

NOAC 2024

CU Boulder



Section Website Offering

An overview of the National Section Website Offering

Will Highsmith • william.highsmith@gmail.com

Meet Your Trainer

- Occoneechee Lodge
- Cary, NC
- I have been working with web sites and web development for over 25 years.
- My OA job: National Section Website Lead Adviser
- My day job: Defensive Security Director



Will Highsmith



Learning Objectives

1. What is Wordpress?
2. Section Website Offering
 1. Current State
 2. Future Plans
3. How can you get involved



What is Wordpress?

- Content Management System (CMS)
- Originally released in May 2003 (Version 0.7)
- On July 23, 2024, version 6.6.1 was released
- Other examples of CMS?



What is a Plugin?

- Used to extend the base functionality of Wordpress
 - Calendars
 - Ability to send e-mail consistently (Enhancement)
 - Page Modification
- Some plugins are free and some are not
- Plugins have legal and user agreements
- Security Risks
 - Malware
 - Privacy and Legal Concerns
 - Introduces Vulnerabilities



What is a Theme?

- A theme is a design template
- There are thousands of Wordpress themes
- You can make modifications to themes
- Themes also have legal and user agreements

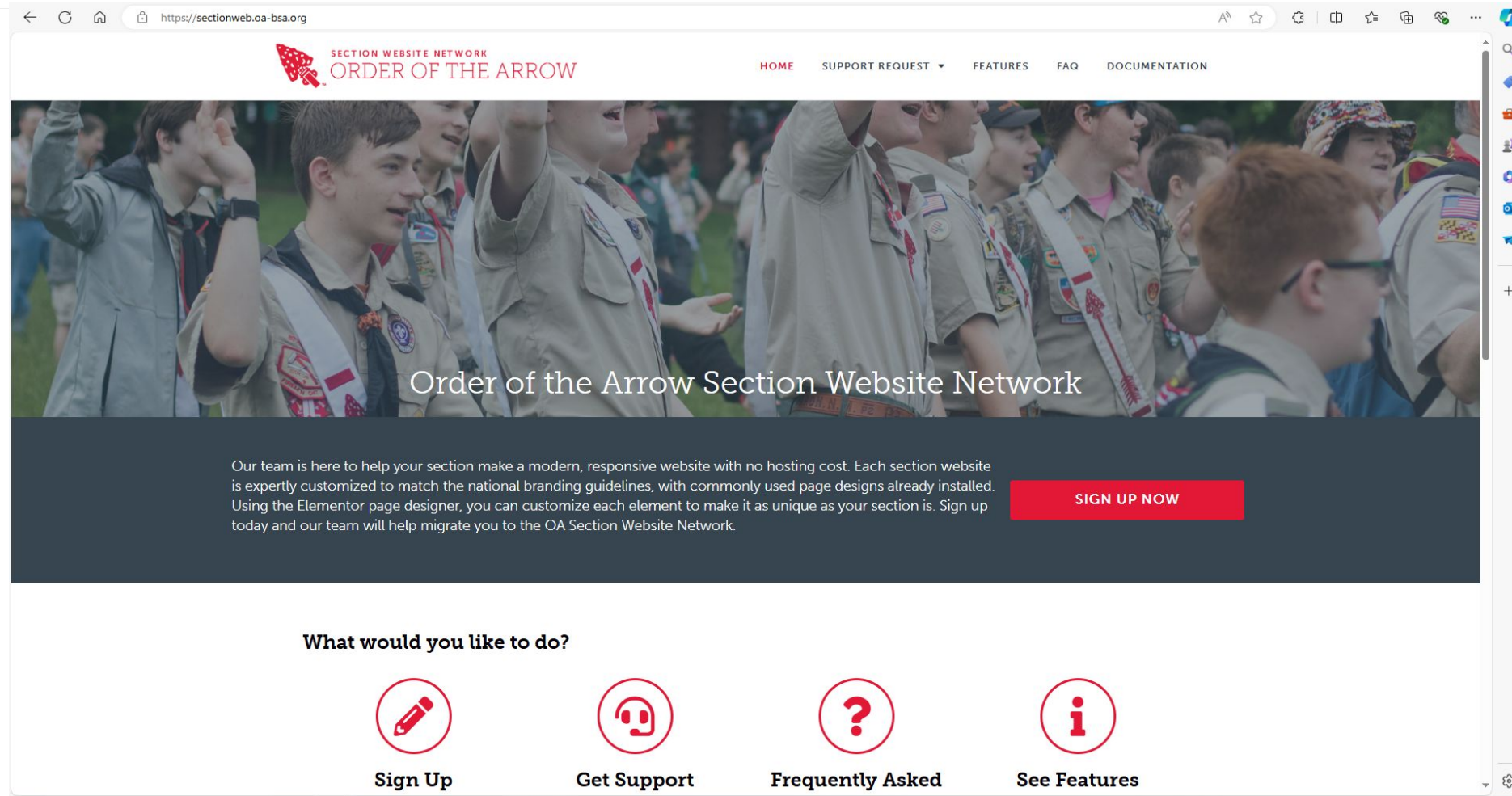


What is the Section Website Offering?

- Launched in 2022
- Wordpress multisite solution
- URLs are currently:
section+<region>+<section number>.oa-bsa.org
- More Information: sectionweb.oa-bsa.org



Section Base Site



Why is National offering sites to Sections?

- Ensure continuity
- Easy to use platform
 - Both for admins and users
- Consistent look and feel
- Easy to find the Section site
- Sections are extensions of National
- Liability concerns and issues



Is there an offering for Lodges?

- Currently no plans
- Lodges are extensions of Councils
- Under the supervision of the Scout Executive



What is the future direction?

- Onboard remaining Sections
- Increase the size of the team
- Improve the level of support
- Evaluate suggestions for new features
- Further integration with LodgeMaster



How does it work?

- Wordpress Multisite is on the backend
- MySQL is used as the database
- A custom theme was developed



What is Wordpress multisite?

- One Wordpress install
- One set of plugins
- Ability to grant administrative access to individual sites
- Allows one theme across the site



How can I get involved?

We are always looking for people who can help with certain needs, which vary over time – but recall that service should start with your chapter and lodge, and, perhaps, your section or region

The onboarding process has not worked well recently and we are looking for an onboarding coordinator

To check out national needs and express interest, go to the Volunteer Board, <https://oa-bsa.org/volunteer>



Takeaway Challenge

Investigate opportunities available to serve your Unit, District, or Council or the OA through helping provide Technology Services

