



ORDER OF THE ARROW BOYSCOUTS OF AMERICA

# National Bulletin

ISSUE 2 | VOLUME LXXIII SUMMER 2016

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## ORDER OF THE ARROW

**National Bulletin**

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The *National Bulletin* is a publication of the Order of the Arrow. Its content and design are developed by youth Arrowmen under the guidance of adult advisers.

If you have an article and/or photo (with caption) for submission, or if you're interested in writing for the *Bulletin*, please email [communications@oa-bsa.org](mailto:communications@oa-bsa.org).



#OABSA

oa-bsa.org

# Tell the world why you #ChooseOA



As a member of the Order of the Arrow, you chose to be a part of an organization greater than yourself; an organization whose mission is to instill the values of selfless service and devotion to others in the minds of every boy who joins the Scouting program. Sensing your dedication to these values, your fellow Scouts called you to take part in something beyond yourself. That call, in part, requires you to spread the message of the Order of the Arrow to those Scouts and Scouters who have not yet had the opportunity to join the OA, and to choose to be a part of the movement beyond simply completing your Ordeal.

The Order of the Arrow has always valued the preservation of tradition. In many ways, it is that tradition which makes the Order of the Arrow such a valuable program. The traditions which we hold so close tell us to be cheerful, even in arduous labor. They tell us to be mindful of the needs of others, and to place those needs before our own. These traditions help

to build the tightest bonds of brotherhood that the Boy Scouts of America has ever seen.

When immersed in the experiences of our brotherhood, it becomes easy to forget that those who chose you need you. Even so, while many lodges across the nation enjoy a healthy brotherhood conversion rate, many more struggle to meet

Journey to Excellence standards. This is not because the state of our brotherhood is weak. On the contrary, membership retention levels for the OA are higher than those of the BSA at large. However, simply remaining part of our brotherhood isn't enough.

Now, more than ever, it is time that we as Arrowmen show the world why we chose to

participate in this brotherhood. It is time to show Scouting what it means to live a life of servant leadership, of unselfish service and of devotion to one's brothers. This is why, over the last several months, the National Order of the Arrow Committee has worked to compile a bank of resources to aid in accomplishing this goal.

Some of the resources that have been developed include:

**OA UNIT ELECTION MATERIALS:** In the annual JTE report for 2015, many units reported that the OA unit election is the least desirable OA experience. To help ensure that OA unit elections are a great experience, the #ChooseOA team has put together a new presentation complete with a cheat sheet on how to more successfully conduct the OA unit election. This is the first interaction that many new Scouts and Scouters will ever have with the Order of the Arrow; let's make it a great one!

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## #Choose OA

"Through the Order of the Arrow's youth-centric organizational structure, I was able to **pursue rewarding opportunities** to stay active throughout college, further **develop leadership skills** and forge **meaningful and lasting friendships**. Every event, whether it be a NOAC or a lodge induction weekend, **created unforgettable memories** that remind me of the benefits of staying involved in the OA."

- Raymond Cheung



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®  
ORDER OF THE ARROW

### #CHOOSEOA BROCHURE:

Many parents, unit leaders and professional Scouters who are not OA members report having very little knowledge on what the OA is; we've developed something to help them understand. The #ChooseOA tri-fold brochure will serve as a tool for lodges to take to unit elections, new member orientations, and other OA events to spread the message. We've also included a blank page that lodges can customize to talk specifically about their program.

### INFORMATION BOOTH:

Resources for an OA information booth at non-OA events have been developed, and are ready to go to your next council camporee or district roundtable.

These resources, among others, debuted at NEXT: A New Century, this past August in Bloomington, IN. Following their debut, they are now immediately available on the national OA website.

Remember, those who chose you need you! It's time to tell the world why you decided to #ChooseOA, and encourage those around you to do the same!

[OA-BSA.org/ChooseOA](http://OA-BSA.org/ChooseOA)

[ChooseOA@OA-BSA.org](mailto:ChooseOA@OA-BSA.org)

Why  
do  
YOU?

#Choose  
OA

## CHIEFLY SPEAKING



Brothers,

From our first year in Scouting, we each learn one common concept: summer is a time like no other for embracing all that the organization has to offer - and the Order of the Arrow further embodies this principle. This past summer, Arrowmen had the opportunity to form their own unique journey by way of a couple of events that were never before seen by our organization.

Throughout June and July, Arrowmen from across the country traveled to the Summit Bechtel Reserve for a chance to be a part of a one-of-a-kind event called Prism. An unforgettable program was developed that focused on attendees traveling back through their personal OA experience while also rekindling the spirit of the Order within their hearts and consciences. While at the SBR, groups had the opportunity to experience several of the first class program areas and be a part of some of the first groups to see the Summit Circle first hand, since its official opening in April.

As Prism concluded, another one-of-a-kind event began. Lodges and sections sent groups of their current and up-and-coming leaders to Indiana University where these leaders convened for NEXT: A New Century. Delegates were challenged to embrace an innovative mindset as they were given the tools needed to ignite a change. Whether that change was within in the OA program or their personal lives, a deep understanding of how to recognize where change is needed and how to appropriately take action was central to the delegate experience. After delegates embraced this culture of innovation, they were asked to evaluate many outlets within the OA's program and propose potential ways of making our program better for our next generation of members.

Even with two unique events this past summer, Arrowmen continued to have a chance to embark upon a journey at one of the BSA's national high adventure bases with the Order of the Arrow High Adventure programs. These programs provided an experience like no other and have been referred to as life changing programs that encourage participants to grow physically, mentally and emotionally.

With just these three events alone, it is easy to understand why Scouting and the Order of the Arrow came alive during these past few summer months. The question for you is simple. What was your adventure this summer?

Yours in Cheerful Service,

Hunter Jones  
2016 National Chief

Tyler Inberg  
2016 National Vice Chief

## Hoffman takes the helm as national chairman to start OA's second century

Elisha Valladares-Cormier  
CONTENT TEAM

Mike Hoffman has been a member of the Order of the Arrow for 38 years and has been a leader at every level of the organization, from chapter chief all the way up to serving as the national vice chief in 1985. Now, add one more job to that - national chairman. Hoffman took over the position from former chairman, Ray Capp, on June 1st.

