

NOAC 2024

CU Boulder



SEEK NEW HEIGHTS

# **The OA History Timeline:** ***A Journey Through Our Past***

Bradley Taylor • Tim Brown

# Meet Your Trainer

- Wahissa #118
- Clemmons, North Carolina
- 2024 NOAC GEO, Lead Adviser
- OA Archival Team
- 12-year veteran of the GEO
- BSA Alumni Association



Bradley Taylor



# Meet Your Trainer

- Kawida #480
- Nicholasville, Kentucky
- 2024 NOAC GEO, Chief of Staff
- OA Archival Team
- 15-year veteran of the GEO
- BSA Alumni Association



Tim Brown



# Visit the Goodman Edson Observatory (GEO)

**Tuesday, July 3 to Thursday, August 1**  
**8:00am – 5:00pm**

University Memorial Center (UMC)  
Room 235

5,000 sq. ft. exhibition museum featuring over 50+ exhibits



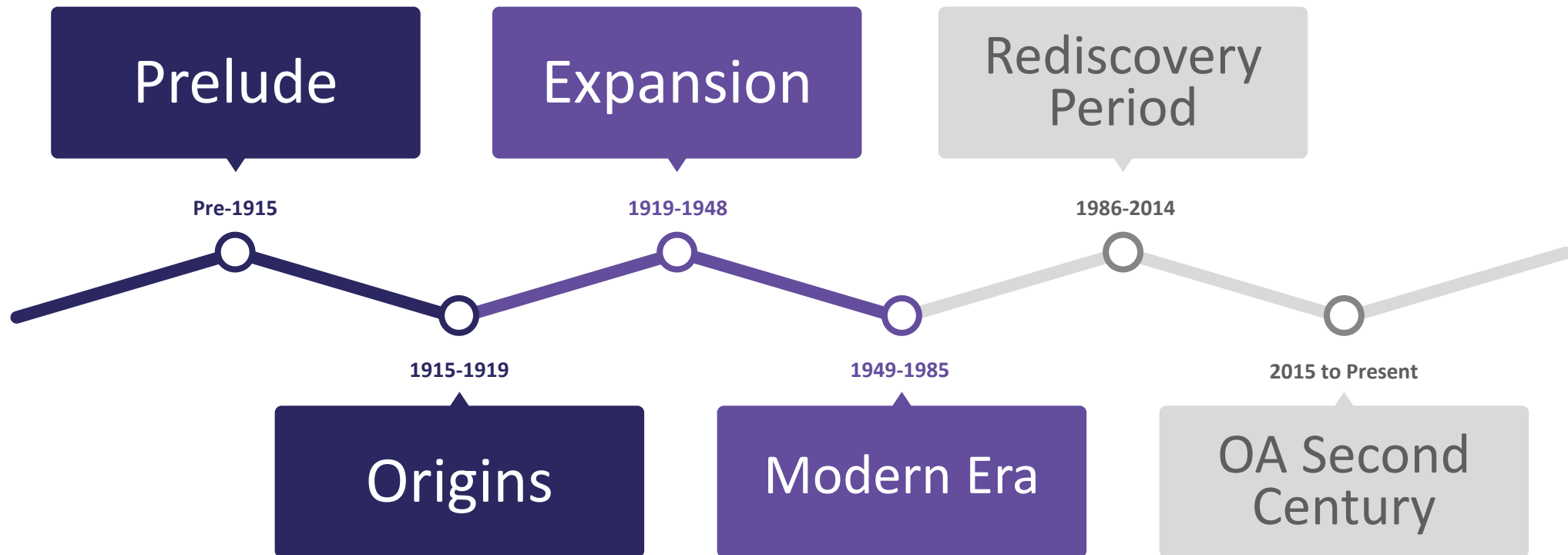


# Learning Objectives

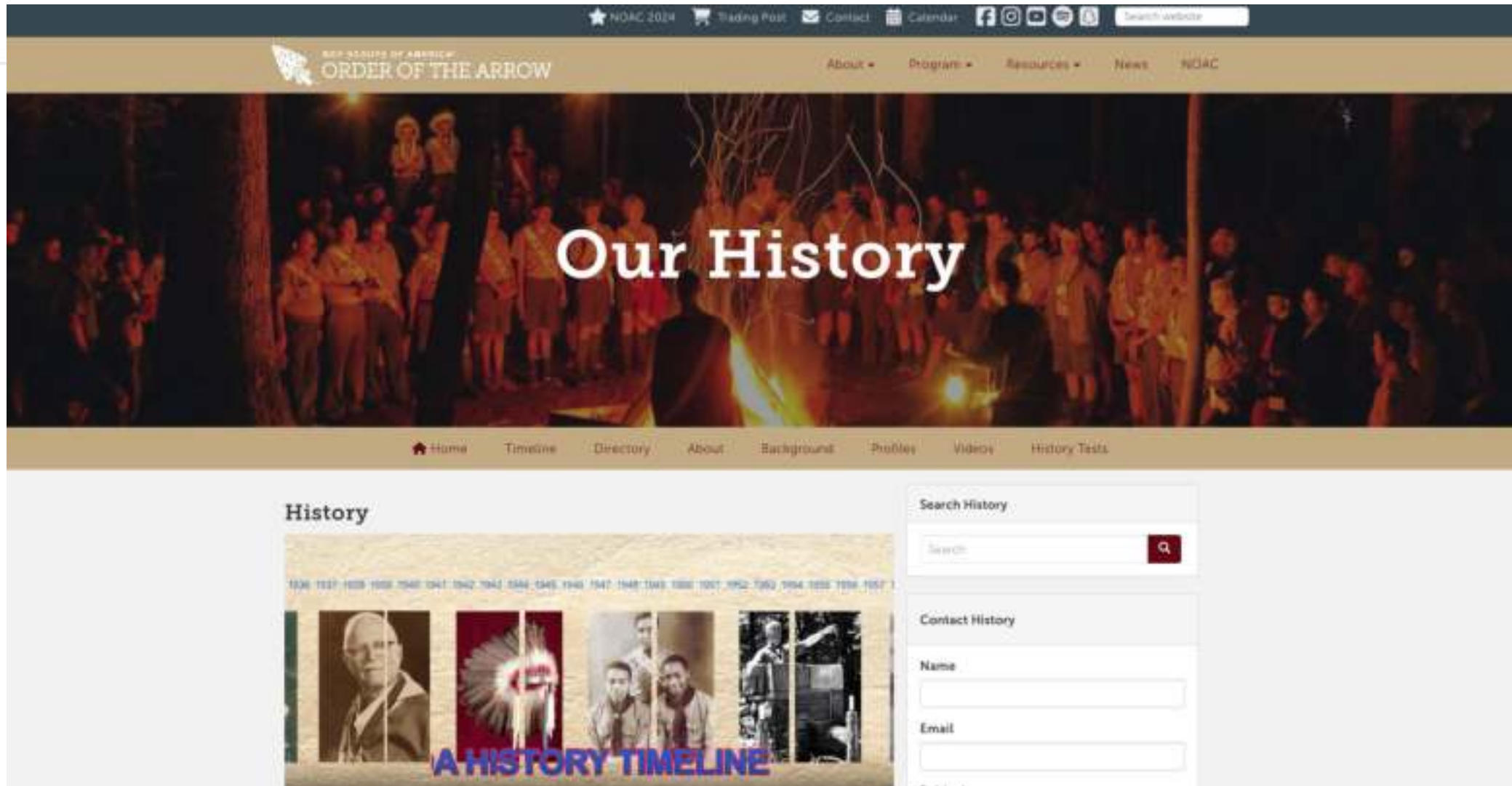
1. Gain a fuller understanding of the Order's history, one that is a collection of distinct periods of time and key historical elements.
2. Understand the available interactive opportunities to learn, experience and share the Order's history through the OA History Timeline.
3. Depart this session with a feeling that they are part of something larger than themselves and their local lodge, instead part of a national brotherhood that emphasizes leadership and service.



