



ORDER OF THE ARROW BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA  
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 SCOUTING'S NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

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# Scouts and the Order of the Arrow to the rescue

By **BRAD KOCH**  
*Mischigonong Lodge*

On July 25–30, Mischigonong Lodge descended on Deindorfer Woods Park in Saginaw, Michigan, for a weeklong “One Day of Service.” Dubbed by the lodge as “Project SaginAWESOME,” the project sought to unite several local organizations in an effort to impart a gift of service in a “high need” urban community.

Deindorfer Woods, a 20-acre patch of forest and park in the middle of the city, suffered from many problems prior to the project. Inadequate drainage turned the entrance into a swamp during the spring. Lack of permanent structures hindered its usage. Condemned recreation equipment left children with nowhere to go and play.

All of this and more changed. Drainage was improved. A pavilion and two swing sets were erected. Trails were cleared and surfaced with 36 tons of wood chips. The parking lot was resurfaced and over 14 hazard trees were removed.

Saginaw resident Ryan Merz, 20, assistant Scoutmaster with Troop 304, trimmed branches and weeds along the trails with Scouts Austin Himmelein, 16, and Alex Prenzler, 13, of Saginaw. “It’s hot,” Merz said, wiping sweat from his forehead as he paused from work.



Arrowmen work on one of the new permanent structures to be used in Deindorfer Woods Park in Saginaw, Michigan.

“It’s good to give back.” “Everybody has been excited about it,” said Carol VanArsdale, the adviser for the project. “The response has been very positive.”

Dow employee Brad Blanchard said the project will benefit everyone in the neighborhood. He and VanArsdale said

they hope veterans and their families will use the park, which is next to the local VA hospital.

Mischigonong Lodge was hardly alone in performing this work. Aiding in the project’s success was the active involvement of the Dow Chemical

Company, headquartered in Midland, Michigan. As part of their Dow Project Challenge Project program, Dow donated \$25,000 to finance the supplies used in the park. In addition to this grant, Dow provided logistical support and the volunteering hands of over

100 employees in order to make a visible, positive impact on a declining community. Best Buy also contributed \$1,000 to the effort.

Volunteers came from several other organizations, including Saginaw County Habitat for Humanity; Local 85 Plumbers, Steamfitters & HVACR Unions, the neighboring Veteran’s Affairs hospital, and residents of the local community. All contributed their services to the restoration of the park. With a flurry of activity, construction trucks, tools, and wheelbarrows, volunteers worked for over a week to improve the park.

“This is the fun stuff we get to do,” said Scott Brink, UA Local 85 business representative. The union brought out two classes of apprentices to help rebuild the gates and help in whatever way they could.

All told, well over 250 people contributed 3,000 man-hours to this project. A park that had been largely ignored for years now finds itself frequented by Saginaw residents, many for the first time. An urban community was changed for the better thanks to the Order of the Arrow and its partner organizations, and a special thanks for the gift of cheerful service from all of those involved.

# Journey to Excellence to replace Quality Lodge program

By **WILL WELCH**  
*Staff Writer*

The Order of the Arrow’s new Journey to Excellence program will replace Quality Lodge as the primary means by which lodge performance will

be evaluated in 2012. The new program is a complete overhaul of Quality Lodge, and has been designed to fit closely with Scouting’s Journey to Excellence at the council level.

The BSA transitioned into Journey to Excellence last year as a replacement for

the Centennial Quality Awards program. The new Scouting program is designed to meet the goals of the 2011–2015 National Strategic Plan and consists of three levels of achievement: bronze, silver, and gold. The OA’s Journey to Excellence will also maintain the same achievement levels,

and aims to assist councils in meeting the goals of the strategic plan.

This effort is manifested in the design of the scorecard, which, like the council scorecard for Scouting’s Journey to Excellence, includes 17 performance measures under five categories, which

are finance, membership, program, service, and leadership and governance. Each measure is divided into bronze, silver, and gold point values representing

see **J.T.E.**, page 2

## In This Edition:

**2** **RELIEFCORPS**  
 Southern Region lodges came together to aid natural disaster victims. Read their story on page 2.



**4** **BEYOND CONFERENCE**  
 Arrowmen help plan the Boy Scout’s BEYOND Conference to shape the future of the BSA program.



