

LA130 - Lodge Adviser Resources – “You are NOT Alone”

National OA Adviser Training

Session Length: 25 Minutes

Introduction

Slide 2&3 – Lodge Adviser Resources

As a new Lodge or Chapter Adviser, you are not alone. If you are lucky, you've been trained by your predecessor and have been attending Lodge events for years. But maybe not. This session will discuss the various and wide variety of resources available to you. The best place to start is at home, your local resources. You may also want to work your way up the ladder by talking to your Section Advisor and the other lodge Advisers in your section. The Region Chairman, look at National training and events and the websites, Section, Region and National web sites are good resources.

Slide 4 - Your Local Resources

The best place to start is at Home. Your lodge has a great number of Arrowmen who have specific knowledge or overall knowledge on topics you may not be familiar with. Besides the past Lodge and/or Chapter adviser(s) in your lodge there are current and past Associate Advisers. Another great resource for you is your Lodge Staff Adviser, past and present. If your lodge is big enough, you may also have a Chapter Staff Adviser. These are full time BSA Employees who the Scout Executive has appointed to help you. Your Lodge or Chapter Staff adviser will usually have other assignments within the council, but they can help you with the transition and communication between you and your council. The Staff adviser can help you purchase items from national supply division, reserve council properties for any lodge or chapter event, and help with your events, and do whatever else is needed to make sure you have everything you need to do the job right. It is critical that you develop a strong working relationship with your Staff adviser as well as your Lodge or Chapter Chief. If you are at the Chapter level, your Lodge Adviser and Associate Lodge Advisers are resources and can help.

The Lodge Chief, the Lodge Adviser, and the Scout Executive (or the Lodge Staff Adviser) make up the Key Three of the lodge. At the Chapter level the Chapter Chief, Chapter Adviser and Chapter Staff adviser is the Key Three of the Chapter. You need to be working as a team of 3, “you are not alone”.

Find your “Adviser’s Adviser”. A person in the lodge, possibly a past adviser who “knows the ropes” and you trust. This is the person who will help you keep the lodge moving in the right direction through his or her mentoring. He or she knows how things are done,

who to go to and when items need to be done. The one person who will give you that nudge when needed, to remind you of the things that need to be done and when, a mentor per say.

There are going to be questions that you can't remember or never thought to ask as you gain more experience. Besides the former lodge/chapter adviser and staff adviser you have many other resources available to you: Other lodges and their lodge advisers, the Section, Region and National and their advisers and committee members.

Training, of course, is abundant within the OA. Training happens at the local, Section, Region and National levels, all of which you can participate in.

The local training is and should be accomplished at the Lodge Leadership Development (LLD). This is held locally over a few hours to a whole weekend, depending on the schedule set up by your youth committee, the Lodge Executive Committee, LEC and the lodge development or training committee. You should participate as an adviser, as the LLD is primarily for the youth of the lodge.

Slide 5 - Your Section

You are part of a section. Most sections have 3 to 7 lodges in them. A great resource can come from one of your neighboring lodges. Sections are smaller divisions of BSA Areas which in turn are smaller parts of Regions. There are four Regions (you can learn more about the OA structure in the "Lodge Organization and Structure" session available on this web site).

The sections are outlined on each region's web site:

Central Region: <http://central.oa-bsa.org/sections>

Northeast Region: <http://northeast.oa-bsa.org/sections>

Southern Region: <http://southern.oa-bsa.org>

Western Region: <http://western.oa-bsa.org/sections>

Each region, except the Southern Region, has a clickable map which will get you the contact information for each section. Within each section site is either a linked listing of the lodges in your section or a linked map showing each lodge. These are your local resources including lodge advisers and lodge staff advisers and the section adviser.

You will want to get to know your section Adviser and Section Associate Advisers. They have been there, done that. They know all the lodge advisers in the Section, the other Section advisers in their region and the Region committee. Or at least how to get a hold of them. Don't be afraid to talk to them to find out how they deal with items you are not familiar with or are having issues with. Their option can help you.

The Section is responsible for conducting a conclave each year where the participating lodges gather together. There is fun, fellowship, events, training and networking that happen at the conclave. If you have not participated, you should at your section's next conclave. This usually happens over a weekend, starting on Friday and ending Sunday. Usually the training will comprise of about 3 hours the first full morning with topics that will range widely. There is usually many sessions geared to advisers. Check with your local section to get further details. You can take these classes to help shore up your knowledge. You may ask other Lodge Advisers if they have someone at the Conclave you could talk to help answer the question. The Section Adviser may know someone from the region or area or outside the section who might help with your issues.

Slide 6 - Your Region

Each one of the Order of the Arrow Sections belong to one of the 4 Regions that National is divided up into, there are Regions in the Central, Northeast, Southern and the Western parts of the United States.