# OA History Periods



# OA History Timeline [oa-bsa.org/history](https://oa-bsa.org/history)









# 1.

## Prelude

Pre-1915

*Influences and Inspirations*



# 1913 Treasure Island Scout Camp Opens



# Inspirations for our Order

**Goodman at Gettysburg 1913 –  
A Lesson in Brotherhood**



**Billy Clark –  
An Example of Cheerful Service**





# Influences for our Order

**Goodman – Camp Fraternity**



**Edson – American Indian Influences**





## 2.

# Origins

1915-1919

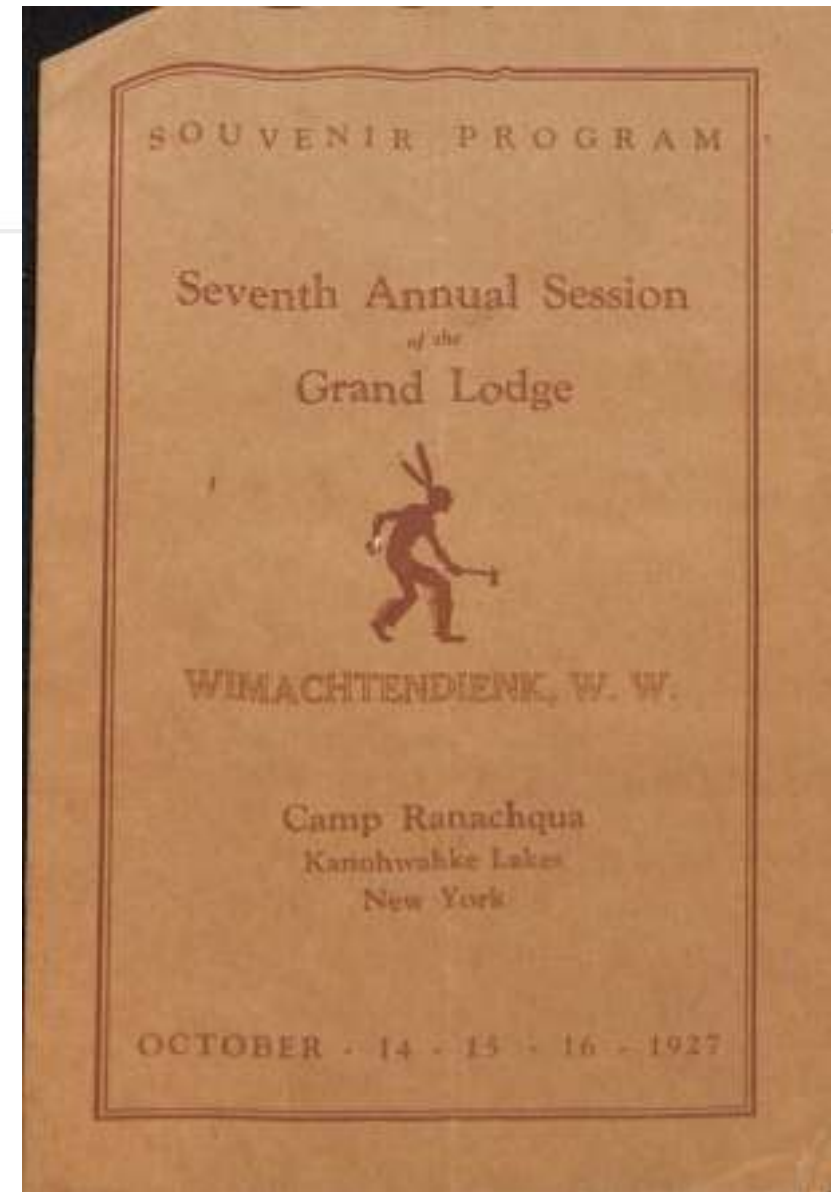
*Induction, Creation and Establishment*





# Our Original Name...

- The name was not originally “Order of the Arrow”
- It was **Wimachtendienk W.W.** “The Brotherhood of Those who Serve Cheerfully”.

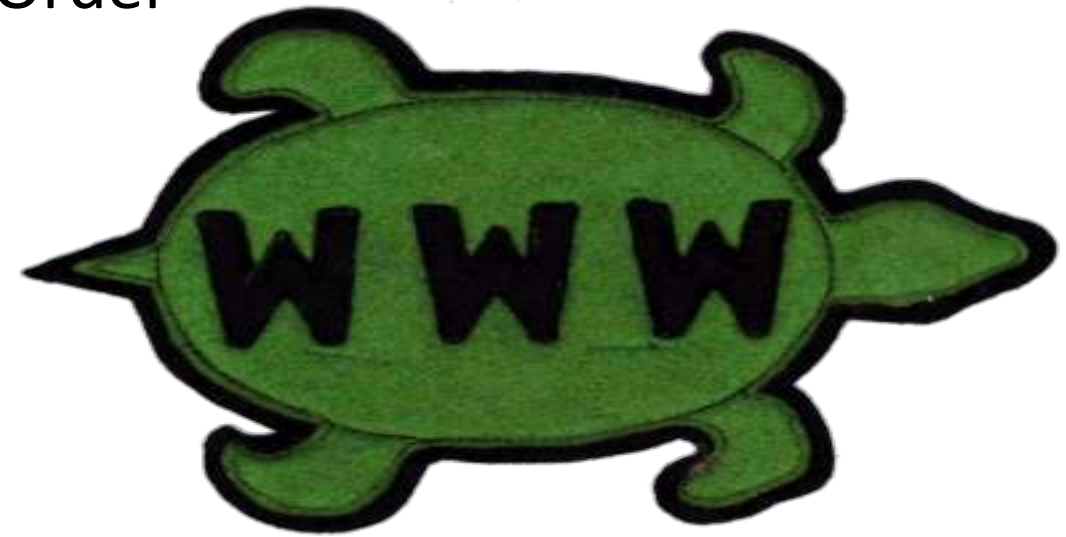


# Original Induction Experience



# 1916 The First Constitution

- George W. Chapman elected first Chief.
- Provisions for insignia for each “degree”.
- The “Tortoise” is selected as totem of Order





# 3.

## Expansion

1919-1948

*Growth, Defense and Official National Program*





# 1919 - The Order Begins Expansion with a Second Lodge





# 1921 First Meeting of the Grand Lodge

- Attended by 8 of the 11 “known” lodges.
- Hosted by the Philadelphia Lodges.
- Constitution framed.
- Goodman elected first Grand Lodge Chieftain.
- Autonomous from BSA

