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NOAC 2015

NOAC's conference theme was the glue that unified everyone together.

When even the smallest drop of water touches the vast ocean, it creates a ripple that extends outward infinitely. As more drops fall into the massive body of water, their ripples join together to form enormous waves, large enough to impact anything in their path.

The Order of the Arrow gathered to celebrate the first 100 years of its existence this past August. In the 100 hours that followed, each guest had an opportunity to reflect on those first 100 years, but also ask: what comes next?

Over the 100 hours of the conference everyone was challenged to create tomorrow with action today. Each person's actions or inactions define what tomorrow looks like.

Creating the kind of world we want begins today, and *it starts with us*.



Getting There

The road was long and winding (longer for some) but we all arrived safely to begin our adventure.



Tales From The Road

Day 1

We are off and running, after driving over 750 miles today your gear has arrived in Grand Junction, CO. It's late and I'm tired. 650 miles tomorrow.

Day 2

We have arrived in Grand Island, Nebraska. The travel along I-70 is very colorful and full of our countries natural beauty. I-76 and I-80 took us through miles of wheat fields, with the wheat fading to corn fields. They also have this weird element H2O, it is just running down the side of the roads everywhere. We will try to send better photos from the road in the next couple of days, it has been non stop 1350 miles and I have Frank taking photos as we are driving.

Day 3

1878 miles into our trip and one day to go. Today brought us through 450 miles of rolling plains, covered with corn and soy fields, that's a whole lot of corn. The highlight of the day was emerging from the corn fields to find the I-80 truck stop. The World's Largest Truck Stop! What a place. There is a food court and restaurant, dentist, barber, laundromat, shops, truck accessories, mechanics, and a huge museum. What a day! Even got to have an ice cream!

Day 4

Today's trip was going to be our shortest day only 364 miles. 2068 miles in to our travel the tire on the lodge trailer blew out, leaving us to change a tire on the side of the freeway with very little shoulder and trucks flying by at 70 MPH. Off we went, 30 miles later we found ourselves coming in to Kalamazoo, only 60 miles to go. Stop and get a tire or keep on going? Well, the tread on the spear tire made our decision, as it separated off, luckily leaving the radial. 10 slow miles later we arrived at a tire shop and three new tires later we were off again. Frank is eager to start trading!



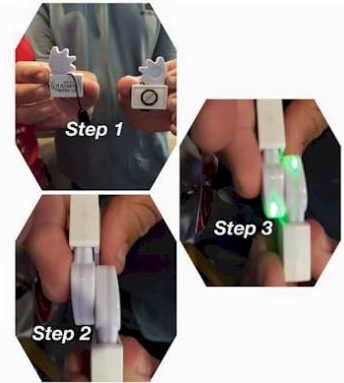
Matt Brandt

Day 1

With so many things to see and do the one thing that seemed to get everyone’s attention was the Spark! What is the Spark you ask? Well it was a little device used to get you to search out locations and events and to connect with fellow Arrowmen while at NOAC.



Each time you sparked with someone (a high four) or a location it was recorded with various points assigned. This also gave you the chance to engage with that person and find out something about them.



Cahuilla Lodge jumped right in and after the first day our own Jonathan Stanley was in 1st place with Adviser Michael Hare following close behind in 4th.

The opening show was titled “It Sparks With Us” and was the first time some 15,000 Arrowmen were packed into the same building.



The Region Chiefs led the march of banners from across the nation, and then the Vice Chief, Donnie Stephens, led the keynote address. He focused on the importance of the century of service the Order has provided and the importance of member retention. Both were introduced as key points for the members to take back to their units and home lodges.

National Chief Alex Call led everyone in sending a message to the World Jamboree in Japan with emojis, or Japanese-style emoticons. He then challenged everyone inside the Breslin Center to spend every second of their lives to embody the Order’s ideals.

Day 2

The members of the OA learned the Secret to Ruling the World. This “secret” is about leading others in a way that influences, but not in a tyrannical way.

The sessions were a method to improve the OA and its lodges and members as they enter a second century of cheerful service. Another aspect of the training was to address common misconceptions about leadership and success. OA members learned how to differ between “ruling” and “success” leadership.

Members learned about leaders throughout history who may have “ruled the world” in the traditional sense, but instead may have been lackluster leaders.



Day 3

“100 Arrows” will showcase the pivotal moments of our Order, telling stories of our founders, progress and continuing vision. “We will learn about the history of the OA,” said 2015 NOAC Shows Conference vice Chief Austin Kriznar. “There will be stories about how our programs came about, how we got here and how we will move into the future.”



