



**ORDER OF THE ARROW
HIGH ADVENTURE**

YEARBOOK

ISSUE 3

DEC 2020





FORWARD

Foremen Alumni and Other Arrowmen,

The summer of 2020 was one of challenge and tenacity for the Order of the Arrow High Adventure programs. The COVID-19 pandemic required high adventure base leadership to be creative and accommodate a safe, enjoyable program for every participant. Thanks to the resolve of this year’s foremen staff, three out of the four bases were open and approximately 150 Arrowmen experienced life-changing adventures through servant leadership in the outdoors at Northern Tier, Sea Base and the Summit Bechtel Reserve!

This year, 2020, is OA High Adventure’s Silver Anniversary, commemorating 25 years of cheerful service through trail building and environmental stewardship. What started as a one-time event at Philmont Scout Ranch has transformed into five programs offered at all four national BSA high adventure bases. Whether you are a foreman alumni or former participant, thank you for your continued support of OA High Adventure over the last quarter century.

Many of us have turned to nature to find comfort during this unusual time. It is my hope that the stories contained within this yearbook help you recall the memories and friendships made during your time in the outdoors. Please enjoy the anecdotes from last summer, foreman alumni accomplishments and highlights of promotional best practices. From one foreman to another, thank you.

Yours In Adventure,

Chuck Coutteau
OAHA Alumni Coordinator
OAOA Foreman ‘13

Thank you to the following for their contributions to the completion of this book.

Joseph Dworak
Matthew Hall

Davis Kellogg
Matthias Leier

Derek Porter
Michael Shostek

Tyler Stepanek
Marty Tschetter



"BECOME THE
KIND OF LEADER
THAT PEOPLE
WOULD FOLLOW
VOLUNTARILY, EVEN
IF YOU HAD NO TITLE
OR POSITION"

-Brian Tracy



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ORDER OF THE ARROW
TRAIL CREW





OATC DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Dear Brothers,

We all know how our worlds have been changed by COVID-19, so I won't dwell on what could have been or how we have had to adapt and cope with our new normal. I do, however, want to speak to the closure of the Ranch this past season. While we were the only base to not operate, I was in complete agreement in the decision to cancel treks at Philmont for the summer of 2020.

To help put this in perspective, there are around 22,000 Scouts that travel from across the country and indeed the world to complete a trek at Philmont. That means that every day, there are around 300 people coming and going through base camp during June and July. Additionally, each backcountry staff camp sees new crews every day. At some of the larger camps, like Ponil, there are upwards of 100 campers cycling through every day. With such heightened levels of exposure, it became apparent that we could not run a meaningful Philmont program while also ensuring the health and safety of all participants and staff. It was not a question of if there would be an outbreak of COVID-19 at Philmont, but when there would be an outbreak.

I served on staff during the Ute Park Fire of 2018 and was even evacuated from the flames, but now we face an even greater risk to Philmont, our second home. With two years of lost participants and around 350 Arrowmen who were unable to attend during 2018 and 2020, we have lost a significant pool of advocates for the program and potential foremen. I speak candidly with this group because you are who we need. You are the individuals who can speak to the feeling of the cool mountain air on your back as you drop packs on the summit of Mount Baldy. You are the brothers who arrived as strangers and left with a bond that stands the test of time. You are the trail crew who has left a mark on the ranch and will pass the torch to the next generation.

So, whether you're a past foreman or past participant, tell your story. Tell it to a Scout who really needs it. Someone you see yourself in or someone who has a passion for OA, or the outdoors, or just needs an adventure. After all, we have a duty to build trail and change lives and that doesn't stop when you leave the ranch. If you are interested in helping out or becoming a foreman, please don't hesitate to reach out. Let's safeguard this program together so that we may help the journey continue.

