

News from

THE OTTER SIDE

Fall 2013

Volume XVIII Number 4

Upcoming Events

October 2013

25-27 Fall Ordeal Weekend
Cutter Scout Reservation

November 2013

8-9 NorCal Trade-O-Ree Fellowship
Palo Alto Scout Service Center

14 LEC Meeting 7:30pm
Foster City Scout Service Center

December 2013

12 LEC Meeting 7:30pm
Foster City Scout Service Center

January 2014

9 LEC Meeting 7:30pm
Foster City Scout Service Center

February 2014

13 LEC Meeting 7:30pm
Foster City Scout Service Center

21-23 Winter Weekend Fellowship
Cutter Scout Reservation

Are You Bound in Brotherhood?

Ordeal membership is not the end of a member's journey in the Order of the Arrow it is only the beginning. The next step is to seal your membership by obtaining the honor of Brotherhood. To complete this task requires one thing, to test yourself.

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At The Jamboree!

By: Michael Wu

Recently, at the Boy Scout National Jamboree, I visited the booth the OA set up to display their history. However, before I talk about the OA booth itself, I want to provide some background about the Jamboree



itself. It was held at the new high adventure base in West Virginia, the Summit Bechtel Reserve. In addition to having on-site activities, such as zip lining, mountain biking, sailing, and skateboarding, there is also a white water rafting facility. Scouts also have the opportunity to earn merit badges, as well as see arena shows and see cool exhibits.

One such exhibit was the Order of the Arrow booth, which was a large canopy tent displaying OA history and events. As you walk in, you see pictures of early OA events and trips. There is a timeline, displaying important events and dates for visitors to visualize. They also have pictures of section and national officers, as well as a visual map of how all the councils are broken down.

However, I feel the highlight of the exhibit was the videos they had running. It was set up in the center of the tent, with a picture of an OA event. One of the videos they had playing was the artist explaining the history of the painting, as well as ideas he had

while brainstorming, and various ideas he had as to the poses of the people featured in the painting, and so on. The other video they had was a recreation of an early ordeal ceremony. They showed the various tasks the new ordeal members would have to go through. For example, new ordeal members were given a bundle of sticks, tied together with twine. Each ordeal

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Lodge Chief's Corner

By: Manu Navjeevan

Fellow Brothers in the Order of the Arrow,

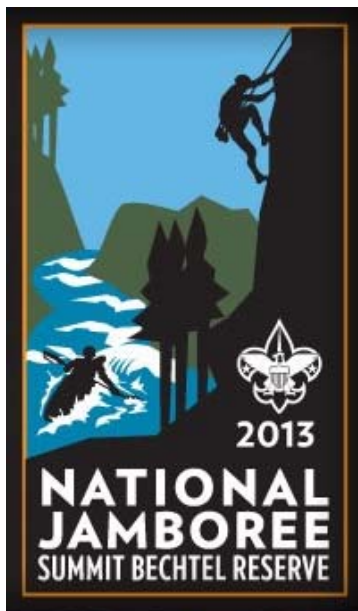
As we embark on a new year and a new leadership term in the Order of the Arrow, I think it is important that we revisit the founding principles of the Order of the Arrow and examine why we are here and why we continue to stay active. The Order of the Arrow is, first and foremost, a fraternity, a brotherhood. A collection of people who are passionate about the Scouting Organization and who, acknowledging the large impact Scouting has had on their lives, wish to perpetuate the ideals of scouting onward. We are a collection of some of the most decorated and prominent members of the Boy Scouts chosen to carry onward the ideals scouting embodies, service to others, leadership, and exceptional outdoor abilities. As such an order, elected by our peers, we have an obligation to set about the task set before us. We can't do this unless we remain active in our lodge. So as we move forward in this calendar year, I encourage all of you to contribute to the lodge and to take advantage of all the amazing opportunities and friendships the Order of the Arrow has to offer. Attend conclave or earn your brotherhood honor. Help out with ordeals or with the lodge publication become a troop representative. There are so many opportunities the Order of the Arrow has to offer, from NOAC to OA High Adventure and so many ways to get involved. I beseech all of you reading this to get involved and participate and to make the lifelong friendships that OA can offer; and to remember that no matter what you do, you have a lodge of 200 brothers behind you.

