



# Scouting's National Honor Society

Fact Sheet • Order of the Arrow • BSA

## Mission

The mission of the Order of the Arrow is to fulfill its purpose as an integral part of the Boy Scouts of America through positive youth leadership under the guidance of selected capable adults.

## Purpose

As Scouting's National Honor Society, our purpose is to:

- Recognize those who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives and through that recognition cause others to conduct themselves in a way that warrants similar recognition.
- Promote camping, responsible outdoor adventure, and environmental stewardship as essential components of every Scout's experience, in the unit, year-round, and in summer camp.
- Develop leaders with the willingness, character, spirit and ability to advance the activities of their units, our Brotherhood, Scouting, and ultimately our nation.
- Crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.

## History

Founded in 1915 by Dr. E Urner Goodman and Carroll A. Edson at Treasure Island Scout Reservation in New Jersey.

## Members

Members are called Arrowmen and are elected to the organization by their fellow Scouts. The OA is unique in that nonmembers are often the ones that elect Scouts in their troop for membership.

## Honors (Levels)

There are three honor levels in the OA: Ordeal, Brotherhood, and Vigil. The Vigil Honor is the highest honor level in the organization.

## Leadership

The youth Arrowmen elect officers to lead the organization on the various levels. The elected officers lead the organization under the guidance of selected adult advisers.

## Identification

Arrowmen wear white sashes with a red arrow to signify their membership in the Order of the Arrow. Arrowmen also wear a patch on the top of their right front pocket on the official Boy Scout uniform that both signifies their membership in the organization and distinguishes which lodge they are a member of.



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