



LLD – The Role of an Adult through the Eyes of a Youth

Lodge Leadership Development Training

Session Length: 40 Minutes

Learning objectives:

- Identify the role of the adult in the Order of the Arrow
- Overview the types of advisers in the Order of the Arrow
- Distinguish between the role of an adult in a Boy Scout unit and their role in the OA
- Understand where an adult can assist youth in helping to bridge the gap between past leadership experiences and current job descriptions
- How to communicate effectively with an adult adviser
- How to leverage the skills and knowledge of an adviser to assist in meeting goals and in fulfilling a mission

Required materials:

- [Video clip](#) (from The West Wing)
- Flip chart & markers
- Beach ball (with adviser attributes written on it)
- Sticky notes
- Computer
- Presentation file
- Note taking paper (to give to participants)

Outline of the session:

- Introduction of trainer
- Introductions of participants
- Overview of mission of the OA
- Run-down of the role of the adult

Trainer preparation:

It's important that the trainer for this cell has had a few years of experience in a leadership role in the Order of the Arrow and can draw on their experiences of working with an adult adviser. Specifically – an older youth or young adult. It is important to use anecdotes to add an element of personality. The trainer should discuss stories of times where their adviser/youth relationship was effective and times where it was not. Engaging the audience in conversation about their experiences is another key component of ensuring the success of this session. Throughout the session – take every opportunity to let the participants come to conclusions themselves.



Session narrative

This session will explore the role of the adult adviser in the Order of the Arrow through the eyes of the youth. It will do this by working to identify where the adult fits in the OA structure, how they can support youth, and how to leverage an adult adviser to maximize opportunity for success.

Introduction

3 minutes

The trainer will introduce the session by first introducing themselves and outlining their experiences in the Order of the Arrow. (This will help the participants to relate to the trainer, and have an idea about their qualifications to teach this cell.)

Afterwards, the trainer will ask all of the participants in the session to introduce themselves with the following; their name, Lodge, position in the OA, and a question/or unique experience that they have about the adviser-youth partnership. (Write these on a sticky note and post them to a flip chart or wall for later reference.)

Trainer tip: Following the introductions – to ensure a smooth transition to the next portion – relate the session topic to the participants by stating something along the lines of “We are all from different Chapters, have different levels of experience, and hold different positions. However, we all have or will work with an adult adviser during our time as a youth in the Order.”

The Adviser’s Piece of the Puzzle

7 minutes

This is an overview of the official job description of an adult adviser (someone who is at least 21 years) and will outline where they fit in the structure of the Order of the Arrow.

- a. The mission of the Order of the Arrow is to fulfill its purpose as an integral part of the Boy Scouts of America through **positive youth leadership** under the **guidance of selected capable adults**.
 - o **[ON PPTX]** “To accomplish this mission, the relationship between youth and adult members in the Order of the Arrow is critical. The foundation of any successful chapter or Lodge is a strong relationship between youth officers and adult advisers. Without a strong relationship, an officer and adviser will not be able to build a strong leadership team.” - [Order of the Arrow Lodge Adviser Handbook]
 - o **[DESCRIBE In simpler terms]** The Order of the Arrow is youth led, but adult guided and supported



Youth are given the opportunity to lead and to own the program they are leading, however if there ever is a time where they may be looking for more information or support on a particular matter – that is where an adviser can come into play.

Merriam-Webster defines the word **advise** as a verb:

- a. to give (someone) a recommendation about what should be done
- b. caution, warn
- c. to give information or notice to

Essentially – an adviser is designed to be a coach, mentor, and teacher to help youth achieve their goals and operate a successful program.

The Role of the Adviser

15 minutes

Think about one of the best advisers with whom you have worked with. What were some of the traits that made those advisers great? *Have all participants list what they believe to be key attributes of an adviser in the Order of the Arrow. (Write on flip chart for a large group, but use sticky notes for a small group.)*

Trainer tip: The trainer should use an example of two advisers with whom they have worked with in the past to illustrate these points. Use examples from those relationships to reinforce HOW advisers fulfill these roles.

