



2018 National Order of the Arrow Conference

## Relationships Beyond the Lodge: Working With "The Council"

### Session Length: 45 Minutes

Through this session, you will:

**Explain:** Describe the "Council". Share the importance of good relations between the Lodge (Chapter) and Council (District). The Lodge should be an integral part of the Council.

**Demonstrate:** Positive relations create opportunities for the Lodge and Arrowmen. These can be in the area of program, but also membership and finance.

**Guide:** Encourage thoughts how the lodge can help the council in the areas of program, membership, finance and other areas.

**Enable:** Provide participants ideas to take back home and start their thought process on how their Lodge can become a more integral part of their Council.

### Learning Outcomes: [create a brief list of what participants should take away with them]

- Understand what is the "Council"
- Encourage thoughts how the lodge can help the council in the areas of program, membership, finance and other areas.
- Provide participants ideas to take back home and start their thought process on how their Lodge can become a more integral part of their Council.

### Theme Connection:

The theme of NOAC 2018 is "Decide Your Destiny," emphasizing the message that today's decisions shape tomorrow's reality. This session will relay this theme in the following ways:

- The Lodge decides its destiny by shaping its relations with the Council. Do they have a youth representative Lodge Chief on the Council Executive Board and Chapter Chiefs on District Committees?
- Is the lodge seen as an "asset" by the Council?
- How the Lodge can become a more integral part of the Council.

This session will help the Lodge with the Journey to Excellence Requirement(s):

7. Service projects: Complete Scout Executive approved service project(s) on council property and in the community.



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- 11. Contribution to council: Contribute cash, materials, or both to the council.
- 13. Council designated support: Key 3 meets with Scout Executive and lodge completes agreed upon projects.
- 14. Council program support: Provide OA member staff support for council and district program events.
- 15. Council camping support: Conduct camp promotion contacts to council troops and teams.
- 17. Planning and reporting: Submit a written performance plan and annual report of accomplishments to the Scout Executive and council executive board.

**Required Materials:**

- Projector and screen
- Flipcharts
- Handouts

**TRAINER PREPARATION**

Trainers need to develop particular examples from their own experience on how the Lodge and Council work together well and not so well. Both types of experience can be learned from. Duplicate handouts ahead of time, PowerPoint presentations to update based on changes in BSA and OA.

**Session Narrative**

**Introduction**

**5 minutes**

Good relationships between the Lodge and the Council, Units, and key leadership are vital to the success of the Order of the Arrow. A Lodge must reach out and support units and their program, must support their council because without the Council the lodge does not exist, and have good relationships with their Scout Exec, Scoutmasters, and District Commissioners to ensure the success of promotion of Lodge program.

First topic

10 minutes

I. **Is Your Lodge an Integral Part of the Council?**

- A. What is the “Council”?
- B. Does the lodge have a youth representative Lodge Chief on the Council Executive Board and Chapter Chiefs on District Committees?
- C. Does the Lodge submit a written performance plan and annual report of accomplishments to the Scout Executive and Council executive board.
- D. Is the lodge seen as an “asset” by the Council?
- E. Is the Lodge involved in the Council membership, finance and program?

II. **Membership**

A. **Recruitment & Retention**

- 1. Lots of attention is given towards retaining current members. While important, we must begin to place stronger emphasis on bringing in new members.
- 2. What can the OA do to help with youth recruiting?
  - a) While the OA does not directly recruit (recruitment happens on the local unit level), they can assist in making recruiting events more successful.
    - (1) Help with recruitment nights, pack open houses, join up nights and similar events providing activities.
      - (a) This creates a link between the units and the OA.
    - (2) Provide general manpower and staffing help at council and district recruitment events. In areas lacking an active recruiting program, Districts often host community-based recruitment measures implementing a triage method to supplement pack programs in order to revitalize the area.
      - (a) The lodge/chapter can serve an integral role in supporting these district membership initiatives.
- 3. What can the OA do to help with youth retention?
  - a) Mentoring - OA and Unit Connection
    - (1) OA members serve as Den Chief/Troop Guide
    - (2) Create link between Units and OA
    - (3) Consistent friend/contact as the scout progresses
    - (4) Be sure to recognize these individuals
    - (5) Helping with new unit mentoring—Parental On-boarding
    - (6) Use experienced youth during parent orientations.
      - (a) Scripted presentation

- (b) Means more coming from a youth
- (7) Transition Phase—The largest drop off in membership is from Bear to first year Boy Scout- Targeting this age range is important to ensuring program retention
  - (a) Age appropriate activities
    - 1. Webelos are ready for a new adventure
    - 2. New Cub program creates a “pre-patrol” atmosphere—troop preparatory program.
    - 3. No longer able to earn Arrow of Light without first functioning as a patrol.
    - 4. Webelos begins the process of changing from adult to youth leadership.
- 4. What can the OA do to help with new unit formation?
  - a) OA helping Cubmasters/Scoutmasters in the development of a new pack/troop with Family Scouting
  - b) New unit mentoring with meeting program and leader training
  - c) OA youth to assist new unit leader in developing/implementing meeting agendas, programs, skits, etc.
    - (1) Keeps adults active and involved with the lodge.

