

July 20, 2017

To: Southern Region Lodge Key-3

Southern Region - *Spirit of Excellence* – **Are We There Yet?**

Arrowmen,

In this fourth edition of the *Spirit of Excellence*, we will take a look at strategies for success at summer camp. With a busy summer ahead, now is the best time to refresh your data in LodgeMaster and get on track for JTE Gold!

Requirement #6 – Ordeal Completion

During the summer, many lodges choose to conduct Ordeals. Overall, it seems that the more opportunities there are to complete an Ordeal, the higher the completion rate will be. To find greater success with this aspect of JTE, we encourage you to take the following steps:

- *Plan Ordeals in the lodge yearly calendar.*
- *Conduct unit elections in a timely manner to ensure elected candidates have time to work the Ordeal into their schedules.*
- *Effectively track names and contact information for all elected candidates.*
- *Conduct successful and inspiring “call out” ceremonies to encourage Scouts to attend the Ordeal.*
- *Work throughout the year to establish a positive image of the OA throughout the council.*
- *Dispel rumors and myths about the Ordeal that may discourage Ordeal attendance.*
- *Encourage OA troop representatives to promote Ordeals at troop meetings.*
- *Promote Ordeals at both council and district committee meetings.*
- *Perform impressive Pre-Ordeal and Ordeal ceremonies with well-trained and well-rehearsed teams.*
- *Conclude Ordeals by promoting future events and encouraging members to become active within the lodge and their chapters.*

JTE Top Performers:

Youth Brotherhood Conversion:

Many JTE metrics can be measured strictly on a youth-only basis. For example, the Brotherhood completion rate can be calculated exclusively for youth members under 21. Five Southern Region lodges did an amazing job in 2016 encouraging youth Ordeal members to earn Brotherhood! The youth Brotherhood Conversion for these five lodges was greater than 60%!

Wihinipa Hinsa	Galveston, TX	S-3
Echokotee	Jacksonville, FL	S-4
Nakona	Lubbock, TX	S-2
Santee	Florence, SC	S-5
Wachtschu Mawachpo	Fort Smith, AR	S-8

*The top score in the nation for youth Brotherhood Completion was an astonishing 94% earned by the **Wihinipa Hinsa** lodge!*

Some resources to utilize can be found below:

Guide to Inductions: <https://oa-bsa.org/index.php/pages/content/guide-to-inductions>

Inductions Best Practices: <https://oa-bsa.org/index.php/pages/content/best-practices#ind>

Videos for New Members and Parents: <https://oa-bsa.org/index.php/pages/content/lodgeledger-2014-07-05>

Requirement #15 – Council Camping Support

As Arrowmen, promoting camping is at the top of our list of priorities. With summer camp in full swing, this is a great opportunity for lodges to get a head start on this JTE requirement. To kick-start your camp promotions for the year, talk to the camp leadership and evaluate what ways in which the lodge can assist in camp promotions during the off-season. With this effort, both the lodge and camp will have an idea of what needs to happen as unit elections approach and with the opportunity to tell Scouts about camp.

Don't forget to identify any brand-new units in your council and to target these units for a camp promotions visit. These new units may not yet have Scouts eligible for the OA, but these units could certainly benefit from a visit from Order of the Arrow members!

Another way to support the council through Scout camping is by having the lodge publish a Where to Go Camping guide for the council's units. You can find an example of that publication here:

National Lodge Adviser Symposium:

Lodge Advisers from eighteen Southern Region Lodges travelled to Philmont Scout Ranch this summer for an intense week of training focused on "Replicating High-Performing Lodges".

Southern Region Lodges represented:

<i>Aina Topa Hutsi</i>	<i>Atchafalaya</i>
<i>Blue Heron</i>	<i>Coosa</i>
<i>Echokottee</i>	<i>Egwa Tawa Dee</i>
<i>I-Tsu-La</i>	<i>Ma-Nu</i>
<i>Mikanakawa</i>	<i>Nakona</i>
<i>Nawakwa</i>	<i>Nayawin Rar</i>
<i>Netopolis Sipo Schipinachk</i>	<i>Nguttitehen</i>
<i>Occonechee</i>	<i>O-Shot-Caw</i>
<i>Sebooney Okasucca</i>	<i>Wichita</i>

Example Where to Go Camping Guidebook: <https://oa-bsa.org/index.php/pages/content/publications#wtgc>

Other JTE Ideas

Here are some additional JTE ideas that may be useful to your lodge this summer:

September National Leadership Seminar

Coming up soon on the weekend of September 8-10, the National Leadership Seminar will be making its way to Fruitland Park, FL. Don't miss out on this excellent opportunity – especially if your lodge is in Florida, Georgia, Alabama, or South Carolina!

We recommend sending your Lodge Chief and perhaps a few other officers. To find out more information, please go to this link:

National Leadership Seminar: <http://southern.oa-bsa.org/nls/>

Advisers are invited to attend the Developing Youth Leadership Conference conducted concurrently with the NLS. For more information on DYLC, advisers can go to this link:

Developing Youth Leadership Conference: <http://southern.oa-bsa.org/dylc/>

SCOUTING'S NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Lodge Insight Report:

The *JTE Insight Report* provides detailed statistics on your lodge's performance in key areas such as youth membership retention and event participation. This two-page report, customized for your lodge, was emailed from the National Office in May, 2017 to your lodge Key 3. This is a great tool to learn where your lodge excels and in which areas your lodge could set goals to improve. A four-page extended version is also available on request. Send us a quick email if you would like a copy of the extended four-page version of your lodge's Insight Report.

"What is JTE?" PowerPoint Slideshow:

The "What is JTE" PowerPoint slideshow describes the seventeen requirements in the 2017 JTE program in detail. This presentation, developed for Southern Region lodges, may be suitable for your Lodge Leadership Development seminar. It is available here:

"What is JTE?" slideshow: <http://southern.aa-bsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/JTE-2017.ppsx>

"What is JTE?" PDF: <http://southern.aa-bsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/JTE-2017.pdf>

If your lodge leadership ever has any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to our team at jte@southern.aa-bsa.org.

In the Spirit of our Founders,



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