**5** **REGION CHIEFS**  
 The four region chiefs talk about their most memorable moment this past year.



**7** **NLS/NLATS**  
 Find out about two of the Order of the Arrow’s national training programs.



## 2012 National Planning Calendar

### January

27 Double Vigil Golf Classic, Phoenix, AZ

### February

3-5 NLS Train-the-Trainer, Orange County, CA  
6-7 BSA National Meetings, Irving, TX  
11-16 Report to the Nation  
24-26 NLS/NLATS, Rochester, IN - Central Region

### March

2-4 NLS/NLATS, Nashville, TN - Southern Region  
9-11 NOAC Site Visit, Michigan State University  
23-25 NLS, Oahu, HI - Western Region  
NLS/NLATS, Alpine, NJ - Northeast Region

### April

13-15 NLS, Orange County, CA - Western Region  
20-22 NLS, Central City, IA - Central Region  
NLS, Dundee, NY - Northeast Region  
NOAC Fees Due

### May

30-June 1 BSA National Meeting, Orlando, FL  
31 OA National Committee Meeting, Orlando, FL

### June

2 OA Ocean Adventure Begins  
6 Northern Tier OA Voyage Begins  
Northern Tier OA Odyssey Begins  
8 Philmont OA Trail Crew Begins  
17-23 Philmont OA Advisor Training  
30 NOAC Late Fees Due

### July

24 Northern Tier OA Wilderness Voyage Ends  
Northern Tier OA Odyssey Ends  
26 OA Ocean Adventure Ends  
NOAC Staff Arrival  
27 Philmont OA Trail Crew Ends  
27-30 NOAC Trade-O-Ree  
30-31 NOAC Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

### August

1-4 NOAC Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

### September

14-16 NLS/NLATS, Davis, OK - Southern Region  
21-23 SOS, Northeast Region, TBD

### October

1 OA Charter Renewal Kits  
4 OA Staff Meeting  
5-7 NLS, Delaware, OH - Central Region  
12-14 NLS/NLATS, Estes Park, CO - Western Region  
SOS, Southern Region, New Braunfels, TX  
16 OA Steering Committee Meeting  
26-27 SOS, Western Region, Phoenix, AZ  
31 OA Service Grant Application Due

### November

2-4 NLS/NLATS, Parkville, MO - Central Region  
NLS/NLATS - Northeast Region  
16-18 NLS/NLATS, San Francisco Bay Area, CA Western Region  
NLS, Germany - Northeast Region  
NLS, King, NC - Southern Region  
SOS Central Region, Islamorada, FL

### December

27-30 National Planning Meeting, Dallas, TX  
31 OA Charter Renewal Due

## Southern Region ReliefCorps

In May 2011, lodges in the Southern Region came together to provide aid to the victims of natural disasters by participating in a project called Southern Region ReliefCorps. The project was aimed specifically at helping the victims of the devastating tornados, floods, and wildfires which affected nearly every state in the Southern Region. The project was hosted by Section SR-9, which serves 12 lodges in Georgia and Alabama, including the Aracoma Lodge in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, which bore the brunt of these devastating storms. The project was designed to provide aid through both service and monetary donations. Two patches were designed for the project's participants. A silver patch was given to participants who donated \$10 to the ReliefCorps project, and a gold patch was given to participants who gave five or more hours of service helping the disaster victims. At the end of the

project, participants had donated a total of \$3,540, which was donated to the American Red Cross to provide relief for disaster victims. Lodges also reported that their members had given over 21,000 service hours in disaster relief assistance, which is the equivalent to a donation of \$152,250. We thank all of the sections and lodges that helped make this project successful, especially the OA National Committee, which gave the largest single donation to the project. We also want to give special recognition to the members of Aracoma Lodge of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, for providing significant service time to this project; the members of Alibamu Lodge of Montgomery, Alabama, for raising the most money; and the members of Pilthlako Lodge of Waycross, Georgia, for donating the largest quantity of food to the disaster victims in Tuscaloosa.

performance.

For a lodge to reach an achievement level, it must earn a minimum number of total points, and complete a certain number of measures. For instance, a lodge must earn 800 total points and complete the bronze level of at least 10 measures to qualify for the bronze achievement level.

This new design features two philosophies, the first of which is flexibility. Other than membership growth and brotherhood conversion, lodges have free rein in choosing which measures to complete to earn points. This allows lodges the flexibility to focus on specific areas that need improvement.

The second philosophy is "leading indicators." Quality Lodge primarily featured what are called "lagging indicators," which measured the successful outcome of the actions of a lodge. Brotherhood conversion rate is an example of this type of indicator. "Leading indicators," on the other hand, evaluate the actions that are assumed to lead to success, creating a more directed approach to evaluation. Frequency of communication is an example of this indicator because good communication is assumed to lead to better event attendance. Journey to Excellence makes use of both of these indicators to measure a lodge's performance.

Combined, these two features of Journey to Excellence are aimed at helping lodges achieve continuous improvement. Whereas the Quality Lodge program took a static approach to measuring success, Journey to Excellence encourages lodges to take on challenges in areas of weakness and to advance their strengths every year. The result is a nationwide journey to higher achievement, which continuously raises standards.

Chapter and section Journey to Excellence programs are currently under development and are expected to be presented to the OA National Committee in December for approval.

## NATIONAL UPDATES

### Four Best Practices

Remember to check out each series of Four Best Practices on the National OA Website. The latest series was released at Thanksgiving.

