

# Order of the Arrow Troop Representative (OATR) Program

Kansa Lodge 198

*"Let it be remembered that the Order of the Arrow was created to help the unit - to help it present its membership a better ideal of the inner qualities of the good scout camper. Qualities of character, like cheerfulness and service, are hard for a boy or a man to understand in the abstract. They come easier when seen in human life. Let us realize the significance of the Order in the unit - for the unit is our best hope in Scouting."*

*- Dr. E. Urner Goodman, Founder of the Order of the Arrow*

## History and Purpose

The Order of the Arrow Troop Representative program began in 1999 as a program to better serve the troops of the Boy Scouts of America. This program is designed to improve relationships and communications between individual units and the local Order of the Arrow Lodge and to help make units aware of the important resources that the Lodge offers for unit programs.

The Order of the Arrow Troop Representative (OATR, pronounced otter) is a youth liaison serving between the local OA lodge and their unit. By setting a good example, the OATR will enhance the function and image of the Order as an example of cheerful service to the unit.

The OATR is an official leadership position within the troop, and OATR's service counts for time in a position of authority for rank advancement. The position patch is available for purchase at the scout office for OATRs to wear as a badge of office. The lodge is very excited to establish this program. Please read through this information and prepare your youth leaders to select their troop representative. When you complete the registration form, a complimentary Otter Patch will be given to the OATR and their Advisor at the next lodge event. The patch is to be worn under the right pocket flap.

**Please fill out the [OATR Registration Form](#)  
in order to receive the complimentary patch**



## 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 participate in community service projects actively.
- 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 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.

### Who Benefits from OATRs?

Lodge	Troop
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eases the unit election process by having a person in the troop or team who facilitates elections.</li> <li>• With positive OA leadership on the unit level, lodges will experience greater membership retention and higher Brotherhood conversion rates.</li> <li>• A Unit's OA members will have someone to organize transportation to OA events, increasing attendance at lodge functions.</li> <li>• The camp promotions process will be smoother, leading to greater numbers of Scouts at Summer Camp, HighQ, and NYLT.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The coordination of OA calendar with that of troop and team will prevent OA members from having to choose between OA functions and unit events.</li> <li>• With the organization of service projects, there will be greater opportunity for community service hours that are required for rank advancement.</li> <li>• Experienced Arrowmen from other units are able to share their knowledge with the OATRs to benefit the troop program.</li> <li>• Creates more opportunities for leadership in the troop or team for both youth and adults, effectively increasing membership retention.</li> </ul>

## **OA Troop Representative Frequently Asked Questions:**

What is the OA Troop Representative?

The OA Troop Representative (OATR) program began in 1999 as a program of the Order of the Arrow and the Boy Scouts of America. The OATR duties of the OATR are as follows: represents the lodge to their unit, lets the scouts know of upcoming lodge and chapter events, promotes the mission of the Order, and represents the unit to the lodge in chapter meetings. The OATR is an official leadership position in the troop or team and boys can earn time towards their leadership requirements for rank advancement, just as with Patrol Leader, Troop Scribe, or any of the other leadership positions.

Who can serve as an OATR?

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. They should be appointed by the Senior Patrol Leader, and will be a member of the Patrol Leaders' Council and attend lodge and chapter meetings. The representative should serve for a minimum of six months.

Will there be an adviser for the OATR?

As with all positions in the Order, the OATR should have an adult as their adviser. This adult needs to be 21 years of age or older, a dues-paid member of the Order of the Arrow, and be appointed by the Scoutmaster.

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.