

Fundamentals Remain the Same



Providing Resources to Support Units, Chapters, and Lodges

You see this baseball glove? I imagine you've all played some form of baseball, or at least have played catch. You know that there's not a lot of padding for the palm of the hand. That's because you're supposed to catch the ball in the pocket of the glove, not with the palm.

That's not how baseball gloves started. That's because the methods of catching the baseball were different. Baseball gloves originally had the padding in the palm of the glove, and often it took two hands to catch the ball. As you can imagine, there wasn't a lot of protection with these early gloves; it is easy to misjudge the ball and hurt your hand or break a finger. Many of the early baseball greats—Lou Gehrig, Babe Ruth, Ted Williams—used the older glove. In fact, Lou Gehrig played 2,130 straight games without missing a single one. It is reported that he played with seventeen broken fingers or bones in his hands and never missed a game.

Nowadays, the method for catching the ball is very different. The glove's long fingers and pocket changed that method. Despite this, the fundamentals of the game of baseball are exactly the same. You have a pitcher, a catcher, and a batter. The batter tries to hit the ball and run to first base before he is thrown out. The fundamentals are exactly the same as in the 1930s when Lou Gehrig and Babe Ruth played baseball.

The principles and fundamentals with which Goodman started the Order of the Arrow have not changed. They are still true today. Service to camps and cheerful service without expecting recognition for it are all the fundamentals we go by today. Some of the methods we use are a bit different from 1915, but the methods don't change the principles. So always try to keep in mind why you do the things you do for the Order of the Arrow. You have something in common with the early twentieth century boys of Treasure Island. Your principles are the same, though some of the methods are different.