Living the Legacy sets plan from 2008-2012

“Living the Legacy, the Order of the Arrow’s 2008 to 2012 Strategic Plan, is a blueprint for service to Scouting.”

-Brad Haddock, chairman, National OA Committee

Dave Schaub

The Order of the Arrow, as the brotherhood of cheerful service, had a noble vision when it was founded over 90 years ago. This vision has remained unchanged, but in the late 1990s it became apparent that it would be helpful to produce a strategy for continued advancement towards this vision. Thus, in 1998, the OA published its first strategic plan. This summer, at the National Conservation and Leadership Summit preparing for ArrowCorps 5, Arrowmen who attended the summit’s conservation track were trained by Forest Service personnel in forest preservation and conservation and will lead their fellow Arrowmen at ArrowCorps 5. These leaders will hold key positions at the ArrowCorps 5 sites and will be charged with implementing this vital effort on behalf of our national forests.

Arrowmen interested in attending ArrowCorps 5 can learn more about each of the five sites in past and future editions of the National Bulletin or on the Order’s Web site, http://www.oa-bsa.org.

See site profiles on pages 4 and 5

Are you ready for 2008?

During the summer of 2008, the Order of the Arrow and the USDA Forest Service will be partners for ArrowCorps 5, the Order’s 2008 program of emphasis. ArrowCorps 5 will be one of the most ambitious service-oriented projects that the Boy Scouts of America has undertaken in its 98-year history. The program will bring 5,000 Arrowmen together over five weeks to provide service to five national forests across the country.

This summer, hundreds of Arrowmen spent a week at the OA National Conservation and Leadership Summit preparing for ArrowCorps 5. Arrowmen who attended the summit’s conservation track were trained by Forest Service personnel in forest preservation and conservation and will lead their fellow Arrowmen at ArrowCorps 5. These leaders will hold key positions at the ArrowCorps 5 sites and will be charged with implementing this vital effort on behalf of our national forests.

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OA assists with wildfires

Bobby James

As the warm, dry Santa Ana winds of Southern California gusted through the unseasonably dry region at 60 to 80 mph, it was not surprising when wildfires broke out throughout the area in October, destroying thousands of homes and more than 300,000 acres of land. This devastation affected 600,000 citizens. Flashbacks to the 2003 Cedar fires filled the minds of Californians in the area who had faced similar tragedies only a few years ago. A crisis had begun and American Red Cross evacuation centers sprung up across San Diego county.

As the events unfolded, a flurry of emails were exchanged between members of Tiwahe lodge. Leaders of Tiwahe, of the San Diego area, in conjunction with their local council, met to discuss ways to assist with the emergency that had developed. They were quickly given this opportunity an estimated 12,000 displaced Californians were taking shelter at Qualcomm Stadium and in dire need of living quarters. The council delivered several hundred tents and cots to the evacuation center at Qualcomm Stadium, where Scouts demonstrated setup procedures and offered food, water, and other supplies to the evacuees.

After a few days, the Santa Ana winds finally subsided, the fires were under control, and most of the residents were allowed to return home. When this happened, lodge members stepped in and assisted at Qualcomm Stadium with
Strategic plan sets OA goals

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Summit, the Order unveiled its third strategic plan, entitled Living the Legacy, to be implemented from 2008 to 2012.

The new plan has taken countless hours of work, which began nearly two years ago. Never before has a strategic planning task force obtained so much input; more than 10,000 invitations were offered to Arrowmen to complete an electronic survey about the OA. Survey information was also gathered from representatives of all of the lodges at the National Council of Chiefs at NOAC, as well as from local council Scout executives.

The results of the surveys showed immense variance in opinions on what makes a good lodge and what the OA should be doing. This led to numerous outcomes, the first being an increase in flexibility, demonstrated through a new “write-in” requirement for the 2008 Quality Lodge Award.

Another outcome in the new strategic plan was a focus on the “core purposes” of the OA. The new plan, which has its basis in the strategic plan of the Boy Scouts of America, is founded on four pillars: Serve and Support Scouting; Develop Leaders of Character; Promote Outdoor Adventure; and Be an Active, Honored Brotherhood. These four statements make up the heart of the OA’s plan to further its vision over the coming years.

