs in the Central Region remains a tight knit group and performs their best in serving our lodges.”

Don Combs
Southern Region Chief

Don is from Pikeville, Kentucky and is a Vigil Honor member of Kawida Lodge. Don has served as a lodge chief, section secretary, section chief, and was the youth incident commander for ArrowCorps at the Mark Twain site.

Don’s favorite Scouting memory is of “Philmont with my crew and the guys I have grown up with in Scouting. Don adds “the National Leadership Seminar is one of the best leadership trainings you can attend and is honestly what started me on my path to becoming a national officer.”
OA teams up with AHS

By DAN HIGHAM
2009 National Vice Chief

The Order of the Arrow has just teamed up with the American Hiking Society (AHS) to offer our Scouts and Scouters more opportunities to enjoy the outdoors.

For years, it has been our purpose to enjoy the outdoors as well as to be its stewards. Now, we have a chance to build upon the great work that our high adventure programs and ArrowCorps have been able to accomplish.

American Hiking Society is excited to be a partner with the Order of the Arrow, Boy Scouts of America. We would like to introduce you to American Hiking Society and our National Trails Day® and share how you can be part of the nation's largest trails celebration!

Since its founding in 1976, American Hiking Society has been the only national voice for hikers – dedicated to promoting and protecting America's hiking trails, their surrounding natural areas and the hiking experience.

American Hiking Society works every day by speaking for hikers in the halls of Congress and with federal land managers, building and maintaining hiking trails, educating and supporting hikers by providing information and resources, and supporting hiking and trail organizations nationwide.

On June 5, 2010, American Hiking Society and outdoor enthusiasts across the country will participate in the 18th annual National Trails Day® (NTD), a long-standing celebration of America’s magnificent trail system. More than 1,500 events will take place around the country including trail maintenance projects, hikes, paddle trips, bike and horseback rides, wildlife viewing activities, running and trail celebrations, and so much more!

Happy National Trails Day and Happy Trails.

Heather Sable
Trail Programs Manager
American Hiking Society
www.americanhiking.org

NLS Train the Trainer held in Dallas, Texas

By SAMUEL BELLOMY
Western Region Training Team

The 2010 national officers met in Dallas, TX, to host the National Leadership Seminar (NLS) Train the Trainer event from January 22-24. Each Region Chief brought four to five hand-selected youth with them who have committed to serve on their Region’s NLS Training Staff for the next two years.

The mission of Train the Trainer is defined simply: To train the NLS Trainers to effectively and accurately teach the upcoming leaders of our Order through the NLS program.

After NOAC in August 2009, a team was put together to review the NLS program and update it with new information while removing outdated pieces of the program. Though only subtle changes and additions were made to the program, the resulting training program will further improve the effectiveness of the NLS program. Each participant at Train the Trainer left with new ideas to make NLS more successful for every participant.

The trainers attended classes focused on each individual NLS session and reviewed all changes that were made. Many sessions were interactive, giving trainers the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the background of the program.

It was not all business in Dallas, though. The staff and participants took some time on Saturday afternoon to have a guided tour of the new Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, TX and even played a short game of football out on the field.
Head to OA Canadian Odyssey or OA Voyage

By VERN MILLER
OA High Adventure

Radiant streaks of light reflect off the clouds and dance on the water as the sun sets in a brilliant performance in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and Quetico Provincial Park. For the occasional visitor to the Boundary Waters and Quetico, this sunset could be the highlight of a trip, but for the participants and staff of the Order of the Arrow Wilderness Voyage and Canadian Odyssey it is simply the end of another day in service to the wilderness. A day filled with hard work, true wilderness adventure, and the promise of more to come.

Since 1999 the Order of the Arrow Wilderness Voyage and Canadian Odyssey have fulfilled the principles of the Order of the Arrow and Scouting. By leading the way in conservation, brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service. The Voyage program earned 2009’s US Forest Service Eastern Region award for “Connecting People to the Land”.

