



Historically Themed Activities at Lodge Events

Resources for Preserving Local Order of the Arrow History

Overview:

The following ideas are to get you thinking about making history fun, engaging and a useful part of any lodge programming. These events are designed to be customized for venues such as lodge fellowships, training events, and chapter meetings.

Quest Events of Yesteryear:

Spice up quest events by using games and skill competitions from previous council camporees, lodge fellowships, and old scouting handbooks.

Lodge History Quest Event:

Facts about local lodge, camp or council histories are asked as a series of questions. Whichever group answers the most questions correctly, wins the event.

Lodge History 101:

Consider conducting an orientation style session for new members and their parents at induction weekends. This is a great way to share the history of the lodge, get folks involved, and display items unique to the camp, council, and lodge. This type of session would be a great feature at any fellowship for veteran Arrowmen to become reacquainted with lodge history.

Lodge Jeopardy:

Use downloadable templates to create a game of “Lodge Jeopardy.” Sure to be a success at any fellowship weekend and guaranteed to get both youth and adults engaged in local history.

Exploring Lodge Publications:

Pull old publications from the archives for display. Allow lodge members to handle the materials and see how publications have developed over the eras of Scouting. Perhaps give folks white gloves and lab coats to wear as a way to heighten the experience. This could be tailored to highlight annual events or themes.

Dinner Slideshow:

Incorporate vintage photos, memorabilia images, and facts about the lodge into a slideshow suitable for running in the background during a meal or reception. Add music if desired.

Trivial Posts:

Find unique facts and trivia from the lodge archives, place them on cards, and post them around camp. They make the perfect item in serving lines, as table tents, and in mealtime bulletins.

Hunt for the Golden Arrow:

Create a scavenger hunt for a particular item or lodge totem. Use historical clues and trivia to lead Arrowmen in the quest. The winner receives a prize from the lodge trading post.

Oral History Competition:

Give lodge members the opportunity to engage in an oral history symposium at a lodge fellowship. Give each participant a set amount of time to speak on a specific event or thematic element of the Lodge.

Chapter Display Competition:

Allow Chapters to compete in an event spotlighting local chapter histories. Competitions can be based on a central theme or idea. Consider giving prizes for the best overall display. See the downloadable “conclave judging scorecard” for assistance.

Historical Preservation Award:

Create an award to recognize those individuals that have contributed to the success of historical preservation within the council or lodge. Present this award annually at a lodge or council recognition banquet.

Best Dressed Competition:

Have a contest for the best dressed representative of early Scouting and OA founders. This is a great way to get Arrowmen of all ages in active dialogue.

Roaming Characters:

Coordinate Arrowmen dressed as early Scouting and OA founders to appear at lodge events. Allow them to engage in trivial discussion with participants and be available for photo opportunities.

Scrapbook Display:

Invite Arrowmen to view the lodge scrapbook or contribute to its completion. Could also develop a workshop to assist chapters in the formation of their own scrapbook.

Decade Project:

Give small groups the task of finding information on a particular individual or event. Methods of research could include- interviews, an archival search, scavenger hunt or using the internet.

Retro Photos:

Invite Arrowmen to try on vintage uniforms and pose for photographs with others.

“Memory”- A game of historical images:

Just like the classic fast-paced kids game, only spiced up. This activity uses index cards featuring patch and photograph images. Each card has an image along with text explaining the significance to lodge history.

Newsletter Activities:

Consider developing trivial based lodge crossword puzzles and trivial based lodge word-searches for inclusion in newsletters and mealtime bulletins.