

**Arrowman 101**: Taking the Wheel

2015 National Order of the Arrow Conference

Session Length: 50 Minutes

Through this session, you will:

**Explain** that each Arrowman charts his own path beyond Ordeal.

**Demonstrate** that the journeys individual Arrowmen take may have different routes, stops, and destinations but they all involve a search for the arrow.

**Guide** Arrowmen in outlining and developing a journey of self discovery and search for the arrow.

**Enable** Arrowmen to begin their own journey, leaving a legacy along the way, helping to define the next 100 years of the Order of the Arrow.

This session will indirectly, through individual involvement, help the Lodge with the Journey to Excellence Requirement(s): 4, 7-10, 14 and 16.

The theme of NOAC 2015 is “It Starts With Us”. This session will relay this theme in the following ways:

* History and legacy – they are the sum total of individual journeys seeking the arrow and the resulting contributions, efforts and impacts made by individual Arrowmen.
* The Order is celebrating the past 100 years of its history and the legacies that our predecessors left for us. The next 100 years of history and legacy starts today. It starts with us. Our present, our future – they are tomorrow’s history.

Opening Slide

Advance Slide

**SESSION NARRATIVE**

**INTRODUCTION 1 Minute**

The trainer should take this opportunity to introduce himself. He should focus on his own induction and journey to where he is at today and the stops along the way (positions held, OAHA, milestones, NOAC’s, etc.).

Advance Slide

**YOUR JOURNEY IS JUST BEGINNING 3 minutes**

For the last two hours, you have learned about the history of the Order of the Arrow, and your place in its present existence as a New Arrowman.

In our first session, “Looking in the Rearview Mirror”, we saw that we have come a long way in the last 100 years from a tiny camp fraternity at Treasure Island Scout Camp, to the organization that we are today. Our sashes have changed, patches and emblems have become a part of our traditions, ceremonies have been modified, activities and events have been added, and even the wordings of our stated purpose and obligation have evolved.

But the principles that we were founded on - Brotherhood, Cheerfulness, and Service – have remained at the heart of our organization. They have, and will, continue to define the Order of the Arrow.

In our second session, “Brotherhood Bound”, you learned about your place in the Order at the present time and in the immediate future. For brand new Ordeal members, you have learned that you have only just begun. You took an obligation and became a member. But you still have much to learn, to do and to experience. Think of it as a hike. Being an Ordeal member is like taking a shake down hike, preparing for Philmont or an extended backpacking trip. You’re getting ready. You’re learning necessary skills and knowledge. You’re gaining experience.

For new Brotherhood members, you’ve sealed your membership in the Order of the Arrow. You have been through your shake downs. You’ve got your pack on your back and looking at a trailhead. Where do you go from here? What side trails will you take? Who will you take along with you?

And that brings us to the third session of our cell – Taking the Wheel.

Advance Slide

**THE ORDER’S HISTORY IS MADE UP OF OUR INDIVIDUAL JOURNEYS 5 Minutes**

It is no coincidence that the titles for the three sessions in our cell refer to travelling, paths, journeys, and moving forward. That is what we have been doing since 1915 as an organization and as individual members. We must look in the rearview mirror to see where we have been. In order for us to move forward, we must know where we are at.

The Order of the Arrow is not some huge faceless organization. It was E. Urner Goodman, Carrol Edson, Henry Yoder. It is me, it is our National Chief Alex Call, it is our National Chairman Ray Capp, it is your Lodge Chief back home, it is your Lodge Adviser. And most importantly, it WILL be you, and you, and you!

**Trainer Tip:** Emphasize this last point by literally pointing out individual Arrowmen, especially younger ones, in the session.

Advance Slide

You see, the Order of the Arrow has no history of its own. Its history is simply the sum total of many stories – the journeys of many different individuals – on a common quest. And the future of the Order of the Arrow depends on the same. There is no future without YOUR journeys, your stories, your quests, your legacies.

