



2018 National Order of the Arrow Conference

Supporting the Troop Program: Utilizing the Troop Rep Program Effectively

Session Length: 45 Minutes

Through this session, you will:

- Explain** the responsibilities of a Troop Order of the Arrow Representative
- Demonstrate** how to find and use the resources you need to be a success
- Guide** participants in setting goals to be a better TOAR
- Enable** participants to better work with their unit, chapter, lodge and council

Learning Outcomes:

- Be able to describe the duties of the Troop Order of the Arrow Representative
- Be able to describe how the TOAR serves as a role model for other Arrowmen in the troop
- Be able to create SMART goals for the troop's OA participation

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 the TOAR's importance as a role model for OA members in the troop
- 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: [tailor specifically for this session after the syllabus is done, e.g. handouts, flipcharts, projector, screen]

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



TRAINER PREPARATION

Before this session, the trainers should:

1. Familiarize yourself with the resources listed at the end of this document
2. Consider the discussion questions on slides 3 and 7 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 Troop Order of the Arrow Representative Program.

Topic 1: Congratulations on becoming a TOAR

5 minutes

Slide 3 -

You've gone through your Ordeal, you've become your Unit's OA Rep and you get a leadership patch. Ask questions to get participants to describe the troop's expectations of a TOAR, such as: What are your troop members seeking from you? What is the SPL expecting from you? What is the Scoutmaster expecting?

Topic 2: What's your task?

5 minutes

Slide 4 - Lao TZU quote.



The Order of the Arrow is all about servant leadership, and the TOAR is no different: He should serve his troop by strengthening troop members' participation in the OA program.

Slide 5 - Greenleaf quote.

Read the quote. ... Your unit comes first. Right? Can you help your unit succeed without being the SPL? For sure. Get comments from the group. Again, keep the discussion light and short.

Topic 3: Establish Your Goals

10 minutes

Slide 6 - SMART goals

The best goals are SMART goals. Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time Based.

Slide 7 – Your SMART Goals

Every troop is different, so every TOAR's SMART goals will be different too. What are some SMART goals that a TOAR might establish? (Gather suggestions from the participants. Discuss whether they meet the standards of being SMART. Solicit reactions.)

Some areas the facilitator might prompt:

Promote activity by your unit members in the OA

Elected members completing the Ordeal

Ordeal members converting to Brotherhood

All members participating in chapter/lodge activities, such as by serving as Elangomats at Ordeals and helping with service projects

Topic 4: Implementing the Plan

15 minutes

Slide 8 – Implementing the Plan

Work with the PLC, SM and OA Rep Adviser to implement the plan. Some key suggestions:

Set the example through your own participation

Work through practical issues such as transportation

Work with PLC to deconflict unit and OA schedules, at least for major events

Communicate using all your unit's tools (Web site, e-mail, texting)

Inform parents and leaders: Make a presentation about unit OA activities at an annual Court of Honor

Be a person of cheerful service.

Be a brother to all in your unit.



Slide 9 - OA Representative Adviser

The OA Representative Adviser is the TOAR's key resource in setting goals and making progress toward achieving them. Some characteristics:

- Appointed by the Scoutmaster
- Serves as the adviser to the youth OA Rep
- May or MAY NOT be a member of the OA...but it helps
- Is a unit Adult leader position, and there is a position patch for them to wear

Slide 10 - OA Rep Resources

Frequently Asked Questions about the Order of the Arrow Troop Representative position:

<http://www.oe-bsa.org/programs/ttr/tfaq.php>

OA Troop Representative (Youth Order of the Arrow member of the troop) <http://www.oe-bsa.org/programs/ttr/troop.php>

OA Troop Representative Adviser (Adult Troop Leader appointed by Scoutmaster who may or may not be an OA member) <http://www.oe-bsa.org/programs/ttr/tadviser.php>

OA Troop Representative Resource (program resources, job duties, contact information) <http://www.oe-bsa.org/programs/ttr/ttrsupportpak.pdf>

Takeaway Challenge and Conclusion

5 minutes

Slide 11

Write down three concrete steps you will take to be an effective TOAR; or if you are not a TOAR, to support the TOAR in your unit or encourage the use of a TOAR in your unit.

I hope you've gotten some ideas on how to help your unit become stronger through use of the OA Representative Program. As a group we've talked about what the job of the OA Rep is, what your resources are, how the chapter/lodge can help and making a plan for your success. Thank you.

Appendix: Resources and Source Material

- Frequently Asked Questions about the Order of the Arrow Troop Representative position: <http://www.oe-bsa.org/programs/ttr/tfaq.php>
- OA Troop Representative (Youth Order of the Arrow member of the troop) <http://www.oe-bsa.org/programs/ttr/troop.php>
- OA Troop Representative Adviser (Adult Troop Leader appointed by Scoutmaster who may or may not be an OA member) <http://www.oe-bsa.org/programs/ttr/tadviser.php>



- OA Troop Representative Resource (program resources, job duties, contact information)
<http://www.oa-bsa.org/programs/ttr/ttrsupportpak.pdf>