Hoffman, a member of Wipala Wiki Lodge, was originally inducted into Awase Lodge in the Wisconsin-based Bay-Lakes Council in 1978. Upon joining, he immediately became enthralled with the OA, reading the entire handbook on the trip home from his Ordeal. "I was connected, inspired and ready to continue on the journey," Mike said about his first impression of the OA.

Although he was unable to become heavily involved within the first year due to the almost hour long drive each way to chapter meetings, he remained excited to be part of the organization. In 1979, his family moved to Arizona, where Hoffman's father founded the company that Mike now works at as president and CEO. Upon getting there, Mike joined Wipala Wiki and, thanks to a generous adult leader who helped get him to events, began to become heavily involved at the chapter level, eventually becoming chapter chief.

This first experience in leadership opened the doors to serving in more leadership positions. After serving a term as lodge vice chief of communications and then as lodge vice chief of events, he was elected lodge chief before being elected to two terms as section chief for what was then Section W-4C. It was after his reelection to section chief that he was elected by his fellow section



chiefs to become the national vice chief at the 1984 National Planning Meeting. At the time, Hoffman was a sophomore in college. "It was both a humbling and exciting experience," he said. "The ability to meet and connect with Arrowmen across the country and the ability to represent the Order of the Arrow and the Boy Scouts of America is just wonderful."

At the end of his term, Hoffman took the advice of the national chairman and director who told him that while he had done a great job, it was time for him to move on and finish college, get a job and start a family. So from 1986 to 1992, he did just that. Hoffman graduated from Arizona State University in 1987 before joining the company his father founded. However, he continued to attend national events and in 1992 began reimmersing himself into the organization, becoming a member of the National OA Committee in 1995. He served there as vice chairman of training and, in 2006, became the vice chairman of national events, becoming involved in every facet of the 2015 centennial celebration.

He was serving in that capacity when his appointment as national chairman was announced.

As chairman, Hoffman has five main goals that he wants to accomplish during his tenure. "First and foremost, we must continue and increase the development of tools and strategies for units, chapters and lodges," he said. "Secondly, [we] must continue to think about how we can stay at the forefront of technology as a tool to support all levels of the organization. Third, we must remember that our responsibility is to support Scouting in local councils. We must also remain financially strong and, finally, we must pay attention to what creates better Arrowmen and how we can assist the individual while they are Arrowmen."

"I'm excited to have the opportunity to be in the chairmanship and very excited to have the opportunity to guide these exceptional national officers in providing a great program for Arrowmen across the country," Hoffman said. We look forward to the many successful years of the OA under his chairmanship.

# Scouts present Report to the Nation



**Michael French**  
HUMAN INTEREST LEAD

Meeting the President of the United States in the Oval Office is something that most Americans do not get to do. However, a select group of representatives from the Boy Scouts of America got to do just that and meet other government officials while presenting them with the Boy Scouts of America 2015 Report to the Nation. The

report to the nation is one of the oldest traditions in Scouting and is actually required as part of the BSA's congressional charter. The report provides an update on how Scouting is impacting our nation's youth.

The report occurred earlier this year, during the first week of March. The group of representatives covered all aspects of the Scouting program and came from all across the country. The Order

of the Arrow was represented by 2016 National Chief Hunter Jones.

Meeting President Obama was only one part of the trip. The group also met members of the President's Cabinet such as Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx and Secretary of Veterans Affairs Bob McDonald. While meeting with these officials, they discussed ways to get

younger Americans outdoors and to be more active.

Besides the executive branch of the government, the group also met with leaders on the legislative side. This included Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, Senator Rand Paul, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, and Representative Pete Sessions, who is a Distinguished Eagle Scout. The group presented a copy of the report to each congressman

and even got to take selfies with Speaker Ryan and Minority Leader Pelosi.

The scouts all had a great and memorable time on the trip to Washington D.C. and even developed strong friendships with each other. After the trip, National Chief Hunter Jones tweeted, "It has been a true honor to have spent a week at #BSA2015RTN with a group of people I can now call my family."

## Share your creativity and apply soon for the Innovation Award

**Kyle Hoffmann**  
GENERAL ASSIGNMENT LEAD

Every lodge and chapter has its own unique history. Since no two lodges and chapters are alike, it goes without saying that none have the same way of creating the best program possible. When a lodge or chapter has an exceptionally creative and effective way of improving their program, they can be rewarded for it and have their improvement showcased as some of the OA's best practices.

In highlighting unique improvements in lodge or chapter program, the OA developed the Innovation

Award. Given annually to two lodges in each region, it serves as a recognition for the most innovative lodges in the nation. To be eligible for the award, the lodge or chapter must submit the OA Innovation Award petition by December 31st. The lodge or chapter submitting the petition describes their innovation by responding to the following:

1. Achieve Order of the Arrow Journey to Excellence Bronze, Silver or Gold level recognition. Summarize your 2016 JTE results.
2. Describe the challenge or opportunity you identified. What was the issue you faced?

3. Describe the idea your chapter or lodge implemented to address the challenge or opportunity you identified. What did you do? Who was involved? When and where did this occur? What were the costs?
4. What success did your chapter or lodge have with this idea? What was the result? Cite statistics and numbers where applicable. How has this new idea benefited the Order of the Arrow or Scouting?
5. What will happen in the future? How do you plan to continue and/or to grow this idea? Explain how the idea will be sustained over time.

6. Describe how your idea furthers the mission and purpose of the Order of the Arrow, its members, or the Scouting program in your council.
7. Include any support materials you used.

Petitions must be between one and four pages and can be submitted by scanning and emailing to [stephanie.jordan@scouting.org](mailto:stephanie.jordan@scouting.org), or mailing to:

Order of the Arrow,  
Boy Scouts of America,  
1325 West Walnut Hill  
Lane, P.O. Box 152079,  
Irving, TX 75015-2079.

Once received, the National OA Committee will select the recipients based on the responses given in the petition.

If selected, recipients will be given a \$1,000 donation to their council's endowment by the National OA Committee. Additionally, a certificate will be presented at the National Annual Meeting of the Boy Scouts of America during each of the four regional luncheons. Receiving this award is not solely an honor for your chapter or lodge, but it also points the way for the rest of the nation to see your lodge or chapter as an example of excellence to be modeled after.

# Leaders gather to reflect on OA's past, celebrate future at Summit Circle dedication



**Clayton Carte**  
CONTENT TEAM

Located in the mountains of West Virginia, secluded within the Summit Bechtel Reserve, is a brand new hidden gem of the Order of the Arrow. The Summit Circle celebrates our past one hundred years while connecting us to the next century. Using elements of the original OA ring from Treasure Island and the lodge rocks sent in from across the country, the Summit Circle is a historic landmark showcasing the OA.