Adventure Awaits,

Joey Dierdorf
2020 OATC Director



ORDER OF THE ARROW
TRAIL CREW





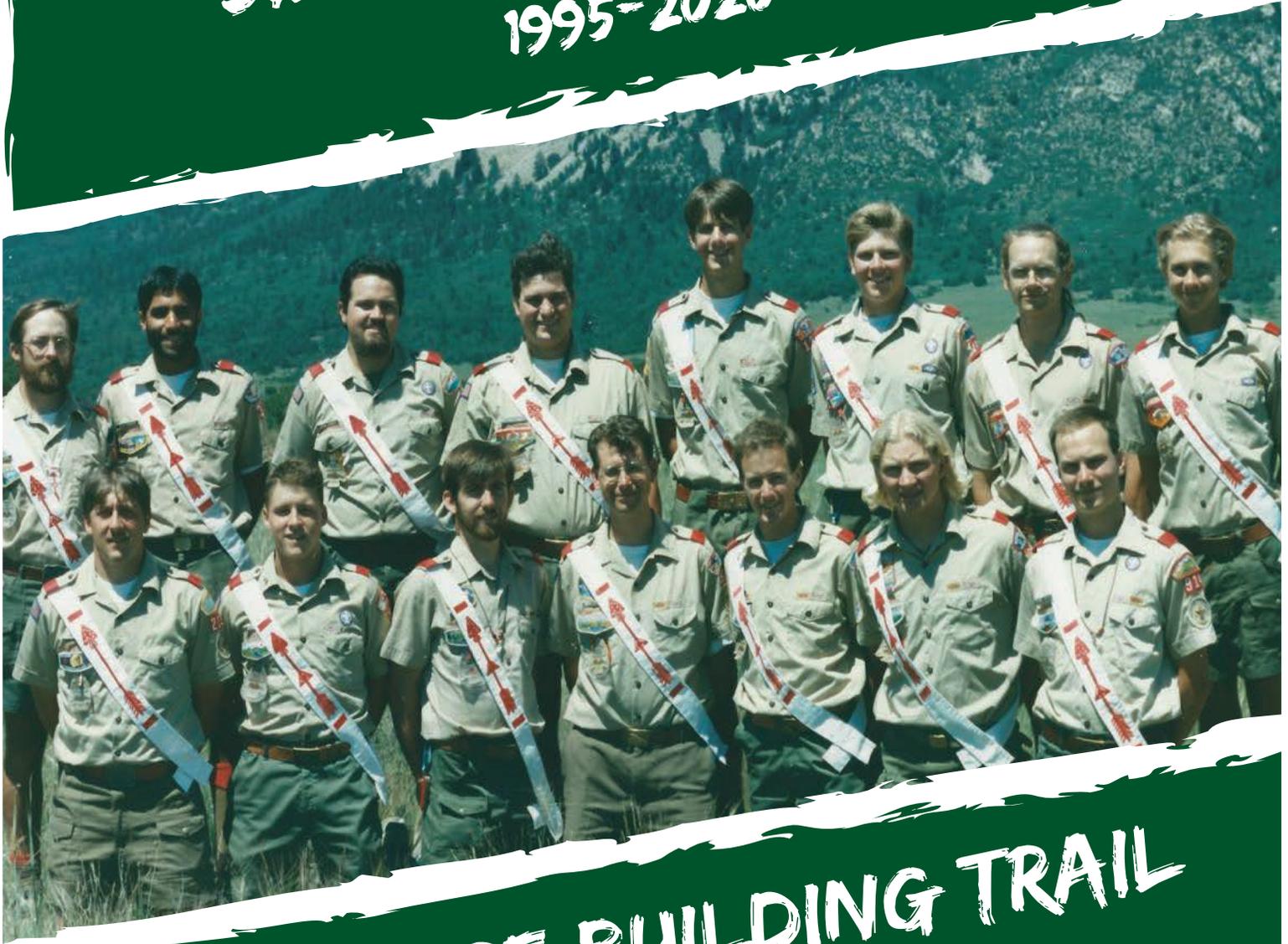
By Tim Reiss

EARLY MORNING SUMMIT

When I attended OA Trail Crew in 2019, I never thought that I would leave with a deeper understanding of conservation, myself and the impact I can have on my fellow Arrowmen. When I first arrived at Philmont for my trek, I was nervous. I had never been to Philmont, let alone backpacking before...but I was excited. All I knew about Philmont was that it was a place filled with gorgeous views and that every Scout had to go in their lifetime. My crew and I arrived as strangers. However, even before leaving base camp, the camaraderie between all of us was electrifying. By the time we started the trail work, it felt as if I was hanging out with some of my closest friends (even though we had just met days prior).

I fondly remember working on one section of the trail where a group of four of us spent two days removing a tree stump that was in our way. While to some, swinging tools to remove a tree stump might not sound like a reward activity, for us, it was. We were able to make a great time out of it, cracking jokes and just having a great time. Battling that stump was extremely memorable, however, it was the time we spent hiking in the background that was the most memorable experience for me. During our trek planning, each person in the crew wanted to do different things, but the one thing we all had in common is that we all had the goal to summit Baldy Mountain. This goal united us, and kept us motivated. Our foremen promised we would accomplish this, however, then never told us exactly when. On the second to last day on the trail, we traveled 19 miles and rose over 3,000 feet in altitude making it to the location nicknamed the "parking lot." Once we got to the parking lot, our foreman informed us that we would be summiting the next day and doing so at sunrise. I recall a sense of excitement and giddiness that finally, after all the time on the trail, we were going to summit. That night I could barely keep my eyes closed as we slept under the stars waiting for 3 AM to come. After a short night's rest we woke up in the morning and started hiking. I was nervous and cold. I didn't pack any pants, or even zip offs for that matter and ended up wearing my pajama pants under my shorts as we made our way up to the summit. Once we made it to the top and sat for sunrise, it is one of the most beautiful and breathtaking sights I have ever seen in my life. That red ball peeking up over the far-off mountains lit up the landscape beneath us. That view still gives me the chills. We sat silently in awe for almost 20 minutes, just taking in all of the natural beauty. It was not until we started to make our way down from the summit that I began to see what we hiked up. In the darkness we could only see the trail in front of us, but once the sun was up, we were able to see for miles and miles. After a week of cheerful service to the back country and many days hiking the landscape of New Mexico, that quiet morning that I cherish the most.

ORDER OF THE ARROW HIGH ADVENTURE'S SILVER ANNIVERSARY 1995-2020



25 YEARS OF BUILDING TRAIL AND CHANGING LIVES

Service is not only the cornerstone of the Order of the Arrow but also a major focus of the OA High Adventure (OAHA) programs. Marty Tschetter, the first director of an OA High Adventure program, credits Michael Edwards, a former section chief from his own lodge in North Carolina, with the idea of creating "a long term camping program whose aim was to bring the OA ideals to life." Their efforts led to the creation of the OA Trail Crew Program at Philmont Scout Ranch which was "originally to happen only one year." Neither had any idea the program would go on to spawn four other OA High Adventure programs including one international program. So too, they were unaware that Arrowmen going through these programs would collectively provide well over a quarter million hours of service over the course of the next 25 years.

The summer of 2020 marked the 25th season that OAHA programs have been offered, its Silver Anniversary. In recognition of this milestone, we commemorate the highlights and accomplishments of the five OAHA programs that have operated at the four BSA National High Adventure Bases.

ORDER OF THE ARROW TRAIL CREW

The oldest of the OAHA programs is OA Trail Crew (OTC) at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, NM. Since the program's inaugural season in the summer of 1995, over 3,500 Arrowmen have gone through the program, collectively providing over 140,000 hours of cheerful service. The focus of the program's service has primarily been constructing hiking trails at the ranch. However, during the 2008 season, crews performed other tasks such as removing fencing in the Carson National Forest, one of New Mexico's five National Forests. Over the years, treks have repaired trails and built new ones that have expanded access to major ranch landmarks such as the Tooth of Time and Baldy Mountain.

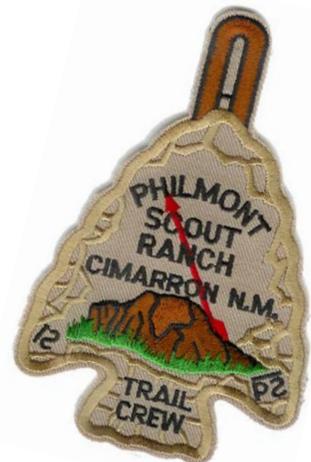
**1995
OATC
INAUGURAL
SEASON**



Original OATC Program Patch



Original OATC Program Pin



Current OATC Program Patch



ORDER OF THE ARROW WILDERNESS VOYAGE

The success and popularity of the OATC program led to the creation of the OA Wilderness Voyage (OAWV) program, debuting at the Northern Tier High Adventure Base in Minnesota during the summer of 1999. This program's service has concentrated on improving the portage trails connecting the various lakes of the Great Northwoods. Many of the portages have existed for centuries and the program's work ensures that these wild areas can still be enjoyed for centuries to come. Numerous portages and countless miles of trail have been serviced by the OAWV program throughout the program's 21 years.

