

July 26 – July 31, 2027

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

NOAC

2027

Contingent Reservation Information

Phase One: Contingent Planning & Reservation Guide

Released: July 14, 2026



SCOUTING AMERICA™

ORDER OF THE ARROW

Phase One: Contingent Planning & Reservation Guide

Welcome to the 2027 National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC) Contingent Reservation Guide.

This guide is designed to help lodge and contingent leadership prepare for the opening of contingent registration on October 5, 2026. It outlines the initial planning steps, reservation process, conference fees, and key milestones needed to begin your lodge's journey to NOAC 2027.

A comprehensive Contingent Guide containing detailed information on registration management, program selection, travel planning, housing, medical records, and arrival procedures will be released following the opening of registration.

NOAC at a Glance

 **University of Illinois Urbana-Campaign**

 **Up to 8,000 Arrowmen**

 **Fourteen meals**

 **July 26 – 31, 2027**

 **Five nights of university housing**

 **Leadership • Fellowship • Adventure • Service**

NOAC is Scouting America's premier gathering of Arrowmen. Every two years, thousands of youth and adult leaders come together to learn, lead, serve, and celebrate the traditions of the Order while building lifelong friendships and returning home inspired to strengthen their lodges.

Your Lodge's Journey to NOAC 2027

Planning a successful NOAC contingent is a year-long journey. While the conference lasts just six days, the experience begins months earlier with thoughtful planning, strong youth leadership, and intentional preparation. This guide focuses on the first phase of that journey—preparing your lodge and reserving your contingent. Additional resources will be released throughout the year to guide you through each successive phase.



The most successful contingents begin planning early. Establishing your leadership team, estimating attendance, communicating with families, and reserving delegate spaces this fall will position your lodge for a smooth and successful conference experience.

Select Your Contingent Leadership Team

Every lodge should identify both an **Adult Contingent Leader** and a **Youth Contingent Leader** before making its reservation. These leaders will serve as the primary contacts with the national conference staff throughout the planning process. For



additional guidance on selecting your contingent leadership team, see the [Selecting a NOAC Contingent Leader](#) reference guide.

Once selected, complete the [Contingent Leadership Information Form](#) to provide your lodge name and council, the names and contact information for your Adult and Youth Contingent Leaders, and any additional individuals who should receive NOAC contingent communications. This ensures your lodge receives important conference updates, registration information, and planning resources throughout the NOAC planning process.

Plan Your Contingent

Successful contingents begin planning well before registration opens. During this phase, your lodge should establish a preliminary plan to guide recruiting, budgeting, and registration over the coming months. While many details can be refined later, thoughtful planning now will help your lodge build a successful contingent. As you begin planning, consider the following:

- **Estimate attendance.** Approximately how many youth and adults does your lodge expect to attend? Reservation numbers may be adjusted later within established registration deadlines.
- **Develop a travel plan.** Decide how your contingent will travel to and from the conference and whether your lodge plans any pre- or post-conference activities.
- **Establish an estimated contingent fee.** Develop a preliminary budget that includes the conference fee, transportation, lodging (if applicable), meals during travel, patches, contingent merchandise, recreation, and other anticipated expenses.
- **Begin promoting NOAC.** Share information with prospective delegates, explain the value of attending, and begin identifying youth and adults interested in participating.
- **Explore fundraising opportunities.** If your lodge intends to offset participant costs through fundraising or financial assistance, begin planning those efforts early.
- **Establish lodge planning milestones.** Consider setting internal deadlines for deposits, participant commitments, travel arrangements, and other planning activities to keep your contingent on schedule.

Who Can Attend?

All participants must be currently registered members of Scouting America and receive approval from their local council through the National Order of the Arrow Event Registration System (NOAERS). Conference participants may attend in one of the following capacities:

- Delegate as part of a lodge contingent
- Conference staff

All participants must be registered through NOAERS and approved by their Scout Executive or designee before attending the conference.

Contingent Composition

The Order of the Arrow remains committed to maximizing youth participation while ensuring a safe and well-supervised conference experience. Contingents should strive for a minimum youth-to-adult ratio of 3:1 whenever possible. The following policies apply:

- Adult participation should reflect the leadership necessary to supervise the contingent.
- A minimum ratio of one adult leader is required for every 15 youth.
- All contingents must maintain two-deep leadership and comply with current Scouting America Safeguarding Youth policies, including required female leadership when female youth are attending.

