2024 National Order of the Arrow Conference

Session: Alpha Phi Omega: A Guide to Scouting in College

Session Length: 45 minutes

Session Description

The session will cover service organizations and the possibilities of continuing service in (and after) college. Participants will learn about professional and social organizations and fraternities they will be introduced to in college. This will include social, service and scholastic organizations. The overall college experience will be discussed. This session will be geared towards potential college students looking to expand the leadership and service experiences that they learned and started developing in Scouting. This session will direct young people to help them find future opportunities to continue to lead and serve

Learning Outcomes

Outcome 1: To learn about various opportunities to elevate your Scouting path while in college

Outcome 2: To learn about the differences in organizations at the collegiate level

Theme Connection: Seek New Heights

Participants will be encouraged to Seek New Heights for themselves as they continue their educational path in college. This will be accomplished through an introduction to various college organizations and primarily Alpha Phi Omega.

Facility and Material Needs

[Please put all material and facility needs in this section. We recommend completing this portion last after the rest of the lesson plan is completed. **The more specific you are with your material and facility requests, the better we can accommodate!**]

Facility Needs

Is this session remote delegate-compatible?	Feasibly yes, I have no personal experience teaching via livestream but always willing to try something new.
Does this session need audio/video (AV) capabilities? (ie. projector)	YES projector
Are there any other specific facility needs for this session? (ie. movable chairs, panel-style seating, etc.)	Almost any classroom style configuration will work. This is basically a lead discussion so desks and tables are not required but might be helpful.

Material Needs

[Please put "NOAC Training Committee" under "Source" if you need a material and cannot source it yourself - we will try to source it for you. Please note that we would strongly prefer training materials to be in a digital format and would advise against flipcharts and other physical materials. If you need microphones, extension cords, etc., please also specify those needs here.]

Material	**Quantity**	**Source**
Projector	1	NOAC Training committee
QR code poster	1	APO
Patch display	2	Trainer supplied
APO banner	1	APO NESA group

Session Preparation Steps

[Please list all steps you or another trainer would need to take to be prepared to teach this session. For example, if the trainer needs to add personal experiences, print handouts, or prepare items for a game, those should be listed here. **The goal is for someone to be able to read this syllabus and understand how to teach your session in the future!**]

Step 1: room arrangement (doesn't matter too much) need a place for everyone to sit and be comfortable

Step 2: check projector and make sure everything works

Step 3: place any APO displays around the room. Riker Cases with APO themed BSA patches. APO brochures or scholarship information.

Additional Staff Members

[If you are having additional trainers assist you with your session, please fill out their contact information below. Please note that due to the conference sell-out, we are limited in our ability to register additional staff members on the training committee. We recommend that your additional trainers come from contingents or other staff members that can break from their duties to facilitate the session.]

Trainer Name	Email	Phone #

Lesson Plan

[The main body of your presentation should be here. Remember to adjust the timing for each session as you add/edit topics. **Remember, be as specific as possible - the goal is for someone to be able to read this syllabus and understand how to facilitate your session in the future!**]

Helpful Templates:

Activity

Copy and paste this box wherever you have an activity in this session!

Materials Needed: [materials]
Length of Activity: # [min]
Activity Description: [description]

Trainer Action

If at any point the trainer needs to complete an action (play a video clip, prompt questions, etc.) copy paste this box and edit this text to specify what!

Welcome **1 minutes**
Slides 1

- Alpha Phi Omega - A guide to Scouting in College

Introduction - **2 minutes**
Slide 2

- Use slide notes to initiate conversations about demographics of the room. How many in college, planning on college, APO Alums? Lodge elected position? Chapter positions? Advisors? Student Council members etc?

Objectives **2 minutes**
Slide 3

- To learn about various opportunities to elevate your Scouting path while in college
- To learn about the differences in organizations at the collegiate level

Main presentation **37 total minutes**

Slide 4 - 4 minutes

First let's talk about Social Organizations.