ORDER OF THE ARROW CANADIAN ODYSSEY

Following the 2004 National Order of the Arrow Conference, a small contingent of Arrowmen returned to the Northwoods and performed service in the Quetico Provincial Park, a wilderness area similar to the US's Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness on the Canadian side of the border. The service of this group laid the foundation for the OA Canadian Odyssey (OACO) program which officially launched in the summer of 2010. Since its inception, the OAWV and OACO programs have provided life changing experiences for roughly 2,000 Arrowmen who have provided an estimated 120,000 hours of service in the Boundary Waters and Quetico.

**1999
OAWV
INAUGURAL
SEASON**

**2004
FIRST
INTERNATIONAL
SERVICE
PROJECT**

**2005
OAOA
INAUGURAL
SEASON**



Current OAWV Program Patch



ORDER OF THE ARROW OCEAN ADVENTURE

The early 2000s also saw the formation of the OA Ocean Adventure (OAOA) program which held its inaugural season in the summer of 2005. Unlike the OA programs at Philmont and Northern Tier, whose programs have performed the same type of service since their creation, the OAOA program has undergone three unique iterations.

In its inception, Arrowmen traveled to the Florida National High Adventure Sea Base and completed training and certification in basic open-water scuba diving. Once trained, they assisted numerous non-profit and environmental agencies by performing invaluable underwater research. After several years operating in this manner, the program made the switch to completing land-based service projects. Initially much of this service was concentrated on Big Munson Island and the Crane Point Nature Center. Crews also embarked on a sailing adventure around the keys to celebrate their service. In 2017, the program shifted again, this time providing service to the Dry Tortugas National Park in the Gulf of Mexico. Utilizing the Dry Tortugas as home base, the program replaced sailing with fishing and sea kayaking. Due to the variation in its service, quantifying the total amount of the OAOA program's service is difficult. However, like its sister programs it has provided hundreds of Arrowmen with life-changing experiences and unparalleled assistance to the communities of Southern Florida.

2009
OACO
INAUGURAL
SEASON

2010
OAOA
SWITCHES TO
LAND BASED
SERVICE

2014
OASE
INAUGURAL
SEASON



Current OAOA Program Patch



Current OASE Program Patch



ORDER OF THE ARROW SUMMIT EXPERIENCE

The newest OA High Adventure program, the OA Summit Experience (OASE), held its inaugural season in the summer of 2014. This program was specifically designed as an introduction to OAHA for younger Arrowmen 14-17 years old. Since then, more than 400 participants have provided just under 20,000 hours of service in the New River Gorge National River area in Glen Jean, WV. Crews' service at the Summit Bechtel Reserve (SBR) has revolved around the construction of an offsite hiking and mountain bike trail system called the Garden Ground Stacked Loop system. Once the service is complete, participants partake in activities on and off SBR property including mountain biking, skateboarding, and whitewater rafting.

The number of life-changing experiences and immeasurable service these programs have provided in their first 25 years is remarkable. 2020 National Chief Zach Schonfeld believes that the OA High Adventure experience showcases the core mission of our organization. He believes these treks are important as they, "enable Arrowmen to attend Scouting's treasured high adventure bases in a special way." With the preference of the program directors and foremen, "these treks give participants the freedom to plan their own itinerary and enjoy unique experiences that are limited to the OA High Adventure programs. These benefits are in exchange for providing cheerful service, all while forming new bonds of brotherhood with other Arrowmen from around the country".

As the Scouting movement continues to evolve, Zach, as well as other members of our organization's leadership, looks forward to what the future holds for these monumental programs. Current OA membership and alumni have repeatedly lauded OA High Adventure as a valuable and formative opportunity for today's youth leaders. The OA expresses immense gratitude to those who made the Silver Anniversary of cheerful service a reality through its high adventure programs. To celebrate this milestone on social media, share a story and photo with the hashtags:

#AdventureAwaits & #OAHA25



2017

**OAOA
MOVES TO THE
DRY TORTUGAS
NATIONAL PARK**

2018

**OATC
NOT OFFERED
DUE TO THE UTE
PARK FIRE**

2019

**FIRST FEMALE
FOREMEN AND
PARTICIPANTS**

2020

**OACO AND OATC
NOT OFFERED
DUE TO THE
COVID-19
PANDEMIC**

2020

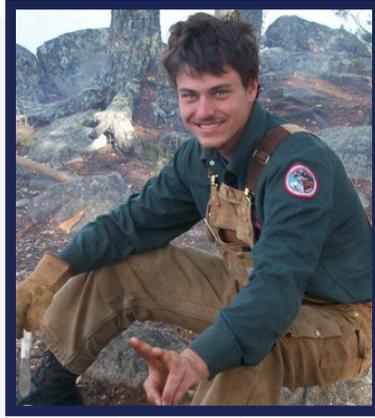
**25th SILVER
ANNIVERSARY
SEASON OF OAHA**



ORDER OF THE ARROW

WILDERNESS VOYAGE





OAWV DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Dear Brothers,

The year of 2020 has presented unique challenges to us all. However, the staff and volunteers associated with the program have been incredible both during the pre-season and this summer. In the face of continued delays and the ever-looming threat of closure, they never wavered in their desire to provide a meaningful and life changing summer to participants if it was deemed safe and possible.

In June the OA Wilderness Voyage program received the green light to operate! Plans were made quickly: resources and materials were ordered, additional foremen were hired, and participants contacted. Once all the staff had arrived, there was only four days to provide hands on staff training. However, using some creativity and the power of virtual meetings, a majority of training was able to be conducted ahead of time.

Even though the season started out a little rocky, we were able to provide a life changing experience to three dozen participants. The conservation work largely consisted of corridor clearing and general trail maintenance. The combined efforts of our crews helped to maintain 73 portage trails across the Boundary Waters, equating to miles of corridor clearing and maintenance accomplished. The patience, positivity, and persistence of the foremen, participants, and all other members was greatly appreciated, even while new policies and constant changes occurred with the evolving situation of the pandemic.

