

# Session: Making the Most of the National Program of Emphasis



**Duration:** 30 minutes

**Facilitator:** Section officer

**Supplies:** Screen and projector

## Learning Outcomes:

- Understand what the National Program of Emphasis is.
- Understand the lodge's role in the event.
- Know how to prepare your lodge to support the event.

**Introduction:** 3 minutes

Hello! My name is [Name] and I am a member of [LODGE]. I am currently the [POSITION] and I am excited to talk with you today about the National Program of Emphasis. But first, let's go over the learning outcomes for this session.

*[Change Slide]*

By the end of this session, learners will be able to:

- Understand what the National Program of Emphasis is.
- Understand the lodge's role in the Program of Emphasis.
- Know how to prepare your lodge to show pride at the event.

**Trainer Tip:** *Alternatively, the trainer can ask for volunteers to read out the learning outcomes.*

*[Change Slide]*

**What is the National Program of Emphasis:** 10 minutes

Now some of you may be wondering, what is the National Program of Emphasis? This term describes the national event put on each year by the Order of the Arrow. Like lodge events, this event is youth-run, planned by the national officers and section chiefs. The National Program of Emphasis changes each year. Typically, it rotates between NOAC, Operation Arrow, the National Council of Chiefs, or the National Service Project.

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NOAC, or the National Order of the Arrow Conference, is the biggest event in the OA. Lodges everywhere send Arrowmen for a week of fun and fellowship, experiencing the best the OA has to offer. NOAC is held every few years at a university campus, and when it's held it's the biggest event in Scouting that year.

**Trainer Tip:** *Additionally, if the next NOAC date/location is known, the facilitator should mention it.*

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Operation Arrow is the National Program of Emphasis when a National Jamboree is held. OpArrow's primary purpose is to cheerfully serve the jamboree, playing a key role in helping the jamboree run their program and shows. Arrowmen who are at least 16 can attend OpArrow, held at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia.

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The National Service Project is one of the biggest service projects done by any organization in the country. Arrowmen come prepared to serve, collectively committing thousands of hours of effort to serve our community and nation. This event is typically open to all Arrowmen, and could be held when there is neither a NOAC nor a National Jamboree. The exact date and location varies, depending on the host site.

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The National Council of Chiefs is a gathering of lodge chiefs at Philmont Scout Ranch. This event is invite only, focused on the future of the OA. Trainings, discussions, and resources are tailored to the needs of lodges, enabling their success and addressing current needs. This event could also be held when there isn't a NOAC or National Jamboree.

*[Change Slide]*

*There are several hidden slides for this section. The facilitator should unhide the most appropriate slide for the following discussions. **There is information that should be entered by the facilitator to aid discussions.***

**Trainer Tip:** *This discussion should center around the next National Program of Emphasis, but depending on when SLS is held, it may be more appropriate to talk about the following event. If the next event is invite-only, it is encouraged to talk about the event following it.*

I wanted to now take a moment to talk about the next National Program of Emphasis. [EVENT] will be held at [LOCATION] from [DATE] to [DATE].

*At this point, the facilitator should discuss all known information about the next National Program of Emphasis.*

[Change Slide]

### **What is Your Role?: 15 minutes**

Now that we've talked about [EVENT], at your tables, discuss some ideas on what your lodge can do to support this event. Some ideas you could discuss would be fundraising, promotions, merch, lodge spirit, patches, scholarships, or any other way your lodge could support and get Arrowmen to [EVENT].

***Trainer Tip:*** After about 10 minutes, the facilitator should bring the group back together. Spend about 5 minutes asking groups to share their ideas. Follow-up questions and general discussions are encouraged.

[Change Slide]

### **Wrap-Up: 2 minutes**

As a reminder, the learning outcomes of this session were:

- Understand what the National Program of Emphasis is.
- Understand the lodge's role in the event.
- Know how to prepare your lodge to show spirit at the event.

Thank you for your attention and participation, you all shared some great ideas. If you have any questions, please find me during a break, or my contact information is on the screen. This has been Making the Most of the National Program of Emphasis.

[Change Slide]

*At this point, the facilitator should discuss all known information about the next National Program of Emphasis.*