

LA500 – National Programs

National OA Adviser Training

Session Length: 25 Minutes

Overview:

- There are a wide variety of National Programs
- All National Programs support basic tenants of the OA and the BSA
- Programs are available at all levels, from the Lodge to National Events

Learning Objectives:

- Describe how the many National Programs support the tenants of the OA and the BSA
- List and describe the various National supported programs at the Lodge, Section, Region and National levels
- Show that the National Programs focus on Service, Training and FUN

Detailed Outline of the Session:

This session will describe the various National Programs offered to all the lodges in the OA. These programs are available for lodges to participate in at many levels including the Lodge, Section, Region and National level. These programs are supported and administered by the National OA Committee in some fashion. The principle focus of these programs is Service, Training (Leadership Development) and have many fun activities associated with them. This session will briefly describe the various programs and give resources to explore each in depth.

Introduction (Slide 1)

This session will briefly describe the various National Programs available for Lodges to participate in. The purpose of all these programs is to support the development of the youth we serve. Each program element, be it at the lodge level or higher, is used to support the Aims of Scouting: Character Development, Participating Citizenship and the development of physical, mental and emotional Fitness. Each program gives you, the adviser, an opportunity to help develop the youth you serve beyond the Unit level (Troop/Team) in the Chapter and Lodge. These programs support the OA Mission to develop *“positive youth leadership under the guidance of selected capable adults”*

Slide 2 – National Programs

National Programs are available at all levels for lodges to participate in. The programs will be available at the Lodge, Section, Region and National levels. There are few Lodge Specific, some offered at the Section and Regional level, and at the National level there are annual programs and programs of emphasis

Slide 3 – Lodge Specific

There are several National programs available at the lodge level. These include the following four but these are not inclusive. Visit the reference web site for more information.

Journey to Excellence

When the Boy Scouts of America launched the new strategic plan, a transition was made to a new program to measure unit, district, and council performance. Following the Boy Scout's transition, the National OA Committee adopted the Journey to Excellence program to replace the National Quality Lodge program. Journey to Excellence places emphasis on continuous improvement in six areas of emphasis. These areas are Finance, Membership, Program, Unit Service, Council Support and Leadership and Governance. Just as the Boy Scouts of America Journey to Excellence program recognizes each level of the organization, the OA's program creates Journey to Excellence recognition for chapters, lodges, and sections.

OA Mentoring

The Order of the Arrow Mentoring Program is a joint effort of the Boy Scouts of America and the Order of the Arrow. Its purpose is to identify and assist urban and rural Scout troops whose camping and advancement programs are below standard.

Troop/Team Representative

The National Committee of the Order of the Arrow ensured the organization's primary duty to a Scout's unit be maintained through the Troop/Team Representative program. This is an official leadership position within the troop or team. The Troop/Team Rep coordinates 1) service opportunities within the unit, 2) unit involvement within the OA and 3) help for unit needs by requesting lodge or chapter resources.

Lodge Leadership Development

With every OA function comes the need for planning and leadership. The Lodge Leadership Development (LLD) program offers lodges the chance to provide trainings aimed at improving leadership and teaching about the many facets of the Order. This training gives the opportunity for your youth to improve the Chapter or Lodge while developing their leadership and training skills. The LLD is normally accomplished over a weekend but can be shortened to accommodate time schedules.



More information on all these program elements can be found at the National OA Web Site: www.oe-bsa.org

Slide 4 – Section/Region

There are three major programs offered to lodges at the Section and Regional level. These include the Section Conclave and the National Training events of NLS and DYLC.