Profile in service: equality reaches Colorado Scout camp

At Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch in Colorado, Tahosa Lodge is working to convert one of the campsites to a more accessible layout in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act. The lodge received a $5,000 National Order of the Arrow service grant for this project, in addition to a $5,000 donation from the Weyerhaeuser Company and $7,500 from Tahosa lodge’s account. Eighty-one Arrowmen, including some national officers, logged a total of 684 service hours to undertake this task.

The project centered on retrofitting the bathroom and wash basin facilities to accommodate Scouts in wheelchairs. This was challenging because many features of the standard campsite bathroom had to be altered. Increasing the overall area of its interior and installing special fixtures for showering and waste disposal are two examples of the modifications performed. Extra-spacious tents with platforms equipped with four power outlets were installed to accommodate campers who require electric sources for breathing devices, rechargeable wheelchairs, and other related appliances. The campsite features a raised hearth campfire ring as an additional safety precaution.

Tahosa Lodge works to renovate a campsite bathroom.
The early years of the Order of the Arrow

When E. Urner Goodman and Carroll Edson were assigned senior staff positions at Treasure Island Scout Camp, they already had the idea to form a camp honor society to recognize outstanding Scouts who did their best to follow the Scout Oath and Law in their everyday lives.

Every Friday night for five weeks during the summer of 1915, they inducted the Scouts who had been elected by their troops for this honor. By the end of that camp season, 25 Scouts had been selected and inducted. In 1916, these Scouts decided to call themselves Unami Lodge.

From 1915 to 1918, Unami was the only lodge, and word of it spread quickly through the Scouting community, up and down the Delaware Valley. Other Scout camps were interested in starting similar programs. By 1921, nine lodges were conducting inductions in the pattern established at Treasure Island.

At the 1922 National Scout Executive Conference near Asheville, North Carolina, some members expressed concern over camp fraternities and secret organizations. A resolution was presented “that camp fraternities be discouraged in connection with Boy Scout camps.” Goodman spoke at length on the issue, pointing out that such camp societies could “further emphasize the Scouting principles and ideals in the life of boys.” The resolution was approved by a narrow vote. After the vote, the Chief Scout Executive called members of the Wimachtendienk together in private and asked them not to push the expansion. “Let it grow, if it will, on its own merits and not through a promotional effort on your own part,” he said.

The growth of new lodges was slow. In the early years, they were formed at each Scout camp, creating multiple lodges within a council. There were 13 active lodges in 1925, 37 in 1930, and 45 in 1935. After 20 years, the Order of the Arrow reached the Pacific Coast with a charter issued to the Canalino Lodge of Mission Council, Santa Barbara, California. Since then, the Order of the Arrow has expanded to more than 300 lodges in every corner of the country and beyond.

Southern Region offers Scoutreach at SOS

Kenney Barton

The Southern Region strives to expand its cheerful service every year, and 2007 has not been an exception. During the Southern Region gathering, 40 Arrowmen, including section officers, section advisers, and region coordinators, participated in the first regionwide Scoutreach mentoring activity with Scouts from Troop 400 in Huntsville, Alabama.

When the Scouts arrived at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center, they met Arrowmen for lunch and had a tour of the facility. After the meal, everyone moved outside for advancement activities. In accordance with the troop’s monthly Scouting theme, Arrowmen taught Scouts how to tie the basic knots required to advance from Tenderfoot through First Class rank.

After their instruction, groups of Arrowmen and Scouts tried to untangle a human knot to illustrate that teamwork, perseverance, and communication are important components of successful goal completion.

The success of this activity can serve as testament to all lodges that a simple activity can have a profound impact upon the youth of our organization. The Southern Region leadership hopes that this event will inspire future section officers to continue in their footsteps.
**ArrowCorps<sup>5</sup>: Are you ready to provide service?**

1. **Mark Twain National Forest**
   **Missouri**
   **June 7-14, 2008**

   Mark Twain National Forest, located in southern and central Missouri, is more than 1.5 million acres sprawled across the beautiful Ozark Highlands. President Franklin Roosevelt created the forest to protect the area from loggers, who had systematically been clearcutting the state’s native oak, hickory, and pine trees.

   On June 7–14, 2008, 1,000 Arrowmen will work to make this magnificent place even more beautiful and to preserve its natural state. Arrowmen who choose to give service at Mark Twain will be working in the Bateman area of the forest, where they will remove cedar trees from the area. Cedar is an invasive species that, if not removed from the area, will destroy the precious little grassland that remains.

