



Order of the Arrow Scouting's National Honor Society

Purpose of the Order of the Arrow:

- To recognize those campers – Scouts, Varsity – who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives and by such recognition that causes other campers to conduct themselves in such a manner as to warrant recognition.
- To develop and maintain camping traditions and spirit.
- To promote Scout camping, which reaches its greatest effectiveness as a part of the unit's camping program, both year-round and in the summer camp, as directed by the camping committee of the council.
- To crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life of purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.

History

The Order of the Arrow was founded in the summer of 1915. It grew out of a desire to emphasize that the good Scout camper is not only proficient in the skills of Scoutcraft, but also practices the principles of the Scout Oath and Law. It was intended to make these Scout principles more effective in the lives of Scout campers. It focuses particular attention on making cheerfulness, service, and brotherhood realities to a boy. A unit chooses from their camping members, those who best exemplify these traits, to become a member of the Order of the Arrow.

What is the Order of the Arrow?

It is a society of Boy Scouts that functions as a part of the regular camping program of the Boy Scouts of America. Its foremost purpose is to promote and enrich Scout camping. The Arrow members in a local Scout council form a Lodge (used as in Indian tradition in the sense of the hunting lodge of the council lodge). Elements of Indian tradition are used in the Order of the Arrow ceremonies for the dramatic effect. However, the Indian aspects of the Order should never obscure its objectives. One becomes a member not so much for what he has done, but for what he is expected to do.

Eligibility

To become a member, a young man (under the age of 21) must be a registered Scout in a unit, have experienced 15 days and nights of camping – which included one long term camp (summer camp) - , have achieved the rank of First Class, and be approved by his Scoutmaster. For an adult to become a member, he/she must be nominated by the unit committee.