



2024 National Order of the Arrow Conference

Session: The Art of Storytelling

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Session Length: 45 minutes

Session Description

Everyone loves a good story! Join a Scouting founder's granddaughter and a leading OA historian and published author for this 45-minute session that provides learners the opportunity to enhance their ability to deliver a riveting story. This session will touch on many topics to enrich the participants' skills in delivering a powerful and meaningful message through oral and display storytelling.

Outcome 1: Understand the importance of storytelling both orally and through displays.

Outcome 2: Understand how to prepare and deliver memorable stories with words, gestures, sounds, and facial expressions.

Outcome 3: Understand when telling a story through display, that it must be done with well-chosen and organized objects along with brief explanatory information.

Theme Connection: Seek New Heights

We tell stories every day. Good stories are remembered for a short time, while great storytelling is memorable and repeatable. This training will move participants' storytelling from good to great with proven strategies and tips.

Facility and Material Needs

Facility Needs

Is this session remote delegate-compatible?
(ie. can the material be engagingly taught via live stream)

Yes, but not preferred during the live sessions.

Does this session need audio/video (AV) capabilities? (ie. projector)

Yes, we have a slide deck. We will need a projector and screen. We need a microphone at a speaker's stand.

Are there any other specific facility needs for this session? (ie. movable chairs, panel-style seating, etc.)

Yes, we will need a table to set up a display example.

Material Needs

Material	Quantity	Source
Computers (and flash drive) with presentation (as backup)		Self
HDMI cable		Self
6 ft table	1	NOAC Training Committee
Microphone	1	NOAC Training Committee
Speaker Podium	1	NOAC Training Committee
Location to put digital documents via QR code (if needed to be centralized)	1	NOAC Training Committee
Chair on dais for second speaker	1	NOAC Training Committee

Session Preparation Steps

For the oral storytelling portion:

Step 1: Prepare a PowerPoint or PDF presentation with the following information:

SECTION 1

1. LEARNING OBJECTIVES
2. STORY DEFINITION:
3. STORYTELLING ELEMENTS: Show a visual depiction of five essential elements of storytelling (audience, environment, story, story setting, and storyteller).
4. AUDIENCE AND ENVIRONMENT: Introduce Audience and Environment together.
5. STORY PARTS:
6. STORYTELLER:
7. SUMMARY:

SECTION 2 (See PowerPoint slide deck)

Step 2: SECTION 1: Prepare at least two personal experience stories of each topic to use in your presentation. These will support launching discussion/interaction. Consider starting these examples with compelling, connecting statements or questions such as, “my favorite stories are about..., and I think you may like these types of stories, too.” [Note, you may not need them, but if you don’t have them prepared, you won’t have them at all.]

Step 3: SECTION 1: Understand your audience: Who are they? What do they like? How old are they? Why are they in your training? Will you give them handouts or a copy of your slides? If so, how will you deliver them?

Engage the audience with questions such as, “What makes your favorite story your favorite? Is it the person telling the story, the story itself, the images the story brings to your mind, or the place where the story is told, or something else?”

As you engage the audience, give them positive feedback for their participation. Point out that A STORY WAS JUST TOLD.

Step 4: SECTION 1: Understand your environment. Ask coordinators about room size, technology availability, technician availability, time of presentation, will you be introduced, etc. Try to get into the room to see it (and rehearse, if possible).

Step 5: SECTION 2: Follow speaker notes:

Additional Staff Members

[If you are having additional trainers assist you with your session, please fill out their contact information below. Please note that due to the conference sell-out, we are limited in our ability to register additional staff members on the training committee. We recommend that your additional trainers come from contingents or other staff members that can break from their duties to facilitate the session.]

Trainer Name	Email	Phone #
Nelson Block	nelson.r.block@gmail.com	(713) 858-5843

Lesson Plan

[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

2 minutes

Slides [1]-[4]

Trainer Action:

Welcome attendees.

Introduce (read aloud) overall learning objectives

Introduce the trainers with a short bio sketch of their Scouting experience and relevant professional work.

2 minutes

Topic 1 – Define Story and importance of Storytelling

Slides 5-6

Trainer Action

Provide a definition or a quote that illustrates how stories have always been a part of human life and a key source of teaching/learning.

Identify the various ways to relate stories to others. Explain the difference between hearing and telling a story.

Ask questions such as:

Do you have favorite stories you tell or have heard?

When did/do you tell/hear/them?

What makes them your favorite?

Topic 2 –Key Elements of General Storytelling

3 minutes

Slides [7]

Trainer Action

Describe how the five elements are intrinsically linked to each other.

Provide a definition for each.

Emphasize that an audience is always in an environment and a story always has a setting.

Topic 3 – Audience and Environment

3 minutes

Slides [8]

Trainer Action:

Talk about the audience and environment as a package – they are inseparable

Ask questions:

What is an audience? (any living thing that responds to a speaker or stimulus)

Who is THE audience? (Who is the storyteller talking to?)

What is the “atmosphere?” (The mood of the audience)

Explain how the environment can make or break the telling of a story. (Anything that involves sensory stimulation is part of the environment – internally or externally of the audience.)

What is the environment where the audience exists? Things to consider: Can they hear and see the storyteller? Room conditions (temperature, lighting, distance, smell, etc.)

Topic 4 – The Story and Setting

4 minutes

Slides [9 – [10]

Trainer Action:

Identify the three parts of a story (Beginning, Middle, and End) and its Setting.

Describe the differences between them.

Engage the audience with questions such as,

“What happens when the story is told from the middle or end?”,

“What makes a story interesting or compelling?”

Discuss when it is appropriate to tell a story and not; story length and timing, language level/terminology, and setting.

Sub-topics:

- a. Parts of a story
- b. Setting
- c. Making choices: Appropriateness, Timing, Terminology

Topic 5 – The Storyteller

4 minutes

Slides 11-12

Trainer Action:

Identify verbal, non-verbal, and knowledge characteristics needed by a storyteller.

Emphasize the importance of the goals 1) to be heard and 2) to be remembered.

Demonstrate or provide an audio or video example of “poor to good” versus “great” storytelling – no longer than 15 seconds each.

Subtopics:

- a. Using all the senses to tell the story
- b. Persona
- c. Knowing storyline (not memorized), use notes and props, as necessary
- d. Ability to adapt to audience responses

Key points:

- a. Storyteller’s control of audience attention
- b. Ability to see the setting in one’s mind’s eye during the storytelling

Oral Storytelling Summary: Climb the Storytelling Mountain

minutes

2

Slides [13]-[]

Trainer Action

Give a summary with emphasis on the required interaction among the storytelling elements. Reiterate the importance of stories in our lives. Ask them to be mindful of their own storytelling and apply the suggestions to go from good to great.

Describe Storytelling as a process with each piece building on the previous one.

Tell the story “Climbing a Mountain” (or other story that involves a process with success at the end.

Conclusion & Takeaway Challenge

[Each session should end with a challenge for every participant to write down key points to take with them and encourage them to reflect upon the session. The wording of the takeaway challenge will depend upon the session. For example:]

Please take out your notebook and pen. For the final three minutes, think about your current and future roles in the OA, in Scouting, and in life. Write down three key takeaways from this session that will enable you to Seek New Heights in those current and/or future roles. For example, [something relevant to your session]. Later today, feel free to share these key ideas with others in your chapter or lodge.

Appendix: Resources and Source Material

[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: https://oa-bsa.org/about/mission-purpose
Art of Storytelling through Display	
<i>Trail and Campfire Stories</i> by Julia M. Seton	Out of print. Used copies on Amazon