- Conference staff register separately and do not count toward contingent ratios.
- Additional Safeguarding Youth guidance will be included in the Contingent Guide

Preliminary Travel Planning

As your lodge begins planning for NOAC 2027, consider how your contingent will travel to and from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Whether traveling by air, train, charter bus, or personal vehicle, developing a preliminary travel plan early will help establish your contingent budget and estimate attendance. Detailed travel procedures, shuttle reservations, arrival instructions, and parking information will be published in the 2027 Contingent Guide.

Conference Arrival Planning. NOAC 2027 will officially begin on Monday, July 26, 2027. On-campus accommodations will not be available before Monday, July 26, and contingents arriving early should make alternative lodging arrangements.

Contingents should plan to arrive on campus between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Monday, July 26. This arrival window provides adequate time for check-in before the conference activities begin. The first conference meal provided is dinner on Monday evening. A limited number of meal options will be available for purchase (mostly cashless) on campus for contingents arriving during the lunch period. When planning flights, train travel, or motor coach schedules, contingent leaders should allow sufficient time for transportation from the airport or train station to campus to ensure arrival within the recommended check-in window.

Additional arrival procedures, shuttle schedules, and check-in instructions will be published in the 2027 Contingent Guide.

Planning Tip: Airfares are often lowest when purchased several months in advance. Lodges are encouraged to begin discussing transportation options early, but should wait for the release of detailed travel guidance before making final decisions about airport shuttle service or campus parking.

Airport & Rail Transportation. NOAC plans to offer charter shuttle service between the conference and the following transportation hubs:

- Indianapolis International Airport (IND)
- Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD)
- University of Illinois Willard Airport (CMI)
- Champaign-Urbana Amtrak Station (CHM)

The conference is also exploring a limited shuttle service from Chicago Midway International Airport (MDW). If offered, service will be limited and should not be relied upon when making travel plans.

Airport and rail shuttle service will require an additional fee. Shuttle pricing will be announced before registration. Conference shuttle service between IND or ORD and campus is estimated at \$35-\$45 each way (\$70-\$90 round trip) per person. Conference shuttle service between CMI or CHM and campus is estimated at \$5-\$10 each way (\$10-20 round trip) per person. The conference will make every effort to keep shuttle transportation affordable for participants.

Planning Tip: Flight availability, schedules, and fares vary considerably among the airports serving the conference. Contingents are encouraged to compare airfare, ground transportation costs, and travel times when selecting the airport that best meets their needs.

Personal Vehicles. Parking will be available for contingents traveling by personal vehicle.

- Complimentary long-term ("dead storage") parking is planned near the State Farm Center for vehicles that will remain parked during the conference.
- A limited number of parking permits closer to residence halls will be available for purchase.

- Parking on and immediately adjacent to campus is limited. Lodges planning to drive should anticipate using conference-designated parking areas.

Understanding Conference Fees

Understanding the conference fee and payment options is an important step in developing your contingent budget. This section outlines what is included in the conference fee, available registration options, and key financial policies to help your lodge plan for NOAC 2027. The conference fee includes:

- Five nights of university housing
- Four and one-half days of conference programming
- Fourteen meals
- Training sessions
- Activities and competitions
- Conference shows
- Conference materials
- Insurance
- Delegate recognition items

Additional optional activities and incidental purchases may be available during the conference and are not included in the conference fee.

Planning Tip: When establishing your contingent fee, consider all anticipated expenses—not just the conference registration fee. Many lodges include transportation, travel meals, patches, contingent apparel, recreation, and other shared costs when determining the final participant fee.

Registration Fee Options

To provide flexibility for lodges and families, NOAC 2027 offers three registration options. Lodges may reserve discounted, standard, or late registration delegate slots based on their anticipated participation and registration timeline. Most contingents will save money by reserving their anticipated core attendance using discounted registrations.

Registration Type	Conference Fee	Reservation Period	Paid Requirements	Refund Policy
Discounted	\$675.00	October 5, 2026 – January 29, 2027	Paid in full by January 31, 2027	Non-refundable but transferable within the same contingent
Standard	\$750.00	October 5, 2026 – May 28, 2027	Paid in full by June 30, 2027	Refundable less \$100 deposit through the published cancellation date
Late	\$825.00	After May 28, 2027	Paid in full by July 15, 2027	Subject to space availability, a late registration fee applies

Planning Tip: Your initial reservation does not need to represent your final contingent size. Many lodges reserve their anticipated core contingent using discounted registration and add additional delegate slots later as interest grows, subject to availability.

