

EVERYTHING IN ORDER (OF THE ARROW) EDITION

In this Issue:

- [Order of the Arrow](#)
- [The Higher Vision](#)
- [National Officers](#)
- [OA Trail Crews](#)
- [ArrowCorps](#)⁵
- [OA at the 2013 National Jamboree](#)
- ["Things of the Spirit"](#)



ORDER OF THE ARROW

For nearly a hundred years, the Order of the Arrow (OA) has recognized Scouts and Scouters who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives. Perhaps you are an Arrowman yourself. For many, being chosen by fellow troop members for OA membership is a highlight of their Scouting careers.



Robert Birkby photo

Ceremonies through the decades have inducted new members into the Order of the Arrow.

OA is steeped in tradition. It began in 1915 at the Philadelphia Council's Treasure Island Camp to honor Scouts living by the BSA's ideals. Council executive E. Urner Goodman and council field director Carroll Edson nurtured the organization through its early years. Today's Founders Award honors Arrowmen for outstanding service to the Order of the Arrow.



Goodman and Edson were influenced by the Indian lore of Ernest Thompson Seton, a BSA founder. They believed, as did Seton, that Native American traditions would appeal to Scouts. They also realized that Indian symbolism and values could be worthy inspirations for OA ceremonies, names, and emblems.



The membership card of Earnest Thompson Seton

THE HIGHER VISION

Painted in 1963 by Joseph Csatari (today the official artist of the BSA), The Higher Vision shows an Indian presenting a Scout the legend of the founding of the Order of the Arrow, written on deerskin in the pictographs. The Scout is wearing the Ordeal sash signifying that he is new to the OA.



The Higher Vision – Joseph Csatari

After ten months he can gain full membership in the Order and wear the Brotherhood sash. The Vigil honor is granted for distinguished service to the Order of the Arrow, to Scouting, and to local Scout camps.



While sashes are restricted to qualified members, www.ScoutStuff.org has terrific items for showing pride in the Order of the Arrow. The arrow pin is designed to be worn on the lapel of a suit or sports jacket. The OA coin is perfect to carry in a pocket and to share with others.



OA Arrow Pin

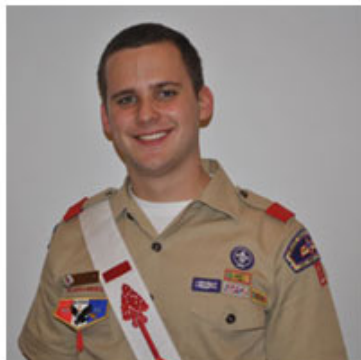


OA Coin

NATIONAL OFFICERS

With more than 170,000 active members, the Order of the Arrow relies on youth involvement to make everything happen. OA lodges encourage camping and service at the council level. National officers oversee conferences and projects combining the efforts of Arrowmen across the country.

2013 national chief Matt Brown is an Eagle Scout from Brentwood, Tennessee, enrolled at Lipscomb University as an accounting major. He is assisted in his duties by national vice-chief Jordan Hughes, who is studying political science at the University of Pennsylvania.



National Chief Matt Brown



National Vice Chief Jordan Hughes

Among the many initiatives undertaken by the Order of the Arrow are OA Trail Crews, Wilderness

Voyage, Canadian Odyssey, Ocean Adventure, and projects involving the 2013 National Jamboree.

OA TRAIL CREWS

Launched in 1995 by veteran staff members and Arrowmen at Philmont Scout Ranch, the OA invites members to come to the mountains of New Mexico each summer to serve on special trail crews. Each crew contributes a week of cheerful service building and maintaining hiking trails at the national high adventure base, then embarks on a seven-day backpacking trek.



OA trail crews have completed many significant projects at Philmont, some of them celebrated with embroidered patches of their own.



The idea spread to the Northern Tier High Adventure Base where Arrowmen can engage in a week of service caring for portage trails, then trek by canoe in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (Wilderness Voyage) or Canada's Quetico Provincial Park (Canadian Odyssey). Ocean Adventure OA members at the BSA's Florida Sea Base take part in island and coral reef conservation, balanced by exciting opportunities for learning sailing and diving skills during journeys on the high seas.



ARROWCORPS⁵

Building on the success of OA trail crews, ArrowCorps5, was an ambitious program of conservation service by 5,000 Arrowmen volunteering their time on public lands across America.



The massive effort saw the completion of significant projects in five national forests - Bridger-Teton (Wyoming), Manti-LaSal (Utah), Shasta Trinity (California), George Washington and Jefferson (Virginia), and Mark Twain (Missouri). Along the way, participants developed new friendships, learned important skills, and enjoyed great adventures in the out-of-doors.



ArrowCorps⁵ Patch



Good humor abounded on OA's
ArrowCorps⁵ web site



OA AT THE 2013 NATIONAL JAMBOREE

The Order of the Arrow has been hard at work helping prepare the BSA's Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve for this summer's National Jamboree. More than 1,400 Arrowmen devoted a month to removing invasive plant species and constructing a multi-use trail near the New River Gorge National River adjoining the Jamboree location. In recognition of the OA's efforts, the National Park Service has named the new 12.8 mile pathway the Arrowhead Hike and Bike Trail.



Look for hundreds of Order of the Arrow members serving in positions of responsibility during the National Jamboree. Many will be staffing the OA Indian Village at the top of Garden Ground Mountain, offering an in-depth view of American Indian culture, regalia, and tribal dances. If you'd like a head start on all the fun, you can order an OA Indian Village patch today from www.ScoutStuff.org.



A THING OF THE SPIRIT

Founder E. Urner Goodman described OA as "a thing of the spirit" and listed three of its components:

Brotherhood - in a day when there is too much hatred at home and abroad.

Cheerfulness - in a day when the pessimists have the floor.

Service - in a day when millions are interested only in getting or grasping rather than giving.

Those are high ideals for any individual and organization. They are guidelines that Order of the Arrow members strive to live by every day.



Dr. Goodman's beaded name tag, on display at the BSA National Museum

(This edition of the *Be Prepared Newsletter* was developed and written by Robert Birkby, author of the current editions of the *Boy Scout Handbook*, *Fieldbook* and *Eagle Scouts: A Centennial History*.)