### Ask the Chairman Questions

Go to [www.oe-bsa.org](http://www.oe-bsa.org) to check out questions that are being answered by the national chairman, Ray Capp. This most recent question was regarding tour permits.

### 2012 Philmont OA Adviser Training

Information regarding the OA Adviser training at Philmont is now available on the OA National Website. [www.oe-bsa.org](http://www.oe-bsa.org).

### OA-branded PowerPoint Template

To accompany the rollout of the new Branding and Style Guide, the OA has created two official PowerPoint templates for use. These can be used for many different OA functions and are available on the OA national website.

### NOAC Staff Registration

NOAC Staff registration opens January 1st. Be sure to sign up for the area you want to work in. Go to [www.registration.oe-bsa.org](http://www.registration.oe-bsa.org) to sign up.

### National OA Facebook Page

If you are a regular Facebook user, be sure to "like" the Order of the Arrow's page!

See even more updates at [www.oe-bsa.org](http://www.oe-bsa.org)

## 2011 National Officer Directory

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# Investing in your leadership account

By **ANDREW JENSEN**

Section C-7 Secretary

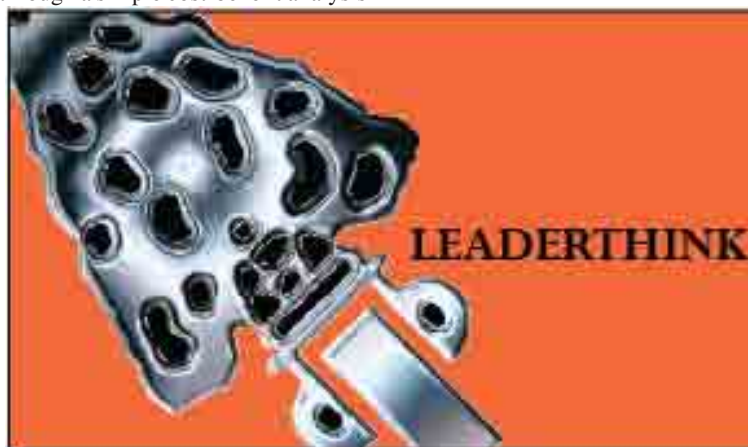
The word “invest” seems like an important term in the news nowadays—everywhere we turn we hear about Wall Street investments going wrong or the markets being sluggish. Most of us do not spend time watching the stock tickers or tracking investments because many of us are not ready to make any long-term investments. However, there is one place where you can invest in a personalized account that fluctuates daily and can potentially yield high returns. This account does not exist on Wall Street, but rather within each of us. You add to this account by making self-investments such as attending troop weekends, putting in the planning time before a meeting, working at summer camp, communicating with other Arrowmen, and taking the time to critically think before making a decision. Our everyday actions of living by the Scout Oath and Law and enacting the principles of the Obligation help us to develop and

grow these accounts. We build up these assets to help guide us. When faced with the challenge of leading others, each of you can tap into your account and use your knowledge, skills, and insight to create a positive impact. I have learned that when I apply the skills and knowledge gained through the time and service in which I have invested my energy, the rewards are great. This is a powerful resource possessed by each of us.

Which specific instruments should we invest in? This can be answered through a simple cost-benefit analysis

of your actions. It is important to constantly remind yourself that your personal benefits should not be your primary concern. In the spirit of servant leadership, your investments should always include the benefit of others. The greatest legacy that each of us can leave is a stronger future for the Scouts who follow in our footsteps. Ultimately, it is your choice to invest, but rest assured that your investments will make for a stronger and better Order as time progresses.

What will your investment be?



## Finding the power within

Why do Order of the Arrow High Adventure foremen do what they do? Is it their passion for the outdoors? Is it their desire to build world-class trails using their hands and creativity? Is it the desire to go back to our roots by spending a summer removed from most modern technologies and conveniences? There is no uniform reason that compels Arrowmen to serve as foremen, but having served as a foreman for the OA Wilderness Voyage at Northern Tier, I can tell you that every brother who straps on his Carharts and chooses to lead Arrowmen into the wilderness

does so because he desires to make a positive impact on the lives of the Arrowmen in his crew.

Crews start off not knowing one another. Within two weeks they become a tight-knit family, proficient at living in the wilderness while depending only on themselves. Crews learn the valuable lessons of working as a team and doing their part to achieve a common goal; but in the wilderness “doing your part” is more intense and necessary than on the average weekend campout. Crews quickly learn to wake up early and work hard. Success is celebrated and disappointments

lead to teachable moments from which we can learn. Crews push one another and each crewmember finds strength and leadership hidden in his core.

In a two-week period, your limits will be pushed. There is potential for growth seen in few other programs offered to Arrowmen. The bond made with your crew will last for a lifetime. The stories of hardship and fun are shared time and time again. Dynamics like these are rarely seen and impossible to explain with mere words. OA High Adventure can be the experience of a lifetime. To fully understand it, you have to be there.

