

# **OVERVIEW: Unit of Excellence**

## **I. Background & Purpose of the Award**

As the primary platform where the Scouting program is delivered to youth, the unit is the most vital and important level of the BSA for the Order to support.

The Order of the Arrow Unit of Excellence Award seeks to identify those units, and the leaders within them, who excel at incorporating the OA into their annual planning. This award is intended to provide a tool for lodges to recognize, incentivize, and operationalize unit-level participation in Order of the Arrow programs.

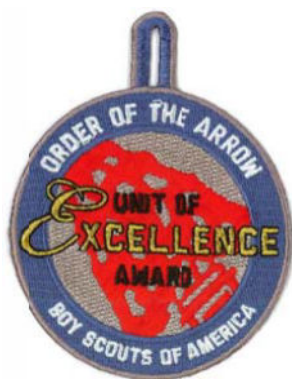
The OA Unit of Excellence Award criteria recognize units that invite the lodge to conduct quality unit elections, participate in lodge events and meetings, and operate a complete OA Troop/Team Representative program. Our hope is that units that complete these criteria will benefit from the support programs that the Order of the Arrow has implemented to strengthen unit-delivered program. This recognition program, along with other tools for unit support, should be distributed and promoted to Scoutmaster/Coach, OA Troop/Team Representatives and Advisers, and chapter election teams to include in communication to units.

## **II. Award Requirements**

Units must complete all of the requirements listed below in order to be eligible as an Order of the Arrow Unit of Excellence. If all requirements are completed, the unit receives a ribbon for their troop/team flag, per annum. In addition to the ribbon, the award system has built in recognitions for the key players in each unit responsible for creating a strong Order of the Arrow culture in the unit. These awards are available for the following three positions:

- Scoutmaster/Coach
- Troop/Team Representative (TTR)
- Troop/ Team Representative Adviser  
(Assistant Scoutmaster or Assistant Coach Designee)

# REQUIREMENTS: Unit of Excellence



The Order of the Arrow Unit of Excellence Award seeks to identify those units, and the leaders within them, who excel at incorporating the OA into their annual planning. This award is a tool for lodges to recognize, incentivize, and operationalize unit-level participation in Order of the Arrow programs. The OA Unit of Excellence Award criteria recognize units that invite the lodge to conduct quality unit elections, participate in lodge events and meetings, and operate a complete OA Troop Representative program.

The Unit of Excellence Award also contains recognitions for key players in the Unit who help build a strong OA program there: Scoutmaster, Troop OA Representative, and Troop OA Representative Adviser.

**Requirements – Please complete and provide written descriptions on the provided lines.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **1. Leadership** - Every six months, ensure that the senior patrol leader (Troop) appoints or reappoints one Scout to serve as Troop OA Representative and the Scoutmaster appoints one adult to serve as Troop OA Representative Adviser. Feature an annual presentation at a Court of Honor by the Troop OA Representative on the Order of the Arrow with a focus on the accomplishments of unit members.

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\_\_\_\_\_ **2. Participation** - At least 50% of unit OA members attend a Lodge event other than their Ordeal

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\_\_\_\_\_ **3. Elections** - Hold an annual OA Unit Election and have 100% of those elected complete their Ordeal

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\_\_\_\_\_ **4. Planning** - Review the local OA calendar with the Patrol Leader's Council during annual troop program planning and schedule unit events so that 100% of troop programs do not overlap with any full-lodge events.

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\_\_\_\_\_ **5. Conversion** - Demonstrate the depth of your unit's OA program through Brotherhood conversion by having at least 30% of eligible unit members complete their Brotherhood

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Scoutmaster: \_\_\_\_\_ OA Troop Rep: \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL IN BY November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 TO:**  
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