



## **1. THE ORDER OF THE ARROW**

### **1.1 HISTORY**

The Order of the Arrow was founded on July 16, 1915, at Treasure Island, the Philadelphia Council Scout Camp. Dr. E. Urner Goodman was Camp Director, and Carroll A. Edson was his Assistant. These two men, working with their staff at Treasure Island, originated the ideas that became the basis for Scouting's National Honor Society.

Goodman and Edson wanted some definite form of recognition for those Scouts who best exemplified the spirit of the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives. Since the Valley of the Delaware was rich in Indian tradition, and the site of the Scout Camp was an Island used in bygone days as a camping ground of the Lenni Lenape or Delaware tribes, it seemed only natural to base this camper's honor society on the legend and traditions of their Indians.

In the beginning, the organization was known as the Wimachtendienk W.W., but later as the Order of the Arrow. The first meeting and ceremonies were held in a wooded part of the Island not generally used for the camp activities. As the highest camp honor, Scouts previously chosen by the members of each of the Troops at the end of their stay in camp were called out before all the campers as candidates for the Order.

For a more detailed history, see the *Order of the Arrow Handbook* under "History of the Order of the Arrow."

### **1.2 PURPOSE**

To recognize those campers - Scouts and Scouters - who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives and by such recognition, cause 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 relates its greatest effectiveness as a part of the unit's camping program, both year around and in the summer camp, as directed by the Camping Committee of the Council, and
- To crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.

### **1.3 PRINCIPLES**

See the *Order of the Arrow Handbook*, under "Principles."

#### **1.3.1 DRUG, ALCOHOL, AND TOBACCO POLICY**

**The Boy Scouts of America prohibits the use of alcoholic beverages and controlled substances at encampments or activities on property owned and/or operated by the Boy Scouts of America, or at any activity involving participation of youth members.** Arrowmen learn from the examples set by their advisers. Advisers should support the attitude that young adults are better off without tobacco and **may not allow the use of tobacco products at any BSA activity involving youth participants.**



## 1.4 NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

The diagram on the following page shows the organization of the Order and its place in Scouting. It is important to remember that the Lodge is the most important part of the structure, because that is where the program is conducted.

