Lodge Leadership Development Material Gets Facelift

by Rob Rosamond

This year’s National OA Conference saw the release of a new and improved version of the Lodge Leadership Development training material. A special LLD training cell was offered to NOAC participants and was highlighted at the start of the National Council of Chiefs meeting. Also distributed at NOAC, the Lodge Leadership Development Planning Guide leads the newly created lodge operating committee through the process of implementing successful year-round training programs, emphasizing the major annual LLD event. This publication guides the newly created lodge operating committee through the process of implementing successful year-round training programs, with an emphasis on the major annual LLD event.

The new program will help to improve current LLD programs and build successful first-time LLD programs.

The new program will help to improve current LLD programs and build successful first-time LLD programs.

The LLD task force was led by section chiefs Rob Rosamond, Ed Clifford, Gil Rogers, Michael Long, and Chris Hunt who together with a team of nearly 100 content authors and contributors spent a year and a half producing more than seven times the content and resources as in previous versions of LLD software.

Effectively used and promoted, the revised Lodge Leadership Development will help lodge leaders provide successful program in their council.

For more information check out the National OA Web site at http://www.oa-bsa.org/

OA Literature Updated

by Tom Reddin

New editions of the Order of the Arrow Handbook, Guide for Officers and Advisers (GOA), and Field Operation Guide (FOG) are now available. The new Handbook and GOA can be ordered through National Supply Division. The new FOG is available for download at the Order of the Arrow Web site: http://www.oa-bsa.org. Besides updating the index in all three publications and adding the new chiefs and NOAC references, there are several important changes in the new editions.

The “American Indian Customs and Traditions” section of the Handbook has been updated, along with all the references in the “American Indian Bibliography.” New protected species and flag policies have been included in the FOG and duplicated in the GOA. The face–point policy in the Guide has been updated to match the policy in the FOG.

Endowment Items Available

by Ryan Miske

The national endowment was created in the late 1970s. Today, the interest earned from this endowment provides crucial funding to such programs as the OA Trail Crew, the OA Wilderness Voyage, the OA Ocean Adventure, and popular attractions at the Boy National Scout Jamboree, including Scoutopia.

One of the most popular endowment items, inspired by the work of Joseph Csatari, is the Ordeal Ceremony figurine. It stands six inches tall and has a wooden base. A limited quantity of bronze and painted figurines, which ship with a certificate of authenticity, are still available. You probably have a lodge banquet in the near future, and you may be searching for the perfect recognition piece for your adviser, longtime Arrowmen, or Founder’s Award recipients. Contact the national OA office to place an order (items ship in six to eight weeks). Your investment in the Order of the Arrow’s national endowment is a smart one. It will ensure and help perpetuate our Order, forever.

For more information about the endowment, check out the National OA Web site at http://www.oa-bsa.org/
Trust Is the Foundation of Leadership by Michael Kirby

Let’s say you are going on a 50-mile hike through the desert this summer and you can choose only one person to go with you. Who would you take? And why would you choose that person?

You most likely would choose someone trustworthy. Trust is a key factor in almost everything we do in life: getting jobs, marrying, having friends. So if trust is such an almighty attribute, how is it acquired?

First, we need to see what makes us trust. We hear so much about being honest, but are we really honest? Most of us probably would say that we are. I don’t know anyone who thinks they are not honest, even those who lie about everything. Honesty is based upon more than just telling the truth. That’s where we get into integrity. Having integrity means that you live your life on a higher level than most people. Telling the truth means that you can omit or change things to what you want as long as they are “technically” true.

Having integrity means that you don’t have to rely on technicalities. Integrity is finding a $100 bill on the street and trying to locate its owner rather than keeping it. Boiled down, integrity is doing what you know is right, not rationalizing what you do.

So why stand up for honesty and integrity? Why put yourself on the line when others will not? It all comes down to trust.

When people around you see that you have integrity, you will gain their trust and respect.

We belong to a select group of Scouters who pledge to hold themselves to higher ideals than others. We have dedicated our lives to cheerful service. We need to set the example and be the role models. We hold the future in our hands, and it is up to us to make it better.

