

February 11, 2017

To: Southern Region Lodge Key-3

Southern Region - *Spirit of Excellence* – **Pathways to Success**

Arrowmen,

It is our hope that each of you found the last issue of the *Spirit of Excellence* helpful. In the inaugural edition sent out last month to lodge and section leaders across the Southern Region, some of the items discussed were:

- *Requirement #1: Fiscal Management*
- *Requirement #13: Council Designated Support*
- *Requirement #16: Leadership Development*
- Enabling Lodge Officers to Take an Active Role in JTE Planning and OALM
- Reviewing JTE Performance in 2016 and Creating JTE Goals for 2017

This edition is themed "**Pathways to Success**" and has been built to help present to you examples of various paths you may take to reach your JTE goals.

Requirement #5 – Unit Elections / Requirement #11 – Unit Visitation

Two birds with one stone!

Unit Election season is at the doorstep and with that, it's time to start preparing now. Did you know that when your Unit Elections team visits a unit, your lodge can earn points for two JTE requirements? Visiting a unit for an OA election counts for both Unit Elections and Unit Visitation!

Does your council have any units in which no Scouts have yet earned First Class? Even though these units have no Scouts eligible for the OA, your lodge can still arrange to visit the unit and earn JTE points for Unit Visitation. In what ways could your lodge or chapter provide service to a brand new unit during a unit visitation?

When conducting unit elections,

be sure to keep a record of the names of the candidates who are elected. JTE measures the percentage of elected Scouts who attend the Ordeal – this is called the Induction Rate. It is important to enter at least the names of all elected candidates into OA LodgeMaster so your lodge's induction rate will be accurate.

How to import a list of candidates into OA LodgeMaster:

Keeping track of the names of elected candidates is important! Sometimes you may be given a list of elected candidates in a spreadsheet format, and you are faced with the task of typing all of the names into OA LodgeMaster! What a hassle!

Did you know you can import the list of candidates from a spreadsheet directly into OA LodgeMaster? You won't have to type a single name! Here are the steps to import a spreadsheet into OA LodgeMaster:

Import Candidates into OA LodgeMaster:

<https://docs.aa-bsa.org/display/OALMLC/Import+Members>

Be sure to check the data for accuracy before you import. Include the unit number and election date, so you won't have to type those either.

Quality unit elections are a direct result of the training provided to your Unit Election teams! Don't forget to train your lodge Unit Elections teams. You can find helpful resources on this requirement below:

NEW Unit Elections Video: <http://www.oa-bsa.org/pages/content/guide-to-unit-elections>

Guide to Unit Elections: <http://www.oa-bsa.org/uploads/publications/GuideToUnitElections2015.pdf>

Unit Elections PowerPoint: <http://www.oa-bsa.org/chooseoa/resources/Unit Election Presentation.pptx>

Preventing a Popularity Contest: <http://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2015/06/30/keep-oa-elections-popularity-contest/>

Requirement #7 - Lodge Event Participation

Getting members to attend events in large numbers can be difficult. To help give your lodge events a participation boom, consider some of the following practices:

- Start a promotions team whose job it is to promote lodge and section events to your membership.
- Keep prices as low as possible.
- Create innovative chapter competitive events.
- Offer Brotherhood questionnaires and ceremonies at all full lodge events.
- Look at your schedule – how can you fill the down time?
- Do your participants like the food? If not, talk with your cook crew.
- Offer relevant training sessions which are fun and hands-on.
- Give opportunities for Arrowmen to get involved with ceremonies and American Indian Activities at lodge events.
- Have a midnight capture the flag competition between chapters with glow sticks.
- Have door prizes at each meal.
- Raffle off a “free trip to Conclave” for everyone who registers for the lodge event in advance.
- Make sure your lodge officers are interacting with the membership.
- Which lodge in your section is your “rival”? What do you want to beat them at during next year’s Conclave (ceremonies, spirit, competitions, etc.)? Rally your lodge together and practice at a lodge event – promotion is key!
- Invite a section, region, or national officer to join a lodge meeting by Skype, FaceTime, or in person to promote national events.

Induction Rate

JTE measures the percentage of elected Scouts who attend the Ordeal – this is called the **Induction Rate**.

Even if a candidate is unable to attend an Ordeal, it is important to enter the name in OA LodgeMaster. In this manner, your lodge can learn the percentage of elected Scouts inducted into the OA.

Without all candidates’ names in OA LodgeMaster, your lodge’s **Induction Rate** will not be accurate.

Other JTE Ideas

Here are some additional hands-on suggestions that may not be specific to one JTE requirement:

Send a Lodge Officer to NLS:

Around this time, officer training is often a smart strategy to start the year right. In the last edition, we discussed how an LLD can be an effective means of providing this training. To go a step above and beyond that, we recommend sending the lodge chief and perhaps a few other officers to NLS. Coming up soon on the weekend of March 3-5, 2017, the National Leadership Seminar will be making its way to Antioch, TN. Don't miss out on this excellent opportunity!

National Leadership Seminar Link:

<http://southern.aa-bsa.org/nls/>

Share ideas with leaders in other nearby lodges:

Another smart strategy for JTE success is sharing ideas with the leaders close to you in your section. Many lodges do things differently, and it may turn out that the way they fulfill a certain requirement may be very beneficial when implemented for your lodge. In addition to this, there are best practices from all of the country that have been compiled. You find those resources below.

NEXT Resources:

<http://training.aa-bsa.org/?action=browse&dir=NEXT>

Best Practices Database:

<http://www.aa-bsa.org/pages/content/best-practices>

<http://www.aa-bsa.org/uploads/resources/bestpractices/EstablishingLodgeGoals.pdf>

As your lodge makes headway into 2017, it is vital to identify the requirements on which your lodge plans to improve and the areas your lodge wants to maintain its current performance. To do this, try asking the following questions: On which requirements did we score gold? Which are bronze? Are there any requirements that haven't been attempted in the past?

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,



Matthew Watson
Southern Region Youth JTE Coordinator



Harrison Fry
2017 Southern Region Chief

Advisers: Larry Mobley, JTE Coordinator
Charlie Harbin, Vice Chair – Section Operations

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