

Order of the Arrow Troop Representative Program

"Let it be remembered that the Order of the Arrow was created to help the unit - to help it present its membership a better ideal of the inner qualities of the good scout camper. Qualities of character, like cheerfulness and service, are hard for a boy or a man to understand in the abstract. They come easier when seen in human life. Let us realize the significance of the Order in the unit - for the unit is our best hope in Scouting."

- Dr. E. Urner Goodman, Founder of the Order of the Arrow

The Order of the Arrow Troop / Team Representative program was begun in 1999 as a program to better serve the troops and teams of the Boy Scouts of America. This program is designed to improve relationships and communications between individual units and the local Order of the Arrow lodge, and to help make units aware of what an important resource that the Lodge can be for unit programs.

The Order of the Arrow Troop / Team Representative is a youth liaison serving between the local OA lodge and his unit. In his unit, he will serve as a link between unit and lodge in a way that strengthens both organizations. By setting a good example, he will enhance the function and image of the Order as a service arm to his unit.

The OA Representative is now an official leadership position within the troop or team, and boys can earn time towards their leadership rank requirements for Star, Life, and Eagle. Insignia is now available for OA Representatives to wear as a badge of office

Abnaki Lodge is excited about using this program in Narragansett Council. The lodge leadership has the task of aiding the troops and teams of Narragansett Council in organizing and implementing this program within their units. Please read through this information and prepare your youth leaders to select their Troop representative. When you return the registration form to us, Abnaki Lodge will send you one set of the insignia for your OA Troop Representative.

OA Troop/Team Representative Frequently Asked Questions:

What is the OA Troop/Team Representative?

The Troop / Team Representative program was begun in 1999 as a program of the Order of the Arrow and the Boy Scouts of America. The OA Representative is now an official leadership position in the troop or team and boys can earn time towards their leadership requirements for rank advancement, just as with Den Chief, Troop Scribe, or any of the other leadership positions.

What are the responsibilities of the Troop/Team Representative?

There are numerous possibilities for the job description of the OA Representative. The beauty is that it is flexible enough to allow your unit to fine-tune the exact responsibilities. However, the most basic tasks of the Representative will be to coordinate service opportunities within the unit, to coordinate unit involvement with the Order of the Arrow, including Unit Elections, Camp Promotions, and Inductions, and request lodge and chapter resources to help meet unit needs.

How can I get the badge of office for my Troop/Team Representative?

Abnaki Lodge #102 has purchased a patch for each unit. After you've completed and returned the registration form enclosed with this packet we will send you a patch.

How can 18 to 20 Year-olds be involved?

Youth Arrowmen who are 18 or older can serve as a lodge or chapter chair or as a liaison for the Order of the Arrow Troop/Team Representative program. They can play a critical role in the Lodge Structure for the program.

Who can serve as a Troop/Team Representative?

Anyone in the unit who is under the age of 18 can serve as the OA Representative for the unit, provided he is a dues-paid member of the Order of the Arrow. He should be appointed by the Senior Patrol Leader or Varsity Team Captain, and will be a member of the Patrol Leaders' Council and attend lodge and chapter meetings. The Representative should be appointed each fall.

Will there be an adviser for the Troop/Team Representative?

As with all positions in the Order, the OA Representative should have an adult as his adviser. This adult needs to be 21 years of age or older, a dues-paid member of the Order of the Arrow, and be appointed by the Scoutmaster.

Does this position count for rank advancement?

Scouts may use the Order of the Arrow Troop / Team Representative position to meet the leadership position requirements for the Star, Life, and Eagle ranks. As BSA publications are revised and updated, they will include this new position.

OA Troop Representative Duties:

- Serves as a communication link between the lodge or chapter and the troop.
- Encourages year round and resident camping in the troop.
- Encourages older Scout participation in high adventure programs.
- Encourages Scouts to actively participate in community service projects.
- Assists with leadership skills training in the troop.
- Encourages Arrowmen to assume leadership positions in the troop.
- Encourages Arrowmen in the troop to be active participants in the lodge activities and to seal their membership in the Order by becoming Brotherhood members.
- Sets a good example
- Enthusiastically wears the Scout uniform correctly.
- Lives by the Scout Oath, Scout Law and OA Obligation.
- Shows Scout spirit.

Who Benefits from the OA Troop/Team Representative Program?

Lodge:

- With an easier camp promotions process, the lodge can increase the number of units visited, increasing the effectiveness of this program in the Council.
- Eases the unit election process by having a person in the troop or team whose job is to ensure that elections are held.
- With positive OA leadership on the unit level, lodges will experience greater membership retention and higher Brotherhood conversion rates.
- A Unit's OA members will have someone to organize transportation to OA events, increasing attendance at lodge functions.
- With the Troop/Team Representative as a liaison between the Order of the Arrow and the troop or team, the camp promotions process will be smoother, leading to greater numbers of Scouts at summer camp.

Troop and Team:

- The coordination of OA calendar with that of troop and team will prevent OA members from having to choose between OA functions and unit events.
- With the organization of service projects, there will be greater opportunity for community service hours that are required for rank advancement.
- Experienced Arrowmen from other units who may be able to share their knowledge can be sought out by the OA Representatives to augment the troop program.
- Creates more opportunities for leadership in the troop or team for both youth and adults, effectively increasing membership retention.
- Creates a vehicle to strengthen the ties between the OA and the individual BSA troop or team. This will help with the retention of the older Scouts.



OA Troop / Team Representative

Registration Form for the OA Troop / Team
Representative

Date _____ Term of office (mm/yy) _____ to _____

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ E-mail address _____

Troop / Team # _____ District: _____

Membership: Ordeal / Brotherhood / Vigil Honor (*Circle One*)

Scouting Experience _____

OA Experience _____

Please Return Completed Form To: Abnaki Lodge #102
c/o Narragansett Council
PO Box 14777
East Providence, RI 02914-0777

Your Troop or Team Representative Patch will be sent to you upon receipt of this form.

For Lodge Use:

Form Received: _____

Member Registered: _____

Patch Sent: _____