Adventure Awaits,

Jason Hickey
2020 OAWV Director





Director: Jason Hickey
Assistant Director: Nathan Wilson

John Butkevicius
Kayleigh Castillo
Joey Dierdorf
Sean Ferrier

Joe Gondeck
Dani McEarthron
Isaac Peterson
Josh Reddick

Samuel Rogers
Shaw Smith
Matthew Warrick

2020 IN REVIEW





By Samuel Rogers

FLYING THROUGH THE WOODS

This summer at Northern Tier was much shorter than the summer, However, I was still able to experience a sense of adventure exploring the Great Northwoods. One of the most memorable moments from this summer was on the second day of our first voyage. I told my crew a rumor about an old downed float plane that was hidden away in a forgotten part of the woods, and they decided to take a trip into the past and find it. After a slow start to the day, we made our way to the secret cove of Sunday Bay on Crooked Lake. Our fearless navigator told us where to go and off we were. Once we got in the general area, we spread out and kept our eyes open for the rustic spectacle. After some time bushwhacking through the dense overgrowth, we had no luck finding it. The crew regrouped, albeit slightly melancholic, and I asked to take a look at the map. Turns out the navigator got the right cove on the map but directed us to the wrong shore.

After obtaining our new bearing, we moseyed our way over to the correct shore. As we approached my foreman partner pointed out an odd sight amongst the green scenery, it looked like something metal. I hopped out of the canoe and walked onto the shore pushing my way up to the metal object. As I approached I shouted, "This is it!" Sitting in front of me in all its decrepit and rusted glory, the rumored float plane. I signal the crew to come on over and take a look. We all speculated about how it got there, why it was left, and guessed how long it has been there. This discovery was not new, but it was an adventure myself and the crew will never forget.





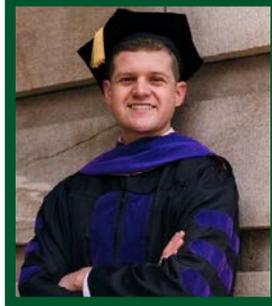
Scott Beckett
OATC '95-'96

Awarded the BSA's Silver Buffalo for his service to youth.



John Calvin Bruce
OAWV '16-'18

Married on Sep. 4, 2020 to Mrs. Heather Bruce.



David Joyner
OAOA '13

Became an Assistant DA in NC's 15th Judicial District.



Cpl. Ben Lanham
OATC '16-'17

Recognized as the NCO of the Quarter by his USMC Unit.



Matthias Leier
OAOA '18

Producer on an episode of Kevin Hart's "What the Fit".



Christopher Merck
OAWV '15

Graduated from the University of Northern Iowa.



Daniel "Vern" Miller
OAWV '01-'04, '09, '10

Elected Vice President of the Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association.



Ryan Miske
OATC '95-'97

Ran for Eden Prairie, MN City Council.



Emma Penzcek
OATC '19

Graduated from Indiana University.



Joshua Squirrell
OASE '19-'20

Crowned University of Cincinnati Homecoming King.

Distinguished Service Award Recipients

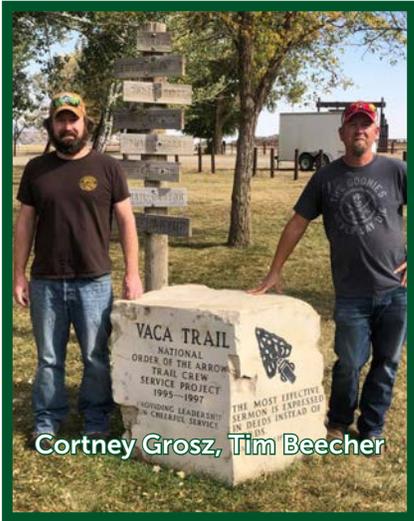


Chuck Couteau



Ben Harper





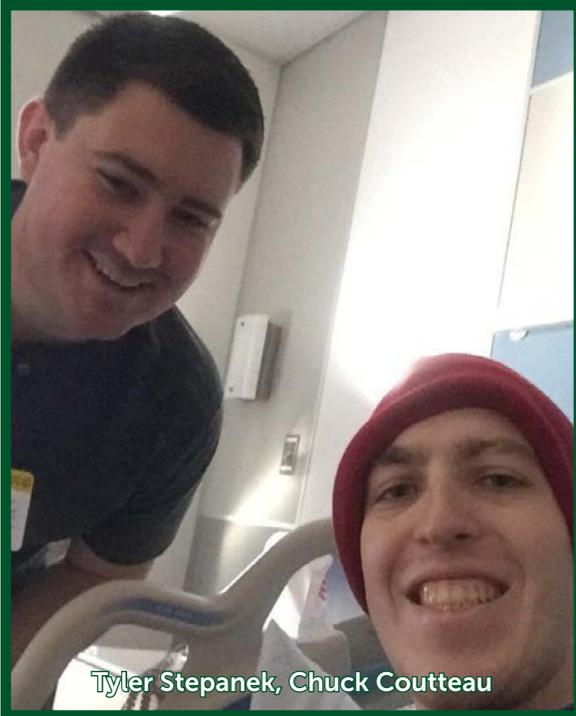
Cortney Grosz, Tim Beecher



Daniel Smith, Hunter Morton, John Morgan Stanton



[Chris Schildknecht], Timothy Dale Babb, Travis McCormick



Tyler Stepanek, Chuck Coutteau



Derek Lampe, Charlie Todd, John Calvin Bruce



Gregoty Yentz, Mike Brignola, Ted Apostle



Josh Squirrel, Matt Brown, [Jack Hess], Ted Weiland, Joey Dierdorf, Jason Hickey, Gregory Yentz, Mackenzie Burke, Nick Digirolamo, Matthew Kusche, [Ethan Mooney], Davis Kellogg