Billing

Conference registration fees are invoiced to the local council through the National Order of the Arrow Office. Following the close of the discounted registration period, councils will receive an initial invoice for all discounted registrations and the required deposit for standard registrations. A second invoice will be issued in June for any remaining registration fees, with a final invoice

following the conference for any applicable adjustments. Contingent leaders should coordinate closely with their lodge staff adviser and the local council to ensure invoices are processed in accordance with the published payment schedule.

Trailblazer Scholarship Program

The Trailblazer Scholarship Program helps ensure that financial need is not a barrier to attending the National Order of the Arrow Conference. Lodges are encouraged to remain the primary source of financial assistance for their delegates, with the Trailblazer Scholarship Program serving as a supplemental resource for youth participants who demonstrate financial need.

Applications for the 2027 Trailblazer Scholarship Program will be released by October 2026 and due no later than January 29, 2027. Scholarship recipients will be selected and notified in Spring 2027, with awards applied directly to their NOAERS registration accounts. Eligibility requirements for the Trailblazer Scholarship include:

- Applicants must be registered for NOAC 2027 within NOAERS as a youth delegate with a contingent or as a youth staff member by January 29, 2027.
- Submit a Trailblazer Scholarship application, complete with the signature of your contingent leader, by January 29, 2027.
- Be under the age of 21 through the last day of the conference, July 31, 2027.

Additional information, including eligibility requirements, application instructions, and key deadlines, will be published with the scholarship application. Scholarship awards will be applied directly to the recipient's NOAERS registration account. Additional information regarding the application of scholarship funds and council reimbursements will be included with the scholarship application.

Planning Tip: Encourage youth who may need financial assistance to begin discussing scholarship opportunities with their lodge leadership early and to participate in local fundraising efforts while awaiting the release of the Trailblazer Scholarship application.

Cancellations and Transfers

The following cancellation and transfer policies apply to NOAC 2027:

- Standard registration deposits are transferable to another youth or adult delegate within the same contingent on a one-for-one basis, but are non-refundable.
- Discounted registration fees are non-refundable but may be transferred to another delegate within the same contingent.
- Standard registration cancellations submitted by the published deadline will receive a refund of all fees paid, less the applicable deposit.
- Registrations canceled after the published cancellation deadline are not eligible for a refund, except in extraordinary circumstances as determined by the conference

Reserve Your Contingent

Beginning **October 5, 2026**, contingent leaders may log into NOAERS to establish their contingent and reserve the desired number of youth and adult delegate slots. Delegate slots may be reserved using any combination of available registration fee options to best meet your lodge's needs. While your initial reservation should reflect your best estimate of attendance, additional delegate slots may be added throughout the registration period, subject to space availability and published deadlines.

Once your contingent reservation has been submitted, it will be routed through an automated approval process to your Scout Executive or designee. Upon approval, your contingent will be established in NOAERS and ready for ongoing registration management.

Milestone	Date
Registration Opens	October 5, 2026
Discounted Registration Ends	January 29, 2027
Standard Registration Ends	May 28, 2027
Late Registration Begins (Pending Space)	After May 28, 2027

Planning Ahead

NOAC 2027 has a capacity for up to 8,000 total attendees, including both delegates and conference staff—an increase from the 2024 National Order of the Arrow Conference, which accommodated approximately 6,500 attendees. **Based on the strong interest in recent conferences, lodges are encouraged to reserve their delegate slots as early as possible.** The 2024 conference reached capacity in January 2024, and a waitlist was established for additional registrants.

While NOAC 2027 offers expanded capacity, delegate slots remain limited and are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Conference Promotional Patch

A 2027 NOAC Promotional Patch will be provided for each delegate slot reserved through May 28, 2027. Promotional patches will be distributed periodically to local councils throughout the registration period for distribution to delegates. Delegate slots reserved after May 28, 2027, are not eligible to receive a promotional patch.

The promotional patch is designed to be worn above the right pocket of the Scout uniform in the same location as a National or World Scout Jamboree patch.

Build Your Contingent

Once your contingent is established, your focus shifts from reserving delegate slots to preparing each participant for an outstanding NOAC experience. As delegates commit to attending, the Contingent Leader should add them to the contingent within NOAERS and assign them to a reserved delegate slot. Once assigned, delegates can log in to NOAERS to complete their individual registration throughout the process.

