



2018 National Order of the Arrow Conference

Supporting the Troop Program: The OA Unit of Excellence Award

Session Length: 45 Minutes

Through this session, you will:

Explain the OA Unit of Excellence Award

Demonstrate how to find and use the resources you need to help your unit earn the award

Guide participants in setting goals and strategies for earning the award

Enable participants to better work with their unit

Learning Outcomes:

- Be able to describe the requirements for the Order of the Arrow Unit of Excellence Award
- Be able to explain why it is important for a troop to earn the award.
- Be able to develop a plan for your unit to earn the award.

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:

- Emphasizing that the troop members must take positive action to integrate OA programming into their unit
- Emphasizing that choices made by the unit directly impact the lodge’s success
- Reminding all Arrowmen that their first responsibility is to their unit

This session will help the lodge with the Journey to Excellence Requirement(s): 3 through 10

Required Materials:

- Flipchart, whiteboard or blackboard, and marker for recording comments from participants
- Projector, screen for slides



TRAINER PREPARATION

Before the session, the trainers should

1. Familiarize yourself with the resources listed at the end of this document
2. Consider the discussion question on slide 10 and have some of your own answers ready to help trigger participants' thoughts

Session Narrative

Introduction

5 minutes

Slide 1 - Cell Topic

Have on screen as group gathers.

Slide 2 - Session Objectives

Introduce yourself and your co-trainer (if you have one) and remind them that with these 3 sessions, we hope to help you understand how you can help your unit become stronger. This particular session focuses on the value of the Order of the Arrow Unit of Excellence Award.

Topic #1: Everyone Loves an Award

5 minutes

Slide 3 -

Scouting is full of cool awards, used to encourage Scouts and Scouters to do important, valuable activities, The Order of the Arrow has created such a cool award for troops and teams, designed to incentivize the unit's members to become more deeply involved in the important activities of their chapter and lodge. In this session, we'll discuss this award and help you develop some strategies for helping your unit earn it

Topic 2: What Are the Requirements for the Award?

10 minutes



A unit that is already well involved in OA will find the award easy to earn. A unit that is less involved will find that the award provides a great roadmap for how to get more involved. Let's review the requirements.

Slide 4 - Leadership

Troop/team uses a TOAR, supported by an adult adviser. The TOAR makes a presentation about unit OA activities at an annual Court of Honor.

Slide 5 - Participation

At least 50% of OA members in the unit attend at least one lodge event in the year (other than their own Ordeal).

Slide 6 - Elections

Hold an OA election, and at least 70% of those elected take the Ordeal.

Slide 7 - Planning

TOAR participates in the unit's annual planning process and make sure that unit activities do not conflict with major lodge events.

Slide 8 - Brotherhood

At least 30% of eligible members convert to Brotherhood.

Topic #3 - Develop a Plan

15 minutes

Slide 9 - SMART goals

The best goals are SMART goals. Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time Based. The Unit of Excellence Award really is well suited to SMART goals.

Slide 10 – Your SMART Goals

Pick one or more areas where your troop may not meet the Unit of Excellence standard. Then design SMART goals for your troop that will help you achieve the goal. Solicit examples from the participants. Solicit examples from participants.

Topic #4 - After you complete the award

5 minutes



Slide 11 - The Award

A unit completing the award receives recognition from the lodge, such as a flag streamer or a certificate.

The TOAR is eligible for a patch.

The TOAR's adviser is eligible for a patch after advising two award-winning TOARs.

The Scoutmaster is eligible for a special certificate after the unit has received the award three times

Takeaway Challenge and Conclusion

5 minutes

Slide 12

Write down three steps that your unit can take to earn the Unit of Excellence Award, and three concrete things that you personally can do to encourage this.

I hope you're better informed about the OA Unit of Excellence Award and developed some suggestions on how your unit's connection to your lodge can be strengthened by earning the award. As a group we've talked about the award's requirements, what your resources are, how the chapter/lodge can help and making a plan for your success

Appendix: Resources and Source Material

- Order of the Arrow Unit of Excellence Award description: <https://oa-bsa.org/uploads/resources/forms/unitexcellenceaward-2015.pdf>
- Order of the Arrow Unit of Excellence Award order form: <https://oa-bsa.org/uploads/resources/forms/unitexcellenceawardform.pdf>