This April, national OA leaders both young and old gathered to dedicate the new ceremony ring. Among the attendees were past and present national officers and members of the National OA Committee. Part of the dedication ceremony included "passing the flame" from 2015 Unami Lodge Chief, Tim Reppert, to 2015 C-4B Section Chief,

Nate Steele, symbolizing the move from Treasure Island to the Summit Circle. Nate described the ceremony as, "a gathering of both the old and new leadership, [allowing] members to share stories and reflect on the last one hundred years of our Order." Older members in attendance shared stories about their tenure in the Order, much to the delight of the current youth leadership.

The attendees also planted trees around the Summit Circle as part of the weekend. Nate said that the older members were working as hard as the younger ones, if not harder. He added that their work ethic is the reason our organization has continued to grow and develop for decades. Building a strong second century starts with learning from the past. There are many lessons about planning a section gathering, running a lodge event, or coordinating a chapter meeting that more experienced older

members can teach us. The older generations paved the trail to today - the youth must continue the path for tomorrow.

One of the current youth leaders in attendance was 2016 Central Region Chief Logan Greene. His favorite part of the event was celebrating the OA and its long history. "It was humbling to walk down the Reflection Trail and see all of the lodge rocks," Green said. He added that the hundreds of lodge rocks showcase how large of a program the OA is and how large of an impact we have made nationwide.

The rocks were collected as part of the centennial celebration with one submitted from each lodge, bearing the lodge name and hometown. In addition, rocks were submitted for historic merged lodges. After being displayed at NOAC last summer, they were used to build the Summit Circle. Rocks from historic

lodges form the trailhead, representing the beginning of the OA. On the trail the columns are built with active lodges showcasing our current program. At the top of each column is a quote from either our founders or the pre-ordeal ceremony, further connecting Arrowmen to our historic roots. At the end of the trail is the ceremony ring featuring the Treasure Island podium where Dr. E. Urner Goodman stood, the centennial fire ring from the 2015 NOAC, and monuments detailing the original Ordeal tests. The combination of so many elements bring together the long, rich history of the OA.

The Summit Circle is a unique place that all Arrowmen should visit. Nate Steele described the circle as part of history, but also part of nature. He mentioned the sounds of a stream running alongside the circle and the wind rustling through the trees. The ceremony

ring is a quiet place nestled within the business of the Summit Bechtel Reserve. Greene added, "It is all very humbling and inspiring." This past summer, Prism attendees were some of the first to experience the many elements of the ceremony ring. Arrowmen are encouraged to follow in future years through the OA Summit Experience program, national jamborees, and other events held at the Summit Bechtel Reserve.

The Summit Circle stands as a testament to the history of the OA. Greene described it as our way of setting the beginning to our future. For many years to follow, Arrowmen will gather at the ceremony site and witness history retold from Treasure Island in 1915 to the centennial celebration in 2015. The dedication ceremony was a reflection of the stories that comprise our brotherhood and the beginning of many more stories for brothers who follow in our footsteps.

BRAND NEW

## Inductions portal

Inductions are a crucial facet of the Order of the Arrow. Each lodge has a responsibility to run their inductions and ceremonies in a way that will be memorable for each candidate and will ensure

that each member of the OA shares a similar experience. This can be a difficult thing to ask of lodges, so resources have been made available to help improve lodge inductions and ceremonies. These

resources are now compiled and available in an online portal for all those who are interested. Learn more about the OA's induction process and help your lodge grow at [oa.bsa.org/inductions](http://oa.bsa.org/inductions).

# Reflecting on Prism

This past June and July, over 1,350 Arrowmen traveled across the country to attend Prism, a once-in-a-lifetime experience offered at the Summit Bechtel Reserve (SBR). There were eight sessions of Prism offered over the course of four weeks; each session spanned four days and three nights. Through heat and humidity, as well as rain and mud, participants had an experience full of adventure and discovery.

Prism began with a welcome orientation from the staff, ensuring participants understood the program and overall intent. This led

into a game encouraging participants to mingle with each other as a way to get to know more Arrowmen, and then an ice cream social followed to wrap up the first night. For the next two days, participants were either out partaking in the program offered at the Scott Summit Center or providing service to the SBR.

Daytime activities included all the adventure opportunities offered at Action Point, Goodrich Lake, and Boulder Cove. These activities included mountain biking on the Jared Harvey Mountain Bike Trails

(especially fun in light rain and mud), learning how to skateboard and ride BMX, and exploring the Sustainability Treehouse, in addition to so much more! Participants had the benefit of smaller wait times and lines, allowing them to experience more program; one of the best reasons to attend the SBR in a non-jamboree year.

The service project took place along the back roads of Basecamp Alpha. Each participant gave three hours of their time to perform service. Tyler Fine, the Prism service coordinator, guided the participants in their cheerful



service. “Participants worked together through their shared values to create three emergency escape trails, two anti-erosion walls, and helped to beautify the Summit Circle. Although the service projects were short, it is undeniable that they left a positive change on the [SBR],” Fine stated. In total, Prism participants provided 3,435 service hours to the SBR, a proud accomplishment. Additionally, participants raised \$5,000 for flood relief efforts which was presented to the United Way of Southern West Virginia. This money was raised through patch auctions and the generosity of the participants, furthering the OA’s purpose of cheerful service.

Each evening participants convened at the main campsite for a few hours to reflect on their OA journey thus far. The entire experience culminated in the dedication ceremony at the Summit Circle. Participants renewed their sense of purpose and pledged to

continue to provide cheerful service to their community. For many, the ceremony truly was a highlight of their entire Scouting journey thus far. Andrew Boggs, a participant during the seventh session, said, “The ceremony was the coolest part...the scenery was amazing. [It] made me think about my past and what I’ll do in the future.” Aaron Gluck, a Southern Region staff member, said, “When I first signed up to staff, I wasn’t sure what I was going to experience, but I was able to create new friendships and rekindle old ones. The best part of the week was getting to perform the ceremony in the Summit Circle which truly inspired me.”

Throughout their entire stay, participants realized that they themselves are Prism’s, mediums to inspire, serve, and lead. This realization allowed participants to contemplate their past and plan for their future journey in the OA. The dawn of our second century is looking very bright.