**1933 Grand Lodge Meeting**



# 1922 - Our Order is Threatened. Camp Fraternities debated.

Firecrafters



Ku-Ni-Eh



Gimogash



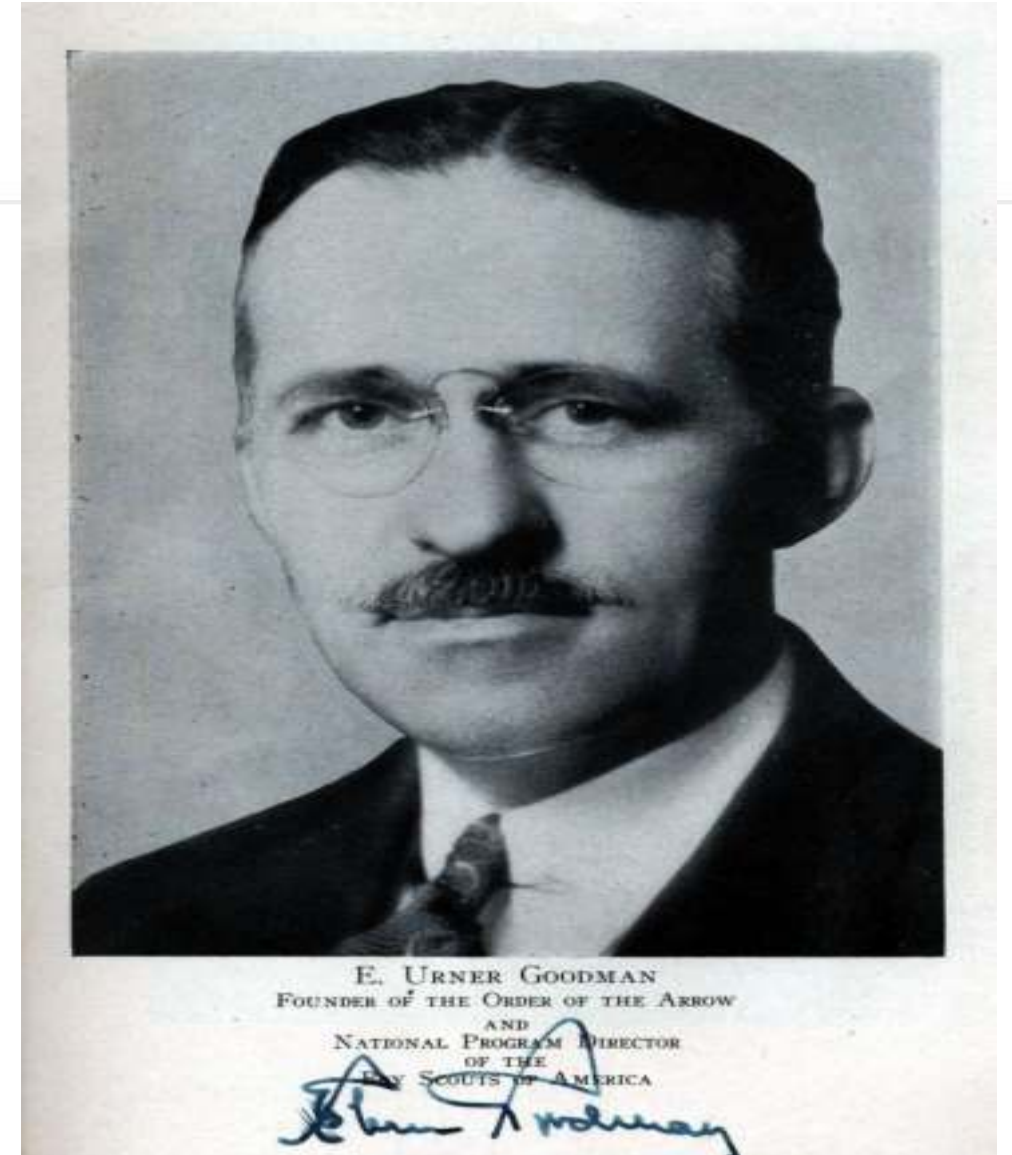
1924 - Goodman recommends  
“Order of the Arrow” as public name.

1926 - Lodges are Numbered!  
A practice continued until 2004.



# 1931-1932

- 1931 - Goodman Appointed First Director of Program
  - The OA is considered “program”
- Goodman Sets Goal as Director to Nationalize OA
- 1932 - The Order of the Arrow Becomes an Official Experiment



# 1934 - Changes in the Order's Masonic terms

- “Degree” becomes “Honor”
- “Password” becomes “Admonition”
- “Lodge” becomes “Tribe”\*
- “Obligation” becomes “Oath”\*

*\*These last two changes revert in 1936*





# 1937 - Order Chartered the 100<sup>th</sup> Lodge

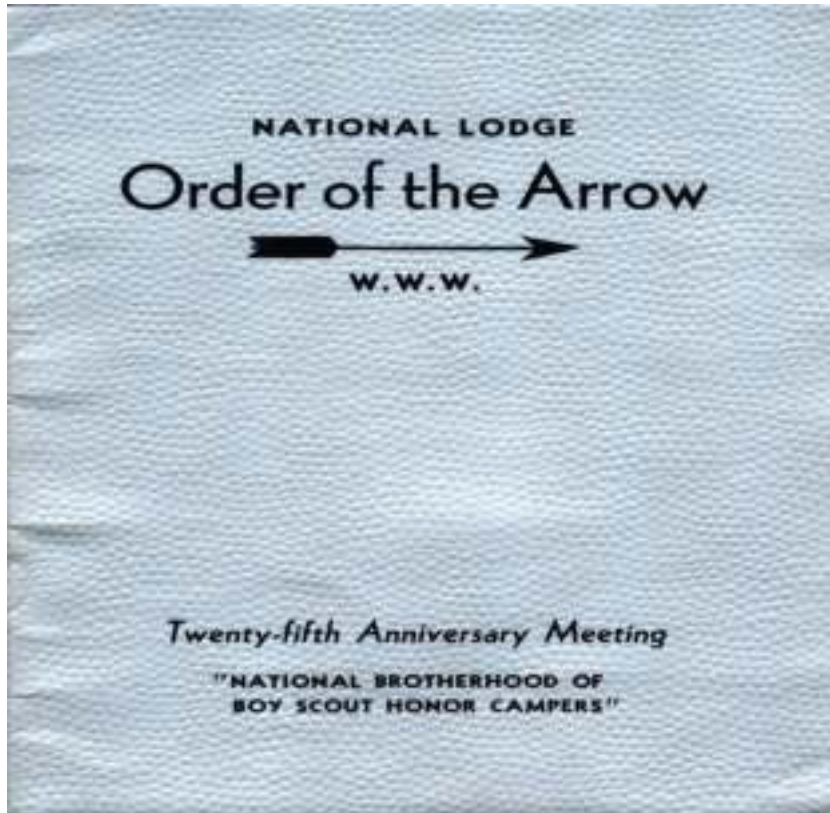
- **Jonito-Otora**, *later known as Anpetu-we*  
Cape Girardeau, Missouri