Section Conclave

Hopefully you have attended your Section Conclave. This event is held annually to provide a direct inter-council forum for lodge and chapter leaders, bringing them together for fellowship and mutual improvement through the exchange of ideas. The section serves as an important communication link between councils, the region, and the National Order of the Arrow Committee. The conclave contains training, inspirational experiences and fun to help create more effective programs back in your council and lodge. The National OA Committee also provides training opportunities at conclaves using the Conclave Training Initiative (CTI). The CTI provides Nationally developed syllabi on relevant subjects for lodges and chapters that can be delivered by local youth. The conclave provides for leadership development opportunities for older Arrowmen usually between the ages of 16 and 21. The administration of the conclave is governed by the [Field Operations Guide](#).

Region Training

National Leadership Seminar

The National Leadership Seminar (NLS) is a weekend conference focused on the skills and attributes of leadership. The program enhances the leadership skills of the Order of the Arrow's key youth and adult members as they seek to improve their services to the Boy Scouts of America and the greater community. The weekend format complements the longer, more detailed Wood Badge program (for adults) and National Youth Leadership Training program (for youth). During the seminar, participants make a contract with themselves to apply the skills learned on projects in the lodge, council, and community. NLS prepares Arrowmen to become better leaders both within and outside of the Scouting program.

Developing Youth Leadership Conference

The Developing Youth Leadership Conference (DYLC) is a weekend conference focusing on the skills and attributes of effective adult advisers and helping the youth develop leadership skills. This conference is new in 2017 to the OA and replaces the National Lodge Adviser Training Seminar (NLATS). DYLC focuses on developing those skills the youth learned both from the LLD and NLS.

Slide 5 – Annual National Programs

Every year the National OA Committee sponsors programs focused on Service and Training. The Service programs are designed for the youth and can be life changing activities for them. There are five High Adventure programs available for youth only. The Training program is open to all advisers in the OA.

Service – OA High Adventure

OA Trail Crew (OATC)

The Order of the Arrow Trail Crew program is one of the best ways to experience Scouting's premier high adventure base, Philmont Scout Ranch. For two weeks, participants see and experience all that Philmont has to offer and much more.

For the first week, participants have the chance to make a significant difference to Philmont by participating in trail building in the backcountry. Work will include clearing terrain for trail and constructing switchbacks, retention bars, and several other erosion controls. The impact of this service will be felt by scouts for decades.

The second week of the program is spent experiencing Philmont at its finest. Unlike regular treks, Trail Crews make their own itinerary. Instead of selecting from pre-planned routes. You can do and see just about anything, from the Tooth of Time to Baldy Mountain - your crew decides!

OA Ocean Adventure (OAOA)

The Order of the Arrow, in cooperation with the Florida Sea Base, offers an opportunity to provide cheerful service while experiencing the adventure and fun of one of the greatest ecosystems on our planet - the Florida Keys and the waters which surround them. This ten-day program provides an array of service opportunities that include work helping to develop the Florida Keys Heritage Trail, removing invasive species in and around the Sea Bases' Big Munson Island, and supporting both the Crane Point Nature Center and Marathon Wild Bird Center in preserving the Keys flora, fauna and wildlife. Camping is at both Big Munson Island and Crane Point during the service portion of the program, after which there is four days at sea on a 40-50' sailing yacht. While afloat, the youth experience the fun and excitement of life in the Keys from the unique perspective of a sailor as they sail, snorkel on pristine coral reefs, troll for sportfish, and swim in the warm waters of the Keys.

In addition to the conservation service, participants will strengthen leadership skills, learn about the Keys eco-system and its marine environment, experience life afloat and strengthen understanding of the Order of the Arrow.

OA Wilderness Voyage (OAWV)

The Order of the Arrow Wilderness Voyage program is another outstanding experience. For two weeks, participants join with Arrowmen from around the country and experience the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in northern Minnesota.

The first week of the program is spent giving back to the Boundary Waters through portage trail restoration work. Participants have the opportunity to leave their mark on the Boundary Waters that will enable millions of visitors each year to better enjoy their experience. Trail work involves restoring and protecting trails that have existed for centuries and are in dire need of repair.