# 2016 Josh Sain Memorial Scholarship recipients



*Pictured above: Josh Sain*

## Honoring the spirit and the memory of Josh Sain

The National Order of the Arrow is pleased to announce the recipients of the Josh Sain Memorial Scholarship for 2016. This scholarship is provided to immediate past national officers and section chiefs based on exceptional honor the spirit and memory of Josh Sain, service and scholastic achievement.

### AWARD RECIPIENTS



#### RICKY D. ANGELETTI

Ricky D. Angeletti is a member of the Great Trail Council, Marnoc Lodge, headquartered in Akron, OH. Ricky is a senior majoring in accounting at the University of Akron.



#### MATTHEW L. BELL

Matthew L. Bell is a member of the Bucktail Council, Ah'Tic Lodge, headquartered in Dubois, PA. Matthew is a sophomore majoring in geology at Lock Haven University.



#### TAYLOR L. BOBROW

Taylor L. Bobrow is a member of the Tidewater Council, Blue Heron Lodge, headquartered in Virginia Beach, VA. Taylor is a junior majoring in electrical engineering at Old Dominion University.



#### TRAVIS B. BROADHURST

Travis B. Broadhurst is a member of the Daniel Boone Council, Tsali Lodge, headquartered in Asheville, NC. Travis is a sophomore majoring in geophysics and energy at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



#### PATRICK S. BURTCHAELL

Patrick S. Burtchaell is a member of the Southeast Louisiana Council, Chilantakoba Lodge, headquartered in Metairie, LA. Patrick is a sophomore majoring in design at Loyola University New Orleans.



#### ALEXANDER C. CALL

Alexander C. Call is a member of the Sam Houston Area Council, Colonneh Lodge, headquartered in Houston, TX. Alex is a junior majoring in marketing at The University of Texas at Austin.



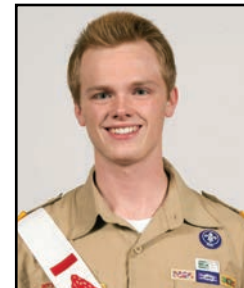
#### VIANNEY M. CAREAGA

Vianney M. Careaga is a member of the Catalina Council, Papago Lodge, headquartered in Tucson, AZ. Vianney is a sophomore majoring in political science at the University of Arizona.



#### NICHOLAS G. DANNEMILLER

Nicholas G. Dannemiller is a member of the Cascade Pacific Council, Wauna La-Mon'tay Lodge, headquartered in Portland, OR. Nicholas is a senior majoring in wildlife biology at Colorado State University.



#### JOSEPH M. DIERDORF

Joseph M. Dierdorf, II is a member of the Crossroads of America Council, Jaccos Towne Lodge, headquartered in Indianapolis, IN. Joey is a sophomore majoring in art and political science at Wabash College.



#### NEIL P. HARRIS

Neil P. Harris is a member of the Connecticut Yankee Council, Owaneco Lodge, headquartered in Milford, CT. Neil is a senior majoring in management of sport industries at the University of New Haven.



#### ALEXANDER M. HUGHES

Alexander M. Hughes is a member of the Chester County Council, Octoraro Lodge, headquartered in West Chester, PA. Alexander is a junior majoring in neuroscience at the University of Delaware.



## AWARD RECIPIENTS



### ALEXANDER I. LEACH

Alexander I. Leach is a member of the Atlanta Area Council, Egwa Tawa Dee Lodge, headquartered in Atlanta, GA. Alexander is a junior majoring in biology at Augusta University.



### BRANDON J. SINCLAIR

Brandon J. Sinclair is a member of the President Ford Field Service Council, Nataepu Shohpe Lodge, headquartered in Grand Rapids, MI. Brandon is a junior majoring in business administration at Grand Rapids Community College.



### JAKE W. TORPEY

Jake W. Torpey is a member of the Longhorn Council, Netopalis Sipo Schipinack Lodge, headquartered in Hurst, TX. Jake is a sophomore majoring in civil engineering at Texas A&M University.



### MITCHELL R. LEONARD

Mitchell R. Leonard is a member of the Illowa Council, Konepaka Ketiwa Lodge, headquartered in Davenport, IA. Mitchell is a sophomore majoring in public relations and interactive digital studies at the University of Northern Iowa.



### DONALD J. STEPHENS

Donald J. Stephens is a member of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Council, Lowwapaneu Lodge, headquartered in Moosic, PA. Donald is a sophomore majoring in economics and political science at the College of the Holy Cross.



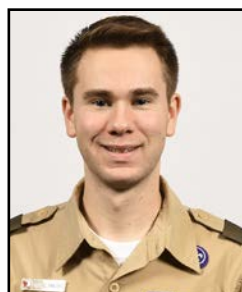
### SETH D. TRUITT

Seth D. Truitt is a member of the Last Frontier Council, Ma-Nu Lodge, headquartered in Oklahoma City, OK. Seth is a freshman majoring in entrepreneurial studies at the University of Oklahoma.



### KYLE J. PIPER

Kyle J. Piper is a member of the Seneca Waterways Council, Tschipey Achtu Lodge, headquartered in Rochester, NY. Kyle is a junior majoring in political science at SUNY Geneseo.



### MICHAEL T. SWALBERG

Michael T. Swalberg is a member of the Marin Council, Talako Lodge, headquartered in San Rafael, CA. Michael is a junior majoring in political science at the University of California at Davis.



### ETHAN C. VEIT

Ethan C. Veit is a member of the Great Rivers Council, Nampa-Tsi Lodge, headquartered in Columbia, MO. Ethan is a junior majoring in biochemistry at Columbia College.



## A tradition of carving arrows

Having Ordeal candidates occupy their down time, in silence, by carving a wooden arrow is a common custom in the OA from the East Coast to the West Coast. Many may wonder where this custom began. Discussions among the OA's history buffs has shed no light on the origin of this custom. What is known is that the custom was in use as early as the 1940s.

A recent discussion thread on a Facebook page turned up an email and two photographs from Branden Morris, Grand Monadnock Lodge Adviser from 2000 to 2008. The photographs from the late 1940s are of the interior of the Thayer Lodge dining hall at Camp Wanocksett in Dublin, NH.