# 1938 - Grand Lodge Sets Up Area System for Meetings



# 1940 - OA Celebrates 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary





# National Bonnets

The screenshot shows the 'Timeline' page of the National Order of the Arrow website. The navigation bar at the top includes links for Home, Timeline, Directory, About, Background, Profiles, Videos, and History Tests. The 'Timeline' section has a 'Tier' dropdown menu set to '1' and an 'Apply' button. The main heading is 'NATIONAL BONNETS'. The text describes the origin of the golden eagle feather bonnet, stating it was made in 1938 by members of Anicus Lodge, East Boroughs Council, located in Wilkesburg, Pennsylvania. It mentions that Joseph A. Brunton, Jr. was the first chief to wear the bonnet and was elected chief of the National Lodge at the twelfth National Lodge Meeting hosted by Shawnee Lodge 51 at Irondale Scout Reservation in Irondale, Missouri. Subsequently, Anicus Lodge presented this bonnet to the National Lodge of the Order of the Arrow in 1940 when they hosted the Order of the Arrow's 25th Anniversary meeting at Camp Twin Echo, located near Ligonier, PA. Chief Brunton was the host council's Scout Executive at the 25th Anniversary meeting and it was Brunton that ceremoniously passed the bonnet to the newly elected...

Below the text is a timeline from 1932 to 1945. Key events marked include: 1932: OA Becomes B.L.; 1934: FDR Inducted L.; 1935: Formation Natl.; 1936: Changes in Ter.; 1937: 100th Lodge; 1938: National Bonnet; 1939: Water Philia; 1940: 25th Anniversary; 1941: DQA Created; 1942: 100th Lodge F...; 1943: H. Lloyd Nelson.

On the right side, there is a 'Search History' section with a search bar and a magnifying glass icon. Below it is a 'Contact History' section with fields for Name, Email, Subject, and Message. At the bottom right, there is a 'CAPTCHA' section.



# Distinguished Service Award Presented for First Time



Cofounder of the Order of the Arrow Carroll A. Edson.





# "First Flap"

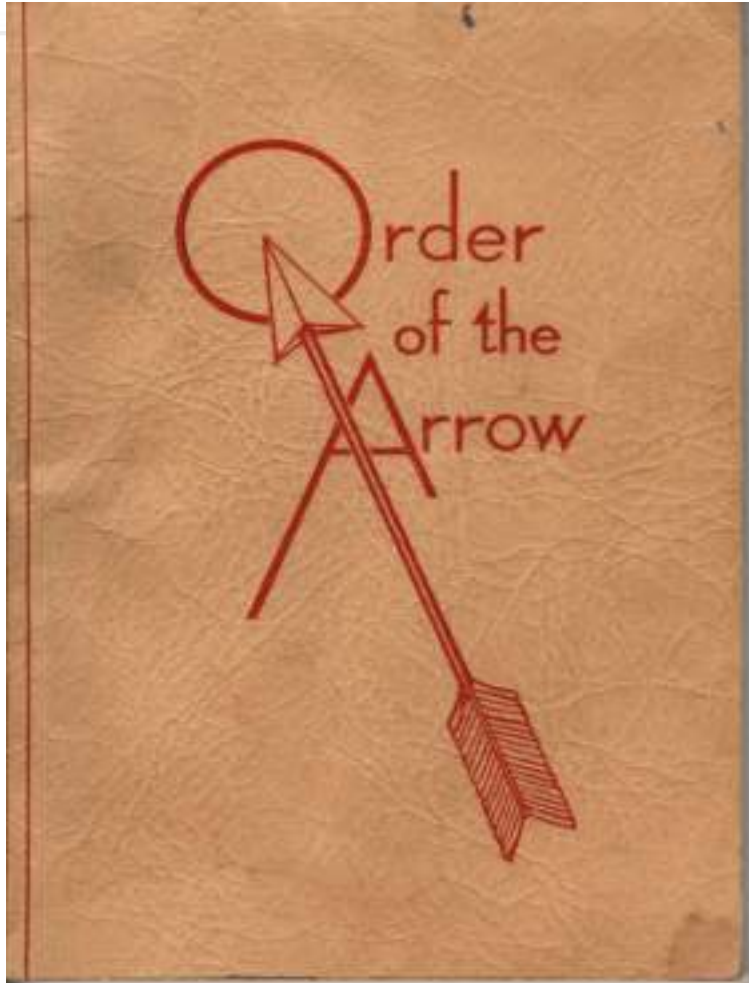
- The first known flap used by any Lodge was in the early 1940s
- Ajapeu Lodge 33, Doylestown, PA



# 1942 - OA Universal Arrow Ribbon



# 1948 - First OA Handbook Printed



# 1948 - National Lodge Disbands

# 1949 - National OA Committee Formed







# 4.

## Modern Era

1949-1985

*50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Evolving Customs and the Loss of our Co-Founders*



