Creating, Improving, and Maintaining Lodge Traditions: Bad Habits

Session Length: 45 Minutes

Through this session, you will:

Explain: Participants will recognize that not all habits are good ones.
Demonstrate: Participants will evaluate a habit to project its impact.
Guide: Participants will explore strategies to correct bad habits.
Enable: Participants will review habits in their Lodge/Chapter to see if they lead to positive/desirable outcomes.

Learning Outcomes:
1) Understanding Bad Habits
2) What Bad Habits Do
3) Correcting Bad Habits

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:

- Your destiny is impacted by the traditions you observe.
- You decide your destiny by the traditions you preserve.

This session will help the Lodge with the Journey to Excellence Requirement(s): 1-8

Required Materials: [tailor specifically for this session after the syllabus is done, e.g. handouts, flipcharts, projector, screen]

- Projector
- Screen
- Computer
- Marker board
- Markers

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<tr><td style="background-color:#1B75BC; color:white;">TRAINER PREPARATION</td></tr>
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1. Prepare room so that small grouping may be used.
2. Be sure to have a marker board with markers.
3. A projector, screen, and computer will be needed for the accompanying PowerPoint presentation.

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Introduction   **5 minutes**

Think about these questions: How do you determine if a habit is bad? What impact do bad habits have? How do you correct bad habits? Is there a tradition that is a bad habit in your Lodge? If so, what can you do about it?

In this session we will…(state learning outcomes).

Understanding Bad Habits   **12 minutes**

Understanding

1) Identify individual traditions and make a decision if they are good or bad
    a. Must have VISION to see where each tradition is heading you/Lodge
    b. What are the long term impact of the tradition
2) Pick any tradition from a Lodge, as a group and identify its affect on people and its long-term consequence. Is it good or bad?
3) Generational differences exist in the Lodge—communication is key

What Bad Habits Do   **10 minutes**

Bad Habits

-creates divisiveness

-hazing

-discord

-a negative impact of culture

-leads to and promotes confusion

-negative thoughts lead to negative effects

Trainer Instructions: Divide the class into pairs. Ask each pair to discuss what outcomes develop from bad habits for three minutes. Then, on a marker board, capture the comments from the class discussion. (Use the suggestions in this section to prompt discussion, as needed.)

Correcting Bad Habits   **15 minutes**

Correcting

--stop it

--modify the tradition to make it better

--educate people as to why the tradition needs to change

--get everyone on the same page

--People may resist the change—"We've always done it this way."—*see Trainer's Instructions.*

--Change requires understanding, consensus, and commitment

Trainer Instructions: Ask the group how they would correct resistance to change, "We've always done it this way". On a marker board, capture the comments from the class discussion.

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 your chapter or lodge traditions. During your break time later today, share these with others in your chapter or lodge.

Appendix: Resources and Source Material

- 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