National conference is seven months away

By now you have probably heard about the National Order of the Arrow Conference. If you haven’t, here are the details: Aug. 1-6, 2009 at Indiana University in Bloomington. The conference fee of $395 includes all of your training materials, activities, food, and housing for the six-day conference. When you register to attend NOAC with your council contingent or as staff, you will also receive a promotional patch!

The NOAC official slogan is “The power of one.” If you are looking for fund-raising or promotional ideas, the National Events Promotions Team is putting the final touches on two guides to help your lodge: a promotions resource packet and a fundraising guide. Stay tuned to the national OA Web site for updates.

View the OA Website at www.event.oa-bsa.org for more information and details about NOAC.

Lodge members mentor for Scoutreach event

The Jaccos Towne Lodge program of the Crossroads of America Council expanded its Scoutreach mentoring in 2008. The lodge invited members of the Indianapolis Scoutreach units to join Arrowmen at Camp Kikthawenund for a weekend of camping and American Indian events.

Attendees participated in a variety of activities that included tomahawk throwing, archery, lacrosse, races, and fire building. Arrowmen were committed throughout the weekend to working with Scoutreach unit members by teaching new skills and helping Scouts to practice these skills. All participants enjoyed the weekend events.

The lodge leadership visited the Scoutreach campsite and talked with the youth and adults about Scouting and the Order of the Arrow. Arrowmen also treated the Scoutreach units to some tasty s’mores. For some, eating the chocolate, marshmallow, and graham cracker delight was a first-time experience!

Arrowmen continued mentoring by sitting on Boards of Review for eligible Scouts. This introduced the Scouts to the new Board of Review experience. Scoutreach adults were given new insights on the advancement process and on holding Boards of Review.

The entire Fall Fellowship experience provided the Scoutreach participants with a pattern for planning their own future events. In addition, Arrowmen took advantage of the weekend to offer future assistance and to extend invitations to Scoutreach units to participate in the events and activities of their home districts.

As always, the goal of the Fall Fellowship weekend was fellowship, training, and fun. There was little doubt that Arrowmen and Scoutreach participants achieved that goal!

Visit http://www.oa-bsa.org/programs/scoutreach/ to learn more about the Scoutreach mentoring program and how your lodge can start a program.
Need an adventure in 2009?

Do you need an escape from that 9-5 job, summer classes or the monotony of staring out of your bedroom window longing for something new? If your answer is yes, the Order of the Arrow has the answer for you.

Each summer, the Order of the Arrow offers a myriad of High Adventure opportunities to meet your summer needs. Why not satisfy your appetite by going for a plunge in the Atlantic Ocean with the Ocean Adventure at the Florida Sea Base. If hiking is your passion, what better place to go than the Philmont Scout Ranch where you can hike the same trails as your Scoutmaster or Scouting ancestors did as a part of your Trail Crew experience.

Have you ever thought about what Native Americans and early explorers did to become avid traders. Maybe the OA Voyage at Northern Tier is for you. Whatever your summer aspirations may be, these National High Adventure bases have put together a multitude of options for you.

Along with your one week trek designed by you, each Arrowmen will be afforded the opportunity to leave their mark by helping to improve portage trails, backpacking trails or coral reefs. Aside from providing a good deed to each high adventure base, every participant will have the opportunity to work closely with Arrowmen from across the country, who have similar interests.

You may be thinking that this is a daunting task but it is an experience unlike any other afforded you in Scouting. It takes you out of your world and places you with people, who want to do something different. It’s not everyday that you can tell your friends that you climbed into Cypher’s Mine, watched the Northern Lights from a canoe or went scuba diving in the Florida Keys.

These programs help to insure that the future of Scouting has a place to live, work and expand. This summer, try something new or do something you thoroughly enjoy. Take advantage of your Order of the Arrow High Adventure opportunities. For more information about these High Adventure programs, please visit www.adventure.oa-bsa.org or talk to your lodge leadership. Your destiny awaits you.

Survey: Analyzing the OA

Tom Eliopoulos

Question: Is anyone else in your immediate family a member of the Order of the Arrow?