# 1965 - Order of the Arrow Observes 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



# 1974 - OA National Indian Seminar

[Home](#) [Timeline](#) [Directory](#) [About](#) [Background](#) [Profiles](#) [Videos](#) [History Tests](#)

## First National Indian Seminar

First National Indian Seminar

Since its earliest beginnings, the Order of the Arrow (OA) has enjoyed an almost spiritual relationship with the histories and traditions of Native American peoples. This kindred spirit is evident in the OA's ceremonies, its symbols, and even in its name. By borrowing so much in the way of culture and crafts from the American Indian, the Order has accepted an obligation to maintain the highest standards of authenticity. Yet, with all of the interaction between the OA and that of Native Americans, there were those individuals who recognized a need for an informative program that furthered the understanding and awareness of the American Indian culture. This need gave rise to a pilot program known as the 'National Indian Seminar'. The program was originally designed to provide maximum support to the Order of the Arrow's nationwide emphasis on Indian culture and crafts. It concentrated on 'Telling It Like It Is' in discussions of the Indian way of life. The program developed in part from concerns surrounding what many lodges were doing in the way of 'Indian Dancing'. Some was so bad that it was viewed as offensive and insensitive. It is important to note that this was occurring soon after the Civil Rights Movement and other big social upheavals of the 1960s. The two most prominent social movements in the early 1970s were that of women's rights and Native American rights. Knowledgeable observers worried that if the Order of the Arrow did not do a better job of making Indian-oriented activities and events more accurate and respectful, they could run the risk of being forced to abandon them. With the backing of the **National OA Committee**, the first National Indian Seminar quickly went from concept to reality.



The first National Indian Seminar was held at **Philmont Scout Ranch** near Cimarron, New Mexico from July 27 – August 11, 1974. Each OA section in the nation could select one youth delegate to represent them at the two-week training program. Ultimately 62 delegates from 27 states attended the Seminar. The site of the seminar was chosen for numerous reasons, but primarily because northern New Mexico had one of the richest concentrations of Native American people and communities in the country. Since Philmont Scout Ranch also happened to be located in this area, it was a natural fit. Additionally, over the years, the Order of the Arrow had developed extensive Native American contacts throughout this area.

Numerous individuals were actively involved in the program's development, but the driving force behind it all was longtime National OA Committee member and **Distinguished Service Award (DSA)** recipient, **Maury Clancy**. Maury was aided considerably with initiation of the program by his wife Harriet, as well as others. Some of the more prominent contributors to the program were Arrowmen Harris Tanner, John Cook, Bernie Drock, and **George Feil (Chairman, National OA Committee)**.

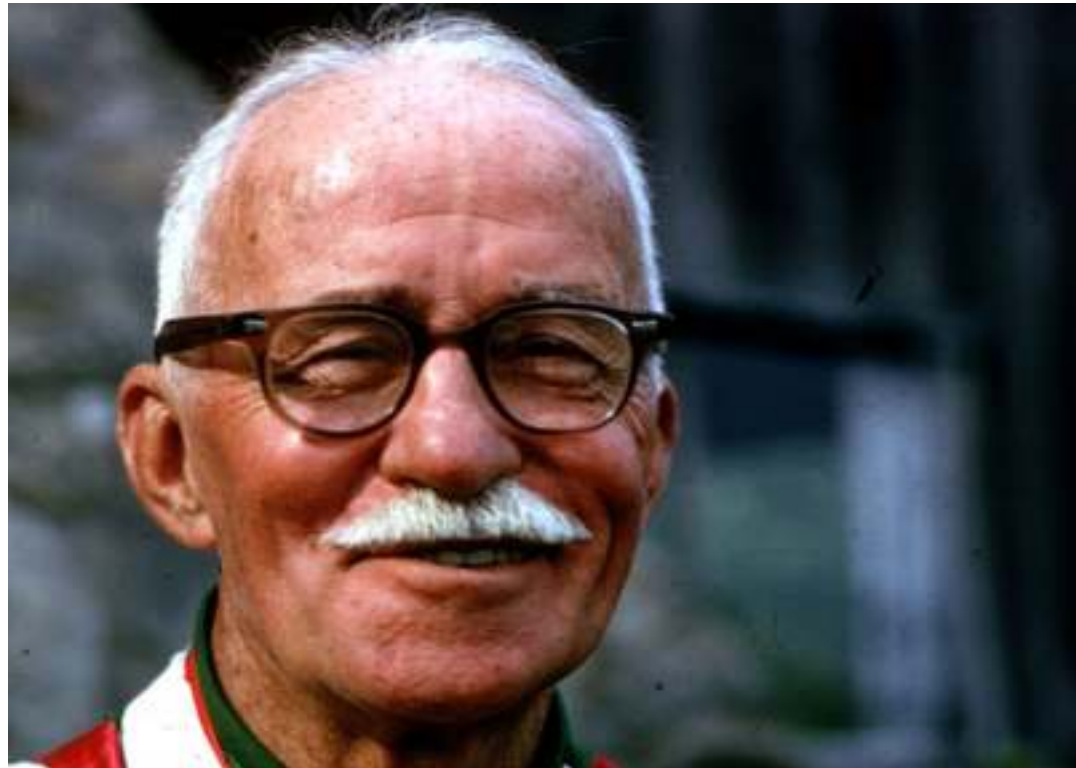
The seminar had 18 Indian and seven non-Indian instructors from various parts of the country participating throughout the event. Most notable of which were Scott and Doris Tonemah, an older Indian couple from Norman, Oklahoma. In addition to being instructors, Scott and Doris coordinated the teaching of the other instructors in order to provide cultural continuity. Other key instructors were Harry Buffalohead and Eli Warrior (both Ponca Indians), as well as Ty Stewart, Steve Shawlee, and Bill





