

Order of the Arrow Troop Representative

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Basic Information

What is the OA Troop Representative?

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



What are the responsibilities of the Troop 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.

Who can serve as a Troop 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, and will be a member of the Patrol Leaders' Council and attend lodge and chapter meetings.

Does this position count for rank advancement?

Scouts may use the Order of the Arrow Troop 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.

How can I get the badge of office?

The OA Troop Representative badge of office is available at the Council Scout Shop.



Job Description

OA Troop Representative job description:

An Order of the Arrow Troop Representative is a youth liaison serving between the local OA lodge or chapter and his troop. In his troop, he serves as a communication and programmatic link to the Arrowman and adult leaders and Scouts who are not presently members of the Order. He does this in a fashion that strengthens the mission of the lodge and purpose of the Order. By setting a good example, he enhances the image of the Order as a service arm to his troop.

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 and/or chapter 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

OA Troop Representative qualifications:

- Under 18 years old
- Appointed by SPL with SM approval
- OA Member in good standing

OA Troop Representative reports to:

Assistant Senior Patrol Leader

Who benefits from the OA Troop Representative Program?

Scouting:

- With the Troop Representative as a liaison between the Order of the Arrow and the troop, the camp promotions process will be smoother, leading to greater numbers of Scouts at summer camp
- Creates a vehicle to strengthen the ties between the OA and the individual BSA troop. This will help with the retention of the older Scouts.
- With the organization of service projects, Boy Scouts and Varsity Scouts will be seen actively helping others in their communities



Lodge/Chapter:

- 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 chapter/lodge functions

Troop:

- The coordination of OA calendar with that of troop 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 Representative to augment the troop program
- Creates more opportunities for leadership in the troop for both youth and adults, effectively increasing membership retention

Information exchanged between the OA Lodge and the Troop

Lodge/Chapter to Troop:

- Lodge/Chapter Calendars
- Unit Elections visit
- Camp Promotion visit
- Community Service project opportunities
- Brotherhood conversion
- Resource lists
- OA Representative Registration Forms

Troop to Lodge/Chapter:

- Does the unit conduct monthly campouts?
- Does the unit attend a long-term camp?
- Do the unit's older Scouts participate in high adventure programs?
- Does the unit need help with its outdoor program?
- Does the unit need help with community service projects?
- Does the unit need help with training?
- Does the unit's OA members participate in lodge and chapter activities?
- Name of new OA Troop/Team Representative

