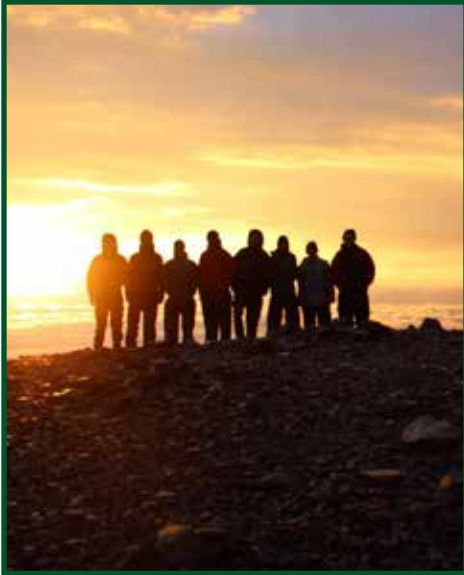


ORDER OF THE ARROW HIGH ADVENTURE

YEARBOOK

ISSUE 04

2021





LETTER TO THE ALUMNI

By **CHUCK COUTTEAU**

Foreman Alumni and Other Arrowman,

The summer of 2021 saw the largest amount of Arrowmen participating in Order of the Arrow High Adventure in recent years. A total of 375 young men and women experienced cheerful service at one of the BSA's national properties, no doubt thanks to all five of the OAHA programs running and open for business. Foreman and participants contributed 13,000+ man hours of conservation service that is valued at approximately \$400,000.

This past year also saw foreman alumni from every program come together at Philmont Scout Ranch to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of OA High Adventure in person (the reunion was postponed due to the pandemic). Next year, 2023 marks the 100th Anniversary for Northern Tier and the 25th Anniversary of the OA Wilderness Voyage Program that operates there. Be on the look out for further communications about how you can participate in these anniversaries. For now, please enjoy reading about past/present stories from the trail, celebrate fellow foremen alumni life milestones, and reflect on the 25th anniversary.

Yours In Adventure,
Chuck Coutteau
OAHA Alumni Coordinator
OAOA Foreman '13

A special thank you to:

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Steve Willis
Michael Edwards OATC '95

"THINGS TURN OUT BEST FOR THE
PEOPLE WHO MAKE THE BEST OF
THE WAY THINGS TURN OUT."

- John Wooden



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ORDER OF THE ARROW
TRAIL CREW

**ORDER OF THE ARROW
TRAIL CREW**



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

BEN SKIDMORE

The 2021 camping season has been a resounding success for not only the Order of the Arrow Trail Crew, but the entirety of the Philmont Scout Ranch. Our 25th season as a program was part of the largest year in Philmont history and signifies a significant step in the program's history. We welcomed 137 participants this summer including the 7 female participants. With 26,000 participants at Philmont this summer, the OA Trail Crews were just a drop in the biggest bucket Philmont has ever seen. However, the program was able to continue its legacy as an exceptional group of campers, workers, and servant leaders.

The 2021 Foremen deserve the bulk of the credit for the success of the program this summer. Despite some inexperience with OA High Adventure programs, all of the foremen stepped up and learned how to facilitate the OATC Program in a world that looks very different from 2019 when we last had participants. They have performed their duties with the character and integrity that the BSA programs strive to promote in the youth we serve. There is not enough thanks the leadership team can express to convey just how grateful we are for their performance this summer.

The Mt. Phillips project saw massive improvement this year with 3907 feet of trail getting built leaving only 3000 feet left to get to the summit. Along with this 6560 hours of service were completed in the trail building process. Our 17 crews covered 1206.7 miles this summer all over the Philmont backcountry fueled by 468 tortillas. We are excited for the progress that was made this summer and can not wait to be back again. We are stoked for the opportunities that lie ahead in future summers and hope to see y'all there.



2021 OATC Director

Ben Skidmore

2021 OATC Foremen

Scott Toomer
Ben Deveau
Christiane Fletcher
Zach Geschwilm

Ethan Honeycutt
Ian Miller
KT Pyzowski
Cooper Shuman

Collin Sindt
Shaw Smith
Karson Wilson
Reeves Yanez

Houston Phillips
Reed Jones
Justin Karch



3,907 feet of trail constructed



11,491' elevation of worksite



468 Tortillas consumed at the worksite

CINNAMON TOASTERS AND THE TOOTH

#2021ForemanStory

By **CHRISTIANE FLETCHER**

We wake up to rain on Fowler Messa. It's gloomy, everyone's still tired, but I knew what was waiting up in a bear bag and knew today was the day we'd crack into the 2 pound bag of everyone's favorite breakfast cereal, Cinnamon Toasters. We pull out the map and tell the crew where we're heading. Big Surprise!! The Tooth! On our last day in the backcountry of a south country trek, who would have guessed that! After a stop for lunch at Shaefers Pass we hike along the ridgeline to Tooth Ridge Camp, we could see absolutely nothing from up there and I worried sunsetting the Tooth wouldn't be an option that evening. We made it to camp earlier than expected, with enough time for a nap before dinner and heading up for the sunset. We started getting the bear bags set up when we realize we have an extra set of biscuits and gravy, a great option for our pre-dinner snack. After eating the biscuits and gravy, we take a quick power nap and then start getting dinner ready. As the crew was cooking, we saw a group of familiar faces approaching our site. Our sister crew had finally made it, later than they expected, but still with enough time to get everything done before heading up the tooth. We share some stories before getting camp set up and starting the hike up all together. By the time we get up there the sun had set below the horizon, but the light remained for a while longer. We sat up there just taking in the view. The last night in the backcountry with a crew, the summer was truly coming to an end. But watching the crew, the laughter, the smiles filled with pure joy, I knew this wasn't the end of anything, but really just the start of so many new friendships.