IN MEMORIAM

Timothy Alan Collver

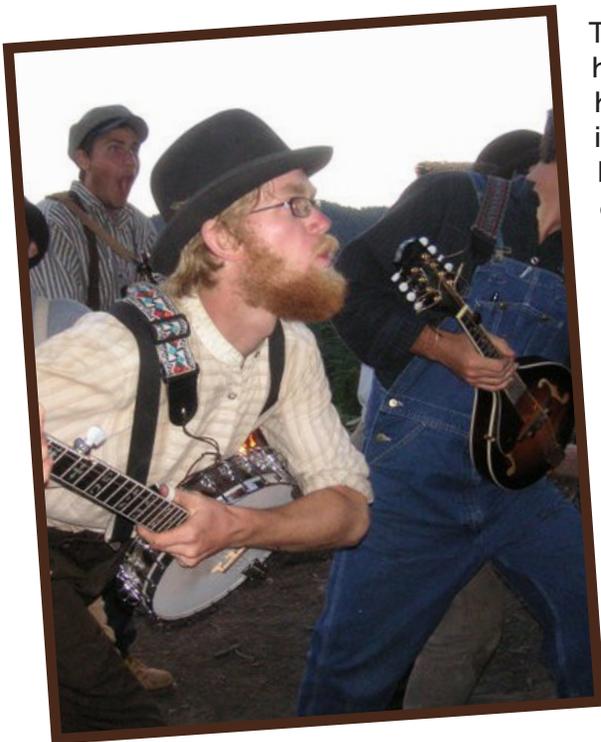
OATC '04, '06, '10

*"Why do we have to listen to our hearts?" the boy asked.
"Because, wherever your heart is, that is where you will find your treasure."*

— The Alchemist

Dozens of young Arrowmen, deep in the backcountry of Philmont, listened to The Alchemist read to them by their foreman. Rest stops, breaks in trail building, and late afternoon rainstorms were all occasions to hear this fable about how life should be lived and learned. These listening sessions told just as much about its reader. A person who truly lived life, always in search of adventure and tales of his own, and who wanted to share the world with others as much as seeing it for himself.

Tim Collver was a Foreman for the OATC Program at Philmont in 2004, 2006, and 2010. Self-described as an "old soul," Tim was a Renaissance man. Within a mile hiking together you could learn all about backpacking, Philmont, local geology and botany, conservation, New Mexico history, and thoughts on the purpose and efficacy of the Order of the Arrow. But his tenacious love of music and tremendous talent playing stringed instruments set Tim apart. Music was Tim's great equalizer, wherever he went harmony and laughter followed.



The nexus of Tim's Scouting connections was simply remarkable. Tim had been to Philmont as a participant and would fondly reflect on his time in Rayado. Having grown up in Tulsa, Oklahoma we can only imagine how the mountains tugged on his heart. Tim built a legacy at Philmont – he was a foreman, roving prospector, camp director, Kanik coordinator, and held many other positions over years at the Ranch. Tim loved the Scouting program, and it was fitting that his last formal role was to recruit, organize, and lead a musical group at the 2019 World Scout Jamboree in West Virginia. Not surprisingly, the group nailed a multi-day performance.

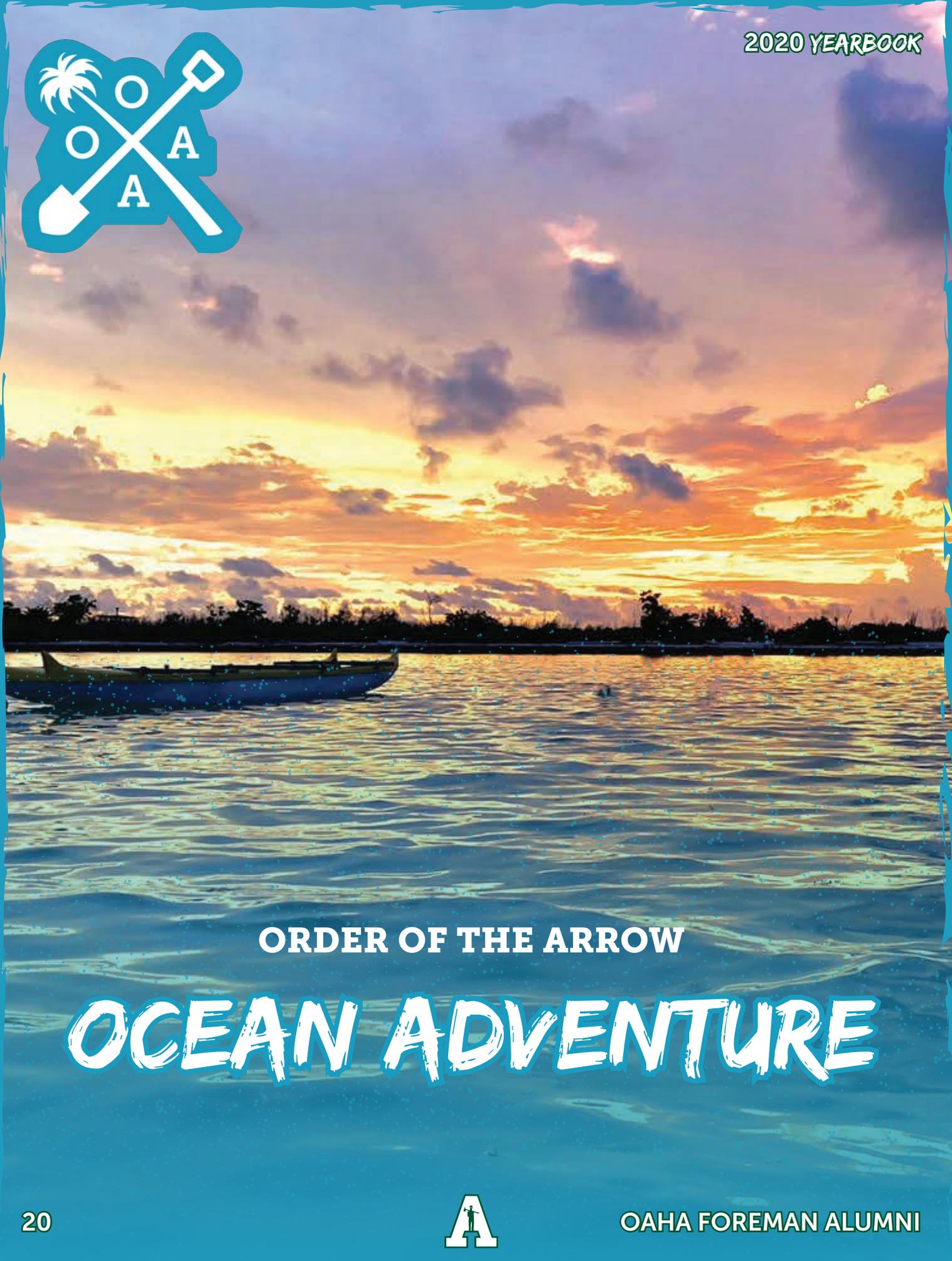
Just like Santiago in The Alchemist, Tim found many other adventures, including Asia and guiding youth through the Alps. A mantra of "changing lives" was Tim's passion, and he was aptly called a wild spirit, kind, and full of wisdom. He is described as a people collector, which is particularly fitting to the enormous and diverse group of friends he kept. We are now left remembering a single person who influenced so many, who left an indelible mark, and who can teach us to live with the passion, kindness, and love that he was so well known for.

