



## N.O.A.C. Public Relations Committee

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE BY THE NOAC PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

#### **PRESS RELEASE TOPIC: ORDER OF THE ARROW BACKGROUND**

**DATE/TIME: July 26, 2002/10:00 A.M.**

**CONTACT PERSON: SAM MURPHEY**

The Order of the Arrow is the National Honor Society of the Boy Scouts of America. The Order was founded by Dr. E. Uner Goodman and Carroll A. Edson in 1915 at the Treasure Island Camp of the Philadelphia Council, Boy Scouts of America. It became an official program experiment in 1922, and it was approved as a part of the Scouting program in 1934.

In 1948 the Order was recognized as Scouting's "Brotherhood of Honor Campers," and it became an official part of the national camping program of the Boy Scouts of America. As a part of the Order's new strategic plan, the Order was renamed "Scouting's National Honor Society" in 1998.

The Order of the Arrow has a fourfold purpose:

- To recognize those campers—Scouts and Scouters—who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives, and by such recognition cause other campers to conduct themselves in such manner as to warrant recognition.
- To develop and maintain camping traditions and spirit.
- To promote Scout camping, which reaches its greatest effectiveness as a part of the unit's camping program, both year-round and in the summer camp, as directed by the camping committee of the council.
- To crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.

The Order has more than 176,000 members located in lodges affiliated with approximately 327 local councils of the Boy Scouts of America. Each local Boy Scout council is encouraged to have an Order of the Arrow lodge. Each lodge is granted a charter from the National Council, Boy Scouts of America, upon annual application. The Order of the Arrow lodge helps the local council provide a quality Scouting program through recognition of Scouting spirit and performance, development of youth leadership and service, promotion of Scout camping and outdoor programs, and enhancement of membership tenure.

The mission of the local lodge is to achieve the purpose of the Order of the Arrow as an integral part of the Boy Scouts of America in the council through positive youth leadership under the guidance of selected capable adults.

*Adapted from "OA Factsheet," BSA National Office, and The Guide for Officers and Advisors.*