# March 13, 1980

## Our Order Loses Its Founder



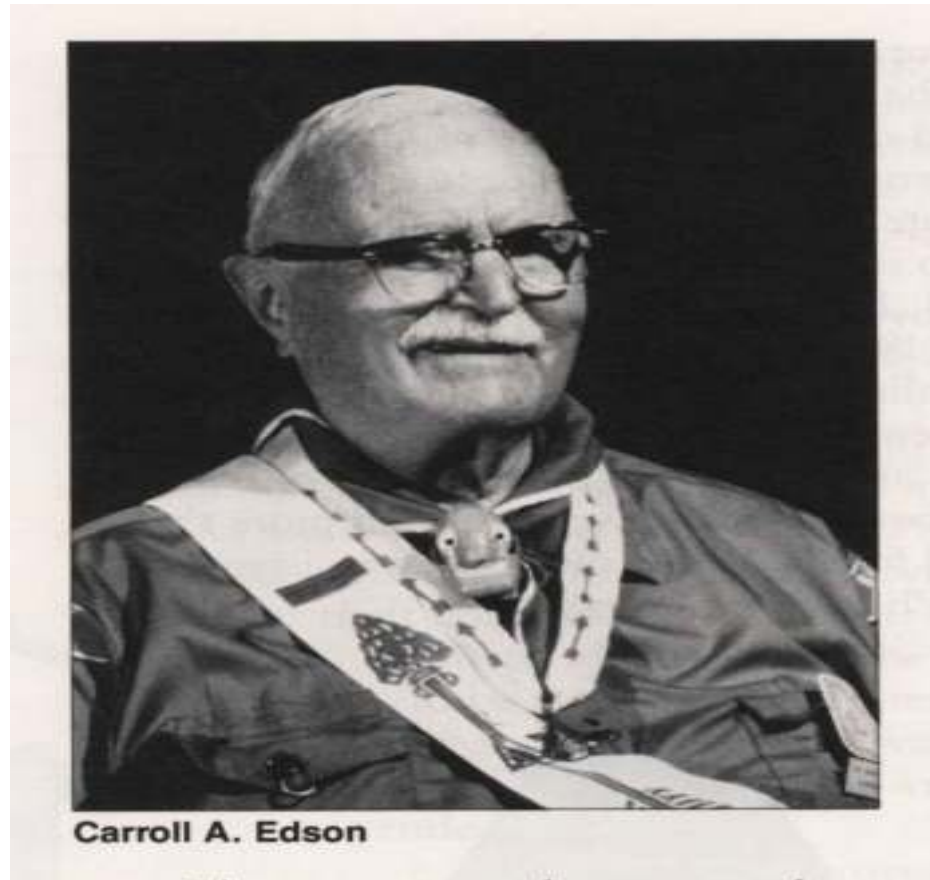


# 1981 NOAC - Order of the Arrow Introduces the Founder's Award



# October 26, 1986

## Our Order Loses Its Co-Founder





# 5.

## Rediscovery Period

1986-2014

*Membership Changes, New Programs and  
Technology*





# 1988- Order of the Arrow Officially Initiates First Women Leaders



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Order of the Arrow website with links: Home, Timeline, Directory, About, Background, Profiles, Videos, and History Tests. Below the navigation bar is the section title "Women in OA". Under this title is the subheading "Order of the Arrow Inducts First Women Leaders". The main text describes the historical context of women's membership in the Order of the Arrow, starting from 1988. It mentions that before 1988, the Order was for boys and men only, and that the BSA had approved women to serve as Scoutmasters. It also notes that women had been associated with the Order for years, receiving the Red Arrow Award, and that the first women Vigil Honor members were inducted in 2009, with Kay Trick being the first woman DSA recipient and National OA Committee member.

Home Timeline Directory About Background Profiles Videos History Tests

## Women in OA

### Order of the Arrow Inducts First Women Leaders

Prior to 1988 the Order of the Arrow had been for boys and men only. Starting in 1988 female leaders could become members of the OA just the same as male leaders. The BSA had approved women to serve as Scoutmasters to insure some Scout troops could attend summer camp. Once women were Scoutmasters, it was necessary to have women in the Order to support the Scouting and the OA program. As with male Scoutmasters, women must be 21 years of age.

Women had been associated with the OA for years. The **Red Arrow Award** was often given to women. However, women had been actively helping OA lodges and Arrowmen for years. A number of lodges even secretly had women members, sometimes called honorary members. There are even accounts of women keeping Vigils as early as the 1960s. Starting in 1988 women's membership was official. About three years later the first women Vigil Honor members were officially inducted. In 2009 **Kay Trick** became the first woman DSA recipient and National OA Committee member.





