



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

LDS Church Relationships
15 West South Temple, Suite 1070
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
(801) 530-0004 (Bus)
(801) 530-0029 (Fax)

Dear LDS Relationships Committee Member:

As leaders of youth, we all want our Aaronic Priesthood to serve faithfully in priesthood callings and fulfill the responsibilities of priesthood offices, give meaningful service, prepare and live worthily to receive the Melchizedek Priesthood and temple ordinances, and prepare to serve an honorable full-time mission. Scouting helps young men achieve these goals.

Scouting's national honor society, the Order of the Arrow, can also help achieve these goals by providing youth leadership and service opportunities. The latest edition of Scouting & The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints says this about the organization:

“The Order of the Arrow (OA) is Scouting’s national honor society. It supports the teachings of the Church regarding cheerful service and brotherhood. Troops and teams may hold elections for their youth, and adults can be recommended for membership and participate as well. Each troop and team should have an active OA Troop or Team representative. Unit leaders should encourage all Arrowmen to stay active in their lodge.”

In order to join the organization, a candidate must be registered as a Boy Scout or Varsity Scout (a Venture can be dual registered with a troop or team to meet this requirement); hold the First Class rank; after registering with a troop or team, have experienced 15 days and nights of Boy Scout camping during the two-year period prior to the election, which must include one, but no more than one, long-term camp of six consecutive days and five nights; and receive approval from the Scoutmaster or Varsity Scout Coach prior to the election (a unit leader must certify the candidate’s Scout spirit and meeting the requirements of OA membership qualification).

Adult Scouters can also become members of the OA. Selection is based on the ability to perform the necessary functions to help the OA fulfill its purpose and is not for recognition. Adult Arrowmen assist youth in developing leadership skills and helping them with transportation. One adult can be recommended per unit election; thus the troop and team should hold individual elections.

Please consider encouraging your troops and teams to hold OA elections in order to provide an opportunity for your young men to belong to Scouting’s national honor society. Even if no youth are eligible, the OA Troop or Team representatives could still promote camping. If you have any trouble scheduling an election or have questions about the above, please contact your scout executive or district executive who can put you in contact with the appropriate person.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David C. Pack".

David C. Pack, Director
LDS-BSA Relationships