"The lodge was first chartered in 1945 under the direction of Scout Executive Ted Boutilier who became familiar with the OA from other scout executives in the area," Morris wrote. "It's unknown which lodge(s) helped install Tsutsusid at Camp Wanocksett in July 1945, unfortunately, so we're not sure if our Ordeal candidate tradition came from another lodge, or was a home-grown idea. Candidates carved their name, troop and Ordeal date on the arrows, which presumably were worn during the Ordeal. Following the induction, the arrows were hung from the walls in Thayer Lodge," Morris continued.

Just as it is common for Wood Badge patrols or aquatics camps to leave behind a physical record of their participation at that camp with a membership board or names on crossed paddles, each "class" of Ordeal members in Tsutsusid Lodge, and its successor lodges, suspended their groupings of hand carved arrows along the walls of Thayer Lodge.



While Thayer Lodge is no more, Morris saved the arrows and the history they tell for later display. As for "notching" arrows when candidates failed to comply with their vows, another widespread tradition, Morris reported when he was inducted into Quonopin Lodge in 1987 they did that. However, when Grand Monadnock was formed in 1994,

the notching custom went away. It is recorded: "...but to this date we still have candidates who make arrows - they just take them home."

Have a clue about where this tradition started? Have an interesting OA history tidbit or question? Contact the History & Preservation team through [archives@oa-bsa.org](mailto:archives@oa-bsa.org).

## SPECIAL FEATURE

### Antonin Scalia: Supreme Court Justice and Arrowman

Michael French  
HUMAN INTEREST LEAD

This past February, America lost one of the most notable names in judicial history: Associate Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. Throughout his time on the Supreme Court, America learned much about Justice Scalia in terms of his stances on political and social issues. However, there are some less known facts about Justice Scalia's life outside of the Supreme Court. One such fact is that Justice Scalia was a Boy Scout and a member of the Order of the Arrow.

Unfortunately, what is known about Justice Scalia's Scouting history is minimal at best. He was a member of Troop 17 in Queens, NY and was a member of Suanhacky Lodge. In 2013 Suanhacky Lodge merged and is now a part of Kintecoying Lodge, which is now a part of the Greater New York Councils. What we do know about the late Justice is the impact that the OA and Scouting had on his life.

One of the unique aspects of the Boy Scouts of America is that it brings together people from different backgrounds and gives them the opportunity to work together. At the end of the day, once you are able to set your differences aside, you learn to understand and respect the other people that you are working with. Justice Scalia did the same thing. He was once quoted as saying, "I attack ideas. I don't

attack people. And some very good people have some very bad ideas. And if you can't separate the two, you gotta get another day job." Perhaps it was Scouting that taught the late Justice that in order to succeed, you need to be able to see people as people and not by what describes them.

Boy Scouts are also known for their leadership and service. As members of the OA, we exemplify these qualities. With this leadership and service comes a time when important decisions need to be made. Sometimes these decisions are popular and other times they are not. However, at the end of the day these decisions are what are best. This was something that Justice Scalia embodies on his decisions in the Supreme Court. He was once quoted as saying, "I don't worry about my legacy. Just do your job right, and who cares?" Justice Scalia made his decisions not because he thought that they would make him popular, but because he believed they were right and best for our country.

In the end, Justice Scalia was a man of many things: judge, lawyer, public servant, author, Boy Scout and Arrowman. Although he never earned his Eagle Scout medal or received the Vigil Honor, he still lived a very accomplished life and carried the values that come from the Boy Scouts and the OA with him throughout his life.

## Ray Capp reflects on tenure as national chairman

**Jacob Parker**  
CONTENT TEAM

This May marked the end of Ray Capp's tenure as chairman of the National Order of the Arrow committee. Capp, an Arrowman from Nashville, TN, first took the position in 2009. As the OA is a youth-led organization, we look to our national chief as the man in charge and sometimes overlook the important work done by adult volunteers. Capp has done his best to stay out of the spotlight, insisting instead that the attention and focus remain on youth leaders.

A 13 year-old Eagle Scout, Capp was highly involved in the OA and Scouting in general (he earned 90 merit badges, for example), serving as the OA representative at his summer camp for seven years. He became involved again as an adult when his son, out of the blue, volunteered him to be his troop's new scoutmaster! Since then, Capp has been roped into one leadership position after another. He has served on countless committees, often following his sons through their Scouting journey. He's proud to say that his sons, Peter and Clay both served as chapter, lodge, and section chiefs. Clay went on to be the national chief in 2002. Beyond the OA, Capp continues to serve on the Youth Protection, Museum, Outdoor Adventure, National Nominating and Marketing committees, as well as on the National Court of Honor.

Long before becoming chairman, Capp was no stranger to cheerful service. As chairman, he dedicated



himself to improving the way that the OA provides service, along with everything else we do. He created several new subcommittees focusing on issues ranging from membership/retention as well as history and preservation continuing through to development and the Unit, Chapter, Lodge Subcommittee. In his work, Capp has pushed the development of youth leaders, all the way down to individual units, chapters and lodges where he says the program is delivered "on the front lines".

As the longest tenured member of the National Scouting Museum, Capp also sees the importance of "observing and preserving the traditions of the OA". He oversaw the Legacy Project

at the 2015 NOAC, even building the first Centennial Crate himself. The preservation of the Treasure Island OA fire ring at the new Summit Circle has also been a personal effort for Capp. Can you imagine that all the lodge rocks destined for the Summit Circle were in his basement for 3-4 years?

Capp also pushed the OA to keep an eye on the future. In the coming years, Capp says the way the OA operates will have to evolve with our changing world. Even before our centennial NOAC, volunteers have been gathering ideas of how we can make sure that our Order stays relevant for another hundred years. Arrowmen at NOAC experienced some of those new concepts and

those who attend NEXT later this year will take the first steps into our next hundred years.

"It's a huge honor to have the opportunity to see a close up of history being made," Capp said. "We have a front row seat at the spearhead of the BSA."

“  
We have a front row seat at the spearhead of the BSA.  
Ray Capp”

While he may be too humble to admit it, Capp himself is a big part of the history being made. Earlier this year, he was named the National Alumnus of the Year by the BSA Alumni Association, an award given to volunteers

who help grow and improve the Scouting movement. Capp is also a recipient of the Silver Buffalo, Silver Beaver and OA Distinguished Service Awards, among others.