Manu Navjeevan,
Lodge Chief Ohlone 63

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member was instructed to try and break the bundle, which he was unsuccessful at. The Lodge Chief then helped him, by taking out each stick from the bundle individually, and breaking them. This demonstrated how together, people can be very strong and hard to overcome. The new ordeal members had to go through various challenges such as this one, each having a meaning and purpose. I found it very interesting to see how an early ordeal ceremony was conducted, and how it compared to modern day ordeals. This exhibit provided an insight into the history of the OA, and also was very interesting and informative. I strongly encourage arrowmen to visit the OA exhibit if

they ever get the chance, as it provides an enlightening glimpse into our past.



Lodge Adviser's Corner

By: Greg Muira

At this time of year, you are probably paying your final installment for summer camp. At least I hope you are. Summer camps are an important part of the Scouting experience and everyone should go. I'm sure most of you have gone to camps locally, but have you thought about BSA High Adventure Camps? The good news now is that the Order of the Arrow supports BSA High Adventure. You can attend several different programs:

OA Trail Crew at Philmont Scout Ranch

For the first week, participants have the chance to make a significant difference to Philmont by participating in trail building in the backcountry. Work will include clearing terrain for trail and constructing switchbacks, retention bars, and several other erosion controls. The impact of this service will be felt by scouts for decades.

The second week of the program is spent experiencing Philmont in its finest. Unlike regular treks, Trail Crews make their own itinerary, instead of selecting from pre-planned routes. You can do and see just about anything, from the Tooth of Time to Baldy Mountain, your crew decides!

Wilderness Voyage at the Charles L. Sommers Canoe Base

The first week of the program is spent giving back to the Boundary Waters through portage trail restoration work. Participants have the opportunity to leave their mark

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Roles in the OA

By: Leiland Wei

At the last Lodge Executive Committee (LEC) meeting, the various position roles within the OA were discussed in detail about responsibilities and duties that go along with each position. To become a position member, you should attend some of the normal LEC meetings to get a feel for how this Lodge works, with the various leaders coordinating to get the job done.

The easiest way to be more active in the OA is to volunteer to be the OA representative in your troop. Being the chief correspondent between Order of the Arrow and your troop would increase participation in the troop for the older scouts looking for more adventure in events such as ordeals or winter fellowship, and potentially Camping opportunities with the freedom that comes with events organized by older Scouts. Last year, there was also a scholarship for those in the OA going to High adventure bases, which made the price of high adventure camps next to nothing including Airfare.

Duties and Responsibilities of positions in the OA:

Lodge Chief: Head youth for the Order of the Arrow in the council. Ensures Ohlone Lodge's vision of providing service to the local troops and community. Provides leadership to the members of the lodge.

Vice Chief of Administration: Planning the winter fellowship, the annual banquet, Memorial Day, the Trade-O-Ree, and finally attending all lodge functions.

Vice Chief of Inductions: Planning the spring and fall ordeals, the elangomat program, maintaining OA ordeal equipment, making a dance team, coordinating troop elections and

Webelos Arrow of Light inductions, and attending all lodge functions.

Secretary: Keeps history of the lodge, maintaining the website, coordinating the mailings from the lodge, and attending all lodge functions.

Treasurer: Making an annual budget for the OA lodge, making transactions between the OA and private enterprises or groups, making a monthly report to the OA, making a list of all the equipment and maintaining it, and attending all lodge functions.

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1. Memorize the signs of OA membership; the obligation, the OA song, the admonition, the sign of ordeal membership, and the ordeal handclasp.
2. Advance in your understanding of the ordeal. Know what the four principle characters, the four tests, and the arrow symbolize. Know the true name of the Order of the Arrow, as well as what it means.
3. Serve you unit, and retain your registration in scouting for 10 months.
4. Plan for service in our lodge. Brotherhood membership involves a pledge of service. Make a plan for service.
5. Write a letter to the Lodge Secretary. In this letter you can write briefly about what the obligation means to you, how you are fulfilling the obligation in your daily life, how you have used your understanding of the order's traditions, and some ways in which you plan to serve the lodge.



