

Centurion Award FAQ

Q: What is the Centurion Award?

A: A one-time recognition associated with the centennial anniversary of the Order of the Arrow that is bestowed by the national Order of the Arrow committee, the Centurion Award aims to highlight “Hometown Heroes,” or Arrowmen who exemplify servant leadership in their local council’s lodge. These Centurions have inspired others to follow in their footsteps by contributing to the legacy of their lodge.

Q: What is the time period available for Lodge Key 3s to submit nominations to the national office?

A: Centurion nominations are to be submitted by the Lodge Key 3 between October 1st, 2014 and February 28th, 2015.

Q: What’s the best way for my lodge to successfully select these “Hometown Heroes” for their unselfish service as exemplars of servant leadership?

A: A recommended timeline that is available on the national OA website has been provided to assist lodges through the selection and submission process.

Q: How does a Lodge Key 3 nominate a Centurion?

A: The Lodge Key 3 may arrive at their nominations through whatever selection process they deem appropriate for their lodge. The Lodge Key 3 will solicit recommendations for potential nominations of these “Hometown Heroes” from lodge members through a nomination form available for download on the national OA website.

The Lodge Key 3 will complete the Centurion Lodge Verification Form to verify how many Centurions may be awarded in their respective lodge. After careful review of the received recommendations, the Lodge Key 3 will determine their lodge’s list of Centurion nominations prior to the established national deadline. After selecting them, the Lodge Key 3 will complete the Centurion Award Petition, which can be found on the national OA website.

After signed approval from the Scout Executive, the Lodge Key 3 will submit their respective lodge’s petitions and the Centurion Lodge Verification Form to the national office for approval. Once the national office confirms receipt and acceptance of the nomination, Key 3’s will be directed to upload each Centurion’s name, hometown, lodge, council, dates of service, testimonial and picture electronically through an online portal. The data gained through the online portal will feed directly both into a digital publication chronicling the stories of each of these Arrowmen.

Q: Who should be considered for nomination to be a Centurion?

A: Centurion nominees must have been registered in the BSA, the local council and the Order of the Arrow lodge during their recognized “service period.” A nominee need not have remained registered in the BSA, local council or Order of the Arrow lodge past the service period, nor at the time of nomination.

Centurion nominees should have provided significant contribution(s) to the lodge’s legacy. Evidence of a historical member of the lodge may, but need not be, sourced from information within the lodge’s centennial history book.

Q: Can youth and adult Arrowmen receive this award?

A: Each nominee must be designated as either a youth or adult contributor. A youth contributor denotes that the nominee’s service period occurred while he was under 21 years of age. An adult contributor denotes that the nominee’s service period occurred while he or she was over 21 years of age. An adult contributor can be recognized for his or her service as a professional *or* volunteer. The ratio of youth contributors to adult contributors per lodge should be at least 1:1. If an odd number of Centurions are nominated, then the majority must be based on youth service.

Q: What qualifies for a nominee’s service period?

A: The nominee’s service period is the length of time over which the nominee demonstrated the contributions that support his or her nomination as a Centurion. The minimum service period is 3 years for a youth contributor and 6 years for an adult contributor. Time as a youth contributor may not be applied to the minimum time for an adult contributor (i.e., there can be no adult contributors under 27 years of age).

Q: Are there exceptions to a nominee’s service period?

A: A Centurion nominee may be recognized for a service period less than the required period (3 years for a youth contributor or 6 years for an adult contributor) when the nominee was an active duty military member during his or her recognized service period. It is recommended that the nominee’s military service be highlighted on the nominee’s Centurion Award Petition.

Q: How many awards may be given per lodge?

A: Lodges may nominate a number based on a ratio of 1 per 100 chartered members or fraction thereof, according to 2013 membership data (i.e., data provided for rechartering in or around December 2013). Lodges with fewer 800 chartered members will use the same ratio but may petition the national OA committee for such additional nomination slots to increase their total to 8.

Awarding those additional nominees with the Centurion Award will be entirely at the discretion of the national committee. For example, if a lodge has 500 members, it can nominate up to 5

members regularly and petition for an additional 3 slots. Lodges must specify which nominees are part of the petition for additional nomination slots (versus those in the core allotment).

Q: Can professional Scouters be nominated?

A: If a Centurion Nominee is an adult contributor, he or she can be recognized for his or her service as a professional or volunteer.

Q: May posthumous Centurions be selected?

A: Centurions may be living or deceased. If posthumous Centurions are selected, the ratio of living to deceased Centurions per lodge must be at least 1:1. If an odd number of Centurions are nominated, then the majority must be living.

In cases of a posthumous selection as a Centurion, the recipient's lodge can exercise the option of ordering the certificate and recognition ribbon for distribution to the family or a volunteer who might represent the deceased, as the lodge deems appropriate.