In short, Ray Capp has long dedicated himself to Scouting and is well deserving of the extra 50 hours a week he thinks he'll get back soon. He hopes to spend that time woodworking, finally building his wife the dollhouse he promised her in 1977. As for Scouting, Capp says he's never asked for a job in his life and he'll just have to see what comes to him next. As he puts it, "Right now, I am happy being the old man in the corner of the troop meeting in my rocking chair, teaching Tote 'n Chip!"

## Lodges and sections take conclave spirit to the next level



### Kyle Hoffmann

GENERAL ASSIGNMENT LEAD

At a lodge or chapter camping weekend, between the time dedicated to service, one can often relax, unwind and peacefully enjoy nature. One can hear birds singing, wind rustling through the trees and leaves crunching under the feet of wild animals. Nothing beats the feeling of relaxation after a long day of service at a lodge or chapter event. There is, however, something that comes close.

Here, instead of the sounds of nature, one hears repeated chants, the humming of inflatables and the thunderous feet of Scouts sprinting. The only thing that can come close to the satisfaction of cheerful service in the tranquility of the outdoors, is the thrill of the annual weekend spent

with a few hundred of your closest friends: your section conclave. Every spring, summer and fall, sections throughout the country host their conclave - a weekend full of fun and fellowship, fueled by an overwhelming amount of spirit.

Yes, every year, we Arrowmen see spirit all around us at our section conclaves. We hear the chants. We see the displays. We are amazed, wondering how the flagpoles, holding the banners of each lodge, seem to get a little bit taller each year. Sometimes, we are truly in total awe of the spirit that some lodges show. From crafting cardboard TIE fighters to having a Santa theme, some lodges take spirit to the next level. How? We searched the country to find out.

Section C-2 encompasses the state of Michigan and rotates their annual

conclave between the different camps of each lodge in the section. At the Council of Chiefs meeting, a section-wide theme is created each year for the conclave. The Arrowmen of C-2 came from across the galaxy this year to converge on a Star Wars themed conclave vying for the Coup Stick - the section's spirit award. Arrowmen channeled their inner Force to get excited for this first conclave of the OA's second century.

Throughout the years, lodges in C-2 have made lasting memories through their dedication to spirit. This year one lodge made a TIE fighter out of cardboard. A few years ago, when the section sported a medieval theme, another lodge lashed logs together to create a throne for their lodge chief. David Clegg, chief of Agaming Maangogwan Lodge, explained that a few

years ago, a series of mergers between councils gave the section a new look. Despite this, the strong spirit in the Arrowmen of C-2 was unfazed. David said that the lodge spirit throughout C-2 had stayed strong after the mergers. He continued, "It reminded Arrowmen that it's still fun, it's still the OA and that you can still have a good time."

On the other hand, in the Southern Region, Arrowmen throughout the state of Virginia come together once a year for the SR-7A conclave. Unlike C-2, each lodge selects a theme for conclave annually. This year, lodges came dressed as the Greek mythological figures, characters from the movie Cool Runnings and several other wacky themes. One year Wahunsenakah Lodge fashioned a sleigh. A former SR-7A vice chief and Tutelo lodge chief said that he loves how lodges go all out for their respective themes and he feels that spirit is essential for an excellent conclave. He thinks that it is the driving force of all

the Arrowmen at the event and can make or break your conclave. Fortunately, due to dedication by lodges of SR-7A, they have never seen a conclave that featured a lack of spirit. In fact, it has always been quite the contrary.

One year, Christmas came a little early with Wahunsenakah Lodge riding a sleigh through conclave, passing out gifts to Arrowmen around camp. Another year, the section witnessed the dark side of spirit as Shenandoah Lodge painted their lodge chief's face to look like Darth Maul.

Conclaves are always great weekends for Arrowmen, full of fellowship and a good time experiencing Scouting across your section. The fun is always amplified when your lodge takes its spirit to the next level. As we enter into our second century as an Order, we have to remember that by taking our spirit to the next tier, we can grow stronger as a brotherhood of cheerful service and make this century even better than the last.



# SR-7A CEREMONIES WEEKEND



**Clayton Carte**  
CONTENT TEAM

On the weekend of April 15 - 17th, over 60 participants arrived at Camp T. Brady Saunders in the beautiful Heart of Virginia Council. Of that, over two-thirds were youth ceremony team members who enthusiastically arrived to deepen their understanding of ceremonies and to share their experience in brotherhood with others.

Over the past couple of years, it began to appear that instead of working alongside one another, the lodges had a sense that each year at conclave, they would send their best team to 'compete' against the other lodges and discover which team is the best. This is a common trend found across the nation, and while this was great as far as a friendly competition to push each other to improve, it didn't really appear to be the most beneficial approach.

Recently, the leadership has been pushing to transition from the idea of having competitions, to instead showcasing evaluations. These evaluations focus on valuable feedback for the participating Arrowmen on

their performance and ability in portraying the important principals of our Order. This was the intent behind the SR-7A ceremonies weekend.

Participants started their adventure on Friday evening, when youth were organized in bunkhouses based on the ceremonial principal they identified. In those groups they were able to form the strongest bonds of brotherhood, and spend hours in conversation talking earnestly about how to portray the principal. After a night of OA jeopardy, Arrowmen rested up and prepared themselves for the day of learning ahead of them. Since nearly every participant was at a different skill level, all program activities were set up as learning opportunities. This made the time the Arrowmen had together worthwhile.

A major highlight was the "Or-Deal" tournament on Saturday afternoon. "Or-Deal" is a card game created by Jay Dunbar, one of the authors of the 1979 Pre-Ordeal ceremony and the 2015 Brotherhood ceremony, who was a special guest at the weekend. The game consists of players working to create the best "hand" of factors

that go into planning an Ordeal weekend, including cards like "Elangomats" and "Ceremonialists," with the goal of having the best Ordeal weekend setup as possible. Not only is it a fun game but also a fantastic learning opportunity on how to plan an Ordeal. As a prize for the first officially sanctioned "Or-Deal" tournament ever held, Jay Dunbar awarded the winner with the lodge flap he wore during the time he was a lodge chief.