You see, we all are on the same quest.

Did you realize that? Remember your Pre-Ordeal Ceremony? Think back.

What was shot into the night sky? An arrow, right? And we began a journey then to go and seek that arrow.

For many new members, they believe that they have found the arrow the next evening after they have completed their Ordeal. But have they? Have they found the arrow just because they are now wearing a sash?

No, that quest continues. It continues for another 10 months. What happens then? They can become Brotherhood. They have learned all of our secrets and symbolism. They have remained active.

But have they found the arrow? Or is it still out there? Is it still within us? Do we still seek it?

Advance Slide

**TAKING THE WHEEL 3 Minutes**

Now that you know where we’ve been, where we are at, and where we are going, it is now time for each of you to climb into your own car and begin your own journey to seek the arrow. Seeking the Arrow – that is our destination as an organization and that is your destination as an individual.

It is a journey to discover and experience brotherhood, cheerfulness, service, leadership, fellowship, devotion to others. It is an unselfish journey with no time constraints. It is a road trip with no rules of the road except your personal honor as a Scout.

It is a journey where you will learn to love one another.

Advance Slide

We, us old guys……Goodman, Edson…….your grandfathers and fathers……the founders of your lodges…..your Elangomats……your Lodge Chiefs…we have all given you a destination. We have given you the means to get there. We have given or will give you the shake down hike by helping you obtain Brotherhood.

But we have not given you a map to the destination. We have not given you step-by-step directions. You must decide how YOU will get there.

In the ceremonies, you were told, “Those who chose you, need you..”. So what are you going to do about it? How are you going to answer the challenge?

What expectations do they have for you? What expectations do we have for you? What expectations do you have for yourself?

Advance Slide

**YOU DON’T NEED A DRIVER’S LICENSE TO TAKE THE WHEEL 2 Minutes**

How old do you have to be get a driver’s license in your state? *[Get a few quick responses].*

Guess what? In the OA, on your road trip, it doesn’t matter how old you are. It doesn’t matter if you are a youth or an adult. It doesn’t matter what color loops you wear. It doesn’t matter what your title may be. Each and everyone of you have the opportunity to take the wheel and drive your own car….to take your own journey…to leave your own legacy.

Edson and Goodman were only in their twenties when they founded the Order. Many of our past youth leaders continue to serve as advisers years – decades - after they held office. Whether you are 12 or 68, whether you are an assistant patrol leader or a Council President, you still can take the wheel.

Advance Slide

**STOPS, ROUTES, SIDE TRIPS,SWITCHBACKS, REST AREAS ALONG THE WAY 10 Minutes**

So what will your journey look like? What are you going to do along the way? Are you going to blaze along at top speed – or take a leisurely pace? Who are you going to take along on the ride? Who are you going to help along the way?

There are many different ways to seek the arrow. Can anyone give us examples? *[Get a few quick responses. Write them on a flipchart or white board. Make sure that the following are included].*

Leadership positions

Ceremonies

Service opportunities

OAHA

Cub Scouting and younger Scouts

Being a trainer

Building friendships

Volunteering as an adult

Mentorship

Having FUN (brotherhood and cheerfulness)

Not everyone is going to be, or even want to be a Lodge Officer. Not everyone will play Allowat Sakima in an Ordeal ceremony. Not everyone will be able to work on Trail Crew at Philmont or OA Service Corps at a Jamboree. Not everyone will be presented with the Vigil Honor.

None of those are destinations. Those are just stops along the way.

In order for you to reach your journey though, you need to think about what stops you are going to make. Do you want to be a trainer at NOAC? Serve as a Den Chief? Be a Unit Commissioner? Do you want to be a Lodge Chief? Do you want to go on the OA Ocean Adventure? Do you want to work on camp staff? Be an instructor in your troop for new Scouts? Serve on the National OA Committee? Or simply work quietly in the background without any title or recognition?

Any or all of those are fine. What is on my journey may not be on your’s. But we are both on the same quest.