**I have an edited version of the OA logo I like to use, but the new Branding and Style Guide says I cannot use it. Why not?**

The recently released OA Branding and Style Guide established guidelines for how we portray ourselves in print to the BSA and public. By maintaining a consistent logo

we create an easy way to identify the OA; it's similar to the way companies maintain logos to create brand recognition. Editing the logo can cause confusion, just like a slight variation of a company logo can lead to questions about a product's authenticity. For more information, please email [branding@oa-bsa.org](mailto:branding@oa-bsa.org).

Send your *Burning Issues* to Editor in Chief Mark Hendricks at [mphendricks@gmail.com](mailto:mphendricks@gmail.com).

## Chiefly Speaking



Brothers,

Quantum mechanics can tell us some interesting things about the Order of the Arrow and about how to lead our lives.

In modern physics, there is a principle that says changing the orientation of an atom on one side of the universe can cause an atom on the other side of the universe to instantly reverse direction as well. Things, it seems, are more interconnected than we could have ever imagined.

Einstein's prolific equation,  $E=mc^2$ , provides us with an equally interesting insight; it shows us that energy (E) is essentially the same thing as mass (m). In our day-to-day world, we perceive energy and mass as totally different entities, but quantum mechanics has shown us that they are two sides of the same coin. Again, the interconnectedness of the world is astounding.

I find this fascinating, because if we examine the various ideologies that separate us as humans—racism, nationalism, religious fundamentalism, class struggle, political gridlock—the key principle underlying all of these is the perception that things are inherently divided and disconnected.

Despite these perceptions of division, the natural world shows us every day that pieces of our world are much more alike than they are different, and are much more dependent upon each other than they are separate and alone. We see this through our genetic similarities in biology, the interconnection of species that underlies the study of ecology, the similarities of the basic atomic structures of chemistry, and the social-network links of psychology and sociology.

If I've taken away one lesson from this year, it's that the Order works much the same way as these aspects of the natural world. We may have slight disagreements about how to accomplish a goal in our lodge, or we might feel alone on the dark and lonely path of isolation a leader often faces, but fundamentally, we are all brothers: interconnected members of an organization united under one purpose. And, through cheerful service to others, we can further build upon those bonds of brotherhood that tie us together.

There's a word for the realization that someone is similar to you and interconnected with you: love. It all comes down to love. If we can learn to lead through love, we won't just solve problems in the Order—we'll begin solving the biggest problems that face us as humans.

Cheerfully yours,

Jonathan Hillis  
2011 National Chief

# Meeting the call of service: Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure

By **NICK WARREN AND ALEX WILLIAMS**

*Tahosa and Echochotee Lodges*

What does service mean to you? It is one of the cornerstones of our Brotherhood, and the focus of many of our events. It is the basis of servant leadership. As Arrowmen, we are each called to serve whether we hold a position such as chapter or lodge chief, or simply attend local OA events. One way we meet this call to service is through our commitment to council camps, at Ordeals and work days. Some lodges and sections are taking service to the next level and seeking to support not only their camps but also their communities. Tahosa Lodge of Denver, Colorado; Section NE-6B of south-central Pennsylvania; and Echochotee Lodge of Jacksonville, Florida; are three great examples of how your lodge or section can expand its opportunities to serve.

Tahosa Lodge worked to raise funds for the Denver Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. The charge was led by past-Lodge Chief Patrick Tapp and current Lodge Chief Nick Warren. Tapp and Warren created and sold a patch and donated profits to cancer research. Tahosa Lodge raised more than \$3,500 through patch sales. "It was truly phenomenal to see how devoted Tahosa's 1,500 members were to raising the money for Race for the Cure," commented Warren. Donating the proceeds from a patch design to a worthy cause demonstrates the OA's dedication to cheerfully serving others.

Section NE-6B pooled their efforts at a recent conclave to raise money for a local family. The host lodge, Sasquesahanough Lodge of the New Birth of Freedom Council, featured a dunk tank as one of the conclave activities. Each member of the Council of Chiefs took a shift in the tank and Arrowmen bought

throws for the chance to dunk their officers. Prior to conclave, the chiefs decided that a local family, which had just lost their home and several family members in a fire, should be the recipient of the proceeds from the dunk tank and donations made during religious services. During the conclave, over \$350 was raised to help the family.

Clearly, these examples demonstrate different ways that our Order can have an impact on the greater good of the community. Allowat Sakima sets forth this challenge in the pre-Ordeal ceremony when he says, "seek to serve, and thus be faithful to the high ideals and purpose of the Order of the Arrow." If you have an idea for a service project talk to your lodge chief today. Any amount of service furthers our quest to lead by example as we seek to become servant leaders.



Lodge Chiefs Nick Warren (2011) and Patrick Lapp (2010) present a \$4,500 check to the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure fund.

