

## What is the *Get Kids to Camp Partnership*?

The *Get Kids to Camp Partnership* is a program initiative established by the National Order of the Arrow Committee to financially support and help local Scouts get to summer camp. Every year, certain Scouts are unable to attend local summer camps because of not having qualified adults to provide leadership to the unit while at summer camp. The program serves as a partnership between the local council, the local lodge, and the National OA Committee to create a grant program to cover camp fees for qualified and trained adults to serve as leaders for chartered or provisional units lacking adult leadership.



Council Scout Executives will identify local council chartered units in need of adult leadership for summer camp, and local lodges will take the lead in identifying and recruiting qualified adult leaders to be matched with each of these units. In addition to increasing youth participation at summer camp, the program provides inactive Arrowmen (ages 25-30) an outlet to support Scouting through an adviser/Scoutmaster role. Many times, lodge alumni struggle with finding a suitable role as they transition into their professional careers. The *Get Kids to Camp Partnership* provides these experienced leaders a chance to support Scouting, and make a difference within their local council. Thus, it would be ideal if these provisional leaders would be younger adults who were active in their Order of the Arrow lodge as youth.

### Program Details (<http://www.oa-bsa.org/programs/getkidstocamp/>)

- **How Much:** Local councils will be able to apply for grant monies to supplement all of the respective weekly adult summer camp fee for the council making the request. A council may apply for up to four (4) grants per calendar year.
- **Application Process:** Applications are due on May 31<sup>st</sup> of the year in which the grant is to be used for leader funding.
- **Eligibility:** The program is available to all councils with an OA lodge which is in good standing with the council and has implemented an active OA Camp Coordinator program at summer camp for the upcoming summer.
- **Reporting:** At the end of the summer, councils/lodges who receive funding are required to submit a completion report to the national Order of the Arrow committee. This report will include the number of Scouts who were able to attend summer camp as a direct result of the *Get Kids to Camp Partnership*, photos, leader testimonials, etc. The due date for the post-camp report is October 15<sup>th</sup> of the year in which the grant was used. Failure to submit this completion report will disqualify councils from participating in the next year's matching grant program.

## Steps for Program Implementation

- 1. Establish an OA Camp Coordinator:** For a local council to be eligible to participate in the *Get Kids to Camp Partnership* program, lodges must be in good standing and have a designated OA Camp Coordinator (OACC) for the upcoming summer camp season. The OA Camp Coordinator should oversee the *Get Kids to Camp Partnership* program as a part of their established duties and responsibilities. For more information go to: (<http://www.oa-bsa.org/resources/lodge/oacampcrd.htm>)
- 2. Determine Whether Program Participation is Necessary:** Local lodge youth and adult leadership should work closely with the local council's Scout Executive, Camping Committee, and Camp Director to determine if the lack of trained and qualified adult leadership is negatively impacting chartered unit participation at their specific summer camp(s).
- 3. Identify Chartered Units in Need of Adult Leadership:** By working with the local council's Scout Executive, Camping Committee, and Camp Director, the local lodge can determine which units and Scouts are most in need of adult leaders while at summer camp.
- 4. Identify and Recruit Qualified OA Alumni:** Once unit identification has been determined, local lodges will identify and recruit trained and qualified adult leaders to be matched to each of these units. If at all possible, these provisional leaders should be Arrowmen in their mid to late twenties. Local lodges, chapters, and OA Troop Representatives should review past membership records of their respective organizational unit for possible candidates. Once Candidates have been contacted and agree to participate, their credentials must be vetted by an authorized member of the local council's professional staff.
- 5. Complete Program Paperwork:** As with any grant program, proper documentation is a requirement. Local councils need to submit the completed *Get Kids to Camp Partnership* application by no later than May 31st of the year in which the grant is to be used for leader funding. The application form can be found at: (<http://www.oa-bsa.org/programs/getkidstocamp/kidstocampapplication.pdf>.)