



Order of the Arrow

Boy Scouts of America



The Order of the Arrow is Boy Scout's National Honor Society.

The purpose of the Order of the Arrow is fourfold:

1. To recognize those Scout campers who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives.
2. To develop and maintain camping traditions and spirit.
3. To promote Scout camping.
4. To crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.

Facts about Order of the Arrow

Dr. E. Urner Goodman and Carroll A. Edson founded the Order of the Arrow (OA) in 1915 at the Treasure Island Camp of the Philadelphia Council, Boy Scouts of America. It became an official program experiment in 1922 and was approved as part of the Scouting program in 1934.

In 1948 the OA, recognized as the BSA's national brotherhood of honor campers, became an official part of the national camping program of the Boy Scouts of America.

The OA has more than 176,000 members located in lodges affiliated with approximately 327 BSA local councils.

How Boy Scouts can join the Order of the Arrow.

Their fellow unit members elect scouts to the Order, following approval by the Scoutmaster or Varsity team Coach. To become a member, a youth must be a registered member of a Boy Scout troop or Varsity Scout team and hold First Class rank. The youth must have experienced fifteen days and nights of Boy Scout camping during the two-year period prior to the election. The fifteen days and nights must include one, but no more than one, long-term camp consisting of six consecutive days and five nights of resident camping, approved and under the auspices and standards of the Boy Scouts of America. The balance of the camping must be overnight, weekend, or other short-term camps.

Adults become Order of the Arrow Members Too!

Adult selection is based on their ability to perform the necessary functions to help the Order fulfill its purpose, and is not for recognition. Selected adult Scouters must be an asset to the Order because of demonstrated abilities, and provide a positive role model for the youth members of the lodge.

TROOP REPRESENTATIVE

The OA Troop Representative is a youth liaison serving between the OA lodge or chapter and his unit. In his unit, he will serve as a communication and programmatic link to and from Arrow men, adult leaders, and Scouts who are not presently members of the Order.



Strikes for Scouting





Order of Arrow Terms

- Lodge – Council wide organization of OA members. Nacha-Mawat is our Lodge name for Southwest Michigan Council.
- Chapter – District wide organization of OA members. Mandoka, Chapter 3 is the Nattawa Trails District OA Chapter.
- Section – Group of Lodges within a BSA Region.
- LEC – Lodge Executive Committee. Elected and Appointed Staff to run Lodge. All OA members are invited to LEC meetings.
- Winter Reunion – Dinner Get together for all OA members, dates and families. Awards type banquet.
- Section Conclave – All associated Lodges get together in a Jamboree type weekend on the last full weekend in April. It is hosted at a different scout camp each year.
- NOAC – The National Order of the Arrow Conference. Held every two years at a Major University. NOAC is the jamboree for OA members.

OA Schedule

- **Unit Elections** – Jan 1 – Mar 31, 2009
- **Spring Fellowship** – May 15-17, 2009
- **Spring Call-out** – District Camporee
- **Section Conclave** – Apr 24-26, 2009
Camp Northwoods
- **Camp Callouts** – Fridays at Camp
- **Fall Ordeal Weekend/Fellowship** – Sep 25-27, 2009 – Rota-Kiwan
- **OA Fun Day** – Dec 5, 2009
- **Strikes for Scouting** – Feb 20-21, 2010

"Your Brotherhood builds Scouting, and Scouting builds better youth, and those youth are the very future of this nation."

Robert L. Ventresca

Chief Scout Executive's address to Scouts now on www.oa-bsa.org