## Arrowmen help plan BEYOND conference

By **ANDREW BOWMAN**

*Past Section C-6A Chief*

After the Boy Scouts of America celebrated its 100th Anniversary, the National Council is evaluating our movement to ensure relevance for the next century. With the changing needs of today's youth, the BSA continues to meet these needs. As part of the National Council's Strategic Plan, I was honored to serve as a member of the planning committee for what will become the first-ever National Youth Forum, the BEYOND Conference, where Scouts from across the nation will come to discuss their program concerns and share ideas about our future. Tools will be provided to help make positive changes in units, councils, and lodges.

Our planning team met in Dallas, Texas, this past July for five days to discuss current program issues, the needs of today's youth, and positive changes that can be implemented to help program growth for the coming years. The room was filled with current and past national and regional Venturing and Sea Scout officers, NYLT youth, and three section chiefs, including myself. We discussed topics in four major areas: Environmental Stewardship,



Scouts posed for a picture with Chief Scout Executive Bob Mazzuca after finding out that they would have a chance to discuss the BSA's future.

Families in Scouting, Advocate for Education, and Youth Leadership.

Since our week in Dallas, we have been finalizing the details for this national conference. As logistical details are finalized, please check with your council for more information about this opportunity to attend the conference. We are striving for a youth-led conference.

In Dallas, the conference staff made it clear that they wanted to hear what we thought about the BSA program. As discussions

began, the staff sat back and took everything in as we talked about strengths and weaknesses and suggestions for improvement. By the end of the planning conference, the staff, planning team, and volunteers shared the same vision of providing an event where youth from across the nation can come together and share ideas on program improvement for the next century. We hope to have the same energy and excitement at the BEYOND Conference next summer.

## Putting Christmas trees to good use

By **MARK MUELLER**

*2010 Wah-Sha-She Lodge Chief*

For the 24th consecutive year, the members of Wah-Sha-She Lodge of the Ozark Trails Council have recycled Christmas trees for the community of Springfield, Missouri. The project usually lasts from the days following Christmas up to the New Year holiday. Wah-Sha-She proudly endures the cold weather from noon until late in the evening to load hundreds of used Christmas trees into trailers. These trees are then taken to spots designated by the Missouri Department of Conservation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as fish habitats near Table Rock Lake. Wah-Sha-She's outreach efforts are two pronged. The lodge works with its friends and neighbors to raise donations for the benefit of the project. These support our activities and enable us to continue providing high-quality service with little inconvenience for our lodge members. They also team up with businesses such as Werner Enterprises and FedEx, who donate use of their trailers to haul the trees.

Once the trees arrive at the lake, lodge and community volunteers work side by side with state conservation employees to place them in the environment. Forestry

officials estimate that somewhere in the area of 253,000 Christmas trees have been recycled over the course of our partnership. These trees have provided a habitat for many species of fish living in the lake and wildlife

*Wah-Sha-She Lodge of Ozark Trails Council have recycled Christmas trees for the community of Springfield, Missouri for 24 years.*

in the surrounding ecosystem. As the Order moves into a new era of environmental stewardship, we are proud to play our role in making our community a better place to live. For us it is a great way to give back and display our dedication toward cheerful service during the holiday season.

# To try and become the best person one can be

By **DWAYNE FONTENETTE**

2011 Southern Region Chief

As I look back on one of the best years of my Scouting career, I think of the most memorable and inspiring moment of my term, which occurred this summer, while serving on staff at El Rancho Cima Scout Camp. I sat on an Eagle Scout board of review for Stuart, a Colonneh Lodge vice chief. I met Stuart last year at the Sam Houston Area Council's Centennial Jamboree.

Toward the end of the board of review, Stuart was asked, "Which of

the three duties in the Scout Oath is most important to you—duty to God, duty to country, or duty to self?" His answer shocked us all. "Duty to self," he said. But he wasn't finished. Stuart went on to say that he felt that it was necessary to work constantly toward improving himself—to become the best person that he could be—so that he could better serve others.

Stuart is the epitome of a servant leader. I am proud to have had an opportunity to meet him and the many other Scouts and Scouters who live the Scout Oath and the OA Obligation in their daily lives.

# Better ourselves so that we may better serve others

By **COLLIN HUERTER**

2011 Central Region Chief

All of us remember those moments in our lives when something just does not make sense and no matter how somebody tried to convey it to us, it was just impossible for it to click. Then, without warning, something finally clicks and everything becomes clear. Your eyes light up and suddenly the weight is lifted from your shoulders. And just like that, you are ready to move on to the next step.

I have had the privilege to see this phenomenon happen many times this year. No, it has not been in a classroom, but all over the nation at the great training programs we conduct each year. Whether it is an LLD course that is a one-day training event or a national-level training seminar that brings people from all backgrounds together, we all have a common vision. That vision is to better ourselves so that we may better serve others. Training provides growth for everybody on every level of this organization, and the amount of personal growth it provides is not

exclusive to our Scouting lives.