2021 ORDER OF THE ARROW HIGH ADVENTURE REUNION

OATC '95-'96

By **SCOTT BECKETT**

For more than a quarter century, Scouts fresh from the trail, the lake, or the ocean have gathered to reflect, to remember, and to relish on what most declare to be their 'journey of a lifetime.' On a magnificent Friday evening in late July, more than 60 former foremen, staff members, advisers, supporters, and family and friends of the Order's high adventure programs gathered near the Rayado creek at Philmont Scout Ranch to do the same.

Steve Willis, the associate adviser to the Order of the Arrow Trail Crew program from its start in 1995 said it like this, "the history of the Order of the Arrow Trail Crew (and Order of the Arrow High Adventure) is as unlikely a story as you could ever read. It begins in the 1960s with friendships formed in the scout camps of the Indiana woods and carries forward over decades to its fruition in the 1990's in the mountains of New Mexico. Each of the cast of characters contributed at just the right time, just the right place, and just the right position. The impossible became possible, the improbable became reality, and reality overtime has changed the lives of thousands of scouts throughout the past twenty-five years at high adventure bases all over the United States."

What an evening it was! With each base program represented by at least one former staff member, we celebrated the tremendous impact of what had been started as a one-off experiment. 1995 was to be a year of service, but we all know it evolved into something so much more that nobody could have ever imagined.



Joined by Chief Scout Executive Roger Moseby and many others at Rayado camp, we gathered first in our traditional circle to greet one another. Foremen from the very first trail crews and Wilderness Voyage expeditions were joined by peers from every era including the current summer. These foremen and many of their advisors were honored with a special necker celebrating 25 years of high adventure, and then the OATC Director Ben Skidmore and his staff hosted an extra-special banquet in honor of all that the high adventure programs have done over the years. Along with Steve Willis's keynote, long-time OATC Director and Staff leader Robert Fudge shared moving sentiments written by Ed Pease, helping to bring a glistening to many people's eyes that evening.

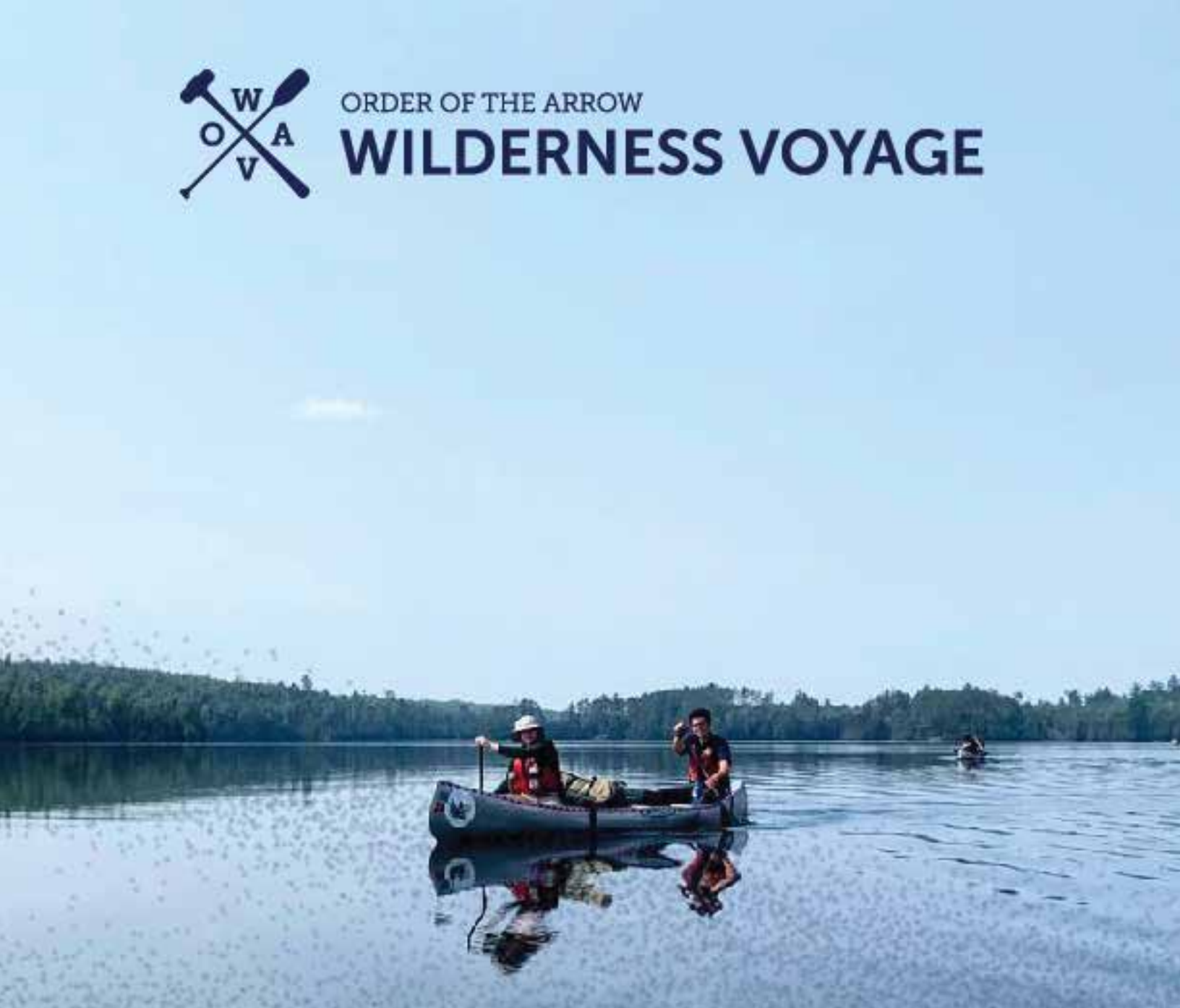
As so many before us, the Lone Scout led our group from our meal to the creek for a time of remembrance and reflection. Our celebration included those we revere and whom we lost. In 2021 alone, the three people who could be considered