Responses: A majority of Lodge Chiefs reported that others in their families were members. Considering the high level of commitment required of Lodge Chiefs, these results may suggest that family plays an important role in motivating these young men to become more highly involved with the program. Scouting has long been considered a family affair, and it appears that the OA may be as well.

Questions: Does your lodge offer the Brotherhood ceremony at summer camp? Did your lodge meet the Brotherhood requirement for achieving Quality Lodge last year?

Responses: Current data suggest that a majority of lodges utilize the opportunities at Boy Scout summer camps to convert Ordeal members to Brotherhood membership. However, of those lodges that do not use this opportunity, nearly 28 percent failed to meet the Brotherhood conversion requirement for Quality Lodge recognition the previous year. Summer camp is a valuable opportunity to reach out to Arrowmen, reignite their interest in the Order of the Arrow, and solidify their understanding of our principles through Brotherhood membership. All lodges should be encouraged to actively work with their council camps to achieve these goals.

Note: Last fall, the National Bulletin conducted an online survey of 68 youth Arrowmen who served as Lodge Chiefs in 2008. This data was used as the basis for the preceding analyses.

Highest Lodge attendance at ArrowCorps®

Cahuilla Lodge of California Inland Empire Council #45 had the highest attendance at ArrowCorps®, Throughout the entire project, more than 3,600 Arrowmen and staff participated in the largest service project conducted by the Boy Scouts of America since World War II.

Brothers,

I write to you in a “new day” for the Order of the Arrow and for the Boy Scouts of America. We stand at a historical place in time. This past summer, you helped us complete one of the largest conservation service projects in our history with ArrowCorps®; now we are busy preparing for the 100th Anniversary of Scouting in America.

Millions of people watched and read about the 3,600 Arrowmen who gave up a week or more of their summer to improve our national forests and create new recreation opportunities for adventure-seekers across the nation. Our impact was obvious to all by the end of the summer as the chief of the Forest Service, Gail Kimbell, remarked, “What you all have done in these five national forests is the kind of thing that you’ll bring your grandchildren back to look at. You’ve made a difference on the land and the American people thank you.”

While ArrowCorps® received great media coverage throughout our country, the phenomenon continues as thousands of Arrowmen work tirelessly to make their own communities a better place to live. Whether it is through service projects, sharing their leadership with the people around them, or just living the Obligation and the Admonition in their daily lives, there is no question that members of the Order of the Arrow bring a great gift to our world. Combined with our principle of youth leadership, the opportunities available to members of Scouting’s honor society are limitless.

During the past six years, I have been able to experience incredible opportunities in the Order. I am certainly a better person for that. It is an honor to stand among you, my brothers. It has been an unfathomable delight to lead you in 2008. I am proud to call myself an Arrowman.

Yours in Brotherhood,

Jake Wellman
National Chief

www.oa-BSA.org

Scouting’s National Honor Society
Capp becomes Distinguished Eagle Scout

Ray Capp

Recently, the National Eagle Scout Association notified the Middle Tennessee Council that Ray Capp will receive the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award. Ray serves as the vice chairman of Technology and Special Projects on the National Order of the Arrow Committee.

Created in 1969, the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award is the only distinguished service recognition that depends on one’s association with Scouting as a youth. The recipient must have attained the Eagle Scout rank a minimum of 25 years before his nomination, and over those years he must have rendered outstanding service to others.

Over the years, Ray has given invaluable service to Scouting at the local and national levels. He has actively served on the Council Executive Board and the Council Camping Committee for the Middle Tennessee Council, in addition to his previous service to Wa-Hi-Nasa Lodge as Lodge Adviser. Ray is also on the BSA Museum Board and has been honored with the William T. Hornaday Medal, Silver Beaver, Silver Antelope, and the Order of the Arrow Distinguished Service Award.

His accomplishments are inscribed on the award, reading, “He has remained unselfish in service and devotion to the welfare of others as a board member of the Nashville Capital Network; Notre Dame Club of TN; Middle Tennessee Council, BSA; Tennessee Art League; Nashville Technology Council; National Scouting Museum; Vice Chairman of the National Order of the Arrow Committee; Charter Member of the National Chestnut Foundation; Trustee of the “Green Bar Bill” Hillcourt Trust; and as a devoted Scoutmaster who has nurtured fifty Eagle Scouts under his wing.”