Former director Phil Vanderwerker put it best when he said that “one of the reasons for our continued success is that we continue to evolve. We make a concerted effort to remain in the forefront of outdoor leadership development by making additions to our program like the integration of Leave No Trace. We are not just rebuilding trails, we are teaching young men to live in and appreciate the wilderness.”

2009 saw many new additions to the Voyage, including the inception of the Canadian Odyssey, which takes Arrowmen deep into the Canadian wilderness for a week of service followed by a weeklong canoe trek in the heart of the Quetico Provincial Park of Ontario.

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The Lodge Chief Incentive Program was announced to the attendees of the National Council of Chiefs.

For their recruiting efforts, the two lodges from each region that recruit the most Arrowmen for an OA High Adventure program are allowed to send their lodge chief to the program of their choice without paying a program fee.

The following lodges recruited a combined 40 Arrowmen and have earned their lodge chiefs a fee paid trip to one of the OA High Adventure programs during the summer of 2010.

The Lodge Chief Incentive program will continue again for summer 2011. Applications for next year’s programs will be available this summer. For complete details about the program, visit http://adventure.oa-bsa.org.

OA Wilderness Voyage

By Ryan Braddy
OA High Adventure

At the 2009 National OA Conference, the Lodge Chief Incentive Program was announced to the attendees of the National Council of Chiefs.

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OA Wilderness Voyage

Session Dates

#1: June 9-23
#2: June 16-30
#3: June 23-July 7
#4: June 30-July 14
#5: July 7-21
#6: July 14-28
#7: July 21-August 4
#8: July 28-August 11
#9: August 4-18

Applications forms are available at http://adventure.oa-bsa.org

The Order will begin notifying applicants of acceptance by March 15, 2010. Following receipt, a packet of materials will be sent to you to assist in preparing you for your experience in the Boundary Waters. Applications will be accepted after March 15 until all slots are filled. APPLY TODAY!
By TIM BROWN  
Kentucky Division of Forestry

The William T. Hornaday Awards are considered by many to be Scouting’s Olympic medals for conservation. Of the available awards, the Hornaday Silver Medal is the most coveted. The standards to achieve the award are rigorous, making it the most distinguished conservation award in the Boy Scouts of America. Since 1914 only about 1,100 silver medals have been conferred.

One Arrowmen who completed this award was Don Combs. To earn the award, Don selected five different conservation service projects to address conservation issues that touched on invasive species removal, forest management, soil and water conservation, fish and wildlife management, hazardous materials abatement, and waste recycling.

Don’s first project was his own Eagle Scout project. He removed rustic paint from playground equipment at Saint Francis Elementary School and repainted the equipment with environmentally safe paint. The second project was at Pikeville Elementary where he planted a butterfly garden for the school’s science classes; he also planted over 1,200 plants and installed a vernal pond.

His third project was to setup a county wide recycling project which included five different high schools.

Don helped supply the equipment and made sure the Pike County Waste Department picked up the recycled products weekly. His next project was at his local Boy Scout camp, Camp McKee in the Blue Grass Council. Here he helped restore two miles of the Pioneer Mountain Trail by adding one bridge, more than forty water bars, and cleared fallen trees along the path. He also assisted with the campaign to get troops involved in helping with the trail.

Don’s most recent project was a National Order of the Arrow conservation project, ArrowCorps, where he was the youth incident commander of the Mark Twain site. Don’s leadership and guidance was instrumental in the success of the project, which saw the removal of over 120 acres of invasive Eastern Red Cedar, restoring parts of the forest’s natural glade areas. All of Don’s conservation service projects were well considered over many years, and each project was uniquely framed to demonstrate specific facets of environmental conservation.

Don’s hard work and dedication to our country’s environmental conservation was acknowledged at a public recognition ceremony, where he was presented with one of three William T. Hornaday Silver Medals presented in 2009.

Don Combs, center, was recently presented the BSA’s William T. Hornaday Silver medal for excellence in conservation. Pictured at left is Tim Brown of the Kentucky Division of Forestry, a life-long Scouter and Don's Hornaday Adviser. On the right is Kelly Hampton, Scout Executive of the Blue Grass Council.