   As a result of the OA’s efforts, the ecological balance in the forest will be maintained, and the area will be protected for use by future generations.

   In addition to providing service, Arrowmen will also spend recreational time in the area. Mark Twain National Forest is home to the Greer Spring, the largest spring in any national forest. It pumps an average of 222 million gallons of water each day. The Glade Top Trail National Scenic Byway also runs through the forest and provides amazing views of the area.

2. **Manti-La Sal National Forest**
   **Utah**
   **June 14-21, 2008**

   During the week of June 14–21, 2008, 1,000 of the nation’s hardest-working Arrowmen will be in the Manti-La Sal National Forest in southeastern Utah to remove an invasive plant species known as tamarisk (salt cedar). Tamarisk is a particularly harsh evergreen shrub that absorbs valuable water from the soil and deposits salt that kills native plant species. Each individual tamarisk plant produces around 500,000 seeds annually. The seeds are wind-dispersed and can germinate in the soil within 24 hours. Each day’s work will help push the tamarisk growth back 30 years and keep the native landscape intact.

   The OA will be assisted in their conservation efforts by the state of Utah and the counties of Emery and Carbon, which will bring additional workers to help reclaim this lost terrain.

   Those who attend this and other ArrowCorps<sup>5</sup> projects will also have the opportunity to take a day off, relax, and have some fun. At the Utah site, participants will be able to choose between rafting on the Green and Colorado rivers, geocaching, hiking, rappelling, mountain biking, playing in a golf tournament, or visiting a museum and dinosaur quarry.
Shasta-Trinity National Forest
California
July 12-19, 2008

When President Theodore Roosevelt created Shasta-Trinity National Forest, he ensured that generations of Americans would be able to experience the granite peaks and cliffs, canyons, glaciers, rock pinnacles, and reflective lakes that make this forest so breathtaking. With Mount Shasta towering in the distance, a plume of sulfurous smoke serves as a reminder of the awesome energy that lies hidden beneath the calm exterior. With an elevation of 14,162 feet, Mount Shasta is the second-highest volcano in the Cascade Range.

When 1,000 Arrowmen descend upon Shasta-Trinity on July 12–19, 2008, they will be assigned to one of several trail-building teams. In total, attendees at this site will provide much needed trail maintenance and reconstruction to more than 200 miles of hiking trails. Each area of the project will provide participants with a unique experience, as the work at each site is similar, but the diversity of the ecosystem will present each team with a truly unique experience.

The largest of the projects at Shasta-Trinity is repair to the Pacific Crest Trail. Arrowmen will work on more than 116 miles of trail surrounding Interstate 5. With more than 50 access points, this stretch of trail is a major inlet to the forest, and maintaining it is vital. Recreational opportunities will include whitewater rafting and kayaking, fishing, mountain climbing, and waterskiing.

The Glade Top Trail National Scenic Byway also runs through the forest and provides amazing views of the area.

Bridger-Teton National Forest
Wyoming
July 26-August 2, 2008

Bridger-Teton National Forest is located in western Wyoming and offers its visitors more than 3.4 million acres to explore. With its pristine watersheds, abundant wildlife, and immense wild lands, the Bridger-Teton National Forest comprises a large part of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, the largest intact ecosystem in the contiguous United States. Arrowmen who serve at this forest will take part in one of three projects designed to improve the forest for its visitors.

The largest project at this site is the Teton Pass trail construction. This project will require 650 participants and will create approximately 8,000 feet of trail for mountain biking. This project will be split into three parts, with two groups working on general trail construction in low-elevation areas and the third group doing intermediate trail construction on higher-elevation terrain.

Two hundred participants will be needed to remove a length of the Goosewing exclusion fence, which encloses a very large area and inhibits wildlife migration in the forest. This project will help to balance the local ecosystem by allowing migration habits of local herds to normalize.

The smallest project at Bridger-Teton will need 80 participants to remove a quarter-mile of wooden and sheep wire fencing in the Dutch Joe area of the forest. The fences are located in both open and wooded areas and will provide participants with breathtaking views of the Grand Tetons and surrounding areas.
A unique perspective for youth

Frank Sturges

No sight will ever compare to watching canoes paddle into a morning sunrise over the Height of Land Portage on the Canadian border. Our trip followed the centuries-old trail of the French voyagers, giving us some of the same experiences they had along the way. However, the OA Wilderness Voyage program provides a truly unique perspective on the Boundary Waters in its commitment to the Order’s ideals of brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service.