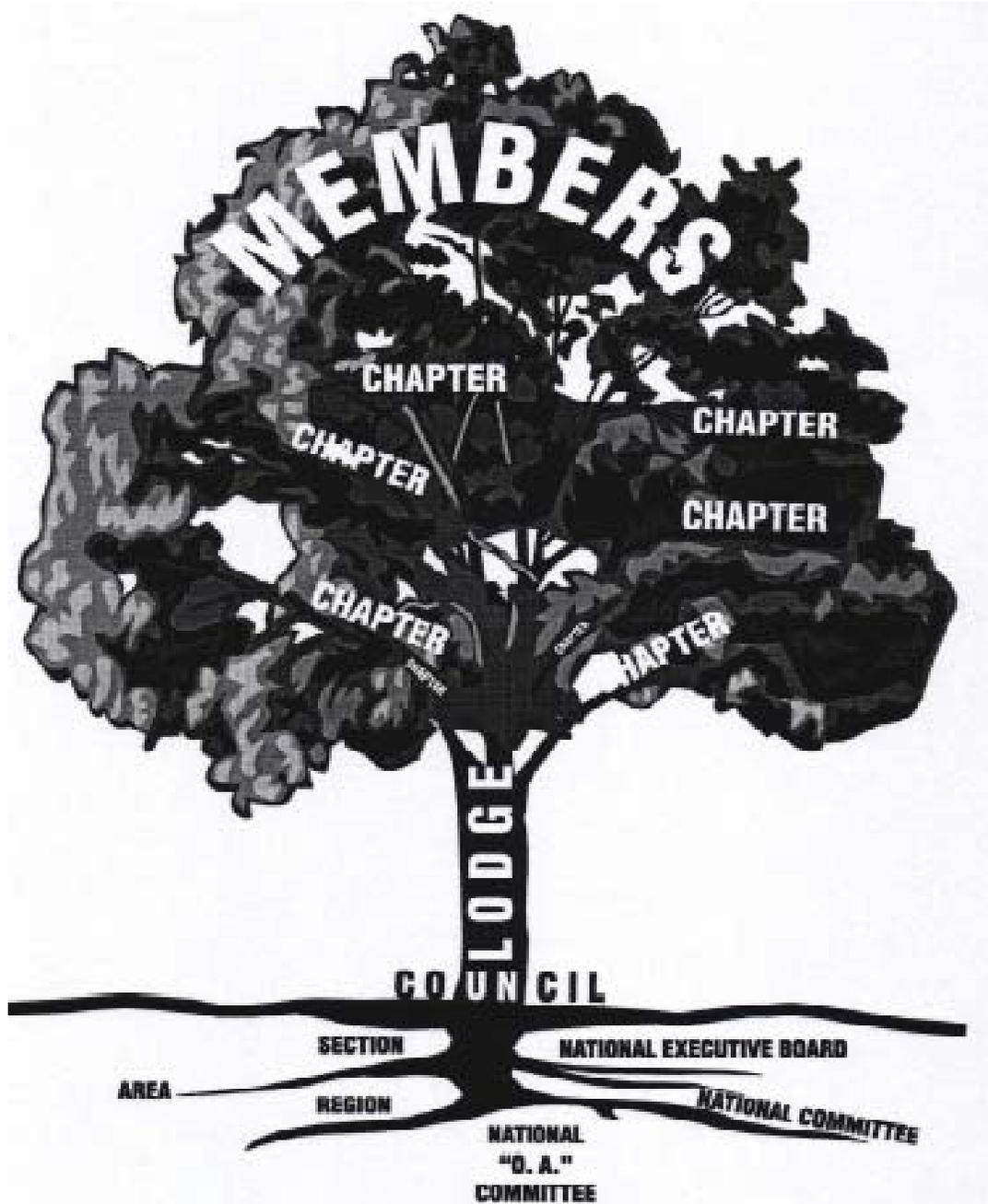


Figure 1-1: Organization of the Order of the Arrow



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1. **Member** -The most important part of the Order of the Arrow is the member. Without the members, the rest of the chart would have no meaning. They are the ones who add life and color to the entire structure; thus, they are represented by the leaves of the tree.
2. **Chapter** -Where necessary, the Lodge may organize into Chapters. This action is decided by the Council Scout Executive. The Chapter Chief is the youth leader elected by the youth Arrowmen living in the Chapter's assigned area. The Chapter Adviser is the volunteer leader of the Chapter and is appointed annually by the Council Scout Executive. The professional adviser of the Chapter is usually a District Scout Executive.
3. **Lodge** -The strongest part of the Order of the Arrow structure is the Lodge (the trunk of the tree). The Lodge receives an annual charter from the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America through the office of the National Director of the Order of the Arrow. The youth leader is the Lodge Chief (under 21 years of age), who is elected by the Lodge members who are also under 21 years of age. The volunteer leader is the Lodge Adviser who is appointed annually by the Council Scout Executive. The Staff Adviser is a professional staff member assigned by the Council Scout Executive. All advisers are Arrowmen of considerable experience.
4. **Council** -The base of the trunk, giving the Lodge strength, is the Council. The Lodge works hand in hand with the Council and its Camping Committee, the Council Scout Executive, and the Lodge Staff Adviser. In the National Capital Area Council, the Lodge Key Three (Lodge Chief, Lodge Adviser, and Lodge Staff Adviser) are members of the Council Camping Committee.
5. **National Executive Board and National Committee of the BSA** -The National Executive Board and the National Committee give strength and nourishment to the Council.
6. **Section** -The Section is a subdivision of an Area, whose main responsibility is to conduct an annual Section Conclave. Each Lodge Chief in the Section serves on the Council of Chiefs of the Section to plan and conduct the Conclave. The Section Chief is the Youth Leader of the Section. He is assisted by the Section Vice Chief and the Section Secretary. The Section Adviser is the volunteer leader of the Section and is appointed by the Area Director. The Staff Adviser of the Section is also appointed by the Area Director.
7. **Region** -The Boy Scouts of America is organized into four geographical regions. The Region Chief is the youth leader of the Region. He is elected by the Section Chiefs for a one year term of office. The election is held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Section Chiefs at which the National Chief and the National Vice Chief are also elected. The Annual meeting also includes the planning of the bi-annual National Order of the Arrow Conference. The volunteer leader is the Region Order of the Arrow Chairman, who is appointed by the Regional Director. The Staff Adviser is assigned to the position by the Regional Director.
8. **National Order of the Arrow Committee** -The National Order of the Arrow Committee is a subcommittee of the National Boy Scout Committee. Each region is represented on the National Order of the Arrow Committee, which meets from time to time to coordinate the program of the Order throughout the country.