Venturing, BSA

By Sam McCollum

When I was asked to write an article on the BSA Venturing program I was very happy to share my experiences in this program. The Venturing program was started in 1997 as a wilderness alternative to the Explorer career program and to encourage scouts to stay involved in scouting through the teens and young adult years. The Venturing program provides youth ages 14-20 the opportunity to learn more advanced outdoor skills. It is a co-ed program and is open to non-scouts interested in adventure.

While it is a program designed to teach outdoor skills, each crew tends to develop its own focus such as camping, backpacking, climbing, scuba, etc. A typical Venture crew is 15 or less youth with two or more adult crew advisers to help them to stay on task and plan activities that are within the guide to safe scouting. The Venturing program encourages youth to set their own goals and create their own environment, allowing it to be as difficult or as easy as is needed. While Venturing isn't a new concept, it has provided many youth with new opportunities that they would not otherwise have experienced. While the Venturing program is often seen as outdoor oriented, it is also used in many other ways. There are sailing teams that are organized as venture crews, as well as crews that are organized for the purpose of automobile restoration or pioneer skills. In Pacific Skyline Council, there are several highly specialized venture crews that do scuba diving, and old-timey pioneer skills. Sea Scouts are also another Venturing opportunity. All this flexibility and variety helps Venturing lend new credibility to the phrase "Scouting is for everyone."

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on the Boundary Waters that will enable millions of visitors each year to better enjoy their experience. Trail work involves restoring and protecting trails that have existed for centuries and are in dire need or repair.

The second part of the program is a trek planned by the crew. From the 8-1/2 mile "Grand Portage" leading to Lake Superior, to the Height of Land, even the pictographs on Fishdance Lake, crews have done and seen all in the Boundary Waters.

Canadian Odyssey at the Don Rogert Canoe Base

Like it's U.S. counterpart the first week of the program is spent giving back to the Quetico through portage trail restoration work. Participants have the opportunity to leave their mark on the Quetico that will enable millions of visitors each year to better enjoy their experience. Trail work involves restoring and protecting trails that have existed for centuries. The second part of the program is a 90 mile trek from Atikokan, Ontario to Ely, Minnesota.

Ocean Adventure at the Florida Sea Base

The Order of the Arrow, in cooperation with the Florida Sea Base, is offering you an opportunity to provide cheerful service while experiencing the adventure and fun of one of the greatest ecosystems on our planet - the Florida Keys and the waters which surround them. This ten day program will provide an array of service opportunities that include work helping to develop the Florida Keys Heritage Trail, removing invasive species in and around the Sea Bases's Big Munson Island, and supporting both the Crane Point Nature Center and Marathon Wild Bird Center in preserving the Keys

flora, fauna and wildlife. You will be camping at both Big Munson Island and Crane Point during the service portion of the program, after which you will move aboard a 40-50' sailing yacht for four days at sea. While afloat, you will experience the fun and excitement of life in the Keys from the unique perspective of a sailor as you sail, snorkel on pristine coral reefs, troll for sportfish, and swim in the warm waters of the Keys.

Your program is a 10-day experience in which you will experience wilderness camping, kayaking, sailing, fishing, snorkeling, team building (including a trip on a war canoe) and of course cheerful service. The program will be conservation based and will seek to help protect the eco-system of the Florida Keys.

In addition to the conservation service, participants will strengthen leadership skills, learn about the Keys eco-system and its marine environment, experience life afloat and strengthen understanding of the Order of the Arrow.

If you are interested in participating in one of these OA High Adventure programs, please go to the Order of the Arrow National High Adventure website (<http://adventure.oa-bsa.org/>). You can also contact Teddy Heidmann in our lodge, who attended last summer.



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For more OA news, check out the following websites:

Find the lodge calendar, committee information, and more

Ohlone Lodge #63
www.ohlone63.org

Western Region Order of the Arrow
www.western.oe-bsa.org

National Order of the Arrow
www.oe-bsa.org

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