After breakfast on Sunday morning, each participating team took part in ceremony evaluations. These were based on the NOAC honor lodge standard. Paul Lackie, head national evaluations trainer, was present during the evaluations, as he has been before for the previous six Section SR-7A Conclaves. The evaluations, although in depth, were not expecting an honor level standard from each team. Instead, the purpose was to use the guide to best help teams improve. This was accomplished by discovering parts of the ceremony that needed improvement, no matter what level the team is at as a whole. More great resources and coaches for the success of the weekend included Alex Deloach, Michael Todd, Johnny Cirillo and Ryan Showman, all of whom are experienced ceremonialists from Tipisa Lodge in Florida who served on ICE staff at NOAC 2015. They were present through the whole weekend and were a huge inspiration to the youth attendees. The evaluations were so widely enjoyed that SR-7A is even considering moving the official section ceremony evaluations from conclave to this ceremonies weekend in the future, to allow ceremonialists more

time to participate in the conclave program.

Like many memorable events, the ceremonies weekend started off as just an idea. It originated from an informal conversation between two advisers after a long day of section ceremony evaluations. Gary Harvey and Paul Teasley discussed the present problem of Arrowmen having difficulty getting kick-started in ceremonies. They realized it often takes a good amount of time that could be better spent taking skills to the next level, instead of fumbling through the motions of a ceremony text for the first or fourth time. That's where the idea of the ceremonies weekend was born. Quite simply, it is a time dedicated to this entry level experience and knowledge passed down by the veterans that came before them. It was a phenomenal way for new enthusiastic Arrowmen to get involved and learn more about ceremonies.

From the informal idea, a healthy mix of team members from each lodge of Section SR-7A came together to make the event happen. The idea was presented and officially approved by the Council of Chiefs (COC), a gathering of leaders from each lodge. Nawakwa Lodge volunteered to host the event at Camp T. Brady Saunders, since the location is central and has great outdoor and indoor venues. Sheridan Parkison, who is the youth that served as the main organizer of the event and holds the position of conclave vice chief of ceremonies in SR-7A, deserves much of the credit for this weekend's success. According to Dave Pratt, SR-7A Ceremonies Adviser, there are two major reasons for the success of this event: the

youth, and the time set aside to make it all happen. Dave succeeded Gary Harvey from Tutelo Lodge as the section ceremonies adviser, a role that he believes had the bar set high. "Gary was a tough act to follow" recalled Dave, and they worked closely together overseeing this vision that was laid out by the youth in front of them.

First, Dave is proud of the qualified youth that stepped up to organize the event. Experienced ceremonialists led engaging sessions that were informative and rewarding. The participants found the trainers credible and looked up to them with respect. Without the youth, the ceremonies weekend would have turned out entirely different.

Secondly, because of how in-depth ceremonies are, Dave believes that the ceremonies weekend was a huge hit due to the fact they basically had a whole weekend to dive through them, instead of for most of us who may have gotten a five minute 'heads up' to learn a part for the first time and fill in a role for a ceremony on Friday night. If you have ever been in that situation, then you can imagine how beneficial committing time to walking through the motions, symbolism, meaning, emotion and message of the ceremonial texts will help you better understand them. That is the key to providing ceremonies that are pivotal in the Scouting careers of our members. It's also what contributes to the success of some of the top nationally recognized honor lodges across the country. For more information about this event, or to stay updated and see when you can register for 2017, keep an eye on the Section SR-7A website!

# CONCLAVE TRAINING INITIATIVE

## CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE

For the last thirteen years, the Conclave Training Initiative (CTI) has sought to enhance the training program of conclaves across the nation by providing section leadership with sessions on unique and innovative content. The team has put out a multitude of great content over the years, yet the frontier of high quality training still has plenty of new avenues to explore. Many of the greatest changes and ideas regarding conclave training, however, have grown from local trainers and section training teams.

To share these incredible ideas and continue innovative conclave training across the country, the CTI team has created the Conclave Training Initiative Circle of Excellence. A program designed with the notion that our greatest training resources are the individuals out in the field who test their training locally, the Circle of Excellence seeks out the submissions of Arrowmen who have trained at a conclave with a session of their own.

From now until October 1, 2016, conclave trainers and section leadership can help in this endeavor by submitting their original training sessions to [cti@oa-bsa.org](mailto:cti@oa-bsa.org). These training sessions will be reviewed by CTI staff. The team will then select sessions best suited to reshape future conclave



training across the nation. Those sessions will join the Circle of Excellence and will be available concurrently with the OA's 2017 CTI sessions. Arrowmen across the nation will then have access to these trainings for section conclaves and training events.

The CTI team encourages submissions of training cells, no matter what it may be. Local ideas will help us continue to make conclave training more informative,

creative and exciting as we enter our second century. We look forward to working with you and creating something great together in the future.

Criteria for submissions to the CTI's Circle of Excellence can be found below. Visit the CTI webpage for more information on this year's sessions. Questions on the CTI program can be directed towards [cti@oa-bsa.org](mailto:cti@oa-bsa.org).

#### Criteria for submissions:

1. All submissions must be received by October 1, 2016. Submitters may provide their first name and must provide their section and lodge.
2. Training session submissions must contain a syllabus with sufficient detail to replicate the cell in a similar environment.
3. Supplemental material may be submitted, but this is not required. This

material will only serve to enhance the quality of the submission.

4. The sessions determined to provide the most unique and high quality material that fit the above criteria will be selected by the CTI team to publish on the national OA website.
5. The CTI group reserves the right to edit sessions for grammar, branding and style, and content revisions.

# Tips for running a lodge executive committee meeting



**Ben Pycraft**  
CONTENT TEAM

Keeping lodge executive committee meetings running smoothly, no matter the size, is a common struggle across the OA. In the lodge, there is a lot to worry about – from experienced officers to brand new chairmen, there is always something going on and being planned. The idea of getting all the planners together for a lodge executive committee meeting may be a challenging thought, but there are some simple tricks to have effective meetings and do away with arguments, side conversations and battle lines.

Whether you're a lodge chief looking for a way to better improve meetings, or a brand new committee member looking to get some experience under your belt, the following list will help you.

## Be punctual

If you set the start time of the meeting to be at 2:00 PM, the meeting should be started at that time. If you are attending a meeting, be there in time to get yourself prepared, including setting up your things and finding your seat. It is also courteous to end on time as well. Even though there may be important business that needs to be tackled, if you promise the meeting will not

go on past a certain time, do your best to wrap things up and table discussions for a later time.

Have some consistency with your meetings such as a format for each one. This would include starting things off with the Pledge of Allegiance and the Obligation, for example. Everyone will know when the meeting will be started and will feel comfortable and familiar with doing the same opening each time.

