



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
ORDER OF THE ARROW

LA300 – Issues: “Sash and Dash”

On-line Training

Objectives

- Identify potential weaknesses
 - Unit elections
 - Induction
 - Retention
- Develop ideas to address these weaknesses



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Sash and Dash

- What is it?
- Why do Scouts and Scouters do it?

*If you're not actively involved in getting what you want,
you don't really want it.*

-Peter McWilliams



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What is Sash & Dash?

- Obtain sash and Lodge flap and never attending another OA event
- Desire to be seen with a sash and flap at Court of Honor.
- Clean, crisp sash with no signs of use
- I've "earned" my OA so I don't need to show up any more
- Why wait 10 months to finish, I have the flap



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Can we stop it?

- Not completely...
- Can treat the symptoms.
- Large drop from elected to ordeal
- Brotherhood conversion (retention issue)



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The Ten Induction Principles

- Purpose
- Eligibility
- Candidate's Compliance
- Members' Compliance
- Discretion
- Importance of the Individual
- Generosity
- Focus
- Symbolic Progression
- Active Membership



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Troop Relations

- T.R. = Troop Relations
 - Think of it as P.R. or your Public Relations
- What is the relationship with your units?
 - Do they anticipate your unit election and camp promotion?
 - Troop/Team Representative utilization and lodge involvement?



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T.R. continued

- Envision how you can improve your relationships
 - Positive Unit involvement by individual Arrowmen is vital! -the unit comes first
 - Younger scouts will look forward to becoming arrowmen
 - The Troop/Team Rep and his adviser should be good influencers with the unit.



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Unit Elections

- Well planned and well executed election
- Unit Election teams must be trained
 - Don't let the team hide behind a script
 - Full uniform with Sash
 - Follow up – letter from the Lodge Chief



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The Ordeal Experience

- How are Candidates Greeted at Camp?
- Education through each step
- Pre-Ordeal well done and meaningful
- Visually impressive
- Ordeal Ceremony well done and meaningful
- Quality Service Projects
- Lodge members respect Ordeal Process
- Quality Elangomats



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Elangomats

- Could single-handedly be the most important tool to stop “sash & dash”
- Training of Elangomats is critical
- Use of Extended Elangomats key to retention



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They have the Sash...

- Now what?
 - Post Ordeal Orientation
 - Recap Experience
 - Who the key leaders are
 - How to get involved
 - Calendar of Events
 - Emphasize the “Jump Start Program”
 - FUN Events



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And follow up again!

- Post Ordeal Communication is Key!
 - Welcome letter from the Lodge Chief
 - Extended Elangomat's as Mentors
 - Create a Buddy System (Extended Elangomat)
 - Emphasize the Honor
 - Elected by your peers
 - Keep good records
 - LodgeMaster makes this easy
 - The ordeal is just the beginning...



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You can make a difference

- I am only ONE
- BUT I am one
- I cannot do everything, but I can do something.
- And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do.

-Edward Everett Hale



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The Power of One

- It only takes one person, one act, one job to influence a new member positively

You always end up getting involved in things because of, you know, the strange things your life brings you into contact with.

Edward Norton



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The Stickiness Factor

- Why aren't your new members sticking?
- How can your Lodge become sticky?

*Grilling takes the formality out of entertaining.
Everyone wants to get involved.*

-Bobby Flay



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What have we learned?

- Minimizing “Sash & Dash” takes a concerted effort on many fronts
 - Unit Elections
 - Inductions and Ceremonies
 - Service
 - Communications
 - Chapter
 - Troop/Team Representatives
 - FUN programs



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Get them involved

- Give people something to do!
 - Involvement is Key
 - If someone doesn't have something to do, they won't stay interested
 - Make it FUN

To succeed, you need to find something to hold onto, something to motivate you, something to inspire you.

-Tony Dorsett



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