



2018 National Order of the Arrow Conference

## Supporting the Troop Program: Promoting a Strong Troop

### Session Length: 45 Minutes

Through this session, you will:

**Explain** how OA members in a troop can help strengthen their unit

**Demonstrate** how the troop's Journey to Excellence provides opportunities for OA members to pitch in

**Guide** participants in setting goals for strengthening their unit

**Enable** participants to better work with their unit, chapter, lodge and council

### Learning Outcomes:

- Be able to describe the Journey to Excellence program for troops
- Be able to describe ways in which the troop's OA members can improve their troop's program

### 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:

- Emphasizing the OA members' responsibility to their home unit
- Emphasizing that Arrowmen have skills and abilities that their troop can use

This session will help the lodge with the Journey to Excellence Requirement(s): 1 through 10

### Required Materials: [tailor specifically for this session after the syllabus is done, e.g. handouts, flipcharts, projector, screen]

- Copies of the 2018 JTE standards for troops
- Flipchart, whiteboard or blackboard, and marker for recording comments from participants
- Projector, screen for slides

## TRAINER PREPARATION

Before this session, the trainers should:

1. Familiarize yourself with the resources listed at the end of this document
2. Consider the discussion questions on slides 3 and 10 and have some of your own answers ready to help trigger participants' thoughts

## Session Narrative

### **Introduction**

**5 minutes**

Slide 1 - Cell Topic

Have on screen as group gathers.

Slide 2 - Session Objectives

Introduce yourself and your co-trainer (if you have one) and remind them that with these 3 sessions, we hope to help you understand how you and your fellow Arrowmen in your troop can help your unit become stronger. This particular session focuses on how you can help improve your troop's program and thus its score in the Journey to Excellence evaluation.

### **Topic 1: Allowat Sakima's charge**

**5 minutes**

Slide 3 -

In the Pre-Ordeal ceremony, Allowat Sakima told each of us, "Friends, the ones who chose you need you." That charge continues long after you've completed your Ordeal; we all have a responsibility to our home unit. Ask participants: What are some ways in which we carry out that responsibility? Solicit answer and discuss briefly to set the stage for more "cheerful service" to the home unit.

### **Topic 2: The Troop's Journey to Excellence**

**10 minutes**

Slide 4 - What is JTE?

BSA provides a tool that troops can use to measure the quality of their program and to set goals for better serving the unit's Scouts. This tool is called the Journey to Excellence. It's a scorecard that a troop uses every year to evaluate itself on various aspects of its program. Trainer should ask participants to share their own experiences with the JTE process in their troop. Now let's quickly review some of this year's JTE standards for a troop. (Trainer hands out copies of the troop JTE worksheet.)

Slide 5 - Standard 4

Standard 4: Webelos-to-Scout transition: Have an effective plan to recruit Webelos Scouts into the troop.

Slide 6 - Standard 5

Standard 5: Advancement: Achieve a high percentage of Boy Scouts earning rank advancements.

Slide 7 - Standard 6

Standard 6: Short-term camping: Conduct short-term or weekend campouts throughout the year.

Slide 8 - Standard 7

Standard 7: Long-term camping: Participate in a long-term camp with a majority of the troop in attendance.

Slide 9 - Standard 8

Standard 8: Service projects: Participate in service projects, with at least one benefiting the chartered organization.

### **Topic 3: How Arrowmen Can Help**

**15 minutes**

Slide 10

Arrowmen often are among the most experienced and strongest leaders in a troop, which puts them in a great position to help their unit improve its program and score higher on the JTE standards.

Break the participants into five groups. Give each group one of the troop JTE standards from standard 4 through 8.

Give each group to discuss their standard for 5 minutes and propose at least three talents or skills that Arrowmen can contribute to help the troop score higher on that standard. (As groups talk, trainers circulate among them and help facilitate any discussions that may have hit problems.)

After the 5 minute discussion period, reconvene as a large group for 10 minutes. Each subgroup presents their ideas, and the trainer invites others to provide constructive feedback.

#### **Topic 4: Implementing the Ideas**

**5 minutes**

Slide 11 – Implementing the Plan

Remember that this is about helping the troop, so you must work within the troop structure. Work with the PLC, SM, TOAR and OA Rep Adviser to implement the plan. Be sure that Arrowmen collaborate with non-Arrowmen; don't be cliquish. Remember to be of cheerful service.

#### **Takeaway Challenge and Conclusion**

**5 minutes**

Slide 12

Write down three concrete contributions you personally can make to improving your troop's program and its JTE score.

I hope you've gotten some ideas on how to help improve your home troop's program. Every troop is different, so every Arrowman's contribution will be different. But we all have a responsibility to respond to Allowat Sakima's charge, "those who chose you need you." Good luck as you do your best to serve your troop in cheerful service. Thank you.

### **Appendix: Resources and Source Material**

- Troop 2018 Journey to Excellence scorecard:  
[https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/mission/pdf/2018\\_JTE\\_Troop\\_Scorecard.pdf](https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/mission/pdf/2018_JTE_Troop_Scorecard.pdf)