



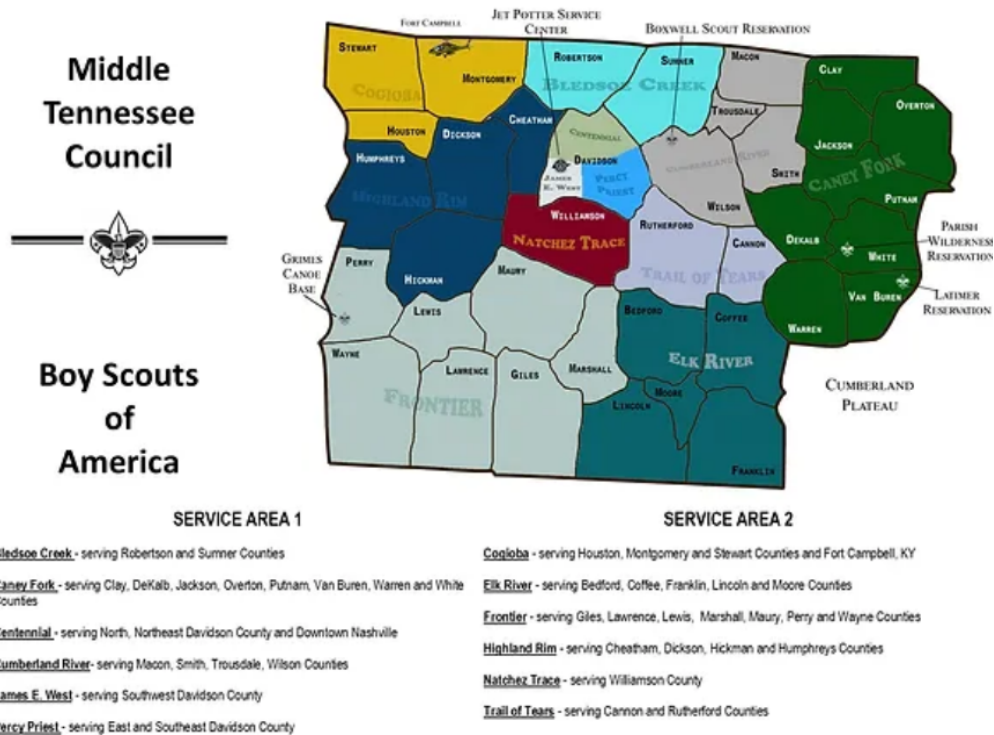
WA-HI-NASA LODGE

ORDER OF THE ARROW

2022 Best Practices, Lessons Learned Document

This worksheet is designed to go over your accomplishments and to help pass on some of the knowledge that you have learned to your successor and other arrowmen across the council/lodge. This is the same idea behind *The Wheel*, there is no point in reinventing the way a chapter runs.

Each year, Chapter Chiefs and their officers are asked to reflect on the year and see what worked, what didn't work, and what they would have changed. In addition, they were asked to give advice to incoming officers. Throughout this document, you will find different ways that helped strengthen the bond of our brotherhood through fellowship and accomplishing goals together.



What were some of your chapter's achievements this year?

- We held a service project for the church that we meet at.
- We hosted a call out ceremony at the district spring camporee and it went off without a hitch.
- We did lots of community service, gained a sustainable number of new members, and learned from Stop The Bleed.
- We had an increase in youth joining and showing up to meetings along with more active communications.
- We went from not holding chapter meetings to constantly having 11-14 people at each event.
- Putting a lot of effort into a district event that included all elements of scouting, the many distant units in our district, and several groups in our community.
- We had constant communication and always made sure our chapter had ideas for events that the members had interest in.
- We involved our new members into the meetings making them feel welcome
- We successfully had our Winter Camporee and increased the amount of participants and members of our Chapter at Chapter meetings.

What is something you wish your chapter had done better this year?

- I wish that we would have done more activities outside of the meetings.
- I wish that we could have bought back old members who did not pay their dues.
- I wished I had pushed for more chapter involvement and more chapter events.
- I would have liked to have gotten more fluent in lodge master which lately has helped me try to get more chapter attendance.
- I wish that we had started practicing the OA election scripts earlier so that we could have gathered a permanent team.
- I wish that we had planned the entire year early on.
- I wish that we had been able to plan fun activities as a chapter to do.
- I feel like if we had a calendar to follow I would have felt more accountability.
- Provide non-scouting related service to our community.
- Use our social media more to promote our events

Advice

● **Communication**

- Keep in contact with your arrowmen after induction so they don't lose interest in the lodge.
- Try to stay in contact with all members and talk to them in a personal manner.
- Reaching out to people in a personal manner goes a long way.
- Send out all emails to the chapter at a minimum one week in advance to give people time to plan their calendars and the morning of.
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● **Meetings**

- I recommend having January's meeting be about planning the rest of the year and have February's meeting be about making election teams and practicing the script.
- Free food is a great way to get people to attend chapter meetings
 - 2 hot and ready pizzas and some water is all it took for me
- Make your meetings both fun and informal
- The chapter meeting after each induction weekend is the most important 2 meetings in your career.
- Bring an agenda with a fun activity at each meeting if in a regular meeting setting.
- Make the meetings as enjoyable as possible, advertise Food, Fun, and Fellowship!

● **Fun**

- I recommend that you get some in chapter events going like bowling, having a gaming tournament, hikes, or camping trips.
- I think having parties based upon holidays is a great idea, like maybe doing a christmas secret santa sort of activity, or doing an oktoberfest party.
- Work with the district to sponsor an event at a camporee or have the chapter run a fall camporee.

● **Leadership**

- You are not above the members of your chapter

- Do everything in your power to get people who want to go to meetings or events to events and meetings.
- Do not be afraid to say “I do not know.”
 - It is how you help that person find the answer that matters
- Do not be afraid to ask for help
- Make sure to try to include everyone at an event from your chapter. you are who they think of when they think about the OA, so try to make that a positive first impression.
- Make sure the arrowmen in the chapter are able to pursue their passions through their positions.
- Make sure all arrowmen are on the same page and are growing closer through the chapter, not further apart.
- Go with the flow, be able to adapt to change and run with what you have instead of only sticking to one plan.
- Work together as a whole key 3 in the chapter and don't be afraid to ask the experienced OA members in the chapter for assistance or ideas.
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- **Elections**

- Keep a binder with your scheduled elections, national guide to elections, and ceremony scripts.
- Reaching out to the adult leaders of each unit is hard at first but if you keep pestering them then they will eventually get back to you.
- When dealing with scoutmasters who do not respond to emails and phone calls, ask your advisor to help you
- Make sure that you actually have a unit elections team, because if you don't then you have to do it by yourself which is extremely time consuming. Also, make sure to jump on that early because it always gets pushed back.
- The more information we can get out to our units the better chance we have at a thriving chapter.