ORDER OF THE ARROW

WILDERNESS VOYAGE



ORDER OF THE ARROW WILDERNESS VOYAGE



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

NATHANIEL WILSON

The OAWV season of 2021 was an opportunity for the order to show that it was made of "tougher stuff." We are still faced with a global quandary surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic, and we have faced difficult circumstances in the Northwoods with the extremely dry season leading to at least 29 wildfires in or near our areas of operations. This compound of issues and limitations, however, has not broken the ability nor the spirit of the program and staff here. We have adjusted, repositioned, and managed to continue to provide exactly what each and every participant traveled to the wilderness for... adventure.

Without fail, the staff continued to provide meaningful service to the U.S. Forest Service and to the visitors of one of the crown jewels of our public lands system. This group of staff have worked long hours, paddled miles beyond compare and forged memories that will continue to reverberate in the hearts and minds of these young adults well into the later years of their lives. This core value of perseverance is a lesson earned through trials of the mind, body, and spirit. My hope is that this will forever be a part of our history.

In my role of OAWV Director this year, I have felt the strain of management, but moreover, I have felt a distinct sense of pride in where this program has taken me, what this program has provided for each person it touches, and this programs ability to continually surpass expectations on multiple fronts. For this I would like to thank Josh Reddick, my Assistant Director, for his ever-present ability to deal with the meticulous execution of any task set before him, and for always seeking to find a way to serve his fellows in whatever way he could.

I would also like to thank the foremen of the 2021 season. Their varied skill sets, and lively attitudes are what made this season possible. They are the backbone of this operation. They each deserve a passage written here, but to lump them together is to recognize their ability, of which I am very grateful. It is through their toil for higher endeavors that I can say that we did what we came here to do.

The OA has produced a fluke with this program. Regardless of external factors, including but not limited to a global pandemic, wildfires, wilderness zone closures, it brings together individuals from across the country, enables them to bond with each other over a common goal, and drive forward to maintain and improve a small part of the nation's most visited wilderness. In total, the program accomplished a monumental amount of work, in a short period of time. The participants and foremen completed 2,680 hours of service to the Boundary Waters. 82 portages cleared to USFS corridor standards, totaling roughly 112,626 feet, or 21.3 miles of portage trail. Along with the completion of this corridor clearing, the OAWV foremen worked on the deferred maintenance of multiple portage trails. In total, the OAWV program constructed 12 check-dams, 26 feet of turnpike, 11 erosion-control trail drains, 1 open and 1 closed faced culvert, 2 water bars, and 2 rock retaining walls.

In closing, I can confidently state that this program's pertinence is clearer than ever. With struggles and hardships, and insurmountable odds in the surrounding world... this program give solace for participants, offers a way to sojourn in a remote wilderness, develop as individuals, work hard, play hard, and give back to future generations of visitors to one of the crown jewels of our public lands system.

2021 OAWV Director

Nathan Wilson

2021 OAWV Foremen

Josh Reddick
Daniel Garcia
Joe Gondeck

Ben Hauschild
Corrine Johnston
Catherine Paul

Ricard Peat
Thomas Pittman
Keith Rhan

Samuel Rogers
Mitchell Vose



21.3 Miles of Trail Corridor Cleared



26 Feet of Turnpike Installed



67 Participants

22 traditional Trips Into the Boundary Waters by Foremen.