While delegates may be added throughout the registration period, lodges are encouraged to complete their contingent roster by **March 2027** to maximize opportunities for delegates to participate in future registration phases, including program selection and activity registration. Following the opening of registration, contingent leaders will receive additional resources to guide them through the remaining phases of the NOAC planning process, including:

- Delegate profile completion
- Travel planning and transportation
- Housing assignments and roommate requests
- Medical record submission
- Arrival procedures and check-in
- Contingent communications

Phase One Complete

Congratulations! Your lodge has completed the first phase of its journey to NOAC 2027. By selecting your leadership team, planning your contingent, reserving your delegate slots, and beginning to build your roster, you've laid the foundation for a successful conference experience.

We look forward to supporting your contingent throughout the coming months and welcoming you to the University of Illinois in July 2027. Throughout the planning process, contingent leaders are encouraged to utilize the following resources:

- NOAC Website
- National Order of the Arrow Event Registration System (NOAERS)
- Contingent Newsletter
- Contingent Concierge Team
- Contingent Leader Webinars

Additional information will become available throughout the planning process.

Looking Ahead

Reserving your contingent is just the beginning of the NOAC journey. Following the opening of registration, the conference will release additional resources and planning tools to help contingent leaders prepare their delegates for an outstanding conference experience. The following topics are provided as a preview of important participant requirements and resources that will be covered in greater detail throughout the coming months.

Conference Requirements

The following requirements apply to all NOAC 2027 participants. Additional guidance, submission instructions, and deadlines will be provided in the 2027 Contingent Guide.

Registration

All participants must be **currently registered members of Scouting America** and receive approval from their local council through the National Order of the Arrow Event Registration System (NOAERS).

Safeguarding Youth Training

All participants **aged 18 or older** must maintain current Scouting America Safeguarding Youth Training. Training must remain valid through the conclusion of the conference. Participants are encouraged to complete or renew their training well in advance of NOAC.

Criminal Background Checks

Consistent with Scouting America policy, all participants aged 18 or older will undergo a criminal background check before the conference. Additional information will be provided to registered participants.

Annual Health and Medical Record (AHMR)

All participants must submit a current Scouting America Annual Health and Medical Record (AHMR) before attending NOAC 2027. The AHMR must remain valid through the conclusion of the conference. For NOAC 2027, this means the medical examination must have been completed on or after July 1, 2026. Medical forms will be submitted electronically through the conference registration system. Detailed submission instructions, deadlines, and additional medical requirements will be published in the 2027 Contingent Guide.

What to Expect Next

Following the opening of registration, additional resources and planning tools will be released to help contingent leaders prepare their delegates for NOAC 2027. The topics below provide a preview of several important participant requirements and conference resources that will be covered in greater detail throughout the coming months.

Requirement	Expected Timing
Contingent Registration Opens	October 2026
Scholarship Application	October 2026
Contingent Guide Released	Fall 2026
Conference Brand Guidelines Released	Fall 2026
Medical Submission Opens	Spring 2027
Program Selection	Spring 2027
Final Travel Instructions	Summer 2027

Virtual Viewing Option

Arrowmen who are unable to attend NOAC 2027 in person will have the opportunity to experience select conference programming through a virtual viewing option. Unlike previous remote delegate programs, the 2027 virtual experience is designed to provide access to key conference content through streamed programming rather than replicate the full in-person conference experience. Participants will have access to many of the conference's signature programs, including select keynote presentations and evening shows. Additional programming and viewing opportunities will be announced closer to the conference.

Registered virtual participants will also receive a 2027 NOAC Virtual Viewing commemorative patch following the conference. Registration details, pricing, and the full viewing schedule will be released in Spring 2027.

Lodge Merchandise & Patch Guidelines

Many lodges create commemorative patches, apparel, and other contingent merchandise for NOAC. To help protect the University's intellectual property (i.e., trademarks and copyrights) and ensure consistent use of conference branding, the following guidelines apply. The following may be used only to identify the location of the conference:

- University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- Illinois
- U. of I.

On first reference, always use University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Subsequent references may use Illinois or U. of I. If referencing the conference year, associate it with NOAC 2027 rather than the University's name.