## Have an agenda

Make an agenda and stick to it. Letting everyone have a copy of the plan will not only keep things moving, but will also keep everyone in the loop. When everyone knows the order of business, then you are more likely to avoid off-topic conversations or bringing up topics that are scheduled to be discussed later. You do not have to include the time for each point on the agenda, since it is difficult to plan out how long topics will take. Instead, have the order of things you want to have brought up and guide the group towards reaching a punctual ending time for everyone to get home safely after the event.

With that said, the next point is equally important – stay on topic. That is why having an agenda is so helpful, because if people don't

know what the plan is, they will not know what the best time to cover new subjects is. Do your best to keep the conversation creative but still under control and not too far out of hand. Time is valuable and everyone there is giving up time to attend the LEC meeting.

## Innovate

Do not be afraid to switch things up and try something new. When I began running the LECs for my lodge, I noticed some things that could be improved so we worked on them. One example was this tradition right after we opened where we would run through a list of every committee and chapter and hear an oral report of what has been going on since the last meeting. It was great to know what the LEC was up to, but it would not be unlikely for the process to take up 40 minutes from our agenda. It was a great refresher so instead of doing away with it, we switched to every committee submitting a written report beforehand and those reports were available for the entire LEC to read over before or during the meeting. That way, we did not have to spend precious time going through them all and could dive right into new business where the planning for things not yet done were being mapped out.

## Know your crew

If you are a lodge chief, no one knows your LEC better than you. Get to know everyone so you can better understand their viewpoints. A little understanding can go a long way between a leader and his followers!

## Keep up the momentum

Here is a common occurrence I see. People attend meetings and get pumped up during discussions, thrilled to be making some awesome plans. However, sometimes these ideas stop at words as they were spoken. Ideas are brought up, but sometimes execution does not happen. I am reminded of a quote by a Joel A. Barker, "Vision without action is merely a dream. Action without vision just passes the time. Vision with action can change the world." So make sure your vision is acted upon. Greg Kondas, lodge chief for Cuyahoga Lodge, recommends that whenever a great idea is discussed, be sure to designate someone to tackle it. Action items keep the momentum up in the off time away from the meeting dates and can ensure that progress happens on the great ideas your team comes up with.

## Work together

Even if you are not in charge of a meeting, that does not mean you have no role to play in the productivity of the meeting. You can voice questions or concerns, bring attention to things you see and add your own piece of character to the meeting, so do not let it go by silently! The executive committee is one body, one voice and you contribute to the direction the lodge goes, along with all members of the committee. That is not something to take lightly, so get out there and make every discussion worthwhile!

## Do not forget to have fun

Remember, at the end of the day, at the end of the year or at the end of the term, the LEC is a group of youth taking on huge responsibilities and learning great life skills. That does not mean you can not make sure the group has a little fun too. Whether it is grabbing a bite of pizza with everyone (or better yet, FREE pizza provided by the lodge) or setting a date to unwind and grow as brothers, not as "business associates", interactions like that will go a long way. Remember what ties us all together and find the tips that work best for your lodge to keep things running smoothly and efficiently.

# #FuelScoutingsAdventure with Operation Arrow at the 2017 National Jamboree



**Ronald Cain**  
CONTENT TEAM

The 2017 National Jamboree is just a year away! Registration is already open for Operation Arrow. You might be thinking, "Should I sign up to serve with hundreds of Arrowmen at the 2017 Jamboree?" The answer is, of course, yes! Operation Arrow was created by the OA to provide service for the 2017 National Jamboree. It is a group of staff made up of youth Arrowmen ages 16-20 from around the country to provide service for the largest and most exciting Scouting event available.

## THERE ARE FIVE KEY REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD SIGN UP TO JOIN OPERATION ARROW STAFF TODAY:

**Operation Arrow**  
@OperationArrow



**The first reason to #FuelScoutingsAdventure with @oabsa in 2017: Interact with Scouts from across the world!**

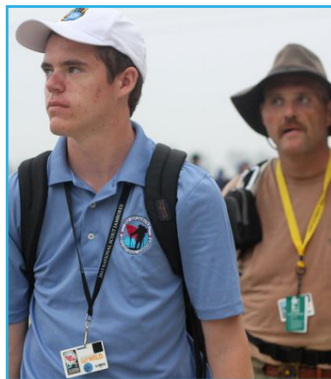


*Have the ability to interact with Scouts from all around the world. You will be able to meet and make new friends from different states around the country and even Scouts from other World Scout Associations. Now that is pretty awesome!*

**Operation Arrow**  
@OperationArrow



**The second reason to #FuelScoutingsAdventure with @oabsa in 2017: See the @BechtelSummit and @Jambo2017 in their entirety.**



*Now, for those who have just seen photos of the Summit and the jamboree, it's so much better in person. You will have the ability to explore the Summit Bechtel Reserve and see the beautiful wilderness that West Virginia has to offer, not to mention the awesome experiences that the jamboree has planned.*

**Operation Arrow**  
@OperationArrow



**The third reason to #FuelScoutingsAdventure with @oabsa: Have exclusive access to program areas prior to @Jambo2017.**



*Not all of Operation Arrow is service. If you were thinking all you would be doing is cheerful service all week, you will be pleasantly surprised. There are activities to look forward to in the many program areas that the Summit has to offer.*

**Operation Arrow**  
@OperationArrow



**The fourth reason to #FuelScoutingsAdventure with @oabsa: Experience the OA's new ceremony site at @BechtelSummit.**



*The new Order of the Arrow ceremony site, the Summit Circle, is a must see. At this ceremony site, you can take some time to reflect on the history of the OA and see what the OA has created as a brotherhood over the last 100 years. Some of the original fire rings from Treasure Island Scout Reservation where the OA was founded.*

**Operation Arrow**  
@OperationArrow



**The fifth reason to #FuelScoutingsAdventure with @oabsa: Continue a legacy of service that started in 1950.**



*The last and most important reason is to be a part of the legacy of the OA Service Corps, 60 years in the making. Being able to continue the tradition of providing meaningful service to the BSA jamboree is humbling.*

**THESE ARE JUST SOME OF THE MANY REASONS THAT YOU SHOULD SIGN UP FOR @OPERATIONARROW. SO GET OUT THERE, SIGN UP AND #FUELSOUTINGSADVENTURE AT THE 2017 NATIONAL JAMBOREE WITH THE ORDER OF THE ARROW AS A PART OF OPERATION ARROW.**