LEAVING A LASTING LEGACY

OAWV '10

By **JOHN PUTZ**

During Summer 2010 I had the awesome privilege of serving as an OA Canadian Odyssey Foreman for our crews originating at the Northern Tier base in Atikokan. Our crews that summer worked on the Maria Lake to Jesse Lake Portage in the Quetico Provincial Park, the beautiful sprawling Canadian side of the Boundary Waters. Like most of the Quetico portage trails, the Ontario Parks staff utilizes methods of maintaining the trails that reflect their effort to care for hundreds of portages with limited resources. One of the more famous (or infamous, depending on your experience) means is the use of corduroy – cut logs placed on trails that have segments with significant mud and water presence. I personally spent several memorable moments face-planted in the mud, sometimes too close for comfort to the carelessly left TP stashes of those not keen on the broad leaf aster, from slipping on those corduroy segments. I remember during our foremen staff training a lot of emphasis by Vern Miller, Tim Babb, and others on the place we hold in a rich history of trail building that included the CCC and WPA participants from decades past, and how the methods OAWV/OACO use make sure the trail work we do lasts for decades to come. I spent many very hot and humid hours surrounded by mosquitos and black flies, knee deep in mud, wondering how long our work would last and wondering if I would ever get to see the completion of it or use it personally in the future.

A few years later, in the summer of 2015, I had the opportunity to return to Northern Tier to guide a trip in the opposite direction (from Ely to Atikokan, shortly after the ice broke). Our crew was the first to arrive at the Atikokan base and I convinced our youth crew leader to incorporate the Jesse Lake to Maria Lake route to get there. When I stepped off the shore of Jesse Lake onto that portage trail I got goosebumps seeing the immaculate state it was in – the features installed by OACO looked like they had been done the day before, and had certainly stood the test of time over those few years. It was surreal to walk that portage, this time as a guest on it, as part of that unexpected return journey through the Quetico. I am thankful for the opportunity to have contributed to the rich tradition of trail building and the adventures those trails facilitate for all of us.





Foreman Accomplishments

1. David Stowe OATC '96-'99: Silver Antelope.
2. Dan Smith OAWV '15: Married Mary Catherine Serfilippi.
3. Martin Durand OASE '16: Married Hannah Loggins.
4. Chuck Coutteau OAOA '13: Awarded the Silver Beaver.
5. Matthias Leier OAOA '18: Summited Mt. Whitney.
6. Robert Fudge OATC '07-'11: Fulbright Distinguished Award in Teaching Research.
7. Dan Rogan OATC '14-'16 & OAWV '17-'18: B.A. from Northern Michigan Unversty.
8. Burl Holland OAWV '03: Promoted to Capitan - Air Force.
9. Zach Donahoe OATC '19: Appalachian Trail Thru Hiker.
10. Ryan Glennon OAWV '15-'17: B.A. from University of Wisconsin Platteville.
11. Joey Dierdorf OATC '16, '18, '20 & OAWV '20: M.S. from the Universaity of Michigan.
12. Mathew Kelly OATC '16: Married Katie Martin.
13. Josh Hipps OAWV '09-'10: Appalachian Trail Thru Hiker.
14. Dave Nguyen OAWV '06: Ohio University Commencement Speaker.



Foreman Meetups

1. Brian Seeton, Ryan King, Taylor Giles, Chuck Coutteau (WV).
2. Joey Dierdorf, Chuck Coutteau, Scott Johnston (MI).
3. Ben Lanham, Joey Dierdorf (VA).
4. Tyler Gomex, James Williamson (WY).
5. Chuck Coutteau, Joey Dierdorf, Michael Salciccioli (MI).
6. Shane Adam Sommers, Talon Parker (NM).
7. Keith Nelson, Chance Sloan, Grady Lee Gatson (MN).
8. Brian Seeton, Sean Ferrier, Dan Rogan, Brian Lux, Bradley Ellis, Tim Beecher, Zach Jones, Courtney Grosz, Spencer Powell, Josh Hips, Burl Holland, Marty Tschetter, Angela Miller, Ozzie Reif, Grady Gaston, Ryan Tredinnick, Andrew Price, Dustin Counts, Travis McCormick (Zoom).

Marty Tschetter OATC '95-'96



IN MEMORIAM

Marty Tschetter spent nine summers on staff at Philmont. His first job was in the dining hall, serving food to the thousands of kids passing through Philmont. One of Marty's greatest Scouting legacies came with the development of OA Trail Crew. He often discussed what it meant to be in Scouting's honor society, the Order of the Arrow. Youth and Adult Members all enjoy the leadership opportunities, but Marty dug much deeper into the meaning and history of the OA, where the concept of a brotherhood of cheerful service meant much more to him than most. Ideals appealed to Marty, and the OA's captured his imagination.

During the 1992 National Scout Jamboree Marty and his friend Michael Edwards served as Philmont rangers. That summer Michael left a crew of Scouts to hike back to Base Camp, and being one of the aforementioned adrenaline junkies, his hike-in consisted of climbing Baldy, bushwhacking across to Touch-Me-Not, then heading down to the highway to hopefully catch a ride back to Base Camp. As he was in the saddle between Baldy and Touch-Me-Not, he began thinking about the National Jamboree, which was occurring at that very moment some 1,500 miles away, realizing that there was no place he's rather be than in these magical mountains. Michael felt complete, and wanted to convey that feeling of self-reliance and independence to Scouting, and more importantly, to the OA.