The second part of the program is a trek planned by the crew. From the 8 ½ mile "Grand Portage" leading to Lake Superior, to the Height of Land, and even the pictographs on Fishdance Lake, crews have done and seen all in the Boundary Waters.

OA Canadian Odyssey (OACO)

The Order of the Arrow Wilderness Voyage: Canadian Odyssey program is similar to the OA Wilderness Voyage except for the venue. For two weeks, participants will experience the wild beauty of the Quetico Provincial Park of Ontario, Canada.

Like its U.S. counterpart (OAWV) the first week of the program is spent giving back to the Quetico through portage trail restoration work. Participants can leave their mark on the Quetico that will enable millions of visitors each year to better enjoy their experience. Trail work involves restoring and protecting trails that have existed for centuries and are in dire need of repair.

The second part of the program is a 90-mile trek from Atikokan, Ontario to Ely, Minnesota.

Summit Experience (OASE)

The Order of the Arrow Summit Experience program is the newest high adventure opportunity. For 8 days, participants experience the Summit in West Virginia

Four days of the program will be focused on building or maintaining trail around the Summit, and the New River Gorge National River Area. The remainder of the experience will revolve around white water kayaking and rafting, along with mountain biking, climbing, and participation in other Summit activities. Participants will not only build trail, but also bonds of brotherhood as they start their High Adventure journey.

The program is designed to entice younger Arrowmen to participate in High Adventure. Lodges and Chapters are encouraged to participate as a crew. Arrowmen ages 14 but not yet 18 will have the opportunity to explore the Summit in terms of adventure, brotherhood and cheerful service.

Philmont OA Adviser Training Conference

The Philmont Order of the Arrow Adviser Conference is for any currently registered adult Arrowmen of the OA, including professional Scouters. While at the conference, participants can enjoy the many benefits of Philmont Scout Ranch and the Philmont Training Center. The conference explores in depth how to be a better adviser and is headed by members of the National OA Committee.

Slide 5 – Annual Program of Emphasis

The National Order of the Arrow Committee also generates an annual program of emphasis, primarily to promote service and leadership development. These programs correspond to leadership opportunities for the Section Chiefs, Region Chiefs, National Vice Chief and National Chief. The major program of emphasis occurs every two-three years and is the National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC). Annual programs in between NOACs focus in two major areas: Service and Leadership Development.

Service

Examples of past and present service oriented programs include:

ArrowCorps5

In 2008 the Order of the Arrow, in conjunction with the US Forest Service, coordinated a nationwide service project with over 3,600 Arrowmen in attendance. The project-called ArrowCorps5-encompassed five sites and took place over five weeks. The sites-Mark Twain National Forest, Manti-La Sal National Forest, George Washington and Jefferson National Forest, Shasta-Trinity National Forest and Bridger-Teton National Forest-are all federal lands and the project is, to this date, the largest service project ever completed by any federal land management agency and the largest by the Boy Scouts of America since World War II.

During *ArrowCorps⁵*, over 280,000 service hours were performed by over 3,600 volunteers. The impact made by those Scouts valued more than 5.6 million dollars, demonstrating the Order's dedication to service. The sheer amount of conservation work provided by Arrowmen during *ArrowCorps⁵* has a continuing impact on our national parks. Their dedicated service restored habitats, removed invasive species and created trails used by the millions of visitors to our national parks each year. This would not have been possible without thousands of Arrowmen volunteers, all willing to provide meaningful and lasting service to their country's parks.

SummitCorps

Similar to ArrowCorps5, in 2011 SummitCorps focused on trail building and maintenance over a four-week period centered around the Summit Bechtel Reserve (SBR) in West Virginia's New River Gorge National River area.

Prism

Prism was a four-day, three-night experience at the SBR in the summer of 2016 and was open to both youth and adults. Participants experienced the adventure of the Scott Summit Center, and participated in the inaugural rededication ceremony at the Summit Circle.