There are a couple of types commonly called Greek and non-Greek.
Greek are what people typically refer to as fraternities. They are great (I was in one).
Can anyone here name a fraternity?

Things like Pi Kappa Alpha, Delta Tau Delta, Lambda Chi Alpha, Alpha Delta Pi and Chi Omega. These are all examples.

Do you know what these groups do?

No they are not like the Animal House movie or Revenge of the Nerds (ok maybe a little). These organizations are usually single sex, and have a residency that the members live in. In other words they have a house. They have leadership opportunities in that they have officers and there is some training but the training is very basic and specific to the group's needs. So there is not a National Leadership Seminar that they go to. They have some philanthropy (service) but it is typically a single organization that they raise money for. Phi Delta Gamma has donated almost a half million to the USO and Red Cross. Sigma Alpha Epsilon donates to Children's Miracle Network. Sigma Chi has donated over 1 million to the Huntsman Cancer Institute. These are great and we aren't taking away from that at all, but as Scouts you have learned to actually do service not just raise money. You probably want more hands-on types of service.

There are also student life organizations. These are typically co-ed groups and do not have a "house". Some of these include organizations like church sponsored groups. Does anyone here know any of these?

BSM, FCA, and Intervarsity are all examples. While these groups are more faith based, they are typically led from "outside" the organization itself. They will participate in some service projects like soup kitchens and food drives. While this is more hands-on, it involves very little planning and leadership on your part.

The driving force behind both Greek and non-Greek social organizations is just like it sounds, social. Bringing people together to form bonds. That's great but as Scouts you probably want more….

Slide 5 - 3 minutes

Professional and Major associated groups are another type of group you can find on college campuses. There are hundreds of these. The professional groups can have greek letter names like Theta Tau the engineering fraternity or Alpha Kappa Psi the business fraternity. There are also clubs or groups without Greek names that are more major/field of study oriented. The drama club for drama majors or WISE for women in science and engineering. These organizations tend to be very network oriented. By network oriented I mean making contacts to help you get a job after school. They promote their specific fields of study (and there is nothing wrong with that). Some have a grade based entry point, meaning that you have to have a specific GPA to get in. These organizations do offer some leadership positions in their own officer positions but there are few development opportunities and typically most positions are post-grad or upperclassmen, if not professors.

Slide 6 - 2 minutes
Next we have Service organizations. There are many options here as well. To start with you have the national service clubs with college opportunities like the Lions Club may have a collegiate chapter on campus. Or the Circle K which is sponsored by the Kiwanis. These groups are great and may even provide you with a lifetime of group membership as the main focus of these groups is community service in their local communities. (I am in the Lions Club).
A few years ago Baylor did some research and found that you were ____% more likely to be in one of these groups as an adult if you were a Scout.

There are also groups called service fraternities. One of which is Alpha Phi Omega or APO.

Slide 7 - 2 minutes
APO was founded in 1925 by 14 former Scouts who all were a part of some of the other organizations mentioned earlier but were not feeling like any of those were giving them what Scouting had taught them to be.
APO is the largest fraternity in the US. That is all types, social, professional and service. We have 350+ chapters across the country and at any given time have over 25K student members.
We went co-ed officially in 1976 although several chapters had done so earlier. (I find it interesting that the fraternity went co-ed almost 40 years before Scouting did).

Slide 8 - 2 minutes
Is a timeline of how APO and BSA/OA events are linked and overlap

Slide 9 - 2 minutes
It is the vision of Alpha Phi Omega to create inclusive communities for a more peaceful world in which to make a life, by developing leaders, uniting members through friendship and rendering service to all.
Does that sound like anything you have heard before?
What is the mission of the BSA? The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.
Slide 10 - 2 minutes
BSA Mission Statement