That experience and reflection translated into later brainstorming sessions with Marty and Michael at the Stockade Camp – spirited sessions on how we could make the OA reflect the magic of the ranch and the spirit of rugged adventure. Marty and Michael yearned to radicalize the OA and take it back to its roots! That was the birthplace of the OATC program, which Marty directed in his last two years at Philmont, and which went on to become a cornerstone program at Philmont, recently celebrating its 25th anniversary. Marty was awarded the Distinguished Service Award, the OA's highest honor, for his role in creating and developing the OATC program, and it is described as one of the Order's most important contributions to Scouting.

Donate to the Marty Tschetter Memorial OATC Youth Scholarship Endowment: An original founder of OATC, Marty was well-known for his ability to connect with Scouts across generations, and most importantly, his dedication to the highest ideals of Scouting and the OA. Intended for an OA youth member who would not otherwise be able to participate in the OA Trail Crew program.

philstaff.org/store/donations/scholarship/marty-tschetter-memorial-staff-scholarship-endowment

Gene Schnell OATC Adviser

IN MEMORIAM

Every summer since the inception of the Order of the Arrow Trail Crew (OATC) program over 23 years ago, Gene Schnell has continuously served as the lead adviser, secondary to his full-time staff position at Philmont. A staff icon, his commanding, lean physique and towering frame, easily stands out in any crowd with his field uniform and gold epaulet loops. Starting in 1991 he worked nearly two decades as a backcountry manager at Philmont, and became known by the Philmont staff as Unit 41 for his assigned radio channel. In this position Gene's typical workday started around 5:30 am, spent nearly all day in the backcountry with frequent check-ins with the OA leadership, lending important support to the fledging trail crew program. As far back as the first two summers, Gene provided encouraging words and remained in the background which empowered the judgment of the young adults running the program.

"The very epitome of servant leadership" is how Eugene J. Schnell was described on the occasion of his Silver Sage Award in 2013. This beloved Philmont veteran set a high bar for everyone around him through his work ethic, dedication, and unapologetic push for superior service to others. "I contribute to Philmont by commitment to excellence by personal example," he said. "I'm a big believer in the saying, 'excellence will be tolerated, but perfection is our goal.'"

Gene's greatest satisfaction came from helping young people grow and develop. "I can help them realize that they have the capacity to turn dreams into reality," he said. That life mission made him a revered and influential figure everywhere he served: at Trinity Catholic High School in St. Louis, where he taught and served as men's track coach; at summer camps of the Greater St. Louis Area Council, where he spent summers for almost twenty years, with the Order of the Arrow - as a section and regional adviser - as well as vice chairman of its national committee, and at Philmont with the OA Trail Crew.

Donate to the Gene Schnell "Unit 41" Memorial Seasonal Staff Scholarship: During his 36-year tenure on the Philmont seasonal staff, Gene Schnell had a significant positive impact on both the staff and the participants at the ranch. Created by many former Philmont staffers who had the good fortune of working with Gene, this scholarship provides an opportunity to keep his inspiring spirit alive among the future Philmont seasonal staff recipients.

philstaff.org/store/donations/scholarship/gene-schnell-memorial-scholarship-endowment



ORDER OF THE ARROW

OCEAN ADVENTURE



ORDER OF THE ARROW OCEAN ADVENTURE



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

GREGORY YENTZ

Ocean Adventure 2021 was a success. The program provided by the foremen was second to none, the service given by our participants was the most impactful to the Florida Keys in many years, and through written evaluations and personal discussions, I know that we presented the opportunity to change the lives of so many Arrowmen.

Ocean Adventure 2021 was a challenge. Whether it was staffing, illness, weather, or other seemingly unavoidable factors, we never got "in the groove". Despite the struggles, the combined effort of the Ocean Adventure team kept the underlying spirit of the program alive, allowing participants to be pushed to the next level every day.

Ocean Adventure 2021 gives me hope. This is a program that, despite all the challenges, continued to provide an unparalleled experience to every Arrowmen who traveled to our home in the Florida Keys. If we have succeeded this past summer and the summer before, we can succeed in almost any circumstance. The irksome tasks and weighty responsibilities borne by the entire Ocean Adventure team has galvanized the passion for the idea of this program in each individual. No matter the location, service, or program specifics that are found in the future, the spirit of this program is safe for years to come.

I would like to again thank everyone who was able to contribute to the success of this summer, those who donated their skills and labor, those who were available for a short phone call for advice, and those who just came down to see the Arrowmen. Looking forward, I am excited to take a back-seat role in the Ocean Adventure team and can't wait to see what the future holds for this amazing program.



2021 OAOA Director

Gregory Yentz

2021 OAOA Foremen

Matthew Kusche

Spencer Lanning

Lillian Kelly

Sean Fisher



87 Participants



56 Lodges Represented



2000+ Service Hours



First Sea Base 50 Miler



30+ Sharks Caught



4 Fishing Records



SERVING AND SETTING RECORDS IN THE SOUTH

By **SPENCER LANNING**

One of the most difficult questions a Scout must face throughout their Scouting career is what to do with their summer. Should they go to summer camp with their troop, or perhaps get a job to save up for next summer's troop high adventure trek? Regardless of the answer or what the Scout chooses to do, the most profound use of a summer is participating in an Order of the Arrow High Adventure Trek.