Every single member of the Order of the Arrow, with the exception of Goodman and Edson, started out exactly the same – as a brand new, slightly intimidated Ordeal member.

Advance Slide

**Trainer Tip:**  Use your own personal Scouting history in the next section rather than the author’s.

I’m standing before you today wearing gold loops on my shoulders, training for the fifth time at NOAC. I’m a Vigil Honor member, Founder’s Award recipient and Centurion. I’ve received the Silver Beaver. I was Lodge Chief twice and a section officer. I was a Lodge Adviser. But guess what, I started out just like each and every one of you. As an Ordeal member with a bright white sash.

We didn’t have OAHA when I was a youth. I never got into AIA. I did a few Ordeal and Vigil ceremonies but that wasn’t my thing either. But that’s ok. I found what I liked and I stuck with it. I tried different things along the way – some I kept exploring and some I left behind.

And I’ll tell you where my journey began – it was at my very first chapter meeting after my Ordeal. I was elected Chapter Secretary. I’ve often thought as I got older that they sure must not have had much to choose from. But that one little, tiny stop along my journey filled my gas tank up and I haven’t looked back since 1982.

That is how I became a part of the history of the Order of the Arrow. It may have and be just a small part – but I’m part of its history. Our history.

That is what you must do. Find your own path. Make your own contribution to our history.

Advance Slide

**HAVE PASSION 7 Minutes**

Does anyone have any idea what it might mean to have passion? [Solicit responses from the participants]

It’s hard to define exactly what passion is, but it’s much easier to say what a passionate person does. A passionate person makes sacrifices and overcomes obstacles in life and in service. A passionate person is self-motivated and can motivate others. A passionate person knows his or her own limits and tries to always push them further. A passionate person is a leader who goes ahead to lay the groundwork for the rest of society and is willing to do the hard work it takes to make that happen. I believe that anyone is capable of being passionate; however, there are few who are willing to truly be driven by their passion and take the risks necessary to make a difference.

Advance Slide

Passion is the fuel for our journey. Without passion, you won’t travel very far.

Now like any fuel, sometimes passion can get low. It has to be refilled or recharged. I am going to give you two challenges to accomplish that are guaranteed to renew that passion – to fill your gas tank back up.

First, when your own passion begins to run low, I want you to think back to before your Ordeal. Someone inspired you to become a Scout, or to become a better Scout. Someone who may have been a leader, mentor, coach, teacher, friend, older Scout, whatever. Someone who had an influence on you.

Think for just a moment and see who that is for you. Who first lit the spark in you? Who gave you that passion for Scouting and the OA?

Send that person a thank-you message. It could be a card, in person, an email or text message. It could be a phone call. Let them know the gratitude you feel for the difference they made in your life. They inspired you then, let them inspire you again.

A second way to recharge your passion, to refill your gas tank is to re-experience your Ordeal. You could do that by being an Elangomat or even just go back through the Ordeal. Or, you could accomplish it by simply picking a day to be silent, eat scant food, spend some time alone, and do cheerful acts of service anonymously to others. You can pick any day, and any place to do this.

Believe me, when your passion wanes, do one of these things and your batteries will be recharged. Your passion will be restored and your gas tank filled.

Advance Slide

**HAVE A VISION 17 Minutes**

What is Vision? While Vision most often refers to the act of seeing, the Vision that we deal with in this session is best summed up in the Merriam Webster dictionary as “The act or power of imagination” and as “a mode of seeing or conceiving”.

As leaders we must be able to look ahead and be able to conceive and then plan for the future so that we can enable those that we lead to reach that vision which we have.

Passion is the fuel for our journey. Vision is the roadmap.

Advance Slide

What makes a good Vision/Vision Statement?