Don’t become wrapped up in all the fine print and the technicalities. Stay true to the things that you feel are right and you can show the world integrity!

High-adventure opportunity at Philmont by Ryan Hawk

The summer of 2004 marked the 10th anniversary for the OA Trail Crew at Philmont, with 103 Arrowmen experiencing the magical mountains and remarkable brotherhood. Twelve outstanding foremen from across the nation provided a life-changing experience for all the participants; and at the same time influenced the character of Philmont staff members too.

Working above 10,500 feet at the side of Philmont’s highest peak, Baldy Mountain, tested both participants and staff in 2004. From slow adjustments to altitude and cold weather to some of the most rugged trail building terrain, Arrowmen experienced many trials during their journey.

Regardless of the challenges presented, the participants produced nearly 1,350 feet of new trail and formed lasting friendships with fellow Scouts.

Although OA Trail Crew is based on service to others, Philmont provides multiple rewards to the participants. The second week of the experience is a participant-planned backpacking trip that covers most of the Philmont backcountry.

With the OATC program, Philmont and the national OA committee have provided a tremendous balance between the opportunity for serving other Scouts and obtaining personal growth by challenging oneself mentally, physically and spiritually.

Reaching the 10th anniversary during the summer of 2004 demonstrates the incredible ability that Trail Crew has to alter the lives of those involved and the opportunity available for years of further service to Scouting.
Where Are They Now?

by Jonathan Hardin

Dan McDonough’s Scouting career began in the early 1980s when he became a Cub Scout. After earning the Arrow of Light award, he joined Troop 222 in the Hudson Hamilton Council of Jersey City, N.J. Dan became an Eagle Scout in 1990, the same year he was inducted into Elaumit Lodge. He was elected lodge chief the following year and then served as section chief from 1992 to 1994. While serving on the Shows Committee for the 1994 National Conference he was elected to serve as conference vice chief.

Following his term as North-east region chief, Dan received the Distinguished Service Award in 1996, the Founders Award in 1997 and the NESRA Silver Wreath in 1999. He currently serves Scouting as a member of the OA national committee, vice president of the Greater New York Council and as the Northeast Region NLATS course director.

In 1998, Dan graduated from William Patterson University in Wayne, N.J., with majors in political science and communications and a minor in English. At the City University of New York, Baruch College, he worked on an MBA in finance from 1998 to 2000.

He currently serves as the president and chief executive of Staten Island Media Group and publisher for three of the company’s newspapers. He was the founder and president of Elaumit, a newspaper company that sold virtually all of its interests to Staten Island Media Group in February 2004. A native of Hoboken, N.J., Dan now lives in Haddonfield, N.J., with his wife Jennifer, who is the managing director of McDonough Properties, a real estate investment company. McDonough also finds time to perform as an amateur jazz bassist.

OA Youth Leadership Began in New Jersey in 1949

by Ken Davis

Until the Order of the Arrow was integrated into the Boy Scouts of America in August 1948, the leadership at the national level had always been by adults, more often than not Scout executives. Umer Goodman, the first national chief, was Scout executive in Philadelphia and Chicago. Carroll Edison was Scout executive in New Jersey. Two early OA leaders, Joseph A. Brunton and Arthur A. Schuck, both went on after being national chief to rise to the position of Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America. But by 1949 the newly created national OA committee was giving thought to more fully involving youth decision-making into the Order. That year, elections were authorized for area conference chiefs to run area powwows yearly for a group of lodges. Today we call these events section conclaves. Having authorized the election of youth leaders above the lodge level, the national committee, under the leadership of Chairman H. Lloyd Nelson, invited the existing area conference chiefs to attend a national meeting in December 1949 to help plan the 1950 National OA Conference.

At the 1948 conference, held at Indiana University, each of the major functional committees was headed by an adult chairman from the national committee, who was assisted by a “junior chairman.” Two years later, the process was reversed, and the system we use today for selecting the Order’s capable youth leaders was established.