When I was a participant for the Ocean Adventure trek in 2019 my life was changed for the better. I had a deeper appreciation for nature and a greater understanding of Scouting and the Order of the Arrow. However, none of this change could have been possible without my foremen and after my trek they convinced me to return to Sea Base and become a foreman. Not realizing exactly what I was getting myself into I jumped headfirst with no expectations and had an incredible time.

I was fortunate enough to be rehired for the 2021 and this time I understood how to be a foreman. Ocean Adventure had 1 service project the entire summer, clearing debris from hurricane Irma that was suffocating the island and not allowing for any new growth. This service project proved to be meaningful and promoted all the principals of the Order of the Arrow. Participants worked day and night to remove all dead trees and fallen debris from the island to promote regrowth and protect it from other hurricanes for years to come. One of the most amazing parts of the service was when the participants began to realize the long-term impact they were having on the Florida Keys ecosystem. While they would never personally benefit from the service, they understood the importance of regrowth on barrier islands and sought to ensure that every twig and branch they could manage to move from the island was removed.

One of our crews, almost every participant had been or was going to Northern Tier in the following weeks. Being that we are the Order of the Arrow we needed to turn some heads and break some records, so the crew embarked on an adventure to earn the first ever 50 milers at Florida Sea Base. Every day after service we paddled an average of 8 miles and did as many as 14 miles on a war canoe in one day. We prevailed and earned the first ever 50 miler at Florida Sea Base. The combination of selfless service, brotherhood and adventure are what make the Order of the Arrow High Adventure the greatest program in the Boy Scouts of America because of the lifelong connections and the impact the program has on the participants and Foremen that fully embrace the program and its values.

OA High Adventure
FOREMAN ALUMNI



DAN ROGAN

OA Trail Crew: 2014, 2015, 2016
OA Wilderness Voyage: 2017, 2018

Dan Rogan is an OAHA Triple Crown recipient (including both OAWV and OACO), was an OATC Foreman in 2014, 2015, and 2016, and OAWV Director in 2017 & 2018. He recently graduated from Northern Michigan University with a degree in Outdoor Recreation Leadership and Management.

Q: What are you up to now?

Dan: Right now, I have returned to Northern Tier for a 7th winter Okpik season and will be moving to Maine for another seasonal job after that. I met my employer in Maine while working at Maine High Adventure during the summer of 2021.

Q: What is your fondest memory of OA High Adventure?

Dan: My fondest memory of OAHA is probably NOAC 2018, meeting Foremen from the past and present (and future!) in one place, promoting OAHA to potential future participants, and reuniting with some of my past participants and even fellow participants from when I did OAHA.

Q: Will we see you at NOAC this year for another reunion?

Dan: I'd like to make it, but not sure if I will. I'm paddling a canoe race [Yukon 1000] starting July 19. The paddle will take as little as six days or as long as 10, depending on how we do.

Q: Was there another foreman or director that you learned from more than others?

Dan: I've had some pretty incredible role models to look up to in my time with OAHA, but 3 specific names come to mind. Tim Riedl, who was the OATC Director I worked for in 2014-15. Jay Minton took over OATC in 2016 and we also worked together at Okpik at Northern Tier. Sean Ferrier, who I followed the footsteps of as OAWV Director and also worked multiple Okpik seasons with at Northern Tier.

Q: Do you have any advice for foremen after they are done with OAHA?

Dan: My biggest piece of advice is to reflect. Leaving the position of foreman can be difficult, but if you look back on all the hard work you've put in and remember the positive impacts you've made on the lives of Arrowmen. Also remember that by stepping down, it allows for another Arrowmen to step up into that position so that they may grow and create positive impacts for more Arrowmen.



OA High Adventure
FOREMAN ALUMNI



TED WEILAND

OA Wilderness Voyage: 2012, 2013, 2014
OA Trail Crew: 2015

Ted Weiland started his exposure to trail building by working at SummitCorps in 2011. There he was recruited to be an OAWV Foreman in 2012, and OAWV Associate Director in 2013 and 2014. In 2015 he went West to be an OATC Foreman. He is currently a chemistry professor at Kirkwood Community College where he has taught for over 10 years.

Q: What do you do now?

Ted: I currently serve as Lodge Adviser for the local OA Lodge (Cho-Gun-Mun-A-Nock) and work with the national subcommittees for Conservation and Outdoor Ethics as a Division Manager. I was also just elected to serve on the board of the Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association. During my summers now, I work with students in a collaborative research project with a professor at the University of Iowa purifying proteins and teaching them about biochemistry.

Q: What is your fondest memory of OA High Adventure?

Ted: There are so many great memories I have from that time, it's hard to narrow it down to just one. One of my favorites was when we were working on North Portage in the Quetico in Canada. The trail we were working on had knee deep mud and was just gnarly. My foreman partner (Ryan Elson) and I challenged our crew to build 20' of rock turnpike during our work week (that's close to double what crews do). The crew stepped up to the challenge and absolutely made it happen. They didn't know each other before that trip and banded together to achieve a goal they didn't think they could do at first. The power of motivated people cannot be understated.

Q: Can you tell us about a lasting relationship or encounter you've had because of OAHA?

Ted: I have so many great friends from my time working with OAHA. This past summer I went on a trip in the BWCA with several past OAWV foremen. One of the guys on the trip, Dominique Baker, and I have been friends in scouts together for almost 25 years. We were lodge chiefs at the same time and served together as section officers.

