



A RED ARROW ON A WHITE SASH



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A RED ARROW ON A WHITE SASH — a symbol of service. How many times have you seen it and wondered what it meant? Was it worn by your guide at Camp or the team that visited your unit for camping promotion? A hundred thousand young men and advisors all over America wear that symbol, giving service in 486 Councils. They are members of the Order of the Arrow, Scouting's National Brotherhood of Scout honor campers.

Founded in 1915 at the Treasure Island Scout Camp of the Philadelphia Council, the Order 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 Scoutism. The Order is intended as a device to glorify the Scout Promise and Law in the minds of boy's who are Scout campers. It focuses particularly upon cheerful service as an essential to a happy camping experience and seeks to reveal the true brotherhood that exists among those who exhibit such traits.

The fundamental purposes of the Order are as follows: To recognize those campers who best exemplify the Scout Promise and Law in their daily lives; To develop and maintain camping traditions and spirit; to promote Scout camping; To crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.

It must be clear from this statement of purpose that the Order is not a program or a thing apart from Scouting and its program. It is a device used in the camping program of the Boy Scouts of America.

The Order of the Arrow has its roots in the troop and Explorer unit that goes camping. It gathers the members designated by these troops or Explorer units as members of the Order into a local Council group known as a lodge which is supervised by the Scout executive and the Council camping and activities committee. The Order of the Arrow being a boy's organization, it is natural that the lodge offices and positions of leadership are held by young men under twenty-one.

Members of the Order of the Arrow have two major areas of service. First, to their own unit which is their greatest responsibility and, second, to promote and strengthen Scout camping in the Council, districts, and units of the Council.

Arrowmen who are troop members can fulfill their responsibility to the troop by encouraging fellow Scouts to go hiking and camping; steady advancement in rank; encouraging others to participate in the advancement program; serving as junior leaders and setting examples for associates; achieving the religious award and encouraging fellow Scouts to do the same; giving leadership to patrol and troop service projects; helping recruit, induct, and train new Scouts; instructing fellow Scouts in Scoutcraft skills; serving as den chiefs; encouraging the troop to achieve the National Camping Award of the Boy Scouts of America.

Arrowmen who are Explorers can fulfill their responsibility to their units or crews in much the same way as can troop members. Some special areas for Explorer service are as follows: participating with the unit in choosing and planning program events; when appointed, serving as event directors or on committees, attending district Explorer leader roundtables, program planning conferences, and training courses, if elected as leaders; participating as members of the Explorers, leaders' council of the unit, if eligible.

Order of the Arrow members when working with the lodge are involved in many varied activities, the foundations of which is service to Scout camping. Working with the camping and activities committee, the lodge service program may include such projects as the development of a "Where-to-go" booklet, work weekends at the council camp, unit visitations for camping promotion, conservation work, and providing a service corps for camporees. Other lodge functions may include an annual banquet, father and son camping trip, induction ceremonies, a fall round-up planning conference, business meetings, and an Order of the Arrow dance, inviting all Explorers.

Within the Order of the Arrow lies a great potential for the promotion and strengthening of Scout camping and for the enrichment of unit programs. Many of these hundred thousands young men are just waiting for the opportunity to serve. Add their enthusiasm and numbers to your task force for achieving success NOW!