Slide 11 - 2 minutes
Alpha Phi Omega teaches through the principles of Leadership, Friendship and Service (also known as our Cardinal principles) that we are architects of our own ambitions and that each of us has the opportunity to develop ourselves to be whatever we seek to be.
Slide 12 - 3 minutes
Do you see a similarity between the Cardinal Principles of APO and the Brotherhood of Cheerful Service? Some of you may even recognize the "Leadership in Service" phrase.
But how does APO build leadership?
Slide 13 - 4 minutes
APO LEADS
APO Leads is a leadership development program organized by the national organization of Alpha Phi Omega. The APO Leads program consists of five individual modular components of leadership development. Each of these modular components focus on skills that will help the participant be a successful leader and team member in Alpha Phi Omega and in life.
The five components of APO Leads are Launch, Explore, Achieve, Discover, and Serve. Launch is a pre-requisite for participation in any of the other four courses. At the completion of the series of courses, the participant will have a set of transferable skills that are applicable to Alpha Phi Omega, to the working world, as well as to leadership in other organizations.

Does this sound like it might build on something you have done in Scouting? What?
NLS, NYLT, NAYLE

APO is also organized into chapters, sections, regions etc. are those organizational

terms familiar?
(-OA organized same way so most should say yes)
There are leadership spots at all those levels. Chapters generally have a President and multiple VP's of things like service and membership (sound familiar? Any vice chiefs in the room?)

{Expand upon the leadership opportunities.}

Slide 14 - 4 minutes
Most service in APO is done at the Chapter level. Chapters have all different kinds of service. Some sponsor big activities for other organizations on campus to participate in.
Example Woodchop at NC STATE providing heating wood for low income households. {expand on wood chop}

Some chapters have weekly service projects like soup kitchens or homeless shelters. How does this differ from how other groups do it? They do it every week. They have a coordinator that schedules and plans on people going every week, so it isn't just done at that feel good time of the year.
Future slide of APO in a soup line

Some chapters actually charter troops. NC State chartered a troop and pack and provided ALL the leadership for those and a girl Scout troop for 25+ years. The chapters also serve as PWD judges or camporee staff. Several Chapters host merit badge colleges on their campuses. They get professors to actually conduct these in their fields. What better way to earn a merit badge than from a University professor that helped write the text book people use to learn about the subject.

Slide 15 - 2 minutes
QR code for al ist of APO chapters and their colleges.

slide 16 with APO Eagles logo - 2 minutes
APO also has a NESA Affiliate group called APO Eagles. They have scholarships available for Eagle Scouts. These are not tied to APO membership (although they would love for you to consider that). They have a booth over in the NESA area

Slide 17 - Eagle scout 3 minutes

How does being a Scout relate to being in APO? In the Eagle charge, it says "Be a leader, but lead only toward the best. Lift up every task you do and every office you hold to the high level of service to God and your fellow men" It mentions being a friend to all. It also says "The Eagle Scout extends a helping hand".
APO simply says "Be a Leader, Be a Friend, Be of Service". I hope you can see the correlation.

Additional Questions **5 minutes**
Slide none

- Trainer and any APO alums in the room are open for questions about APO, college, etc

Conclusion & Takeaway Challenge **2 minutes**
Slide 18

[Each session should end with a challenge for every participant to write down key points to take with them and encourage them to reflect upon the session. The wording of the takeaway challenge will depend upon the session. For example:]

The big point here is that you understand that your Journey doesn't end when you leave and go to college. Even if you go to college hundreds of miles from where you live and are in Scouting. You have options to build your leadership, to grow new friends, and to continue to serve in the manner that you have learned to.
Please take out your notebook and pen. For the final three minutes, think about your current and future roles in the OA, in Scouting, and in life. Write down three key takeaways from this session that will enable you to Seek New Heights in those current and/or future roles. For example, are you going to lead or follow? Later today, feel free to share these key ideas with others in your chapter or lodge.

Appendix: Resources and Source Material

Resource	Link
Order of the Arrow, Mission & Purpose	Available online at: https://oa-bsa.org/about/mission-purpose
Alpha Phi Omega	https://apo.org/
The Story of "The Chief" H Roe Bartle	https://kcyesterday.com/articles/bartle