Q: What is the biggest lesson you learned from being a foreman or director that you still lean on today?

Ted: It's good to always have a plan, but keep those back up plans in your pocket, as things can change dramatically. Having paddled off my maps in the BWCA on one of my first trips out, working through that situation taught me how to adapt in difficult situations and work through the problem. We were able to figure out where we were after a gorgeous night paddle, and I definitely remember that you need to enjoy things even in the midst of difficult situations.

Q: Do you have any advice for foremen after they are done with OAHA?

Ted: Find your place and continue helping the scouting program. Our skills translate so well to serving your local district, council, chapter, and lodge. If you love the conservation, find (or form!) the conservation committee and serve as a resource. Work with the local lodge and help youth attend OAHA programs. There is always more room for servant leaders in this organization.

OA High Adventure
FOREMAN ALUMNI



RYAN KING

OA Trail Crew: 1997, 1998

Ryan King was an OATC Foreman in 1997 and 1998, and served as the Director of Conservation at Philmont for 2 years. He served one year as Associate Director of Program/Base Director for the Double H High Adventure Base. Currently, he is a Managing Partner at Maximize Partners, a leadership development consulting firm, and is on the National OA Committee as the Outdoor Program Subcommittee Chair.

Q: What is your fondest memory of OA High Adventure?

Ryan: There were a ton of sunsets, hanging out at the James, or having pizza at Pizza Outback. All the memories were focused on shared experiences with others. I still remember like it was yesterday, camping overnight on the Tooth of Time (getting no sleep) and catching sunset with my crew.

Q: Can you tell us about a lasting relationship or encounter you've had because of OAHA?

Ryan: There are too many to count. Because of OATC I had the chance to work with Matt Dukeman as we put together the Double H High Adventure Base and now in his role as National OA Director. I still keep in contact with my foreman partners. Just last week I saw folks like David Stowe, Ryan Hawke, David Strebler, and we had the chance to pick things up right from where we last saw each other. Life is about relationships, and the experiences we all go through in OAHA create a bond that lasts a lifetime.

Q: What would you tell someone who was unsure if they should spend a summer as an OAHA Foreman?

Ryan: What are you unsure about?! That is a no-brainer, do it! You have the rest of your life to do all the other stuff, whether it be an internship or summer school...it can wait. This experience is life changing, if you let it, and you should move mountains to make it happen.

Q: Is there anything you'd have done differently looking back?

Ryan: I wish I had done a better job of staying in touch with others on staff. The alumni group has helped tremendously, but we didn't have it in the beginning. I would challenge each of you to stay in contact and make it a point to reach out and connect on a regular basis.

Q: Where do you want to see OAHA go over the next 5-10 years?

Ryan: That is a great question and one that our High Adventure subcommittee is going to be looking into this year. We have been around for over 25 years, and it will be important for us to reflect and ensure we are still making a meaningful impact. Scouting is changing, and we need to align with our future as an organization. This is an initiative (the new business plan) the National OA Committee is embarking on and one that our programs will be part of. I'm excited for the future of OAHA and look forward to being part of it!





ORDER OF THE ARROW

SUMMIT EXPERIENCE

ORDER OF THE ARROW SUMMIT EXPERIENCE



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

MACKENZIE BURKE

What a summer it has been! For the first time since our program began, OASE held a summer's worth of sessions, each more exciting than the last. With a mostly new staff, an overbooked summer, and each session bringing its own unique challenges, our work to bring the best program OASE can provide never stopped. Before we knew it, summer was done, our gear was packed, and we waved goodbye to the last participants of the season.

It was great to be back and operating at a greater capacity than 2020. We returned to our previous work site on the Camp Creek trail, and with more difficult trail work to be done, we were happy to receive more participants than OASE has had in a long time. We welcomed our first co-ed crews to the trail and, over 8 crews, built over 2700 feet of trail through the unforgiving West Virginia mountains. With the help of our fellow Summit staffers, we introduced more Arrowmen to the world of OA High Adventure and encouraged them to Seek the Next Summit. Our staff is excited for what adventure waits for ourselves and especially our participants. More than anything, I can't wait to see where OASE goes next!



2021 OASE Director

Mackenzie Burke

2021 OASE Foremen

Oliver Creemer
Isabelle Hartman
Graham Hogg
Michael Pitts



2,788 Feet of Trail Constructed



6 Bear Sightings



State with most Participants - Florida with 9



LAUGHING THROUGH THE STORM

OASE '14-'17

By **JAMES WILLIAMSON**

2015 will hence be known as the summer of storms! It always rains a generous amount in West Virginia during the summers. This year was at a different level!

We had our onsite camp in Bravo, with other Summit participants. This was back when we used the metal-framed canvas tents in Bravo. We quickly discovered after the first major storm that they did not hold up well in the wind. The Summit staff was deployed to pick up all the canvas covers, cots, and frames that had blown all over.

After putting Bravo campsite back together again, I suppose we figured we were home free the rest of the summer. The next week my foreman partner and I had just returned from the trail building with our crew and did the Big Zip. We were delayed because of a second major storm! We knew the inevitable was about to happen, that our campsite in Bravo would be in shambles once again.

