



2018 National Order of the Arrow Conference

Discerning Your Destiny: The Path to Success: Defining your Destiny

Session Length: 45 Minutes

Through this session, you will:

Explain How destiny is rarely set in stone or defined

Demonstrate Shows how a cheerful disposition can assist you in your life's path even when you face struggles

Guide Discuss and demonstrate multiple paths to your life's destiny.

Enable Each participant to have a deeper understanding of themselves and inspire them to reach further.

Learning Outcomes:

- How to determine your destiny
- History and ideas on how destiny can be defined
- What can you do to learn about yourself

Theme Connection:

The theme of NOAC 2018 is "Decide Your Destiny," emphasizing the message that today's decisions shape tomorrow's reality. This session will relay this theme in the following ways:

- Your destiny can be shaped by your decisions
- Destiny is often not defined but changes with your knowledge or the path life takes

This session will help the Lodge with the Journey to Excellence Requirement(s): 16

Required Materials:

- Course discussion write up



NOAC 2018 TRAINING COMMITTEE
ORDER OF THE ARROW



TRAINER PREPARATION

1. Review course material
2. Review discussion topics, this is intended to be a guided discussion course
3. Be prepared to rephrase questions as needed

Session Narrative

Introduction

5 minutes

- A. Intro: Introduce yourself briefly
- B. Discussion: Throughout history humans have thought of our destiny as set and you could rarely, if ever change your fate. This was personified in Greek tradition by the three fates who spun the threads of each person's life determining each of our measure or happiness, misery and suffering. The third fate cut the thread as a way to predetermine your life's end. However we have learned through the human experience that our fate is rarely set and can be changed through experience and knowledge.

First topic

15 minutes

- A. Discussion: Using the Greek fates model, misery is a necessary function to truly appreciate life. Without this aspect of life, you would not be challenged and you would not learn your strengths and weaknesses. Misery could further be defined as living without an aspect of your life such as food or providing hard work that does not directly benefit you. While hard work can be an enjoyment, it often has its after effects such as sore muscles or damage to your body.
- B. Discussion: During the Ordeal ceremony, Nutiket provided a tests to accomplish. He counseled you to maintain a cheerful spirit while performing tasks with scant food, forgetting your hunger. This test is as old as time and is used in multiple religions in the form of fasting or giving up something for a period of time like Lent.
- C. Discussion: Many tasks are needed to be done whether you like it or not. This may be a challenge to address cheerfully. As Meteu said "Gathered now to help and serve, Cheerfully in all our actions"

Question: What task in your life would find to be the hardest to complete while maintaining a cheerful spirit?

**Second topic****15 minutes**

- A. Discussion: Often to grow as a person you need to work on a task or job that is your greatest weakness versus your strength.

Question: Think on your current position within the Order or your Unit. Is this job one of your strengths or weaknesses?

- B. Discussion: Many people credit the BSA with assisting them with life skills they use throughout their life. These skills can be hard won and may take effort to learn. As an example, the best athletes require considerable practice to be the best at their chosen sport.

Question: What are you most afraid of? Can that fear be turned into a strength?

- C. Discussion: Our hero's may be a person you know personally or a famous person from current events or history. However no one with any staying power has ever gone from a simple life to being famous overnight. They are required to live through a crucible of tests to define their destiny. A great example of surpassing a litany of tests is none other than President Abraham Lincoln, considered by many as one of our greatest Presidents. He started life in a log cabin using firelight to teach himself to be a lawyer and then a politician. However he struggled with mental health issues and self-doubt, something he had to overcome to lead the United States through one of its most defining struggles.

- D. Discussion: Think for a moment of your personal hero.

Question: What do you admire about this person? What lesson could you take from their example?

- E. Discussion: Think on the tests you have had in your life so far both in and out of the Scouts. Each of these tests taught you a lesson, these tests defined your personal destiny. Your personal destiny is just that, personal, however it can be as simple or vast as you make it. In Greek tradition, choosing your own destiny can be summed up as "fortune favors the bold".

Question: What bold statement can you make in your sphere of influence?

Takeaway Challenge**5 minutes**

Each training session is asked to challenge you in some way. Discuss with your friends or contingent what new job you would like to take on to challenge your capabilities or learn some new skills.



Appendix: Resources and Source Material

- Chapter Journey to Excellence Workbook, available online at <http://www.oa-bsa.org/pages/content/printable-forms>
- The Fates
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Fate-Greek-and-Roman-mythology>