Each day we use something that was taught to us by a teacher, trainer, coach, parent, mentor, or just somebody who made a difference in our lives and inspired us. My life was changed this year because I was able to train so many Arrowmen from across the nation, and in turn, each one of them taught me something, too. Training in the Order of the Arrow is not just happening in sessions at events. We are constantly training each other to learn new skills, view things differently, and work with others in order to make ourselves better leaders.

Whether or not it is obvious, we are all teaching and mentoring each other in everything we do. Each experience is a new opportunity to grow, and training is a chance to engage and inspire any audience. Seize that opportunity to make a difference. We can all be that change.

*"The powerful play will go on, and we may contribute a verse."*

-Walt Whitman

# Happy to have attended great Conclaves

By **JOE GARCIA**

2011 Western Region Chief

This year has been one of the most exciting and beneficial years of my life. I have had the opportunity to meet and work with our brothers around the nation. I could write a book about all of the cool things and amazing people that I have met. For now, I will share some highlights with you.

I had the opportunity to attend the Section NE-1A Conclave and it was one of the most amazing events of the year. Not only was the site beautiful, the food was great. The only downside came Saturday when a rainstorm rolled in and nearly flooded the conclave. What I thought was going to be an

event killer turned out to be a plus when the guys disregarded the rain and continued to have fun.

I also had the opportunity to travel to the island of Kauai to spend some time with our Hawaiian brothers. All I have to say is that they know how to put on a conclave! Their shows were top notch and they certainly know how to have fun. Slip 'n' slides to massive water fights, all in the shadows of the mountains of Kauai is a recipe for a great event.

This year has been one of the best of my Scouting career. If you want to trade stories with me, be sure to find me at NOAC. I will be there. Will you?



Dwayne Fontenette



Collin Huertner

# A strong passion for the OA's high adventure programs

By **TRAVIS CUNNINGHAM**

2011 Northeast Region Chief

As I crawled out of the cabin of the ship I could hear the peaceful sound of water washing up against the sides of our vessel. The sun had not risen as I began my shift on anchor watch, which allowed for the moon to shine brilliantly in the pre-dawn sky. I took a seat by the wheel of the ship as I quietly waited for the sun to rise. For the next two hours, I listened to the waters of the Atlantic, the sounds of Key West, and watched many other boats go zipping by. Finally the sun rose with a brilliance that lit up everything. At that moment, I was in complete awe of everything going on around me, and it is something I will never forget.

This is just one of the many experiences I had while participating

in the Order of the Arrow Ocean Adventure program at the Florida Sea Base. Ever since becoming a member of the Order of the Arrow, I have had a strong passion for its high-adventure programs because of the impact they can have on an individual Arrowman. The fact that you can begin a two-week expedition with guys you have never met before and leave as a tight-knit unit creates a unique experience.

Our high-adventure programs epitomize everything that our Order's main ideals of brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service stand for. These programs are life-changing experiences. I highly encourage all Arrowmen to take part in these programs, and share the same experiences that so many others have before them.



Joe Garcia



Travis Cunningham

## NOAC Themes: Where do they come from?

By NATE THOMPSON

Story Editor

In May 1948, the Order of the Arrow was officially integrated into the Scouting movement. That same year marked the beginning of our Order's biennial national conference, the National Order of the Arrow Conference, which gathers Arrowmen from throughout the United States and its territories, and from around the world. Thirty conferences later, NOAC is upon us once again and will be held at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan, from July 30 to August 4, 2012.

The event is held on a campus of a major university and features a plethora of programs available to its participants, including leadership development programs, fellowship events, inspirational shows and gatherings, ceremony team development, American Indian pageants, camping promotion, and opportunities to hear and speak with the national leaders of the Order of the Arrow and the Boy Scouts of America.

Previous conferences have used particular slogans to convey a message selected by the OA National Committee. For example, the 2009 NOAC used the theme "Power of One" and the learning objective "one person can make a difference." But how are these chosen?

It all begins early in the year leading up to NOAC. A NOAC Thematic Committee is chosen to lead



### Past National Order of the Arrow Conference's themes.

the effort to produce the embodying message of the conference. Ideas from National Committee members are submitted online, and the top-five learning objectives are chosen by the committee. A private Web session is then held with all current section chiefs for them to contribute their insight. A conference call is later held by each region to discuss further ideas on the five learning objectives with their respective region chiefs. The national chief then hosts a national conference call with all section chiefs in which each region chief gives a report from his region conference call. This provides all chiefs a national dialogue on the NOAC theme, and the section chiefs are then prepared to vote. Once the section chiefs reach a consensus, the National Committee is ready to approve their final ideas.

