



2018 National Order of the Arrow Conference

Cell Name: SURGE: What and Why?

Session Length: 45 Minutes

Through this session, you will:

Explain SURGE and its purpose

Demonstrate the reason for SURGE's creation and its need

Guide guests through the program and how to access it for themselves

Enable them to utilize this program for LDS scouts in their lodge and chapters

Learning Outcomes:

- Have a knowledge of the facets of the SURGE program
- Be comfortable using the program for the benefit of their chapters and lodges
- Have guests know that this program is useful to all LDS or otherwise

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:

- It is always helpful to learn how to bring people of diverse backgrounds to the OA. Diversity brings adaptability.
- Guests have the decision to use this program to its full ability, or to merely how they find it useful to their lodge or chapter

This session will help the Lodge and Chapter with the Journey to Excellence Requirement(s):
Membership Impact, and Unit Elections

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

- Projector with screen
- Ability to play video with audio



TRAINER PREPARATION

1. Understand course material and be ready to share understanding with others by:
 - a. Watching SURGE videos and reading PowerPoint
 - b. Understanding purpose of SURGE
 - c. 2. Be Practiced in explaining and sharing the prepared PowerPoint

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Session Narrative

All talking points are within the PowerPoint and should said along the lines of how it is written in order to best convey the point (do not read directly from the PowerPoint slides).

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

Settle down, and introduction of self, and the Introduction of SURGE

- Supporting
- Units through
- Really
- Great
- Elections

... and the two main points of SURGE are to reverse; 1, low participation of LDS scouts (also introduce what LDS is etc.) and, 2, poorly trained elections teams creating a bad impression on units leading to “sash and dash” or candidates never attending their induction weekend.

**First topic ~5 minutes**

Why SURGE:

Firstly we stopped using the term “Ordeal Weekend” for one more positively received: “Induction Weekend”

Election teams should also rely on the phrase “Scouting’s National Honor Society” because that sounds like something you would want to be a part of, right?

We make these changes in order to keep the weak relationship that the Order of the Arrow has with the LDS Church

Second topic 10 minutes

The LDS Church and Scouts:

Read word for word the two slide SURGE statement and then explain.

Basically the LDS Church will no longer charter scout units, but many boys from these units and their families still enjoy scouting and will be transitioning over to community chartered troops so as to continue their scouting careers. So now is the time to get to these boys and elect them so they have somewhere (the Order of the Arrow) to share their work energy and ethic.

Because this is a western region program if you visit their website you will be able to find all the training materials required for you to run the SURGE program at your Lodge or Chapter level. You will find the syllabus for training unit election teams, the unit election video and a how to guide, a sample letter to Scoutmasters and Stake Presidents (leaders of the LDS Church), a myth de-bunk for the relationship between the LDS Church and the OA, as well as information on the SURGE recognition device (which is an award that unit election teams and LDS scouts can earn now!)

By using the SURGE program we will hopefully be able to retain many LDS scouts and their families in scouting, but also be able to bring them into the great thing that is the Order of the Arrow.

Third topic 10 minutes

So here’s what we want you to do about this..... showing video

Now ask if there are any questions answer as needed but watch the time (should finish this with approximately five minutes left)

When it seems there is a slow in questioning or time runs down show Mark Francis’ information and direct further or difficult to answer questions to him or tell them to email surge@oa-bsa.org then move into the takeaway of the lesson

**Takeaway Challenge 3 minutes**

I would hope the takeaway from this lesson is that you will all go home and decide for yourselves if SURGE is useful to your home Lodges and Chapters, even if it is not for recruiting LDS scouts, but just a good way to properly train unit election teams. For your takeaway challenge I would like you all to just try and use SURGE.

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 the way your chapter or lodge works / budgets / plans programs [something appropriate for your session]. During your break time later today, share these with others in your chapter or lodge.

Appendix: Resources and Source Material

[Insert materials as appropriate, for example:]

- 2016 Guide to Unit Elections, available online at <http://www.oa-bsa.org/pages/content/guide-to-unit-elections>
- Chapter Journey to Excellence Workbook, available online at <http://www.oa-bsa.org/pages/content/printable-forms>
- Western Region Website where all SURGE program materials and trainings are available for download western.oa-bsa.org/surge/