Outside of Scouting, Ray is a successful businessman and is active in his community. He is the CEO and chairman of Conduit Corporation and serves on numerous community boards. He is also an active member of the Nashville Technology Council Board, Tennessee Art League, and the Executive Board of the Nashville Capital Network. He has the distinction of being named a member of the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels, the highest honor awarded by the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Wal-La-Moot-Kin Lodge gives back to camp

Taylor Blanc

The Blue Mountain Council’s Camp Wallowa near Joseph, Ore., is currently undergoing a facelift thanks to the members of Wal-La-Moot-Kin Lodge and a service grant issued by the Order of the Arrow.

Since the camp’s dining hall was destroyed by a mudslide in 2002, large groups who use the camp had nowhere to hold their indoor meetings. With the financial assistance provided by the grant, lodge members are working to convert existing A-frame rooms into spaces large enough for lodge meetings.

“You should have seen the youths’ eyes light up” when they realized that they got to smash down walls, said lodge adviser Pete Gibbons. Some of the projects include roof repairs, window replacement, porch stair replacement, and the removal of internal walls to create larger spaces. The youth leadership has been extremely successful in finding projects that are fun, as well as worthwhile.

Under the supervision of trained adult volunteers, the Arrowmen learned new construction skills. Nearing its completion, one lodge member observed, “everyone recognized a major accomplishment had been achieved when the lodge was able to conduct its first indoor L.E.C. meeting” since the mudslide.

Wal-La-Moot-Kin Lodge has no intention of stopping after completing this camp project. Its council has already asked them to help with the construction of a camp on recently acquired property.
Statistics released on historic summer project

ArrowCorps® proved to be the largest service project conducted by the Boy Scouts of America since World War II. With the theme “Five Sites, Five Weeks, Five Thousand Arrowmen,” it was the largest single volunteer service project ever received by the Forest Service in its rich 103 year history! Overall, through the efforts of 3,600 participants and staff, the OA provided 280,000 volunteer service hours worth $5.6 million to the Forest Service.

Throughout the summer the project was well received and strongly supported by the surrounding communities. Priceless media coverage was generated at each site, resulting in a total of 97 print articles, 34 television reports, and 95 online and radio reports on the volunteer service provided by the Boy Scouts of America through ArrowCorps®.

Visit http://www.oa-bsa.org/events/arrowcorps5 to review the memories of this historic national service project.

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<tr>
<th>Mark Twain National Forest, Missouri</th>
<th>Shasta-Trinity National Forest, California</th>
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<tr>
<td>June 7-14, 2008</td>
<td>July 12-19, 2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>• 575 participants, staff, and Forest Service personnel</td>
<td>• 600 participants, staff, and Forest Service personnel (from all 50 states, Japan, and Taiwan)</td>
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<td>• Completed work on 134 acres and cut down more than 285,000 invasive Eastern Red Cedar trees</td>
<td>• Removed 22 tons of illegally dumped trash; constructed or reconstructed more than 75 miles of trail on Pacific Crest Trail, Siisson-Callahan Trail, and McCleary Loop Trail; and rebuilt a lookout tower and four “comfort stations.”</td>
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<td>• Work exceeded original plans, resulting in restoration of a natural glade necessary for sustainability of the environment, as well as wildlife in the area.</td>
<td>• National Chief Jake Wellman, Western Region Chief Mark Hendricks, and Youth Incident Commander Alex Braden were each presented the President’s Volunteer Service Award by President Bush during his visit to Redding, Calif.</td>
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<td>• Base camp was constructed from scratch (no infrastructure available).</td>
<td>• Project exceeded all expectations and met all goals.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Forest Service named area “Arrowman’s Glade” at closing gathering.</td>
<td>• Mt. Shasta Ski Park served as primary base camp.</td>
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Manti-La Sal National Forest, Utah