Correct

- NOAC 2027 at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- NOAC 2027 – Illinois

Not Permitted

- University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign 2027
- Illinois 2027
- U. of I. 2027

Lodge merchandise **may not** use University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign trademarks or athletic branding, including but not limited to:



Block I Logo



Illinois wordmark



Athletic Logos



Other University trademarks

The official NOAC 2027 Brand Guidelines will be released before registration opens. These guidelines will identify the conference logos, graphics, and other brand assets available for lodge use, along with any applicable requirements or restrictions. Lodges are encouraged to review these guidelines before designing contingent merchandise.

Custom patch orders must be placed through an official BSA licensee. Current licensees can be found [here](#). Any other third-party trademark used in a patch design must be accompanied by a letter of permission from the intellectual property owner authorizing such use.

Frequently Asked Questions

How many delegates should my lodge reserve?

Reserve the number of delegates your lodge reasonably expects to attend. Reservations may be adjusted later within established deadlines.

Can I change the size of my contingent after making my reservation?

Yes. Contingents may add or reduce delegate slots throughout the registration period, subject to published deadlines, applicable registration policies, and available space.

Can my lodge reserve both discounted and standard registration slots?

Yes. Lodges may reserve any combination of discounted and standard registration slots based on their anticipated participation and registration timeline.

Do I need to know the names of all delegates before making my reservation?

No. Delegate names are assigned to reserved registration slots after your contingent has been established in NOAERS. Lodges are encouraged to complete their roster by March 2027 to maximize opportunities for later registration phases.

What if my lodge fills all of its reserved delegate slots?

Additional delegate slots may be reserved through the applicable registration period, subject to conference capacity and published deadlines.

How are adults selected?

Adult participation should be based on the contingent's leadership needs while maximizing opportunities for youth attendance.

When will delegates select their programs?

Program selection will occur in Spring 2027. Additional information will be released in the Contingent Guide.

When will housing assignments be available?

Housing assignments will be distributed after travel information is collected and room assignments are finalized. Additional information will be provided in the 2027 Contingent Guide.

Can my contingent arrive before Monday, July 26?

On-campus accommodations will not be available before Monday, July 26, 2027. Contingents arriving early should make alternate lodging arrangements.

Will residence halls and conference facilities be air-conditioned?

Yes. The State Farm Center, where conference shows and major gatherings will be held, is fully air-conditioned. In addition, the conference expects more than 90% of delegates to be housed in air-conditioned residence halls. Additional housing information and assignments will be provided in the 2027 Contingent Guide.

How much walking should participants expect?

NOAC is an active conference, and participants should expect to walk approximately 6–10 miles each day. Although the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is a relatively flat campus, it is large, with activities taking place across multiple venues.

Will transportation be available around campus?

The conference anticipates partnering with the local transit system to allow NOAC participants to use campus bus routes throughout the week. While this service will help reduce some walking, participants should still expect to walk substantial distances each day.

Is NOAC appropriate for participants with mobility concerns?

Participants should carefully consider the physical demands of the conference when deciding whether to attend. Walking long distances and spending time outdoors during the summer are integral parts of the NOAC experience. Individuals with mobility concerns or other accessibility needs are encouraged to review the detailed accessibility information included in the 2027 Contingent Guide and contact the conference team with any questions.

Is smoking, electronic cigarettes, vaping, or smokeless tobacco permitted?

Both the NOAC Code of Conduct and the university's Smoke and Tobacco-Free Campus Policy strictly forbid smoking, electronic cigarettes, vaping, and smokeless tobacco. There are no exceptions, including prohibitions on the use of these products and activities in privately owned vehicles on university property.

What forms of payment are accepted at NOAC and on campus?

Depending on the goods and services being purchased – as well as the venue or merchant – both cash and card (credit, debit, or pre-paid) MIGHT be accepted. Note, however, that many university outlets do NOT accept cash, and other venues (e.g., the NOAC Trading Post) highly prefer cashless payments. For both convenience and safety, contingent members and staff are strongly encouraged to use cashless payment methods whenever possible (e.g., credit, debit, or prepaid cards).

Additional Information & Resources

The latest conference information, planning resources, and important registration updates will be shared with contingent leaders throughout the planning process. Additional resources, including the comprehensive 2027 Contingent Guide, will be released after registration opens.

For questions regarding contingent planning or registration, contact the National Order of the Arrow Conference Team at: concierge@oa-scouting.org.