

Adviser's Corner Ed Sexton – Lodge Adviser

During the Ordeal Ceremony, one of the phrases used by Meteu is *"In a great and honored Order, into which can be admitted only those who unselfishly desire to serve others, there must be a lofty purpose."* At the end of your Ordeal weekend you were given an Order of the Arrow Handbook and in that book are listed the purposes of the Order. Listed among those purposes is *"To crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others."* At all Order of the Arrow meetings we always begin by reciting the Obligation of our Order and in taking that Obligation you promised, on **YOUR** honor, *"to be unselfish in service and devotion to the welfare of others."* At the end of each meeting of the OA when we sing, the song includes the phrase *"Gather the clan that cheerful service brings to fellow man."*

All these references leave little doubt that the core purpose of the Order of the Arrow is service. But to whom is that service provided? Two of our biggest events are the Spring Event and the Pow Wow held in May and August respectively when we help get Camp Cornhusker ready for Summer Camp and then help to get everything put away and cleaned up after Camp. So it is obvious that the Council's Summer Camping program receives some benefit from our service.

Each District also benefits from OA Service because each year the Chapters strive to participate in some event where the scouts of the District directly receive a benefit. From the Cub Scout lock-ins to the Merit Badge Universities to the District Camporees, it is usually the OA Chapters which help staff, and sometimes plan, the event.

So yes, we do provide service and helping with Council and District events does provide a program to our fellow Scouts, however the primary recipient of direct OA service should be the unit and the only way we can provide direct service to the unit is through strong Chapters. In or-

der to build stronger Chapters, we need to increase participation and attendance at the Chapter meetings.

Everyone is probably aware that a few years ago the position of Unit OA Representative became one of the positions of responsibility that could be used to fulfill a requirement for Advancement in the Boy Scout Program. This OA Rep is also the person our Chapters rely on to tell us what services are needed by the units and to provide a communication link between the Chapters and the units. The Chapter meetings are held the first Thursday of every month (there are sometimes adjustments for holidays) during Roundtables. The Unit OA Representatives often tell us that they don't have transportation to the Chapter meetings. This problem should be resolved by the Adult OA members of a unit, because as we have noted before, it is the adult OA members' responsibility to make sure that the youth OA members have transportation to their meetings. If your unit isn't represented at the Chapter meetings and at the Roundtables, you are missing out on a huge opportunity to improve your unit's program.

But it doesn't stop there! Every member of the OA should be attending Chapter meetings, even if you aren't the appointed Unit OA Representative. Your commitment to the Order shouldn't start and stop with the issuance of a colored piece of cloth to wear on a uniform. Those that selected you for the recognition of joining Scouting's Honor Society deserve no less than a full commitment on your part to be the leader that helps them build a stronger unit.

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