After the Big Zip, we rode back to Bravo. The camp was completely decimated! All of our tents blew over, our personal items were scattered everywhere; everything was soaking wet! And we all couldn't help but just start laughing. Seriously! After a week of rainstorms, this was just too perfect. So we just laughed it off! Then we stepped out of the van and got to work helping the other troops and Summit staff clean up Bravo."



2021 ORDER OF THE ARROW ALUMNI TREK

OAWV '10-'11

By **MATTHEW HALL**

Special thanks to Joey Dierdorf (OATC '16, '18, '20 & OAWV '20), Scott Johnston (OAOA '16), and Wes Seaman (OATC '16) who shared with me some of their experiences from the first OAHA Alumni Trek.

In the summer of 2021, OAHA foreman alumni from around the country converged upon Philmont Scout Ranch to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the OAHA programs and the 50th anniversary of Philmont's Conservation Department. The gathering featured remembrances for Marty Tschetter and Gene Schnell, reflections on the accomplishments of the OAHA programs, day trips into the backcountry, demonstrations by the conservation department, and a banquet. The highlight of the gathering was the opportunity for those interested to go on a short trek of their own.



The inaugural OAHA Alumni Trek featured 8 days and 7 nights spent in the backcountry. Similar to the traditional OAHA programs, the alumni trek was a combination of work and play. The crew spent several days working at the Whistle Pump worksite where over the course of 3 days they completed 300 feet of trail, rough-cut an additional 500 feet, removed some stumps, and did some work on a rock wall. The crew even had the opportunity to link up briefly with one of the current OATC crews.

Following their days of service at the worksite, the crew hit the trail stopping at several favorite spots including Cypher's Mine. One of the more unique experiences on the trek was when Joey Dierdorf and Wes Seaman, former OATC foreman partners, ran into one of their past participants on the trail now serving as a foreman with the program. There is something so very special about seeing a past participant you mentioned go on to be a foreman in their own right.

Overall, the foreman alumni who attended the trek had a fantastic time and expressed interest in there being future alumni treks with some suggesting rotating the experience among the various high adventure bases. Scott Johnston, OAOA, one of the other alumni trek participants, perhaps said it best when he talked about how special it was to mingle with other foremen and that the trek allowed him to "reconnect with the program" that helped shape who he is.





THE OA ALLIANCE

By **DONNIE STEPHENS**

Dear Foreman Alumni and Other OA Alumni,

It is my pleasure to introduce to you to the Order of the Arrow Alliance! If you're not currently active in an Order of the Arrow Lodge, then read on to learn how and why the OA Alliance will keep you informed and connected.

You and the OA might have parted ways for a myriad of reasons. Perhaps you moved away from your local lodge, or your lodge merged and no longer exists as you remember it. Maybe we failed to explain how to get involved in the first place, and so you did not come back after completing your Ordeal. Whatever the case, my request to you is this: keep an eye out for your OA Alliance membership.

The OA Alliance is a home for former OA members like yourself to stay connected with the OA. Think of us as an alumni association for the Order of the Arrow – which also counts the OAHA Foreman Alumni Association. As a new member of the OA Alliance, you will receive our quarterly eNewsletter, the Alliance Spark, which contains engaging content that will connect you with the OA and other Scouting and OA alumni. We hosted an alumni day at this summer's NOAC and offered our first round of merchandise – don't worry, we're launching even more exclusive programs for OA Alliance members like yourself soon.

So, give us this chance. Keep an eye out for the Alliance Spark, stay engaged with the OAHA Foreman Alumni Association, and see if the OA is worth reconnecting to. Think back to all the good times you had in Scouting -- the brotherhood shared, the friendships formed, and the treks travelled -- and let us help you rekindle those good times. Have questions or ideas? Check out our FAQ page at oa-bsa.org/alliance/faqs or shoot us a note at alliance@oa-bsa.org. We're looking forward to having you back on the trail.

Yours in Scouting,

Donnie Stephens
OA Alliance Coordinator



OA TRAIL CREW



Ben Skidmore
Scott Toomer

Ben Deveau
Christiane Fletcher
Zach Geschwilm
Ethan Honeycutt
Ian Miller
KT Pyzowski
Cooper Shuman
Collin Sindt
Shaw Smith
Karson Wilson
Reeves Yanez

Houston Phillips
Reed Jones
Justin Karch

OA SUMMIT EXPERIENCE



Mackenzie Burke
Oliver Creemer
Isabelle Hartman
Graham Hogg
Michael Pitts

OA WILDERNESS VOYAGE



Nathan Wilson

Josh Reddick

Daniel Garcia

Joe Gondeck

Ben Hauschild

Corrine Johnston

Katherine Paul

Ricard Peat

Thomas Pittman

Keith Rhan

Samuel Rogers

Mitchell Vose

OA OCEAN ADVENTURE



Gregory Yentz

Matthew Kusche

Spencer Lanning

Lillian Kelly

Sean Fisher

"IN EVERY WALK WITH
NATURE ONE RECEIVES FAR
MORE THAN HE SEEKS."

- John Muir



HAPPY TRAILS

OA-BSA.ORG/HIGH-ADVENTURE

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