



## 2024 National Order of the Arrow Conference

### Session: Choosing a College

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**Session Length:** 45 minutes

### Session Description

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[Brief description of what your session will cover. Why should someone take this training? Your ACVC may have provided a brief starting point, feel free to edit and add to it.]

Choosing a college can be a difficult and daunting task as there are a number of factors to consider: location, cost, programs available, etc. This session will help delegates navigate these different factors as they identify which college(s) are right for them

### Learning Outcomes

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- Learners will be able to...
  - Understand the significance of college visits in the decision-making process.
  - Evaluate key factors in college selection like academic programs and campus culture.
  - Develop a strategy for effective communication with college recruiters.

### Theme Connection: Seek New Heights

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In seeking new heights, the best thing that an individual can do for themselves is to become educated at every opportunity! This session will serve as an educational opportunity on the best practices for getting accepted to schools that serve their visions best!

### Facility and Material Needs

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#### Facility Needs

*Is this session remote delegate-compatible?* [Yes/No - Elaborate here if necessary]  
(ie. can the material be engagingly taught via live stream)

*Does this session need audio/video (AV) capabilities?* (ie. projector) [Yes/No]

*Are there any other specific facility needs for this session?* (ie. movable chairs, panel-style seating, etc.) No

## Session Preparation Steps

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[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:** Familiarize yourself with college acceptance and campus life to sufficiently talk about this during the session

Step 2: Set up PowerPoint properly.

## Lesson Plan

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[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!

### **Introduction**

**5 minutes**

- Facilitator Introduction succinctly to the scouts and scouters
  - Take time to introduce the college facilitator who is attending (if applicable) and what they are majoring/minoring in

### **Topic 1: Before You Go**

**10 minutes**

- The first steps to success:
  - Understanding college is not the only answer!
    - Military, Vocational Schools, Apprenticeships, Unions, and MORE!
    - Doing what you love does not have to boil down to a degree, there is a lot of different ways to have a career in today's day and age, be open and ready to accept alternatives so you can do what you love!
  - LOCATION LOCATION LOCATION!
    - There are many pros and cons to understanding the location of a college campus. There are many decisions to make when discussing living in urban, suburban and rural communities that will play a very large part into your academic career
  - Financial Considerations
    - What do your finances look like? Understanding your finances and ability to afford college could play a very large part in where you end up for many different reasons.
      - Factors to consider:
        - Budget, financial aid options, scholarships, tuition costs overall.
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### **Topic 2: Academics and Campus Life**

**10 minutes**

- Academic Programs
  - There are many different paths that students may want to take in the future, ranging from business to music to public health to psych. Whatever path this may be, it is important to understand that a school should be a top priority in its academics before everything else.
    - The goal of looking into different academic programs is to learn about how the school can best prepare you for your future and put you in the best positions to learn.
- Campus Life
  - The classroom and the bedroom are not the only places where students will be during their time as a students, no matter who this may be, all students need to enjoy some recreation at different points.
    - These items to consider are:
      - Clubs
      - Sports
      - Student Centers and Recreations Buildings
      - Fraternity and Sororities
      - Other Items (Concerts, On Campus Events, Etc.)
- Facilities and Misc.
  - In regards to the facilities that a college can offer, there are many that are overlooked that play a large part in the enjoyment that one has at an institution
    - These items to consider are:
      - Dining Halls
      - Mental Health and Physical Health Accommodations
      - Dormitory and On-Campus Living

### **Topic 3: Visits and Making the Best Choice**

**10 minutes**

- College Visits:
  - Learn about what makes the college the college! A tour and visit are ways for prospective college students to learn from staff and students of different

universities. Ask questions, find out where you would take your classes, and more!

- This is the first impression you will have on the campus, take all of the culture, environment, and vibe of the college into strong consideration when hoping to attend a college.
- Making the decisions and Final Choice
  - The most important part of the entire college selection process is not where you will fit in best, but instead, what college will be able to fit YOU and set you best up for success.
  - In applications, show your interest in what you see yourself getting out of the college. Once you are accepted the rest is history...

### Conclusion & Takeaway Challenge

3 minutes

- Takeaway challenge and closing remarks in regard to the session
- Questions?

Takeaway Challenge: In looking into what you want to do as a prospective college student, what do you value most in a school? The location? The Campus life? The Program? Once you have found this, take a moment to reflect on how these priorities can create a healthy and educational space for your college career

## Appendix: Resources and Source Material

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[Please add all referenced sources or handouts that would be useful to share with session attendees.]

Resource	Link
Order of the Arrow, Mission & Purpose	Available online at: <a href="https://oa-bsa.org/about/mission-purpose">https://oa-bsa.org/about/mission-purpose</a>