

Lodge Adviser's Minute...

...by Ed Sexton, Lodge Adviser



Recently I was reading some of the archived letters on an e-mail list server (Arrow-L) that I subscribe to, and I came across a question that was asked by another subscriber. The person asking the question obviously had been

approached by a new member who hadn't really enjoyed their Ordeal Weekend and questioned the value of belonging to the OA. The subscriber asked the list, "What reason would a new Arrowman have for staying in the OA? What could one say to change his mind so that he would want to continue as an Arrowman?"

As I pondered that question I thought about what keeps me in the OA and that led me to think about my first experience with the OA. I had traveled to camp with a small group of Arrowmen from our Troop and when we arrived at camp, they seemed to know so many people from other Troops. It wasn't that they just knew their names, but that they knew, actually knew, personal things about them...where were they from, what schools they went to, and what they were doing outside of Scouting. When I questioned as to how they knew these people so well, I found it was because they knew them through Scouting and because they belonged to the Order of the Arrow. I knew that given the oppor-

tunity, I wanted to experience that type of belonging...so when I was invited to join, I jumped at the chance.

I enjoy the OA because of the friendships that I have developed, but I also realized that working together to accomplish a goal is what built those friendships. Even as I went through my Ordeal weekend some of those friendships began to develop. I didn't know anyone in the Clan I was assigned to, but we had to bond as a group in order to complete our tasks. There was a great sense of satisfaction in accomplishing those tasks and by the time we were done, I felt a relationship with some people in my Clan that hadn't existed before that weekend. I also realized that each event challenged me to perform a service and sometimes the work itself wasn't much fun, but it did bring new friendships as well because of hard work done together.

There were several responses to the question about what to say to the new Ordeal member that would make them want to stay in the OA, but the one that I liked the best simply said..."we can't tell someone why they should stay in the OA...we have to show them!"

So, not only to our newest Ordeal members, but to all of our members...I invite you to again come to an event where you will be asked to perform a service to your Camp...but that's not the best part. I'm inviting you to come and see for yourself that you can gain a satisfying sense of accomplishment, and develop friendships from your shared work, which will last for years.

Ed Sexton - Apatschin Achwangundowi
Golden Sun Lodge Adviser

OA Troop Representatives...Great For Units

Did you know that utilizing an OA Troop Representative has some great advantages for your unit? Here are some of them...

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



For more information about Troop/Team Representatives, talk to your Chapter Chief or any Lodge officer.