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By MICHAEL THOMPSON  
National Committee

On-line registrations began on January 5, 2010, at www.myscouting.org for the 2010 Philmont OA Adviser Training Conference. At the Adviser Training Conference, National OA Committee members and participants will engage in discussions ranging from membership retention, to communication, to Quality Lodge, and many other topics. Attendees will be reenergized to achieve the purpose of our Order in their lodges, councils, and communities.

Registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis, so please sign-up as soon as possible! In addition to Conference participants, there are several outstanding programs available for spouses and/or children who may accompany attendees to the Philmont Training Center. The Conference fee for the week is $470.00, which includes housing and meals. The fee for spouses is $340. Children can attend for the following fees: Ages 14 to 20 ($285), Ages 6 to 13 ($225), and Ages 5 and under ($180).

There is also a great promotional video available about the Philmont Training Center which can be found at www.scouting.org. Click on “volunteer,” then click on “training.” The link under “Philmont Training Center” is entitled, “view promo video.” It does not matter if adult attendees have been in the Order of the Arrow for a month or for fifty-plus years -- all currently registered adult OA members are invited to participate, including both volunteers and professionals. This is also a great opportunity for Lodge and Chapter Staff Advisers.

If you have any questions regarding the 2010 Philmont OA Adviser Training Conference, contact National OA Committee member Michael Thompson at Thompson1994@msn.com.

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How to Register

1. Go to www.myscouting.org
2. Sign in to MyScouting using your user name and password
3. Click on “Event Registration,” which is on the left-hand side of page under “Events”
4. Click on “Philmont Training Center”
5. Click on “Philmont Training Center 2010 Conference Registration”
6. Follow the remaining steps as directed to finalize your registration
Lodge Chiefs participate in NCOC survey

Last summer a National Council of Chiefs, or NCOC, convened at the 2009 National Order of the Arrow Conference. The NCOC is a rare opportunity for all of the nation’s lodge chiefs, lodge advisers, and the national leadership team to gather and discuss the progress of our Order. The National Bulletin took advantage of this opportunity to poll these leaders about some topics relevant to local lodges.

“What do you consider as the most important facet of the OA?” Although many equally valid choices were offered, this question forced lodge chiefs to choose only the most important answer. 80 chiefs, and 54% of the total respondents, indicated that to them “service” was the most important, followed closely by the 40% who selected “leadership development.” That “leadership development” was chosen as a response nearly as often as “service” suggests that the move to include it in our latest official OA Purpose was accurately reflective of a direction that most Arrowmen value highly for our Order.

“Which of these events would you most prefer to attend?” Not surprisingly, nearly forty-nine percent of NCOC participants indicated that the event they most enjoy is their “Section Conclave”. However, more telling is the fact that “Ordeal Weekend” was selected as a more enjoyable event over “Lodge Banquets” by a very wide margin. Extrapolating these lodge chiefs’ responses to the Order as a whole, this data seems to confirm that Ordeals are the driving force behind our members’ favorable views of their local lodges and as such extra effort should be made this year to deliver even better ceremonies, inductions programs, and new member orientation presentations wherever possible.

“Rate the strength of the OA program in your area.” The figure below reflects the compilation of the 2009 lodge chiefs’ responses to this question as sliding scale ratings from 5 (ideally strong program) to 1 (almost non-existent). These data suggest that the OA program is strongest in councils that stretch along the eastern United States. However, an alternative interpretation that might favor western-oriented states could be that these lodges are considering their strength on a scale of qualitatively higher expectations for what they consider to be an ideal OA program.

“Correct pronunciation of the ceremony principle Nutiket.” While generally geographic pronunciation trends are not immediately obvious, as our data and this figure illustrate, an overwhelming majority of lodges in southern-lying states favor the “New-tah-kit” pronunciation.

This data was collected from leaders of 155 different lodges, and as such represent our best approximation of the opinions of our Order as a whole.