A similar process is applied to the actual NOAC theme. A private Web session is opened for section chiefs to participate in and contribute their

ideas for a theme. Each region chief hosts a conference call with their respective section chiefs followed by a national conference call. In coordination with the Thematic Committee, the national chief conducts a public vote by the section chiefs on the theme via the Internet. After the online vote, the Thematic Committee prepares a presentation to be given at the national planning meeting held in December of the year prior to the conference. This presentation includes the learning objective and theme and how they will be incorporated into the NOAC planning process. In 2009, the presentation depicted how the conference-wide game, welcome guide, and backpack would be incorporated into the conference.

At first glance, selecting a theme may seem like a simple task. Do not be fooled. It is a calculated process with considerable time devoted to it in order to make the conference the best it can be.

## Orgins of the OA Song

By EVAN SKANDALIS

Story Editor

On March 15, 1917 Tsar Nicholas II of Russia was forced to resign from the throne in favor of his younger brother, Michael, passing over his own son Alexie, 13 years old. By 1917 Russia had been at war with Germany for over three years and was facing signs of distress in its military and discontent among its people.

The Russian-Tsarist national anthem, "God Save the Tsar" had as its theme an old Russian folk-tune that has been used by several composers over the years, most famously in Tschaikovsky's 1812 Overture.

The Tsar's family and retainers were moved by the provisional government under Kerensky from Petrograd to safe-keeping at Tsarskoe-Selo, a royal palace with a military guard. Some weeks later they were moved by a guard of Red Russians to Yekaterinburg, deeper in Russia, where the royal family, servants and, guards were sent to the Ipatiev House. On July 17, 1918 the entire royal family including attending doctors and servants were assassinated by orders from Lenin, now in charge of the Red Russian government.

King George V of England, a cousin of the Tsar, requested that the battleship HMS Marlborough be sent to the loyalist held Crimea in the Black Sea to rescue over 2,000

remaining members of the Romanov family. The British prime minister granted the request and on April 8, 1919 the ship left the port while for the last time the band at the dock played the national anthem, "God Save The Tsar".

Urner Goodman, reading about this in the local papers, realized he now had a tune that he could use for the Wimachtendienk. We believe he introduced the new words and music to the first meeting of the nine existing lodges in 1921 at the assembly of the Grand Lodge and since then it has been sung to close Ordeals, Conclaves and National Conferences.

**Editor's Note:** *Rarely do we have the opportunity to hear about history from the ones who experienced; it is a privilege when we do. This article featured Del Loder, most recent recipient of the OA's Lifetime Achievement Award, who is one of the Arrowmen who experienced much of the history of the OA in the West and has spent his life studying the early history of the OA. Evan Skandalis of T'Kope Kwiskwis Lodge heard Del recount the history of the OA song. The National Bulletin encourages Arrowman to seek out those who experienced the history of the OA, whether locally or nationally, and capture that history. We also welcome submissions that would be of broad interest to Arrowmen.*

## History of the Goodman Camping Award

By FRANK CACCAVALE

Staff Writer

The E. Urner Goodman Camping Award was first discussed at the 1968 national planning meeting. It had become obvious that many lodges needed to improve their camping promotions. Little was being done to encourage and promote camping on the council level, and it was seen by all that something needed to be done to encourage Arrowmen to promote camping in their councils. With the goal of improving camp promotions in mind, the Goodman Camping Award was developed at

this meeting.

It did not take long for the award to be implemented throughout the nation. At the closing show of the 1969 National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC), the award was introduced to the OA members in attendance. Toward the end of the show, Arrowmen were challenged with several goals to meet before they gathered again for the 1971 NOAC at the University of Illinois. The final resolution was to promote Scout camping and strive to earn the National Camping Award. They were challenged to visit their council's troops to promote summer

camp.

By the conference in 1971, nine lodges from across the country were awarded the E. Urner Goodman Camping Award: Shenandoah, Nea To Ka, O-Shot-Caw, Carcajou, Silver Tomahawk, Ma-Nu, Naguonabe, Tukarica, and Tatanka Lodges were awarded the recognition during this NOAC.

The Goodman Camping Award was named in honor of our founder, who created our great organization with the purpose of promoting Scout camping. Currently, eight lodges receive the award annually in recognition of their outstanding



E. Urner Goodman Camping Award presented to lodges each year .

support of their councils' camping programs and for helping to increase camp participation among Scouts and Scouters each year.

**Check out the E. Urner Goodman Camping Award section under National Awards on [www.oa-bsa.org](http://www.oa-bsa.org) to find out how your lodge can obtain this award.**

## Order of the Arrow advisers to gather at Philmont

Join OA advisers from around the nation for the Philmont Order of the Arrow Adviser Conference at the Philmont Training Center in Cimarron, New Mexico, scheduled for June 17–23, 2012.