June 14-21, 2008

• 463 participants, staff, Forest Service, and other agency personnel
• Completed work on approximately 13,000 acres or 33 miles of channel area affected by removing invasive Tamarisk, a non-native shrub harmful to other vegetation and wildlife.
• 21 agencies involved, including Bureau of Land Management, Emery County, Emery County School District, and City of Huntington
• Work exceeded original project plans with fewer than half of the projected participants.
• Patch auction raised $4,000; which was donated to the Canyon View Junior High School that served as base of operations

George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, Virginia

June 21-28, 2008

• 736 participants, staff, and Forest Service personnel
• Completed 8.3 miles of new multi-use trail (hiking/backpacking, mountain biking, and equestrian), repaired and improved miles of existing trail, constructed and installed four information kiosks and 86 trail signs, and surveyed and constructed seven camping platforms and adjoining trails made of treated lumber frames and compacted pea gravel.
• Work far exceeded original plans.
• Camp Goshen served as primary base camp.
• During closing gathering, Forest Service named new multi-use trail along Peter’s Ridge the “ArrowCorps Loop.”

Order becomes official organization for President’s Volunteer Service Award

The success of ArrowCorps® brought President George W. Bush to the Shasta-Trinity project to recognize three youth leaders with the prestigious President’s Volunteer Service Award. As a result of the outstanding service that the OA provided to the United States Forest Service at ArrowCorps®, the Order of the Arrow has been approved as an official certifying organization for the President’s Volunteer Service Award.

The President’s Volunteer Service Award was created by President Bush to recognize outstanding volunteers. In order to encourage and recognize outstanding volunteer service and inspire others to volunteer, the President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation created the President’s Volunteer Service Award. The awards honor those Americans who have made serving a central part of their lives.

The award is available to Americans of all ages who complete a significant amount of service to their communities. To date, more than 662,000 individuals have received the President’s Volunteer Service Award.

Arrowmen are encouraged to visit the President’s Volunteer Service Award Web site and sign up to track their volunteer service under the OA’s record of service key, VGH-33042. Simply complete an online profile and insert the OA’s record of service key. Your volunteer contributions will be grouped under the Order of the Arrow. Once complete, your profile will be forwarded to the national office for review, approval, and ordering of the award. To register for or obtain additional information on the award, please visit www.presidentialvolunteernationsociety.gov.

Youth Incident Commander Alex Braden, Western Region Chief Mark Hendricks, and National Chief Jake Wellman receive the President’s Volunteer Service Award from President Bush during the Shasta-Trinity National Forest project.
National event website offers promotional resources

Check out www.event.oa-bsa.org to learn more about the 2009 National Conference. Information is available for arrowmen, advisers, parents, professional staff, and staff members.

Participants will receive this patch for signing up to attend the 2009 National O.A. Conference.
Website features a 10th anniversary redesign

Thomas Lambert

Those who frequent the National OA Web Site may have noticed a big change in the site’s design and navigation. However, this is not the first time we’ve had a change like this. Let’s do a brief review of the past 10 years!

The www.oa-bsa.org domain name originated as the 1998 NOAC Web Site beginning in the fall of 1997. The site’s purpose was to provide information about the conference to participants and also provide a first hand look at the conference itself. The original youth chairman was Doug Kupec advised by Joe Glenski. In 1998, following the national conference, the site was recognized by the National OA Committee as the official National OA Web Site. The original design only lasted for a few months while the official site was being prepared. The new design, launched in January of 1999, featured a simple navigation menu with nine choices, a custom header graphic in multiple font sizes and colors, and all of the latest information available on OA policy. This site featured a cutting edge design with regards to the technology available in 1999.

During the next two years, the site design was improved. These improvements included upgrading the navigation menu, changing the header graphic and realigning some of the site’s features. This revised site bolstered more content areas and an easily accessible search engine (located on the homepage), as well as a two column feature story section to allow for maximum information in the space available.

The end of 2001 brought the most drastic redesign to date. Sage Lichtenwalner, the site’s Youth Coordinator, tackled the site’s structure, design, and features in a way never thought of. The new design was the first to include cascading style sheets, allowing for uniformed links with rollover effects, etc. The site also included “PDA’s” which offered quick access to documents and other featured content.