Each one of these Regions is led by a Region Chief who is a youth that is under 21 years of age that was elected by the Section Chiefs in that Region. Just like a Section, or a Lodge, there are some Adult leadership such as a Region Chairman, and a professional Staff Adviser to help support the Region Chief and keep the Region on the right track. As a new lodge adviser you may have the opportunity to meet some of these people if you attend the Section and Region Events that are held throughout the year. These people can be a great Asset to you and a resource to your own lodge programs and the members of your own lodge.

Slide 7 – Region Training

Two of the Greatest things that your Region does is provide valuable Training programs throughout the year in various locations to help train your Lodge and Chapter youth leaders and adults. They have developed a training syllabus similar to what you would find in a Wood Badge course or a JLT course at Philmont. They call it NLS which is short for National Leadership Seminar.

They also often offer at the same time as an NLS course an additional course that is called DYLC, this is short for Developing Youth Leadership Conference. This course is developed and intended for Lodge Advisers, Associate Lodge Advisers, both the brand new ones as well as the seasoned veterans. It focuses more on the aspects of what makes the youth we lead tick and how to develop his leadership skills he learned at NLS. This, as a new Lodge Adviser, you should be very interested in.

Slide 8 – Region Training

If you have not attended an NLS, you need to find the next one in your Region. This course is done over a 3-day period, usually starts on a Friday evening and goes thru Sunday, this course is open to both youth and adult leaders. This is run by the Region Chief and a staff of highly motivated and qualified youth primarily geared for lodge or chapter youth leadership. It is a life changing leadership course and sends each of its participants home with excitement and the tools to bring back to their own lodge or chapter, to help their programs grow and excel beyond the boundary's that are often present in a dull and stagnant program. Often times it works very well for the Lodge Adviser to attend this with his new Lodge Chief and other Lodge Officers, so they can learn together and reflect back later about some of the tools and technics that you both learned. It will also be very beneficial for you to be able to spend some time with other Lodge Advisers from around the country, that you can talk to and bounce Idea's back and forth to help you see how other Lodges have dealt with some of the same problems that you may be facing. The Youth always seem to make new friends that they too can associate with long after the NLS Weekend has completed. Which allows them to stay in tune with what the other lodges and sections around them may be doing, and gives them the opportunity to seek these other Arrowmen out at other section, Region, or National OA events.

Slide 9 – DYLC Training

The Developing Youth Leadership Conference or DYLC is a weekend training course aimed at adult Advisers in the OA. It is recommended that you have attended and NLS before but not required. During the weekend you will learn many of the things you need to be a better Adviser to help the youth develop the leadership skills he learned at NLS.

Probably the best part about the weekend is that you will be able to "network" with other Advisers in your Area and Region and make friends along the way. The trainers for DYLC are from the Region and National OA committees so you can bet that they have "been there" and "done that".

Your region website will have the schedule posted for both NLS and DYLC. Look under the "Program" tab in each region web site to find the schedule for these outstanding training seminars. These seminars will be over a weekend, starting Friday evening and ending with a special luncheon on Sunday. You may want to look at other Regions' websites to see if any of these trainings are being held that you could attend in case your region's dates are not compatible with your schedule. (You might remember the National Lodge Adviser Training Seminar (NLATS). This was phased out at the end of 2016 and replaced with the new weekend Developing Youth Leadership Conference (DYLC). This was piloted at the 2015 NOAC, at Philmont and the Southern and Western Regions in 2016.)

Slide 10 – National Resources

Every two to three years, the Order of the Arrow puts on the National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC) at a major university in late July or early August. At NOAC you can visit with Adult advisers from around the country, attend training from the best trainers, see inspirational shows and just have a great time with your fellow Scouters and Scouts.

Every summer, usually in June, the National OA committee conducts the Philmont OA Adviser Training week for any registered adult Arrowmen of the OA including professional Scouters. This week of training includes lots of information that can help you as an Adult in the OA and also gives you the ability to enjoy the many benefits of the Philmont Scout Ranch and the Philmont Training Center.

Slide 11 – The OA Online

The OA has embraced the web at the best place to get information on the Order of the Arrow.

The Resources section of www.oe-bsa.org has links for OA Publications, Forms, FAQ, Branding, Unit, Chapter and Lodge Support, Links to other information that can help your lodge including JumpStart for new Arrowmen, the OA Trading Post, OA LodgeMaster and much more.

The Region websites have links to many resources that can help your lodge and they also include links to the Section Websites who in turn, have links to their Lodge Websites - a true "web" of information available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Slide 12 – Lodge Adviser Resources

Becoming a Lodge Adviser is a challenge. As we have shown, the Order of the Arrow has the resources to help you be a successful Adviser. A Champion you might say that will become a resource for that future Adviser in the OA. The most important thing to remember is that "You are Not Alone". You are not the first new adviser in the OA.