

## **JUNE – Just What Is Order of the Arrow**

### **Music Full then under**

LEE: Hello everyone and Welcome to the June ScoutCast. Wow, can you believe we're already into June?

PAULA: Time flies when you've got some pretty interesting guests discussing some pretty interesting topics.

LEE: And this month will be no exception as National Lodge Chief, Nick Dannemiller explains the mystery that is the Order of the Arrow.

PAULA: That's pretty cool. I hear it's really difficult to get into the OA. Why is that?

LEE: Good question, so let's begin, right...now!

### **Music Fades**

LEE: Nick Dannemiller began scouting back in 2000 as a Tiger Cub in Portland, Oregon, in the Cascade Pacific Council. He was inducted into the Order of the Arrow in 2007 as a member of the Wauna La-Mon'Tay Lodge. Nick, who is an Eagle Scout, also earned the Triple Crown for National High Adventure and the World Conservation Award. He has served as Section Chief and Lodge Chief in the past and is now the Order of the Arrow National Chief. Welcome to ScoutCast, Nick.

NICK: Hi.

PAULA: So just what exactly is the Order of the Arrow.

NICK: The Order of the Arrow is scouting's national honor society, so it serves as a way to recognize the scouts and scouters who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law.

LEE: What makes it so special, Nick?

NICK: I think what makes the Order so special is that it's built around a couple of purposes: the recognition aspect, but another big thing is we do a lot of camp promotions in councils and nationwide to really promote year around camping, summer camp, and outdoor adventure as a whole. We also strive to help build leaders of character so we provide a lot of leadership opportunities to older scouts, within the Order, and then finally we just really want to crystallize the scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of cheerful service.

PAULA: So what's the criteria for a boy to be invited to join?

NICK: The criteria for a scout to join is that they have to be a registered member in a Boy Scout troop or Varsity team and they have camped 15 nights. Seven of those have to be in a summer camp or resident camp

experience. And then lastly, they have to be elected by their peers, to be considered for induction.

PAULA: Are adults allowed to join?

NICK: Yes. we have a lot of great adult leaders within the Order and the way an adult can become a member is that the troop committee or a team committee can nominate adult leaders to be inducted into the Order.

PAULA: Okay, well, that makes sense. I have a good friend who was telling me a story from her childhood, when she was probably like nine or ten years old, and both her dad and her brother made the OA. In fact, she said they baked a cake for them that said, "Hooray, hooray, dad and Bill made OA," and I was just a little confused (chuckles) how her dad made it in, but that makes sense. Thank you.

LEE: Hey, Nick, why do some people think of it as a secret society like a skull and bones club of the Boy Scouts?

NICK: I actually think it's somewhat of the opposite. It's the Honor Society for the Boy Scouts. A lot of what the Order does can at times seem serious, but that's largely because we just sort of do our own events separate from a lot of scouting functions, but everything, from the ceremonies we do to the events we hold are always open to the scouting public and parents. So if an adult leader or a mom or dad wants to figure out what their son is getting involved in, they can contact their local lodge advisor and they

would be happy to set up an opportunity for them to attend the events or to sit in on some of the ceremonies.

PAULA: What makes an Order of the Arrow member so loyal?

NICK: (Chuckles) This is an interesting question. I think particularly the big thing that makes OA members so loyal is the fact that they're not only giving back to scouting, but also their communities. We really stress this idea of service, and it's a great way to engage our members, and I think the other aspect of that is the fact that the Order really prides itself on being a brotherhood. Some of my best friends that I made in scouting were at OA functions so I think it's that combination of brotherhood, service, and it's always fun.

LEE: Hey, Nick, can you tell me a little bit about the mentoring program that the OA has?

NICK: Part of the purpose of the Order is to return service directly back to the unit. So the one of the ways we do that is each troop and team can have an OA representative and sort of what they do is besides providing updates on what the Order is doing in the local area, they also sort of help mentor and guide new scouts. They help out with the troop leadership. They're, they're sort of like a pinch hitter for anything that the troop needs because they sort of distinguish themselves as a really good scout and, a pretty resourceful one.

LEE: Okay, well, what resources are available for those who would like to know more about the Order of the Arrow?

NICK: We have a few resources set up. We have a brand new web site online, [oa-bsa.org](http://oa-bsa.org) and there we have the web site divided up so we offer information to members, to parents, to fellow scouters and the community. So you can learn a lot about what we're doing from our web site. We also have a pretty strong social media presence so you can look us up on Facebook and Twitter. There are a lot of ways to learn about the order and from those resources, we have a lot of other additional materials to help with camp promotions and some of the different events we hold every year.

PAULA: Nick, is there anything else about the Order of the Arrow that we haven't discussed that you think our listeners should know?

NICK: Absolutely. Probably one of the most exciting things I just wanted to share was next year in 2015; we will be celebrating our hundredth anniversary as an organization. And it's sure to be a year full of a lot of special centennial events and programs. So, for any members out there who haven't necessarily been as involved, now is a great time to re-engage and really become active again because it's a chance to really reflect over our first century service and we look forward to the next hundred years.

PAULA: Well, Nick, you've made us and our listeners so much more aware of this really cool part of our organization. So thanks so much for joining us on ScoutCast.

NICK: It was a pleasure.

LEE: Speaking of cool, I hear CubCast has a really cool show this month, too. Let's tune in for a minute; then we'll be back with Reminders and Tips.

### **Cubcast Snippet: New Adventures in Cub Scouting**

LEE: Okay, folks, here we go with this month's reminders. Now this is a time that you and your troop should be camping. Doesn't matter where or for how long, just go camping. After all, that's what the Boy Scouts of America is all about, right? Before you go, check out the Boy's Life Essential Guide in the May issue of *Boy's Life Magazine*. It'll make your camp experience everything you hope it will be.

PAULA: In this month's *Boy's Life*, we help our readers prepare for the 2014 Summer Fun Photo Contest by giving tips on the best way to take pictures with your cell phone. Oh, and *Scouting Magazine* explores the vital role of the Life Scout to Eagle Scout coordinator. Does your troop have one?

LEE: Also, it's that time of year when you want to get your charter organization representative also known in scout speak as the COR involved in your annual program planning.

PAULA: This allows the COR to actually see what activities the unit is planning for the year and how it can relate to the yearly plan and objectives that the chartered organization may have.

### **Begin Music Under**

PAULA: The music cue means it's the end of our show. We're so glad you joined us. Thanks to our guest Nick Dannemiller for helping us solve the mystery of the Order of the Arrow.

LEE: And thank you for listening. Is there anything else you'd like to hear on ScoutCast. Just send us an email to [ScoutCast@scouting.org](mailto:ScoutCast@scouting.org). or a tweet to @BSAScoutCast

PAULA: We look forward to hearing from you. Until then, I'm Paula Murphey.

LEE: And I'm Lee Shaw. Enjoy the summer everyone!

### **Music Full to Finish**