

What Are You Doing This Summer?

...by Russ Votava, Associate Lodge Adviser

As I sit here writing this, the temperature outside is about 5° F. Even though the summer, and warmer temperatures, are several months away, I can't help but think of all the great activities each of us, as Arrowmen, can participate in this coming summer.

Is your Troop going to summer camp? As arrowmen we have a duty to help promote camping in our unit. Encourage the Scouts in your troop to attend camp. Set the example by attending yourself and even taking a leadership role in your unit to help the younger Scouts get the most they can out of camp.

Have you ever considered being on Camp Staff? Many arrowmen in our lodge have a great time spending a few weeks, or all summer, on camp staff. Camp staff is a lot of fun and I can't think of a better way to help serve your fellow Scouts than by being on staff to help them have a great camp experience. Check out the council website for more information about being on camp staff.

Been there, done that! OK, you've been around a few years, you're really looking for an adventure this coming summer. Do you realize that there are five, count them, five, national programs that arrowmen from all over the country will be participating in - and so can you!

- The first is the National Jamboree. The OA always plays an important role at the National Jamboree. From the awesome OA Shows group (Ok, maybe I'm a bit biased) to TOAP and the OA Service Corps.
- The second is the new OA Ocean Adventure (yep - that's OAOA for short). This program, under the guidance of the Florida Sea Base staff, is a 13 day experience in which participants will have the opportunity to explore and serve the undersea world.
- The OA Wilderness Voyage is a two-week trek into the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in northern Minnesota and Canada. Arrowmen not only help work on portage trails but get to canoe and camp in the great Boundary Waters Wilderness.
- The OA Trail Crew program is another two-week experience based at Philmont Scout Ranch. The first week focuses on trail construction and maintenance and the second week is a backpacking trek that is designed by the participants.
- Also, based at Philmont Scout Ranch, the Philbreak program offers you a seven day opportunity to help restore the Philmont backcountry that was damaged after forest fires a few years back.

If you are interested in any of the national programs check out the national OA website to get an application and talk to any lodge Adviser to get approved.

So... What Are You Doing This Summer? Get out of the house, enjoy the great outdoors, and at the same time, provide a little cheerful service.



Seven Feathers Chapter ceremonialists compete at the Fall Fellowship

Lodge Adviser's Minute

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Council held a week long event called a "Wilderness Camp" in Southeast Nebraska not too far from the Kansas-Nebraska border. The Scouts and Scouters of the Cornhusker Council were impressed with the location which included a spring fed 3 acre lake, 2 water wells, electricity and telephone lines so much so that later in the year they decided to purchase the property. If there is anyone around that attended the "Wilderness Camp", I'd sure like to hear their impression of that camping experience and hear if they realized the impact the "Wilderness Camp" would have on Scouting in our Council. Because from their actions, Camp Cornhusker was born and thousands of scouts have enjoyed the wooded, rolling hills of our Camp ever since.

As you can see, there are milestone anniversaries of "Starting" dates that will be celebrated by Arrowmen during 2005, but it isn't the "Big" event that is important. It is important how the actions that people took in our past have affected us today. Take the time to think about how they probably didn't realize it at the time, but their unselfish service resulted in the program and the Camps that you so enjoy today.

Thus the question becomes..."What are we going to do with 2005?" I hope that your response is, "Through little acts of service, let's make it the year that someone 50 or 90 years into the future will remember, and thank us for our actions!"