### III. **Finance**

- A. As with before, increased membership yields increased money cycling through the system.
- B. Cost to join the program can sometimes be an inhibiting factor in a child’s (or parent’s) decision to join Scouts.
  - 1. A lodge can sponsor a child and pay his membership fee.
  - 2. Less cost inhibitive on the lodge would be to host a uniform bank to collect old uniforms from lodge members to donate to local units to help ease the financial burden on a new scout.
- C. OA help at FOS presentations providing activities for the Scouts.
  - 1. This creates a link between the Scouts and the OA.
  - 2. Occupies kids leaving parents the ability to be more focused on the message being delivered to them=more effective event.
  - 3. Provide general person power and staffing help at council and district recruitment events.
- D. Summer Camp
  - 1. OA conducted camp promotions.
  - 2. OA Camp Chief

- a) Boy Scout summer camps have an OA Camp Chief on camp staff fulfilling a variety of lodge work in addition to camp staff duties.
    - (1) Are they paid in part by Lodge?
    - (2) What role does lodge ask them to do?
    - (3) Extend the same concept into Cub Camp.
    - (4) Visibility-Wear sash at camp to create OA exposure
  3. Where to go Camping Guide put together by OA members who are familiar with the various camping accommodations throughout the area.
  4. Lodge sponsored camperships
  - E. Contributions to Council
    1. OA - West Fellowships
      - a) Arrowman of the Year
      - b) Lodge Chief Recognition
    2. Contribute cash, materials, or both to the Council.
  - F. Complete Scout Executive approved service project(s) on council property and in the community.
    1. These have value even if they do not cost money to the Council.
- IV. **Program**
- A. Helping with Council and District events
    1. Provide OA member staff support for council and district program events (Council run; lodge staffed).
      - a) Camporee staff
      - b) NYLT
    2. Lodge sponsored Council and District events (lodge run for Council)
      - a) New Scout weekend
      - b) MB Fair
    3. OA provides financial support for program events (lodge pays)
      - a) Pre-summer camp Scoutmaster dinner
      - b) Council program kickoff sponsorship
- V. **Connecting with the OA Lodge to help**
- A. Understanding how to utilize the OA in Council, District and Unit efforts is important but it is also essential to know how to connect with them and onboard the lodge with your ideas.
  - B. Sometimes when called for help a lodge falls short. Being able to better connect with them will help in gathering their support with your programs.
    1. In order to garner support from the lodge time management is key.
    2. Given the membership size and busy schedules of those involved, do not reach out to a lodge 2 weeks before an event expecting a huge helper turnout.

3. A lodge requires time and head-up notification in order to promote efficiently to ensure help arrives.
4. Develop strong a strong relationship between the Council and the lodge, so that the lodge is part of the planning process from the very beginning.
5. Lodge attends Council events and Council representatives attends Lodge events.
6. Communicate regularly
7. Stronger relationships yield better results when the call for help is made.
8. Make expectations clear, reasonable, and known early.
9. Relationship development between the lodge and council is a 2-way street. Both entities must reach out to the other if the desired partnership is to be achieved.

**Takeaway Challenge**

**3 minutes**

Please take out your notebook and pen. For the final three minutes, think about the role that you will be playing next year in the OA, or the role you hope to play. Write down three key ideas related to this session that you could help improve the way your lodge works with the Council. Is the lodge seen as an “asset” by the Council? How the Lodge can become a more integral part of the Council? During your break time later today, share these with others in your chapter or lodge.

**Appendix: Resources and Source Material**

[Insert materials as appropriate, for example:]

- 2016 Guide to Unit Elections, available online at <http://www.oa-bsa.org/pages/content/guide-to-unit-elections>
- 2012 Guide for Officers and Advisers, available online at <http://www.oa-bsa.org/pages/content/publications#goa>
- 2008 Lodge Finance Manual, available online at <http://www.oa-bsa.org/pages/content/publications#lfm>
- Chapter Journey to Excellence Workbook, available online at <http://www.oa-bsa.org/pages/content/printable-forms>
- [or whatever materials are relevant for participants in your session]