The National OA Training Subcommittee is planning this conference to provide information to advisers on important topics that go beyond those covered at the regional or National Lodge Adviser Training Seminars. A wide range of subject matter will be presented at the conference. One of the week's highlights will be training on how to incorporate national initiatives "sparked" by SummitCorps and ArrowCorps5 in

lodge and section events through sessions on planning, logistics, and an overview of the Incident Command System.

Advisers are encouraged to attend this in-depth training session to learn firsthand about many of the best practices shared by Arrowmen who have served as chapter and lodge advisers. In addition to advisers, members of the National OA Committee will serve on the staff.

While at the training center, participants and their families will have several opportunities to experience the many activities that are available at Philmont Scout Ranch and the surrounding area.

Participants and their families will enjoy many activities, including hiking, fishing, horseback riding, pottery-making demonstrations, museum visits, a buffalo barbecue on the Greensward, and shopping in Cimarron and nearby towns. To learn more about the family programs, visit the Philmont Training Center website at [www.philmonttrainingcenter.org](http://www.philmonttrainingcenter.org).

The 2012 Philmont OA Adviser Conference is open to all OA lodge, chapter, and committee advisers. To register, visit [www.myscouting.org](http://www.myscouting.org) and click on Event Registration. For additional information on the conference, visit <http://oa-bsa.org/programs/ptc>.



Training center participants listen in on one of the training sessions.

## National Leadership Seminar (NLS)

By **SAMUEL BELLOMY**

*Western Region Training Chairman*

The Order of the Arrow is proud to provide Arrowmen, both youth and advisers alike, with the highest level of leadership training in our organization, the National Leadership Seminar! The National Leadership Seminar is a weekend course hosted by each region three to four times a year. Between 40 and 80 participants are divided up at tables, led by top-notch trainers and staff from lodges across the nation.

Each session is designed to

create an interactive classroom setting, with hands-on activities and practical application of the leadership skills developed over the weekend-long course. The trainers are experienced and hand selected by each region's leadership to drive the program and messages home with the participants. Among these trainers are one of the national youth officers, the region chief, section chiefs, other section officers, rising lodge leaders, and dedicated adult staff members from the national, region, and section levels. The program does not end at the conclusion of the course.

It is taken home in the form of a leadership contract to complete based on the lessons learned over the weekend.

Scouts and Scouters take home leadership skills and resources to better the programs they are involved in. Do not miss the opportunity to experience the National Leadership Seminar! Contact your lodge leadership or go to your region's website for the 2012 calendar of NLS events and register for the best training weekend ever! You do not want to miss it!



Arrowmen gather at the Lake at Camp Widjiwagan for a session during NLS in Nashville, TN.

## National Lodge Adviser Training Seminar (NLATS)

By **STEVE GAINES**

*Western Region NLATS Coordinator*

Almost everyone in the OA is familiar with NLS (National Leadership Seminar): our Order's premier advanced national leadership training. Sometimes a bunch of adults disappear during the NLS weekend training to attend another session. They're not just shooting the breeze and drinking coffee, but are actually learning skills to help them be better advisers. This training is called the National Lodge Adviser Training Seminar (NLATS).

Like NLS, this is a weekend conference that focuses on the skills and attributes of effective lodge advisers. The course is taught by some of the best adult trainers in the nation, from both the region and National committees. In addition, one of the national youth officers will give a youth perspective about what it is like to have a great adviser.

Generally, the course size is much smaller than NLS, with the target class size being 24 to 30 advisers. Because class sizes are limited, key advisers are encouraged to attend. This includes lodge advisers, staff advisers, chapter advisers, associate lodge advisers, and those with lodge adviser potential, as determined by the local council Scout executive. Advisers who have already attended the local Lodge Leader Development Program and/or the National Leadership Seminar will find that NLATS will help enhance skills previously learned in these other courses. The course is designed to be fun; however, it is mentally challenging as well.

Advisers may attend NLATS once. Each region offers at least one NLATS every year. Check with your lodge adviser or section adviser, or visit your region Web page for more information and course dates.





# YOUR TRAVEL ITINERARY

Pick your transportation. Plan your route. Pack your bags. **NEXT STOP: NOAC 2012!**

It's time to get ready for the 2012 National Order of the Arrow Conference at Michigan State University from July 30 through August 4. NOAC will bring together 8,000 Arrowmen for six days of adventure, excitement, training, recreation, and fellowship. Will you be there?



**MY ITINERARY TO NOAC 2012**

**Day 1**

Check out [event.oa-bsa.org](http://event.oa-bsa.org) for everything you need to know about NOAC.

**Day 2**

Check with your lodge key 3 on how to register for NOAC 2012 at Michigan State University.

**Day 3**

Visit [event.oa-bsa.org](http://event.oa-bsa.org) and find OABSA on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube for weekly updates.

**Day 4**

Invite Arrowmen to join in the fun at NOAC 2012.

**Travel Options: Plane. Bus. Horse. Hiking. Car. Helicopter. Moped. (Pick one)**