* 1. A vision doesn't exist in the present, and it may or may not be reached in the future. A vision ***may never become reality.***
  2. A Good Vision is Idealistic. The vision must be realistic enough so you believe it is achievable, but idealistic enough so that it cannot be achieved without stretching. Otherwise it will not set a standard of excellence, nor will it motivate you to work toward it.
  3. A good vision is appropriate for you, the Order and for the times. A vision must be consistent with the organization's values and cultureA good vision sets standards of excellence and reflects high ideals
  4. A good vision clarifies purpose and direction*.*
  5. A good vision inspires enthusiasm and encourages commitment*.* An inspiring vision can help people in an organization get excited about what they're doing, and increase their commitment to the organization.
  6. A good vision is well articulated and easily understood*.*
  7. A good vision reflects the uniqueness of the individual.

8. A good vision is ambitious*.* It must not be commonplace. It must be truly extraordinary.

You now are going to be given the chance to write out your own vision statement. Reflect back on the first session where we looked back in the rear view mirror to see where we as an organization have been. Now look back in your own rearview mirror - your personal one. Where have you come from to be here today? What started you down that path? Who started you down that path?

Think about the second session, Brotherhood Bound, where you learned about where you are right now or where you will be in the next 10—12 months. Think about how that is affecting the current presence of the Order of the Arrow.

Now, think about the future. Think about taking the wheel on your own trip. Remember, you know what you destination is – you’re seeking the arrow.

Fuel up your gas tank with passion for the Order, for its ideals, for its opportunities, for its fellowship, for its love.

How do you want to find the arrow? Do along the way? What aspects of the OA do you want to stop and explore?

Now chart your course. Draw your map. Dictate your vision.

Advance Slide

Let’s take a few minutes, and I want each of you to make a list of 10 things that you want to do, see, or experience as a member of the OA. *[Give participants a few minutes to jot down a list].*

This is your OA bucket list. This is your vision. This is your roadmap. We aren’t going to discuss it like we have a lot of things that we have done today. I want each of you to take that bucket list, put your name at the top, and write “My Journey”. Put in your wallet, or in your binder or on top of your dresser. Don’t lose it.

As you seek out each of those roadside attractions and stops along the way – always keep in mind the principles and values that we are seeking and how that stop or detour or path is accomplishing your goal.

And as you travel along in your journey, take your list out periodically. Review it. Maybe you decided to take a detour and you need to cross something off and add something new. Maybe you want to go back and visit a stop that you have already made. Maybe you want to take a left or right turn and try something completely unexpected. All of that’s ok. You are on a journey that doesn’t have a deadline to complete.

**CONCLUSION 2 Minutes**

Vision is the driving force behind all that has been accomplished in society. Without it, the world as we know it today would not exist. It was vision that created the Great Pyramids, vision that created the Declaration of Independence, and vision that created the Order of the Arrow.

Those accomplishments all started with the vision of just one or two people. But the vision of one person, can transcend the individual and become the history of an organization, a country, a society, or the whole world.

Visionaries and their visions have shaped nearly ever facet of our lives and will continue to do so. You all leave today more capable and with a greater sense of vision than you had before.

It is now your opportunity to go back and be visionaries in your lodge and community. The future is truly yours today. Go back and use your visions, based around your core beliefs to propel your lodges and communities to bright futures never before realized.

Advance Slide

Remember, where we have been has already been decided. It is done. That 100 years is over. Our future – as Arrowmen, as human beings, as an Organization – has not. Remember, Membership in the Order of the Arrow is not based on what you have done, but it is based on what you are expected to do in the future. That future begins right now, right here. It starts with us.

**TRAINER PREPARATION**

This session should be led by an experienced Trainer and Arrowman, preferably an older youth on the verge of transitioning or an adult. It would be preferred that the trainer be or have recently been an officer or adviser within his own lodge/section/region. The trainer should be outgoing, friendly, able to speak in front of youth and adult audiences and comfortable in leading small-group interactions. He should have the charisma to deliver an inspirational message.

Appendix Resources:

* PowerPoint presentation
* Flip chart or white board
* Markers