Tim is survived by his wife, Sibyl, parents, and three older siblings. If you would like to contribute to honoring Tim's legacy, a Philmont scholarship for individual treks is being organized and funded in his name ([Click Here](#)). Tim loved the OA Trail Crew, he was an excellent foreman, and his incredible bright spot on the OAHA program will not soon fade.

*"When we love, we always strive to become better than we are.
When we strive to become better than we are, everything around
us becomes better too."*

— The Alchemist





ORDER OF THE ARROW

OCEAN ADVENTURE





OAOA DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Dear Brothers,

Ocean Adventure 2020 would not have been possible without the work of an amazing team of dedicated individuals. We were extremely fortunate to be able to run at a limited capacity this summer, welcoming 65 participants over 9 sessions. The cooperative effort with Sea Base to ensure that we were operating in as safe a manner as possible, along with their generous assistance to help fill the resulting gaps in our program schedule, was instrumental in our summer's success.

Though unfortunate that we were unable to return to Dry Tortugas National Park, the move to Big Munson Island and the resulting proximity and visibility of Ocean Adventure to Sea Base participants and staff gave us a unique opportunity to show off our unique program, foremen, and Arrowmen. At Big Munson, Arrowmen provided over 1700 service hours to improve the island's program areas for all of its visitors. It was an amazing feeling to be approached by island staff to be told that the island looked better than ever.

This year we welcomed our first female Arrowmen to Ocean Adventure, along with the first female staff member, Section Chief Andrea Penrose. Our returning foremen Zack Isleib and Matt Kusche provided excellent leadership and experience to our two new amazing foremen of Sean Fisher and Spencer Lanning.

While this year can be seen from almost every angle as a success, we look forward to returning to our place at Dry Tortugas National Park for Ocean Adventure 2021. With the struggles of 2020 behind us, the best is yet to come.

Adventure Awaits,

Gregory Yentz
2020 OAOA Director



ORDER OF THE ARROW
OCEAN ADVENTURE





Director: Gregory Yentz

Sean Fisher
Zachary Isleib
Matthew Kusche
Spencer Lanning

2020 IN REVIEW

2,064
HOURS OF SERVICE

\$68
PURCHASED
FROM
SALVATION
ARMY

4
IGUANAS
RELOCATED

4
ANNUAL
FISHING
RECORD
BROKEN





By Zachary Isleib



DANCING IN THE RAIN

This past summer I was blessed enough to serve again as an OAOA Foreman. This summer was very different than 2019, to say the very least. The ongoing global pandemic prepared the OAOA program to expect the unexpected...and that we did. When you hear about the location of the Florida Keys the typical images that come to mind are sunshine days, beautiful tropical landscapes, and the sweet sensation of the high heat consuming your body. Although there were countless days where this was the case, Big Munson Island treated us with "surprises" for every crew. In late July, Tropical Storm Isaias formed in the mid-Atlantic Ocean, making a charge to the Florida Keys and eventually escalating to a Category 3 hurricane that brought high winds and destruction to the northeastern seaboard of the US. Hurricanes are nothing new to the Florida Keys and staff at Sea Base have become resilient to any damage that they may cause. Just as my foreman partner Spencer and I led our third crew for their island trip, we were prepared to evacuate if the storm escalated. Thankfully, as if swatting a mosquito or no-see-um from your face, Big Munson flexed her might and the storm took a hard L-line up the coast, passing roughly 50 miles off the island.

The nights leading up to the storm brought spectacles of lightning that illuminated the distant sky. Isaias would send "reject" storms carrying intense rain and high winds to the island - dropping the temperature from its standard 95+ degree days way down to a freezing low of 65 degrees thanks to the atmospheric depression. Being from Vermont, 65+ sounds like a fine day - maybe a long sleeve shirt is needed. On an island with little natural coverage, we were at the mercy of the wind and rain for the entire length of the trek with little time to dry-off between storms. The fear of hypothermia quickly overcame my fellow foreman and I. With all the debris on the island from past storms, and some slight pyromania, we created a fire that lasted the entire trek and withstood the heavy rains to keep our crew (who were expecting a hot tropical paradise) thermo regulated. After completing service projects in the mornings and afternoons consisting of trail-building and invasive species removal, the evenings of thunder claps and lightning bolts kept the bugs away and spirits high. Fresh-water showers in the rain brought delight to the crew as well as Key Deer and other island critters visiting our warm sanctuary to see what the excitement was about! With a dab of creativity, Spencer and I held existential discussions and sang songs with the crew members to keep the spirits high. We also had impromptu competitions of carrying the largest dead tree to burn and hermit crab olympic trials as we all weather the storms and embrace the surreal tropical wilderness.

It is moments like our rainy week on the island that take all your expectations and preparations, and "yeet" them out the window that truly express the nature of being human. Through this experience I learned that just an ounce of optimism and warmth (whether from the dancing flames of a fire or the human soul) can turn a rainy day into the ultimate adventure. The laughing amongst a crew echoed by a thunderous sky, as if it was laughing back at us, proves that pure love for the most unexplored depths of planet earth is what defines OAOA.



TYLER BOND

Tyler Bond was a Foreman at OAOA in 2014 and 2015 and Director of OAOA in 2016. He is a OAHA Triple Crown recipient. A graduate of Rutgers University, he currently works as an Environmental Scientist doing consulting work to remediate contaminated sites around New Jersey.

Q: What is your fondest memory of OA High Adventure, as a foreman or director?

Tyler: One of the coolest things I did was on my trek at OAWV. We were doing a fairly long portage and I was double packing. I'm not a big guy and carrying an alumicraft and backpack isn't easy. I was counting down the steps until the end of the portage hoping to make it without having to put the pack down. I thought I couldn't go any further when there was another non-Scout group of people going the same way as us. I've never felt a bigger burst of energy than seeing others around my age taking a break while two people were carrying one kevlar canoe. I passed them struggling to say, "Hey" and made it all the way to the end. It was such a great feeling knowing I had made it the whole way.