# 1990 - Order of the Arrow Observes 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## NOAC 1990 - 75th Anniversary

1990 75th Anniversary National Order of the Arrow Conference

The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting was a highly anticipated **National Order of the Arrow Conference**. A record 6,907 Arrowmen met for the festivities at Indiana University, in Bloomington, Indiana. The previous mark of 5,200 had been set 19 years earlier in **1971 at the University of Illinois**. This was the seventh NOAC to be held at Indiana University and the first in 21 years. One change was the NOAC host lodge had merged and now was Nicha Chuppecat Lodge.



A tradition that started in 1990 was the **NOAC Museum**. Ken Davis's *Brotherhood of Cheerful Service* book and the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary had stimulated interest in the history of the OA. The museum had a very modest start, one "small obscure room". It has since grown to become a major must-see feature of any NOAC.

Richard H. Leet, BSA National President gave the keynote address and was presented the **Distinguished Service Award** from **National OA Committee** Chairman **Dr. Carl Marchetti**.

The theme for the NOAC was "Seek the knowledge...Share the Spirit." The 1990 NOAC probably had the largest gathering of past National Chiefs and National Vice Chiefs. There were at least 10 former National Chiefs and five former National Vice Chiefs present.

The **Distinguished Service Award (DSA)** was presented to 37 Arrowmen.

Contact History



# 1995 – OA Trail Crew Begins at Philmont

## OA Philmont Trail Crew Starts

### Inaugural Summer of OA Philmont Trail Crew

Several important relationships and chance encounters served as the origin of what eventually became known as the Order of the Arrow Trail Crew (OATC) program. It is a wonderful story because of visionary youth, capable adults who knew when to listen, and collectively they devised a plan that forever changed the relationship of the OA and High Adventure. In essence it is what the spirit of Scouting is all about.



In 1993 Michael Edwards was serving as a section chief and was serving in his second year as a **Philmont** Ranger. He had the fortunate opportunity to serve as a Rayado Ranger at the end of the summer. This is an intense 21-day backpacking trip with several special programmatic elements to help youth participants grow in reflection and to physical exertion. Rayado in Spanish can be interpreted as "boundary", such as a personal boundary. Michael had a challenging crew for various factors. About day-14 as the crew was hiking up towards Baldy Mountain from Touch-Me-Not Mountain; he stopped to catch his breath as the crew kept hiking.

The view stretched out in front of Michael. It was overwhelming and full of exhilaration: rolling thunderclouds, the distance stretched for miles, the space was simply serene. He had an epiphany of sorts at that moment. The Order of the Arrow (OA) as a national organization did not have a program to really teach this realm of camping. He felt that climbing mountains, hiking the rugged wilderness, and sleeping under the stars was what Scouting was all about. Soon he got his second wind and caught up with his crew.



# 1998 - OA Website Launches

## OA Web Site Launches

National OA Committee Launches National OA Web Site

Planning started for a **National OA web site** in March of 1997. During the **1997 National Jamboree** the first web team staff was recruited. The **National OA Committee** approved a budget in September of 1997 and the first pages went online in November. The site was officially launched in the **National Bulletin** at the beginning of 1998. The web site immediately started archiving pdf's of *National Bulletins*. The primary purpose for the new web site was to have an online way to interface with lodges, participants and staff members for the upcoming **1998 NOAC**.

Once the Conference began, the web site became a way to communicate with **NOAC** attendees with online capabilities, something that was relatively rare in 1998, and also to provide a look at the conference for Arrowmen back home. During the 1998 NOAC the web site went "live" providing hundreds of pages and images from the NOAC.

The web site was a new tradition that was an immediate success. An image of the OA Web-Team working during the conference was posted on the website. Because most Arrowmen were using a dial-up connection in 1998 only small images of poor quality were used on the site, as the original images attests. As it was, it could take over a minute to download a page.



On August 5, 1998, at the conclusion of the NOAC, as part of the 1998 Strategic Plan of the OA to expand its presence on the Internet, the OA announced that the NOAC web site would convert to the Official OA Web Site. The initial colors were red and white. The site went through several minor changes and then in 2001 presented an updated look, with a "more calm" blue appearance.

In December 2013 the OA Web Site went through another complete overhaul presenting a contemporary updated interface for guests and a return to the traditional red and (off) white colors.

WWW.OA-BSA.org would become the primary method of communication between national and its lodges and members. The OA was preparing for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the digital age.





# 2008 - Order of the Arrow holds *ArrowCorps<sup>5</sup>*!







# 6.

## Our Second Century

2015 - Present  
*Centennial and More*



# 2015 - Order of the Arrow Observes Its Centennial

- Centennial Challenge
- Legacy Project 2015
- Special Edition Sash
- 2015 NOAC
- Centurion Award



# 2016 - Summit Circle Dedicated





# 2018 – National Scouting Museum OA Gallery Opens





# 2019 – All Youth Eligible

- Effective February 1, 2019  
For the first time all youth eligible for membership in the Order of the Arrow!





For more OA History,  
visit the OA History Timeline:  
<https://oa-bsa.org/history>



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**Tuesday, July 3 to Thursday, August 1**  
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University Memorial Center (UMC)  
Room 235

5,000 sq. ft. exhibition museum featuring over 50+ exhibits



# Takeaway Challenge

Please scan the QR code on the final slide to bookmark the [OA History Timeline](#) and be sure to visit the GEO located in the UMC-235 during NOAC 2024. Take out your notebook and pen to write down three ways you can positively influence the Order's future by creating history today. Feel free to share these key ideas with others in your chapter or lodge.