The volunteer leader is the Chairman of the National Order of the Arrow Committee. This Scouter is appointed by the Chairman of the National Boy Scout Committee. The professional adviser is the National Director of the Order of the Arrow. The National Director works under the Director of the Boy Scout Division of the Boy Scouts of America. The National Chief, National Vice Chief, and the four Region Chiefs also serve on the National Order of the Arrow Committee and the National Boy Scout Committee.

The National Committee makes changes in program and policy to keep up with ever-changing



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and growing needs. National Order of the Arrow policy is determined by the National Order of the Arrow Committee in an open and responsive fashion. Input to this process is openly available and encouraged. Input can be made by contacting the Region Chief or National Committee member in your area. These highly dedicated and experienced men make decisions only after long and careful deliberation of all of the facts. They watch Lodges throughout the country and remain active in Scouting and Lodges in their own Councils.

## **1.5 NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND SECTION EVENTS**

1. **National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC)** - This event is held every two years at a major university. The date is usually in early August. Program features include extensive training, shows, discussion forums, Lodge competitions, and exhibits. Attendance includes 5,000 to 7,000 Arrowmen from Lodges around the country. Information concerning this event starts in January of the Conference year, and is normally sent through the Council office. There is a standard NOAC fee; each Lodge is responsible for its own transportation.
2. **National Pow Wows** - This program is periodically scheduled for non-NOAC years. Program features include seminars in many aspects of Indian dancing, ceremonies and cultures. Information is relayed the same way as Conference information.
3. **National Leadership Seminars (NLS)** - This is an extensive OA leadership development weekend designed for each Lodge's leaders. They are held on an area basis. They may be at any time of the year. Information comes through the Council Office and also through the Section Council of Chiefs. They are coordinated by the Region Office.
4. **Section Conclaves** - These are held every spring and are hosted on a rotating basis by Lodges of the Section. The program includes training, competitions, Section Officer Elections, and a lot of fellowship. Information comes from the Section Council of Chiefs.
5. **Section Council of Chiefs Meetings** - These are planning meetings, attended by representatives of our Section's Lodges. Usually the attendance is limited to five people per lodge and meant to include the Lodge Chief, Lodge Adviser, Lodge Staff Adviser, and two prospective or present Lodge Officers. The meeting includes reports from the Section's Committees, business concerning all of the above events, and national and local program ideas. The Lodge Chief serves as the voice of the Lodge and has the Lodge's vote. These meetings are planned by the Section Officers. They are usually held two times a year in a location central to the Section. It is a one-day event. The meetings are usually held in the fall and about six weeks prior to the Conclave.

## **1.6 LODGE/SECTION RELATIONS**

Section participation is voluntary. The majority of a Lodge's communication with other Lodges in the Section occurs at Council of Chiefs meetings. There may be other instances, however, when the Lodge Chief is asked to exchange information and ideas with the other Lodges. The following list is a summary of a normal year's requirements, based on past experience and expected protocol:

- Exchange "Let's Go Camping" booklets with all Lodges.
- Exchange Lodge newsletters.
- Extend no-cost invitations for Lodge events to the Section's three officers and Adviser, unless the Section officer or Adviser is from Amangamek Wipit Lodge.
- Extend invitations to other Lodges to attend our Lodge functions. Members of other Lodges are expected to pay the full fee and should be required to meet a deadline for attendance notification.



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## **1.7 SECTION OFFICERS**

There are three Section Officers, all of whom are elected at each year's Conclave and are under 21 years of age for their entire terms of office:

- Section Chief-responsible for the Section's operating committees and the general operation of the Section. He also oversees all of the Section events.
- Section Vice Chief-responsible for training at the Conclave and assumes the duties of the Chief when he is absent. Performs other duties as asked by the Chief.
- Section Secretary-is the major communications arm of the Section to the Lodges and performs other duties as asked by Chief.

Most Section Officers are past Lodge Chiefs. Anyone wishing to run for a Section Office is required to do the following:

- Be a registered member, in good standing, of the Order of the Arrow and the Boy Scouts of America in a council within the section who has the approval, in writing and in advance of being nominated, of Council Scout Executive, and Lodge Adviser.
- Be younger than 21 years of age during the entire term of his office.

At the Conclave, each of the Section's six Lodges may cast ten votes for each officer election.

These votes may be split between candidates. When a candidate receives 31 or more votes, he is declared the winner. If a Lodge is absent, a candidate must receive 50% plus one vote to be elected.