In 2008, as we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the official National OA Web Site, we are pleased to present to you a redesigned Web site. The new design includes flash animation on the homepage, a multicolored menu on the left, and a redesigned navigation menu with drop down features. We are committed to maintaining the highest standard of quality and will continue to refine the site’s design to keep pace with current technology.

If you have suggestions for the design improvement, changes to the navigation menus, or want to make general comments on the site, please email webmaster@oa-bsa.org.

Online OA museum website established

Tony Steinhardt

Many thanks to the Order of the Arrow National Committee for investing in the software necessary to share our history. The Subcommittee for History and Preservation has been hard at work developing a digital archive and virtual museum to chronicle the national program. This site will serve as a repository for historical items of our Order including videos, audio, patches, three dimensional items and photos.

This new resource will allow OA history to be used in new and exciting ways and be shared at lodge, section, and national events, young Arrowmen can now learn more about our history. There are several hundred items to view at www.museum.oa-bsa.org. Artifacts are being added monthly.

Beyond the digital archive, we are also acquiring gifts for a physical repository to document the OA national program: our founder’s and national leadership; national committee meeting minutes; documents from national planning meetings; national bulletins; personal letters; NOAC artifacts from shows, training, ceremony, Native American events; National Jamboree Service Corps; patches; neckerchiefs; national officer speeches and final reports; DSA documentation; and photographs.

The National Committee has developed the legal tools necessary to accept donations of documents and items important to preserve the Order’s past. Recent gifts include NOAC Pageant scripts from 1952 and 1961, personal letters of correspondence from E. Urner Goodman, a 1965 Distinguished Service Award, and OA Trail Crew final reports.

Please contact Tony Steinhardt at tsteinhardt@RATIOArchitects.com or Ray Capp at rcapp@conduitcorporation.com if you have items you wish to donate to the OA National Archive. Those who donate will receive recognition, as well as, the proper documentation of your gift.
Scouting’s National Honor Society

Leaderthink: The art of effective management

Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th president of the United States, once wrote, “The best executive is the one who has sense enough to pick good men to do what he wants done, and self-restraint enough to keep from meddling with them while they do it.” The fall season is often a time associated with change. Along with our nation, our Order, too, will find change in lodge leadership and committee appointments, leading the group inevitably forward and onto new opportunities.

Leadership, in many ways, is an art, requiring lots of practice to perfect. An effective leader is one who can put the right people in key positions without requiring too much direct oversight. Whether this is your first time holding a position of responsibility or your tenth, there is always room for improvement. Management not only requires you to interject is while the vision is being formed. As a leader you must build the following in your team to new levels and accomplish heights once thought impossible.

For more on management and other concepts visit the Lodge Leadership Development website at www.lld.oa-bsa.org.

Need plans for Spring break? Try Philbreak

What are you doing for spring break? Sitting at home, perhaps? Working? Doing nothing?

Why not travel to the enchanted Philmont backcountry for a week long excursion in the snow-covered aspen hills. Make plans now to attend Philbreak 2009 and turn your spring break into an exciting adventure. This program has enjoyed much success over the years, and offers the very best of Philmont for Scouts and Venturers. The week long program, for Scouts/Scouters ages 18-25, provides an opportunity to vacation somewhere truly unique. Challenging in every aspect, participants will be able to provide meaningful service to Philmont, develop personal leadership skills, and forge friendships with Scouts and Scouters from across the country.

Applications for this special opportunity can be found on the official Order of the Arrow Web site, www oa-bsa.org. The cost is $100 plus your transportation. The program is only running two sessions in 2009 and each session is limited to 50 participants. Be sure to get your application in as soon as possible!

2009 Dates
March 9th - March 13th
March 16th - March 20th
The Order of the Arrow will be providing three programs at the 2010 National Scout Jamboree. The three programs will be the OA Service Corps, the American Indian Village and new to this jamboree will be The Mysterium Compass. The Mysterium Compass is an ‘augmented reality’ game that will take Scouts through an adventure of video gaming and theme-park style immersion with actors and theatrical settings. Visit www.bsajamboree.org to learn more about the 2010 National Scout Jamboree.