Q: Can you tell us about a lasting relationship or encounter you've had because of OAHA?

Tyler: I've made a lot of friends through the OA High Adventure programs. I feel connected to everyone that was in my crews and I was able to work with. I'm friends with everyone that I was able to work alongside. The experience is magical enough as a participant, but being a foreman and working consistently along with the other foremen creates a deep friendship. It brings others closer together.

Q: What would you tell someone who was unsure if they should spend a summer as an OAHA foreman?

Tyler: When you're 5, 10, 30 years older, what would you rather wish you were doing this summer? We are a composite of all the memories we make. These are experiences and stories that you will think about forever. Live life now and do something amazing, whether it's being a foreman or doing something else. But once you make that choice it's yours forever! I know I'd do it all again 50 times over.



BRANDON GETHING

Brandon Gething was first introduced to OAHA as a participant at Wilderness Voyage in 2003. He later came back as a Foreman for OAWV in 2009. He currently lives in York, Pennsylvania with his wife Kristy.

Q: What are you doing now?

Brandon: I'm the Director of Development and Marketing for The Children's Aid Society, a regional non-profit helping to serve children who may have been subject to abuse and/or neglect. I'm also very involved as a member of a Motorcycle Club that helps local veterans in my area.

Q: What is your fondest memory of OA High Adventure?

Brandon: I think the ability to mold young people into a cohesive team in the short amount of time was something that always astounded me. I also think the ability to be truly on 'God's Time' is something that I will also remember.

Q: Was there another foreman or director that you learned from more than others?

Brandon: I was privileged to know some of the foremen who helped pave the way to where the program is today. I would say there were a few who I looked up to and each had their own style of leadership. Davey was one of the best bosses I've ever had. Being friends with Travis McCormick and Luke McNeese would absolutely never have happened without OAWV. Travis was on my sister Crew in 2003 and Luke and I were Foremen together in 2009. Both men I value their friendships because of OAWV.

Q: Do you have any advice for foremen after they are done with OAHA?

Brandon: Keep active, even in the smallest way. Our program also is going through significant changes, and the diversity and camaraderie that our experience brings makes our program one of the strongest in the BSA. I was involved with the national and regional Venturing committees for a number of years and was proud to talk about OAHA when they'd come to me and ask, "Who are those crazy high adventure guys yelling 'Skieeuuu' all the time?"



RYAN HAWK

Ryan Hawk was an OATC participant in 1997, an OATC Foreman in 1999 and 2001, and the OATC Director in 2004 and 2005. He is currently a Delta Airlines 737 pilot and a C-17 pilot in the Air National Guard.

Q: What is your fondest memory of OA High Adventure?

Ryan: As a foreman, helping crews learn how to work together and expand personal and team horizons. Seeing the crew's pride of accomplishment when waking up in the saddle of Philmont's Baldy Mountain for a sunrise with a crew of participants was incredible.

Q: What are you up to now?

Ryan: Balancing two aviation careers with my personal life of family and my son. My involvement in Scouts is a great reminder of the benefits to Scouting and why we give back to the Scouting program. Currently, I serve as our pack Cubmaster and a Council Board Member.

Q: Do you have any advice for foremen after they are done with OAHA?

Ryan: Don't forget to give back to Scouting and the OA and make a difference in the life of our youth.

Q: What is the biggest lesson you learned from being a foreman or director that you still lean on today?

Ryan: To always set high goals and push yourself in every dimension. Set an example for others.

Q: What would you tell someone who was unsure if they should spend a summer as an OAHA foreman?

Ryan: Do it. It will change your life for the better. Once the opportunity passes and life's speed increases, serving OAHA as a foreman is much more difficult. Don't miss the chance.



ORDER OF THE ARROW

SUMMIT EXPERIENCE





OASE DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Dear Brothers,

This season was perhaps one of the most challenging in the short history of OASE, and I am proud to say that the crew met the challenge to bring an amazing program to our participants! Our biggest change from last year was the full staff of one director, one assistant director, and four foremen. The team had two returning staff members and three past participants on staff, and had no trouble bringing back the "Gateway to High Adventure" to our OA participants.

COVID-19 was definitely a difficult problem the Summit faced as a whole. I want to thank both the staff and the participants for their cooperation. Because of their combined efforts we put on the largest season on record for the Summit as a whole. For service, OASE was moved from the Garden Ground Loop to the Camp Creek Trail (which was in dire need of maintenance). Over the course of five crews, OASE participants and foremen built and maintained a record setting amount of trail, topping off at over 7,000 feet! The participants got to enjoy a variety of activities at the Summit, finishing each week with an amazing whitewater adventure in the New River Gorge. The staff and participants had a blast this summer and I cannot wait to see what the future brings to OASE in 2021.

Adventure Awaits,

Mackenzie Burke
2020 OASE Director



ORDER OF THE ARROW
SUMMIT EXPERIENCE





Director: Mackenzie Burke
Assistant Director: Joshua Squirrell

Aaron Blackwell
Oliver Creemer
Kyle Hoffman
Chance Sloan

2020 IN REVIEW



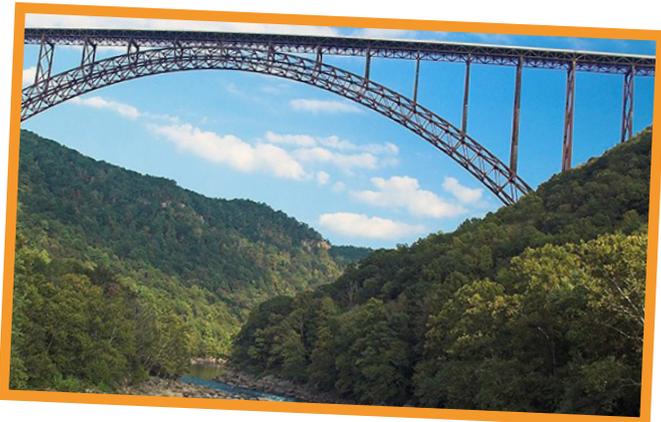


By Oliver Creemer

THE COW GOES MOO

During the first week out on trail for our OA Summit Experience, the crew hiked out to the campsite and set up our base for the next few days. After a couple tasks, we all got to know each other a little better through personal introductions and some team building exercises. Once the sun had gone down and the last glimmer of light faded across the horizon we all went to sleep for the night. The next morning, my foreman partner Kyle and I began talking about our game plan for the day. Additionally, Kyle also asked me if I had heard any unusual noises in the night. He described the sound like very large footsteps coming from over the berm and down the hill. I had not heard anything, and brushed it off as first night jitters. Once we woke the Scouts and had gathered our tools and packs, Kyle again asked if any of the scouts heard any unusual noises in the night. All of them replied no and were as confused as I was. Nothing seemed to explain what Kyle had heard down the hill.

