

Lakota Chapter Order of the Arrow Troop Representative Information Packet



"Let it be remembered that the Order of the Arrow was created to help the unit - to help it present its membership a better ideal of the inner qualities of the good scout camper. Qualities of character, like cheerfulness and service, are hard for a boy or a man to understand in the abstract. They come easier when seen in human life. Let us realize the significance of the Order in the unit - for the unit is our best hope in Scouting."

*-Dr. E. Urner Goodman
Founder, Order of the Arrow*

The Order of the Arrow Troop Representative or Team Representative is a youth liaison serving between the local OA lodge or chapter and his unit. In his unit, he will serve as a communication and programmatic link to and from Arrowmen, adult leaders and Scouts who are not presently members of the Order. He will do this in a fashion that strengthens the mission of the lodge, purpose of the Order and the mission of the Boy Scouts of America. By setting a good example, he will enhance the image of the Order as a service arm to his unit.

Basic Information

What Is the OA Troop/Team Representative?

The OA Representative is an official leadership position within the troop or team, and boys can earn time towards their leadership rank requirements, just as with Den Chief, Troop Scribe, or any of the other leadership positions.

What Are the Responsibilities of the Troop/Team Representative?

The most basic tasks of the Representative will be to **coordinate service opportunities within the unit, to coordinate unit involvement with the Order of the Arrow**, including Unit Elections, **Camp Promotions, and Inductions**, and request lodge and chapter resources to help meet unit needs.

Who Can Serve as a Troop/Team Representative?

Anyone in the unit who is under the age of 18 can serve as the OA Representative for the unit, He should be appointed by the Senior Patrol Leader or Varsity Team Captain, and will be a member of the Patrol Leaders' Council and attend chapter meetings.

Does This Position Count for Rank Advancement?

Scouts may use the Order of the Arrow Troop/Team Representative position to meet the leadership position requirements for the Star, Life, and Eagle ranks.

Job Description, Duties and Qualifications

OA Troop Representative Job Description:

An Order of the Arrow Troop Representative is a youth liaison serving between the Lakota OA chapter and his troop. In his troop, he serves as a communication and programmatic link to the Arrowmen, adult leaders and Scouts who are not presently members of the Order. He does this in a fashion that strengthens the mission of the lodge and purpose of the Order.



By setting a good example, he enhances the image of the Order as a service arm to his troop.

OA Troop Representative Duties:

- **Serves** as a communication link between Lakota chapter and the troop.
- **Encourages** year round camping in the troop.
- **Encourages** Scouts to actively participate in community service projects.
- **Encourages** Arrowmen to assume leadership positions in the troop.
- **Encourages** Arrowmen in the troop to be active participants in the lodge and chapter activities and to seal their membership in the Order by becoming Brotherhood members.
- **Sets a good example**
- **Enthusiastically** wears the Scout uniform correctly.
- Lives by the **Scout Oath, Scout Law and OA Obligation**
- **Shows Scout spirit!**

OA Troop Representative Qualifications:

- Under 18 years old
- Appointed by SPL with SM approval
- At least an Arrowman who has earned the Ordeal Honor

OA Troop Representative Reports To:

Senior Patrol Leader of his home troop, or his Varsity Team Captain and his Chapter's Order of the Arrow's Troop Representative Chairman

Who Benefits from the OA Troop/Team Representative Program?

Scouting:

- With the Troop/Team Representative as a liaison between the Order of the Arrow and the troop or team, the **camp promotions process will be smoother**, leading to greater numbers of Scouts at summer camp
- Creates a vehicle to **strengthen the ties between the OA and the individual BSA troop or team**. This will help with the **retention of the older Scouts**.
- With the organization and proper knowledge of service projects, Arrowmen will have a better opportunity to serve others in their communities.

Lodge and Chapter:

- With an easier camp promotions process, the lodge can **increase the number of units visited**, increasing the effectiveness of this program in the Council.
- With positive OA leadership on the unit level, Siwinis Lodge and its respective chapters will **experience greater membership retention**.
- A Unit's OA members will have someone to **organize transportation to OA events, increasing attendance at chapter and lodge functions**.

Troop and Team:

- The coordination of OA calendar with that of troop and team will **prevent OA members from having to choose between OA functions and unit events**.
- With the organization of service projects, there will be **greater opportunity for community service** hours that are required for rank advancement.
- Experienced Arrowmen from other units who may be **able to share their knowledge** can be sought out by the OA Representative to augment the troop program.
- Creates more **opportunities for leadership** in the troop or team for both youth and adults, effectively increasing membership retention.

Now what? Once your Troop has an OA Troop Rep, please have the OA Troop Rep contact the Vice Chief or Deputy Chapter Advisor at the Contact Us section at www.pacificbsa.org/oa/ or at Roundtable.

Assembled by Bob Applegate using resources of the National Order of the Arrow (<http://www.main.oa-bsa.org/>)