

### **BSA** and the Environment

**Session Length: 45 Minutes** 

Through this session, you will:

**Explain** the BSA's involvement in environmentalism **Demonstrate** what role the BSA currently has in environmentalism **Guide** them to realize their role in the BSA's environmental initiatives **Enable** them to go out and carry out the BSA's vision on the environment

# Learning Outcomes: By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- Understand the history of the BSA and the Environment
- Understand the role of the OA and Arrowmen in realizing the BSA's environmental vision
- Come up with actionable ideas to bring back to their lodges and promote the environment

#### 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 environment is everybody's responsibility. If you choose to not care for the environment, there won't be any environment left to take care of you. What will you decide?

#### **Required Materials:**

- PPT
- Flipchart paper
- Markers (Whiteboard and flipchart)
- Tape
- Projector
- Projector screen

TRAINER PREPARATION



- 1. Research the history and timeline of the formation of the BSA through the environment (Environmental Science MB Requirement 1)
- 2. Brainstorm different methods in which Arrowmen can implement environmentally friendly thinking into lodge events
- 3. Practice delivering the content and executing the activity
- 4. Enter the room you will be training in prior to training to make sure everything works. Practice delivering the content in the space

**Session Narrative** 

**Trainer Instructions:** If at any time the trainer should perform an action (play a video clip, ask prompting questions, etc) type the directions into boxes like this. Simply copy this box and paste wherever needed throughout the lesson plan, replacing this text with your own material.

Introduction 5 minutes

- State name, lodge, qualifications
  - Encourage note taking
  - State Learning Outcomes

History Lesson: BSA and the Environment 7 minutes

**Trainer Instructions:** Entertain answers to this question and write them on a flipchart paper. Make sure all letters and big and readable for all audience members. Find a way to work these answers towards your first topic: The BSA has cared about the environment long before they were even founded.

- Question to audience: Why does the BSA care so much about the environment?
- The roots of the BSA began in the environment
  - 1. 1902- The Woodcraft Indians- Ernest Thompson Seton
  - 2. 1905- Sons of Daniel Boone- Daniel Carter Beard
    - The American Boy's Handy Book
  - 3. Both organizations merged with the BSA in 1910
  - 4. With Seton and Beard helping lead the organization, environmental stewardship became a hallmark of the program
  - 5. Ever since, BSA has incorporated the environment in the program
  - 6. Early BSA Handbook editions are all divided into 3 parts



- Scoutcraft (how to be a scout)
- Campcraft (how to live in the outdoors)
- Woodcraft (understanding nature)
  - More than a third of the pages in these handbooks are used to educate scouts about the outdoors!
- 7. William Hornaday- huge champion of the environment and the conservation of wildlife such as birds and the bison.
  - Hornaday award- 1914
- 8. Scouting had a role in helping the war effort during WWII, being called upon by President Woodrow Wilson to collect tires, metals, and paper for recycling as well as planting gardens for food
- 9. Origin of the Outdoor Code
  - First appearance in 1948 BSA Handbook
  - 1954- The conservation Good Turn
    - Prompted by Former president Dwight D Eisenhower
    - Paired with the outdoor code

# What's Going On Now?

7 minutes

- 1. 1990- BSA Handbook hailed as the greenest of all time
- 2. 1992- the first conservation handbook was issued
- 3. 1997- leave no trace was adopted by BSA to guide outdoor activities
- 4. Camps have been the hallmark of conservation efforts in the BSA
  - a. Summit Bechtel- sustainability is one of the core values of the reserve, putting conservation first.
  - b. Sustainability treehouse- launched sustainability MB in 2013
  - c. Philmont conservation department
    - i. More than 100 staff members that maintain over 300 miles of trails and campsites
- 5. STEM
  - a. Introduced to the program to get Scouts interested and invested in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.
  - b. NOVA Awards
    - i. Divided into subjects in each scouting program
      - 1. Shoot, Let it Grow, Splash, Start your engines, Whoosh, Designed to Crunch, Supernova award
- 6. Several Conservation Merit Badges
  - a. Over 20 Merit Badges
  - b. Eagle Required Environmental Science or Sustainability

## The OA and the Environment

5 minutes

- 1. OAHA-1995
  - a. Emphasis on cheerful service to the camp has been at the center of the OAHA programs all over the country, starting with OATC, and spreading from there



**Trainer Instructions**: Ask if anyone has done OAHA and ask them to talk about their experiences with their service projects

## 2. ArrowCorps- 2008

- a. 5 sites, 5 weeks, 5000 Arrowmen
- b. Program that led 5000 Arrowmen to do conservation service on public lands across America
  - i. National Forests in Missouri, Utah, Virginia, California, Wyoming
- c. \$5.6 million dollars of work
- d. Former President George W. Bush presented the President's Volunteer Service Award to National Chief Jake Wellman, Western Region Chief Mark Hendricks, and Youth Incident Commander Alex Braden during the event

<u>Question to the audience</u>: What role do we as Arrowmen have in the Environment? What can we do?

- 1. Service projects
- 2. MBs- take and teach
- 3. Promote at events
  - a. Lug your Mug, Pack your plate
- 4. Go camping!
- 5. Raise Awareness
- 6. Set the Example

Action item: Add more to this section, more emphasis on the OA rather than the BSA. More in general "what can one man do" emphasis.

## **Takeaway Challenge**

20 minutes

Introduce Challenge (5):

- 1. Get into groups and brainstorm ideas that Arrowmen can bring back to lodges to promote conservation
- 2. Could be large scale ideas, could be small scale ideas
- 3. Point: What actionable things can you do to promote conservation ideas and BSA principles in your lodge/chapter/other?

**Trainer Instructions** (The Challenge): At this point, break your people into small groups of 4-5 people. Give each person a marker and flipchart paper and put the flipchart paper on the wall. Let them write on the papers on the walls so in the end, it makes it easier for everyone to resent their ideas. This should last 10 minutes, but this is flexible based on how you're doing time wise in the course, but do not go over 15 minutes. If you need to make up more time then that, go more in depth in the discussion after the activity.



**Trainer Instructions** (Discussion): Have each group elect a spokesperson and have each spokesperson explain what they wrote on their paper. Listen attentively and respond to the good/interesting points of their ideas. If the group is too big, give them a time limit/let them explain only the biggest points.

Conclusion 5 minutes

- 1. I hope you all got some actionable ideas to bring back to your lodges to promote conservation.
- 2. If we are to set the example for the future of Scouting, the environment must be a huge part of our example.

**Trainer Instructions:** At this point, go over your referenced materials for your training for those interested. Afterwards, entertain last minute questions from the audience. Answer them to the best of your ability. If you don't know the answer, get their contact info, and find out the answer. Then contact them with the answer. Thank them for coming and listening to you.

## Appendix: Resources and Source Material

- 2016 Conservation Handbook
- Environmental Science Merit Badge Book