The Summit Circle is the relocated original ceremony circle from Treasure Island, which has been combined with the rocks donated by lodges in 2015 to form a national ceremony ground that connects all Arrowmen across our 100-year history.

Prism's capstone was a personal experience at the Summit Circle, the OA's new national ceremony grounds. Each guest participated in an inaugural rededication ceremony at the circle and reflect on the Order. Beyond the ceremony, guests engaged with the SBR in a way no others have.

Prism included access to the Scott Summit Center: BMX, mountain biking, skateboarding, archery, climbing and more. Participants also provided a service project for the Summit to leave their mark on Scouting for generations to come.

National Jamboree

As far back as 1950 during National Jamborees, the OA has provided service and program elements. In 2017, the Order of the Arrow will continue its tradition of providing cheerful service to the National Jamboree. More than 750 youth Arrowmen will answer the call to serve as part of Operation Arrow by staffing one of the OA's program areas, which include the Service Corps, Trek Guides and Indian Village.

Each program component of Operation Arrow carries a unique legacy of Jamboree service and caters to various types of Arrowmen. The Service Corps provides reliable manpower support to other essential Jamboree programs. Service Corps staffers work to accomplish projects, both big and small, and exemplify the OA's commitment to "service with a smile."

Trek Guides lead units on their day-long Jamboree trek to the summit of Garden Ground Mountain, where participants spend a day enjoying unique programming. Trek Guides enjoy rugged, outdoor adventures and help their crews find fulfillment in their Jamboree experience.

The Indian Village serves as the hub for American Indian programming. Indian Village staffers educate Scouts on American Indian life by teaching dance, craft, song and drumming.

In addition to these teams, the OA will have a small exhibit, shows, recreation, program, administrative services and non-emergency medical transportation staffs.

Leadership Development

Examples of past and present Leadership Development oriented programs include:

National Leadership Summit/NCLS

In 1999 and 2007 the National OA provided opportunity for leadership development for lodge and chapter leadership. These summits included advanced leadership training beyond NLS and provided opportunity for lodges to improve their lodges back home.

NEXT: A New Century

The summer of 2016, lodge and section leadership from across the country came to Indiana University for a new kind of training experience. The 2016 national event, NEXT: A New Century, was unlike anything the OA has ever seen. Youth leaders and key adults from across the nation gathered at Indiana University in Bloomington, IN the summer of 2016 to learn, grow and be inspired to be the driving force behind the Order's second century. This hands-on, high-energy event focused on membership, program and innovation at the local level, which subsequently empowered delegates to return home and be powerful agents of change.

Each of the four days at NEXT focused on a different key topic: brotherhood, program, membership and innovation. Similar to previous leadership development summits, each lodge sent key youth leadership and advisers.

National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC)

As stated earlier, the premier national event for the OA is the National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC), and is Scouting's second-largest national event. It is held every two-three years. In 2015, 15,000 Arrowmen from across our nation gathered for an inspirational and unforgettable experience full of fellowship, training, adventure, and fun!

During NOAC, Arrowmen participate in a six-day conference which includes top notch training sessions, cool recreational opportunities, evening shows full of theatrics and special effects, and exciting programs.

NOAC 2015 was held from August 3-8, 2015 at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan, and celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Order of the Arrow. Every lodge was represented at this conference. For those that could not attend this event, there were other events celebrating the Centennial of the OA including ArrowTour and the #DareToDo social media event among other things. Lodges also submitted a centennial rock, box lid and lodge history

NOAC is one event that should not be missed. The next NOAC is in 2018 at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana.

Slide 6 – Conclusion

The National Order of the Arrow Committee has designed many National Programs from programs for the lodge and chapters, High Adventure Programs, Training and Leadership Development Programs, Service and many annual programs of emphasis including the National OA Conference. In all, the underlying governance for these programs is support of the Aims and Methods of the BSA and the Mission of the OA. All these programs foster positive youth development.