Each Voyage crew begins with a week of service in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness of the Superior National Forest. During this time, crews manage public trails that are used throughout the year. The hours spent together turning mud into rock itself, where select Arrowmen meticulously removed nonnative species in an isolated ecosystem.

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One of my favorite trekking memories is of standing with fellow participants less than 20 feet from the Canadian border watching the Northern Lights set the sky afire. It was a humbling sight. I have never found the ideals of the Order to ring truer than they do in the heart of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. The program costs $125, and you must be at least 16 but not yet 21 to attend. More information and sign-up forms can be found at http://www.oa-bsa.org.

Over 100 assist with wildfires

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dismantling the makeshift living quarters located in the middle of the football stadium. More than 100 Scouts, mostly Tiwahe Arrowmen, worked for nearly two days to help close down the center. Arrowmen also worked at two other shelters in the North County, one in the East County, and in a number of temporarily established food shelters as well.

Following the strong response from Arrowmen, Lodge Chief Bobby James said, “I was extremely proud of our Arrowmen’s response to the call to action during this devastating time of need, proving what cheerful service truly means.” The dedicated service and fast response of the Tiwahe Arrowmen greatly assisted thousands of evacuees and helped to maintain order during the crisis.
Sessions will be led by members of the national Order of the Arrow committee, youth officers, and other special guests.

Applications are available now and require the approval of your local council Scout executive. For more information, contact Mark Chilutti, National OA Committee vice chairman for leadership development, at chilutti2000@aol.com.

This summer, during the week of June 15–21, Philmont Scout Ranch will host the OA Adviser Training seminar as part of the Philmont Training Center courses. The seminar is open to all adult OA leaders and will feature an in-depth look at being a successful adviser, the Lodge Leadership Development program, the Order’s new strategic plan, servant leadership, and more.

Join top leaders of the OA for a week of training at Philmont

LodgeMaster assists lodges with records

LodgeMaster is the new software system being used to help Order of the Arrow lodges manage their membership databases. Not only was LodgeMaster designed by the OA for the OA, its capabilities extend much further. This software is also able to import Boy Scouts of America ID numbers, track service hours, help manage Ordeals, track assets, run reports on membership, and much more.

Additionaly, the system is designed to allow multiple lodge members to access and edit the database simultaneously. As a combination of desktop application and online database, this unique software allows lodge leadership to download the latest information at the click of a button.

Most importantly, this software can help eliminate much of the time necessary to perform lodge administrative tasks, leaving more time for the important things like service and brotherhood. For more information about LodgeMaster, visit www.oa-bsa.org.

Section SR-7B sponsors trail service project

In preparation for the ArrowCorps project, Section SR-7B committed itself to hosting a number of trail service workdays on the Mountain to Sea Trail (MST), which stretches over 900 miles across North Carolina to the Atlantic Ocean coastline near Hatteras Island. The objectives of these workdays are to lend tangible service to the area while preparing lodge contingents for the same type of work they will experience at ArrowCorps.

Jeff Brewer, a past OA Trail Crew foreman, saw the need for a volunteer program designed to address trail construction and maintenance that would prove vital to keeping trails open. Jeff has encouraged this project throughout the section in his current role as president of Friends of the Mountain to Sea Trail. He has helped coordinate two workdays with the OA and his organization in which Arrowmen can become familiar with the tools, safety procedures, and trail-building methods that will be useful during ArrowCorps.

It is essential that we realize the importance of our nation’s national forests and do all that we can to conserve these resources for the education and enjoyment of future generations. As lodges prepare for ArrowCorps, Section SR-7B has taken a proactive approach in assisting its member lodges with training. Its efforts will prove worthwhile during the service projects next summer.

SR-7B is hosting service workdays on the Mountain to Sea Trail in North Carolina. Lodges are preparing to participate in ArrowCorps.

www.oa-bsa.org
Can I attend more than one week of the ArrowCorps program next summer?

Absolutely! A number of Arrowmen have expressed interest in attending multiple sites of ArrowCorps. All you have to do is sign up. The first sessions are back-to-back, and it would be tricky to attend both in terms of transportation. However, the rest of the program leaves one or two weeks in-between sessions to give Arrowmen who want to attend more sites a chance to rest. Trained squad leaders are welcome to attend other program sites as participants as well.