As outlined in the *Order of the Arrow Lodge Adviser Handbook* – the following is a list of high level contributions that advisers can make to the program:

- Serve as a positive role model
- Set the example of core values
- Teach effective communication
- Mentor through example
- Help set expectations
- Provide perspective

❖ **ACTIVITY**

To make this interactive, take a beach ball and write each of these attributes on different parts of the ball. Throw the ball around the room and when the person catches it; determine which their right hand is closest to and then ask them to describe what they think it means.



Trainer tip: Take an opportunity to solicit questions from the audience. If there is a question asked that you do not immediately know the answer to, simply respond with “I am not sure, but will either find the answer or point you in the direction of someone who knows the answer.” It is very important to follow through on this promise and get an answer to that individual as quickly as possible.

QUESTIONS TO ANTICIPATE

- What do I do if an adult isn't supporting me the way that I need them to?
Answer: Talk to the lead adviser of that group (Lodge adviser, chapter adviser, etc. and discuss ways to find a solution).
- What if the adult is directing more than supporting and is not enabling me to lead? Answer: Talk to the lead adviser of that group (Lodge adviser, chapter adviser, etc. and discuss ways to find a solution).

Types of Advisers

7 minutes

Advisers can be found at every point of the Order of the Arrow structure.

Trainer tip: Since this is designed for new Arrowmen in the Lodge, it may be beneficial to include names and photos of these advisers so participants can connect a title to a face in the slide deck.

- **Lodge adviser:** The Lodge adviser is the lead adviser appointed annually by the council scout executive (supreme chief of the fire). They advise the Lodge officers and members of the youth executive committee to plan, mobilize, and deliver on the mission and purpose of the Order of the Arrow within that council.
- **Staff adviser:** The professional adult appointed by the council scout executive to assist the Lodge in mostly administrative functions; finances, LodgeMaster, purchases, etc. They serve as the point of contact and liaison between the Lodge and the council service center.
- **Associate adviser:** Appointed by the Lodge adviser to assist advising a particular committee or program within the Lodge. (i.e. the Lodge associate adviser of inductions advises the youth Lodge inductions chairman)
- **Chapter adviser:** Appointed by the Lodge adviser to advise a chapter (geographically designated area within the Lodge).

The advisers listed above are the advisers you will most often interact with in the OA, however it is important to consider that there are advisers at all levels of the Order of the Arrow;



- i.e. section advisers, region chairmen, and members of the national OA committee
Open up the floor for question from the audience.

Introduce video**1 minute**

This clip, from the popular TV series "The West Wing" shows a dialogue between Deputy White House Chief of Staff Josh Lyman and White House Chief of Staff Leo McGarry.

As you watch, attempt to identify components of this video that relate to the adviser-youth relationship.

<<Play video from "The West Wing">>**2 minutes****Debrief video****2 minutes****Ask the audience**

- What were your thoughts?
 - Where did you identify examples of the youth-adult relationship?
 - Who would have been the example of the youth and of the adviser?
- How does this relate to what we have discussed today?
 - Be sure to direct the conversation in a way that the audience comes to the conclusion that Leo in the clip represents the role of an adviser. They have "been there" and "they know the way out."

Takeaway Challenge**3 minutes**

Using what we've discussed today, brainstorm some ways that you can better develop your relationship with your adviser and leverage them to ensure you can be successful.

Assign a scribe to take notes on a flip chart.

Close by quickly recapping the key points that were discussed throughout the session= and thank everyone for their time.

Trainer tip: It may be a good idea to provide the group with your contact information (if you don't mind sharing) to give them a point of contact for questions in the future.



Appendix: Resources and Source Material

- 2012 Lodge adviser's handbook, available online at <http://www.oa-bsa.org/uploads/publications/Lodgeadviserhandbook-2012.pdf>
- 2012 Guide for Officers and Advisers, available online at <http://www.oa-bsa.org/pages/content/publications#goa>
- 2013 guide for staff advisers <http://www.oa-bsa.org/uploads/publications/GSA-2013.pdf>
- Ask the chairman – What is the correct spelling of adviser? <http://www.oa-bsa.org/pages/content/ask-the-chairman-what-is-the-correct-spelling-of-adviser>