Q: Does the living to deceased ratio apply to all of a lodge's Centurions?

A: Both the 1:1 youth to adult ratio as well as the 1:1 living to deceased ratios apply to all of a lodge's Centurions. For instance, if a lodge has 800 chartered members according to 2013 membership data, it may nominate 8 Centurions. Of those 8 Arrowmen, 4 could be adult contributors who are living, while the other 4 could be deceased youth contributors.

Q: What contact information should my lodge provide for a posthumous nomination?

A: Lodges should preferably provide contact information for the next of kin to a posthumously recognized Centurion. If that information is unavailable, the contact information may be left blank.

Q: What is required in the Centurion testimonial part of the petition?

A: A 500 word or less entry or story must elaborate how this Centurion has substantially impacted the lodge's legacy as a servant leader. The answers provided in support of the Arrowman should not be a list of awards received by a potential nominee, rather an insightful anecdote on this Centurion Nominee's unique and exemplary service to the lodge.

Q: Can a current member of the Lodge Key 3 or Scout Executive be recognized as a Centurion?

A: A current member of the Lodge Key 3 or Scout Executive can be recognized as a Centurion as long as he or she meets the criteria for nomination.

Q: What are the recognition items for a Centurion?

A: Nominees selected by the national Order of the Arrow committee will be provided with a certificate and recognition ribbon consisting of a red and white ribbon and a metallic totem symbolizing the centennial anniversary of the Order of the Arrow.

Q: How will lodges obtain the recognition items?

A: The Centurion ribbon and certificate will be distributed to lodges at the 2015 National Order of the Arrow Conference. The recognition items will be provided at no cost and lodges will receive them regardless of the Centurion's attendance at NOAC. If the option of ordering the certificate and recognition ribbon for distribution to the family or a volunteer who might represent the deceased Centurion is exercised, lodges will also receive these recognition items at NOAC. In order to receive recognition materials for posthumous Centurions, the lodge must request them through the online portal.

Q: How much do the recognition items cost?

A: The recognition items will be provided at no cost to lodges.

Q: Where and when can the Centurion ribbon be worn?

A: The Centurion ribbon may be worn at formal Scouting recognition events (e.g., courts of honor, banquets) and National Order of the Arrow Conferences, so long as it is worn along with the official BSA field uniform.

Q: How will Centurions be recognized?

A: Several opportunities will occur during the 2015 National Order of the Arrow Conference in August. All attending Centurions will be encouraged to wear their commemorative medallion when in Class A uniform. Additionally, the NOAC Centennial Celebrations Committee plans to honor the deeds of Centurions at key conference events. For example, Centurions will be highlighted during the Centennial Show and invited to a special reception at the Centennial Festival. The Centennial Gala will also acknowledge the contributions of Centurions over the course of the banquet program.

A digital publication on the national OA website chronicling the stories of each of these Arrowmen will be published. Each entry will include a photo of the Centurion in service, a listing of the lodge, council and hometown, as well as an anecdote provided from the nomination on this Centurion's unique exemplary service to the lodge. This publication will be made available after all nominations have been submitted, but before the 2015 National Order of the Arrow Conference.

During ArrowTour, part of each region's static display will be reserved in order to recognize local Centurions from that particular geographic area. Additionally, lodges are encouraged to

recognize their Centurions at appropriate lodge or council functions. Such examples include the lodge's annual holiday banquet.

Q: When can my lodge start recognizing our Centurions?

A: Once the lodge adviser (or his or her designee) has received access to the online portal and the required data has been entered, lodges may publically recognize their Centurions as entered in the portal. Recognition items will be distributed at the 2015 National Order of the Arrow Conference.

Q: My lodge has merged during 2014. Do we follow the nomination quota based on the predecessor lodges?

A: A lodge with a merger in 2014 should use the sum of the 2013 memberships of each predecessor lodge to determine the number of Centurion Awards to be given.

Q: My local council's lodge is a product of a merger(s) prior to 2014. Can Arrowmen from our predecessor lodges be included in the nomination quota?

A: Lodges are strongly encouraged to recognize Arrowmen that are exemplary "Hometown Heroes" for their service in any lodge that was a part of the geographic territory the current local council's lodge serves. The nomination quota provided to each lodge is intended to be inclusive of these historical lodges.

Q: Can an individual receive the Centurion Award from more than one lodge?

A: Yes, if multiple lodges honor the same person, he or she will be recognized as such and will count towards the quota of each.

Q: What if I have a question about the Centurion Award that is not listed here?

A: If you have any other questions or concerns about the Centurion Award, you may contact oa100@oa-bsa.org.

Last revised: February 24th, 2015