



SCOUTING'S BROTHERHOOD OF CHEERFUL SERVICE

...THE LEADERSHIP, SERVICE AND HONOR SOCIETY OF THE BOY SCOUTS
OF AMERICA

- PURPOSE** The purpose of the Order of the Arrow (OA) is to recognize those campers, Scouts, Varsity, Venturers and Adult Scouters who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives, to develop and maintain the camping traditions and spirit, to promote both short and long term camping experiences, and to crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.
- HISTORY** The Order of the Arrow was founded by Dr. E. Urner Goodman and Carroll A. Edson in 1915 at the Treasure Island Camp of the Philadelphia Council, B.S.A. It became an official program experiment in 1922 and was approved as part of the Boy Scout program in 1934. In 1948 the Order of the Arrow, recognized as Boy Scouts of America's National Honor Society, became an official part of the National Camping Program of the Boy Scouts of America.
- LODGE** The Yowlumne Lodge #303 is the local branch of the National Order of the Arrow organization. It is chartered as the local lodge of the Southern Sierra Council, Boy Scouts of America. The name "Yowlumne," translated "People of the wolf."
- ELIGIBILITY** To become a member, a youth must be a registered Boy Scout, Varsity Scout or Venturer and hold the First Class rank. The youth must have experienced a minimum of 15 days and nights of Scout Camping in a two-year period (including a 6 day-night camping experience at an approved BSA long-term camp). Youth qualify as adults at the age of 21.
- ELECTIONS** Scouts are elected to the Order by their fellow unit members, following approval by the Scoutmaster, Varsity Team Coach or Venture Crew Advisor. Adult leaders are nominated by the unit committee, and approved by the local Chapter Advisor and Lodge. O/A elections are conducted by the local chapter. Unit elections are held November through March, limit one per unit per year.
- CHAPTERS** Within a lodge are Chapters. Chapters are organized by geographic regions meet monthly and work on service; ceremonies; and traditional Indian lore dancing, singing and outfitting. Indian lore is presented in an authentic and respectful manner.



ACTIVITIES Besides monthly Chapter meetings, OA members often provide service to district and council activities such as a Camporall, Scout-O-Rama, and the Annual Council Recognition Dinner. Many times, OA members are called upon to serve as staff members, set up displays and demonstrations, host special events, or provide manpower for logistical needs. In addition, member youth and adults may participate in these O/A specific activities:

Lodge Dinner An annual gathering of Arrowmen to recognize chapters, lodge leaders, and induct Vigil Honors.

Ordeal An activity to induct new members that includes a service project.

Winter Fellowship A lodge gathering of Arrowmen for training, sports, dance and ceremony competitions, and other recreational activities.

Lodge Leadership Development A one day training course for chapter and lodge officers.

Conclave An annual gathering of several lodges (BSA Councils) with activities similar to a lodge fellowship.

Philmont Trek An annual service project to help maintain the beauty of America's most pristine outdoor camp.

National O/A Conference A tremendous gathering of Arrowmen from across the country to celebrate the accomplishments of the Order of the Arrow. It includes competitions, fantastic shows, training, and all around good fun for Arrowmen of all ages. NOAC is held every other year.

ANNUAL DUES Membership fees are collected annually to cover O/A membership registration, and chapter and lodge expenses such as the monthly newsletter.

CONTACT For more information, or a list of contact people for your chapter, please contact the Council O/A Department at 661-325-9036 ext. 106, or you can go to the O/A website at www.yowlumne.org and click chapter information.