The next night, Kyle heard another noise (he is now known as the boy who cried noise). However, this time we figured out that it was a little mouse burrowing under the jacket he was using as a pillow. Throughout the rest of the trek and the summer season we would see lots of wildlife. I once saw a snake and a couple beautiful moths. We were also constantly pestered by the yellow jackets and hoverflies who zoomed around and watched us like surveillance drones. Nevertheless, we never saw anything large enough to make those footsteps Kyle heard the first night...that is, until our last day on the trail. We were packing up the campsite and getting ready to hike out. And there, in the clearing across the valley, we saw the elusive cow. Apparently, this one cow is rumored to roam around The Summit property, and is more rare to see than a bear. I asked around the staff, and no one seemed to know where it came from. Some say that it is an escaped cow, while others report it was a past resident of the property before being bought by the Boy Scouts of America in 2009. One thing is for sure, it was definitely the source of the sounds that Kyle heard that night (and he was not making it up).





MAKING IT HAPPEN BACK HOME

The Order of the Arrow High Adventure (OAHA) programs have inspired Arrowmen to do more than service to the BSA's high adventure bases. Many participants and foreman develop a long-lasting passion for conservation and sustainability while working on the trail, which they later bring to their local BSA Council and their communities. Cheerful service to the outdoors runs deep in these individuals' blood.

Brian Lux, who grew up in a small town in Ohio and joined the Scouting program at a young age. Attending a high adventure trip with his troop renewed his passion for becoming more involved in Scouting, including his induction into the Order of the Arrow. Brian first became involved in the OA because of the great stories he had heard about from OAHA program participants. He attended the OA Trail Crew program in 1997 and later served as an OA Wilderness Voyage Foreman in the summer of 2001. Now almost 20 years later, Brian has been in many Scouting roles during his tenure



Brian Lux



2018 NOAC Service Project

including lodge adviser for Ma-Nu Lodge located in Oklahoma and section adviser for Section SR-8. He enjoys empowering young people to lead their lodge and section. Furthermore, Brian has found a calling for serving Scouting through sustainability efforts. Brian is one of the driving forces behind the Arrowmen for Conservation, Education, and Sustainability (ACES) that has sponsored conservation projects at previous National Order of the Arrow Conferences (NOACs).

When the group first began, Brian helped launch a conservation program in his home council (Last Frontier Council) similar to OA Trail Crew. He partnered with the National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) program to promote participation in both activities. More than 100 youth participants spent one week with the ACES group providing service to the local council camp (Diamond H) and the second week completing the NYLT program. By the end of the service project, more than three miles of trail was...



...constructed on the camp property. The group now holds a collaborative event every year, in which they build miles of trail. Since their creation, ACES has provided thousands of service hours supporting Scouting through sustainability and conservation work at the council and national levels. For example, Brian and the ACES group helped Section SR-8 put on a Trail Crew Style event at Zink High Adventure Base (ZBase) back in 2019. ACES can also be spotted at national facilitating training sessions and promoting sustainable practices.

The ACES team has made it easy for past OAHA participants and foreman alumni to bring conservation programs back home. The sub-committee has created additional resources for those seeking to support sustainability efforts in their council and district's programs, which can be requested by emailing OAHAalumni@gmail.com. Foreman alumni are uniquely qualified to lead conservation projects at local council camps and other conservation minded service projects.



Photos from the ZBase Conservation Project



4 KEYS TO SUCCESSFULLY PROMOTE OAHA

Below are four key points to touch on when promoting the Order of the Arrow High Adventure Program in person as well as online to potential participants and parents.

1

In Person Programming: Most OA High Adventure treks have been able to continue operating through 2020 due to increased safety precautions and the crew size has always been no more than 7-10 Arrowmen.

2

Flexible Scheduling: While you may have a summer job or partake in fall sports to get ready for the season, the trek schedule begins in late May/early June and runs through August. Find the trek that fits your schedule best!

3

Scholarship Opportunities: Thousands of dollars each year go unclaimed in OA High Adventure scholarships, so be sure to reach out to your lodge and section leadership to ask how to apply.

4

Share Your Experiences: There is nothing quite like hearing a good story about a past trek. As a participant or foremen alumni it is our responsibility to share our experiences.

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) to hear about any updates, giveaways, or others' experiences through the Order of the Arrow High Adventure program.

#AdventureAwaits



OAHA 25th ANNIVERSARY

FOREMAN REUNION

25 YEARS OF
SERVICE

OA HIGH ADVENTURE

• 1995-2020 •

ADVENTURE AWAITS

@ Philmont Scout Ranch

Reunion Weekend: July 21 - July 25
Alumni Service Trek : July 25 - August 1



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WILDERNESS VOYAGE



Jason Hickey
Program Director



Nathan Wilson
Asst. Program Director



Sean Ferrier



John Butkevicius



Kayleigh Castillo



Joey Dierdorf



Joe Gondeck



Dani McEarthron



Isaac Peterson



Josh Reddick



Samuel Rogers



Shaw Smith



Matthew Warrick

BUILD TRAIL

ADVENTURE
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ORDER OF THE ARROW
OCEAN ADVENTURE



Gregory Yentz
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Sean Fisher



Zachary Isleib



Matthew Kusche



Spencer Lanning



Andrea Penrose
Guest Foreman



Mackenzie Burke
Program Director



Josh Squirrell
Asst. Program Director



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Aaron Blackwell



Oliver Creemer



Kyle Hoffman



Chance Sloan



"THE STRENGTH OF
THE TEAM IS EACH
INDIVIDUAL MEMBER.
THE STRENGTH OF EACH
MEMBER IS THE TEAM"

-Phil Jackson





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