Patch trading was also a buzz. All over kids were trading patches, and other items to take back home. Large patch trading events occurred at night inside the stadium.

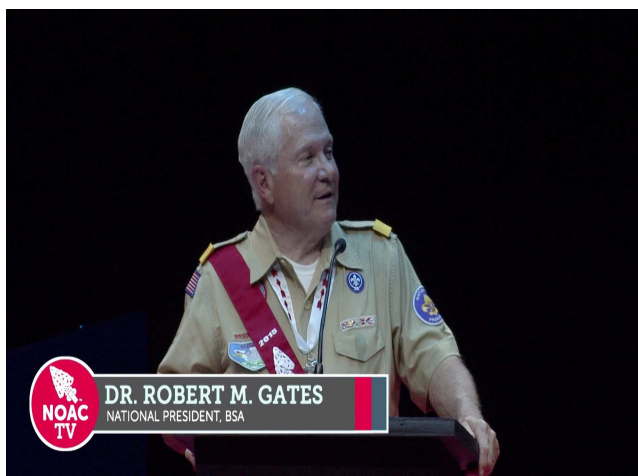
The Hub was also filled with many activities, and included several museums, a rock wall, booths from several sponsors of the event and more patch trading.

There were several games stationed within the hub as well.



Day 4

Dr. Robert M. Gates is the national president of the Boy Scouts of America. Prior to his current service role, he served as the U.S. Secretary of Defense, the director of the CIA and a member of the national Order of the Arrow committee. Gates has served or worked for eight presidents of the United States. He generously agreed to give a few moments of his time



Day 5

The last day saw everyone gathered the stadium to participate in a service project for MSU.

After completing our good deed we all moved over to the Hub for the Centennial Festival. There were expanded activities and music galore. All the Lodges had their booths setup and everyone had to stop by Cahuilla for a chance at our ping-pong shooters.



The most anticipated show at NOAC finally arrived. Friday's show at the Breslin Student Events Center was called "The Order of the Arrow Presents: The Tri-Fletchers."

The show, centered on our theme for this conference, "It Starts With Us," and included entertainment elements never attempted before by the Order.

They told the story of a camp and the effects it had on everyone as they moved through life. The camp was at a turning point and the past campers looked back on their experiences and what they could do moving forward.

The show included stunning effects that transformed the camp and provided a visual feast.

Centurions



For 100 years, the Order of the Arrow has purposefully recognized Scouts and Scouters who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives. Therefore, our organization's centennial provided a unique opportunity to commemorate those among us who are exemplars of the "high ideals and purpose of the Order of the Arrow."

The Centurion Award recognizes Arrowmen who have meaningfully contributed to the forming, maturing and ongoing operational excellence of their local lodge, and who, in doing so, inspired others to follow in their footsteps.

This award is a one-time recognition associated with the centennial anniversary of the OA that was bestowed by the national Order of the Arrow committee. These honorees serve as exemplars of leadership, modeling to others a commitment to cheerful service as the Order of the Arrow enters its second century.

Please join us in congratulating the Cahuilla Lodge Centurion Award honorees:

Ian McLeod
Sean Sedey
Hayden Martois
Andrew Blessum
Mathew Brandt
Frank Sydow
Gary Wood
William Woodward



"The Order of the Arrow is a thing of the spirit" E. Urner Goodman

Closing

We cannot thank you enough for being a part of our 100th anniversary conference. It has been one wild ride but, overall, the conference has been a rousing success. Arrowmen have traveled hundreds of thousands of miles to be a part of this celebration and we have collectively pledged 100 days of service through the #DAREtoDO program. There is only one thing left to do: return home and spread the message to our brothers.

As we all know, many people in our Order were unable to attend this historic conference. While we hope that they had a chance to celebrate our centennial with our ArrowTour program over the summer, it is YOUR job to spread the information that you received from trainings and shows this week. Take the message of cheerful service home with you and convince your lodge members to accept this challenge, too. Together, we can make a difference around the world, as it truly does “Start with Us.”

By pledging to spread the word about our new campaign, we will work to better the image of the Order, both in Scouting and within our nation’s collective conscience. The Order has been committed to cheerful service for 100 years now and we will continue to spread that labor and good cheer in our next century.

Have a safe trip home and thank you once again for making our centennial conference such a huge success. We look forward to seeing you at upcoming lodge, section and national events!

Your Chief,
Alex Call