Nine area conference chiefs arrived at Alpine Scout Reservation in northern New Jersey on December 29, 1949. They represented five regions and came from as far away as Texas. After some discussion regarding what to offer at the 1950 National Conference, the young men voted to elect Dick Wilson of Washington, Pa., as the first national conference chief.

Under Dick’s leadership, the conference took shape with youth chairmen for each major committee and members of the OA committee serving as their advisers. This process of meeting in December to elect new officers and plan the national OA program for the following year has continued to the present day almost unbroken. The only exception was at the 1950 NOAC, also at Indiana University, where the area conference chiefs met before the end of the conference and elected James Montgomery of Knoxville, Tennessee, as the first national conference chief.

Subsequent changes to youth leadership included adding a national conference vice chief and eventually making the terms not tied to an event – so we now call them the national chief and national vice chief. Region chiefs also took a place in the leadership structure.
2004 - 2005 Planning Calendar

October 1-3  Western Region NLS, Cheyenne, WY
October 1-3  Central Region NLS, Little Falls, MN
October 8-10  Western Region NLS, Salt Lake City, UT
October 8-10  Southern Region NLS/NLATS, Cedar Creek, TX
October 22-24  Western Region SOS, Phoenix, AZ
October 29-31  Southern Region NLS, Richmond, VA
November 5-7  Northeast Region SOS, Alpine, NJ
November 19-21  Western Region NLS, Fairfax, CA
November 19-21  Southern Region NLS / NLATS, Covington, GA
December 3-5  Central Region SOS, Parkville, MO
December 27-30  National OA Planning Meeting, Southlake, TX
December 31  Lodge Recharter Deadline
January 15  E. Umer Goodman Scholarship Application Due
January 17  Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday
January 27-30  NLS/NLATS Train-The-Trainer, Glorieta, NM

Question: I noticed at NOAC that lodges were referred to by their council numbers rather than their lodge numbers. What is the national policy concerning the use of council and lodge numbers?

Answer: On a national and regional basis, lodges are referred to by their names, council names and council numbers. Therefore, when registering for national and regional events and for purposes of rechartering, lodges are not asked to supply their lodge numbers. Lodges can continue to use their lodge numbers on their publications, patches and for other internal purposes as determined by the lodge executive committee.

National Notes

Lodge Charter Renewal
Lodge Charter Renewal kits containing all the necessary information and forms to renew lodge charters will be mailed to Scout executives in early October. All 2005 Lodge Charter Renewal Applications are due by Dec. 31, 2004.

OA Service Grants
Applications for OA Service Grants are due by October 31, 2004.


Ta Tanka Lodge builds a City of Hope

by Will Kelso

By any standard, the Ta Tanka Lodge service project to support the Walk for Hope in September was a huge success. Close to 4,000 service hours from more than 300 Arrowmen and Boy Scouts helped the City of Hope, a cancer research and treatment facility in Duarte, CA, raise more than $1 million.

This is the fifth year the lodge has coordinated festival setup, traffic, parking control, water stations and cleanup to the City of Hope, the largest service project for the lodge each year.

The Order of the Arrow Café, a service group within the lodge, served a delicious breakfast and lunch to all the Arrowmen and Scouts and provided a command post for job reassignment. Ham radio operators from Edgewood Amateur Radio Society and Covina Amateur Radio Society used the American Red Cross communications van to help volunteers stay in touch.

Besides the scheduled jobs the lodge completed at the Walk for Hope, Arrowmen provided a troubleshooting service headed up by past Lodge Chief Mike Clark for all the booths, vendors and entertainers who were there. There were hundreds of requests, from carrying boxes to directing foot traffic and timing the runners. Arrowmen iced down 100 cases of soda and unloaded and delivered thousands of cases of water. More than 10,000 people witnessed Arrowmen and Scouts provide cheerful service.

The City of Hope staff and volunteers were exuberant in their praise. “Without the help of the Order of the Arrow, we couldn’t do this major fund-raising project,” said Sherilyn Canady, director of development for the City of Hope.

Even though they were tired, sunburned and hoarse, our Brothers never felt so good, especially when they “Flashed the Sash, in Cheerful Service.”