Sounds of the Section

NOAC 2018

The time has come! The National Order of the Arrow Conference will make a splash at Indiana University in Bloomington. Held from July 30-August 4, this event will capture the theme “Decide your Destiny.” During this experience, shows and events will seek to focus on each arrowman’s individual experience, prompting them to realize that what they do and plan for today, leads them toward their actions in the future; that today’s decisions decide tomorrow’s reality.

This life changing gathering of youth and adults from across the United States will feature many new innovative programs and practices.

- For those involved with ceremonies, the ICE Committee has created fantastic experience for you at NOAC. A new distinction for ICE teams is the National Exemplars status, through the Exemplar Recognition program. Those teams who have been accepted into this distinction will receive National visibility!

- The OA and exceptional service go hand in hand, and NOAC allows YOU to showcase that. Through a program at Adventure Central, contingent members can volunteer in the afternoon to serve their fellow brothers; volunteers can help to shape the NOAC experience for others! For a just a few hours on one afternoon, arrowmen can show service and receive a special patch. Doing so won’t take away from the rest of your extraordinary NOAC adventure!

- Training has not been forgotten! At the 2018 NOAC, a new program called Success Seekers will be revealed. This program will unite high-performing lodges and those lodges facing various challenges. By having influential members from those lodges collaborate and communicate, everyone can learn.

- The most influential new program at NOAC this year will be the PILOT Academy for youth leaders. It teaches attendees about the importance of relying upon the time, talent, and treasures of others to help govern the lodge.

Arrowmen from across the country have worked tirelessly to create an amazing experience at the 2018 NOAC for every attendee. The Officers of Section S-4 look forward to seeing you there!
In September 2017, Hurricanes Irma and Maria carried torrential precipitation and winds reaching nearly 175 miles per hour, causing significant damage including mudslides and flooding. These conditions caused decreased access to electricity, damage to property, and the loss of life. Close to home, the BSA Sea Base and the Puerto Rico Council’s camp, Guajataka were heavily impacted. Within weeks of these devastating storms, sections, lodges, and individuals reached out to see what they could do to help. To capture their desire to serve, SeaBreak and Arrowcorps: Puerto Rico were created. Contained in this article are the stories of two individuals who spent their spring break giving cheerful service.

Guajataka—Thomas DeCanio, Puerto Rico

Thomas DeCanio of Uh-Tö-Yeh-Hut-Tee Lodge was one of the over 100 arrowmen who arrived in San Juan, Puerto Rico, on March 11th. “Every single person there really lived true to the purpose of the OA, exhibiting selfless service.” Upon arrival, volunteers were shocked by the devastation. Downed light poles, collapsing infrastructure, and tons of foliage were left after the raging storm. Arrowmen were greeted through the pleasant and cheerful attitudes of the people of Puerto Rico. The very same people the Arrowmen came to serve, were sharing what they had. Traditional meals prepared by volunteers, bright-hearted residents helping their neighbors to repair circuit breakers or water heaters, and residents taking the time to share their culture was a humbling experience.

The major service provided in Puerto Rico was at their BSA council camp, Guajataka. There, volunteers worked to provide access between areas in the camps by actively removing thousands of pounds of brush, and reconnecting the camp’s decimated electrical conduits. Scouts also worked to rebuild the Friendship Bridge, which connects the two halves of their camp. Another important project undertaken was repairing the camp’s council ring.

Older arrowmen worked to repair and repaint the camp building foundations that had been ruined by long term flooding. They also helped the firefighters clear trees and foliage.

Thomas DeCanio confirms how he was impacted by the residents, “Everyone, the volunteers, the people, even the airport security officers, were in high spirits… [they were] great people.” Upon completion of their time in Puerto Rico, Arrowmen were proud of the work they had accomplished. It was impressive to see so many Arrowmen choose to cheerfully serve and help others during their spring break.
As impactful as was the devastation of Puerto Rico by Caribbean hurricanes, Florida was not left untouched by Hurricane Irma. This storm was one of the strongest ever to be recorded in the Atlantic hurricane basin. Her continued wind speeds of over 130 mph labeled the storm as a Category 4 hurricane. The keys were the most impacted place in Florida and the focus of the SeaBreak program. Both Brinton Environmental Center, on Summerland Key, as well as the key hosting a portion of the Sea Base program, Big Munson Island, were heavily impacted. Downed trees, damaged fences, and a destroyed plumbing system were among the challenges that faced these two small pieces of land. Additionally, the storms swept up 3-4 feet of sand onto the keys, burying campsites and ocean access points. The islands looked indistinguishable, but the property supervisor, Mike Johnson, hadn’t lost hope.

"Big Munson Island will survive and bounce back," Johnson said. “The topography may be different, but the spirit of Big Munson Island lives on." This attitude of cheerfulness was echoed by the approximately 40 individuals to spent March 4-10 on the SeaBreak project. Led by then-Southern Region Chief Harrison Fry, the group of motivated arrowmen spent three days merrily repairing chuckboxes and cleaning up campsites. Every day brought a new adventure. SeaBase staffers guided volunteers to service projects, through mangrove mazes, or through fishing along the beach. Individuals also had a chance to play in between times of service. Arrowmen were given a chance to snorkel at Looe Key, a small U-shaped reef, part of the reef system that parallels the Atlantic side of the Florida Keys.

This trip did not turn out to only benefit the BSA’s Sea Base, but was an excellent opportunity for young men to learn from one another’s experiences and collaborate on how to better their chapters and lodges. This was especially true during the time these youth and adults spent time on Big Munson Island; there, youth prepared their own meals, cooking in patrols. Youth started campfires and shared stories about their favorite memories of the OA, Kyle Kipple, a SeaBreak program youth co-lead, recounted. Some arrowmen pulled blankets and sleeping bags out of their tents while on the island, and slept under the starry skies.

In total, these volunteers completed more than 1,200 hours of service to the Brinton Environmental Center and Big Munson Island. It was an eye-opening experience for many of the volunteers and they had a chance to share about the personal growth they had undergone.

Kipple, who later reflected upon the experience, wrote, ‘From getting on the buses at the airport on Sunday to leaving Sea Base a week later, these Arrowmen never stopped smiling and formed friendships that I know will last a lifetime. Although they arrived as strangers, they left as brothers.’

Will B., a volunteer who traveled from Georgia to attend SeaBreak, also shared an impactful message. “[The OA] gives you opportunities and pushes you to go beyond what you think you are capable. Being able to come to Sea Base and serve alongside so many dedicated and service-minded individuals is a special experience, and I’m thrilled I had the chance to come.”

The Order of the Arrow is an organization that continues to promote youth and adults from across the nation to seek opportunities to serve, be they in one’s backyard, or as far away as the over 4250 miles from Alaska to Puerto Rico that some arrowmen accomplished. Every day, individuals are given opportunities to volunteer and do for your neighbors in Scouting and life. Take these moments and serve others.
2018 Section Conference in Review

Osceola Conference Host Chairman

Section S-4,

Wow, what an amazing weekend we had at Camp Miles in April! On behalf of Osceola Lodge, we enjoyed hosting you all immensely, and hope you had an excellent weekend. We have heard many positive compliments, and we could not have done it without the 800 Arrowmen who came to camp. Please continue to support and attend section events; they are the most exciting OA events happening in the state of Florida every year. There are so many opportunities to learn, experience, and enjoy the Order of the Arrow, and personally, I have made some of my best memories at these events. Once again, thank you for coming out to Camp Miles, and making the weekend unforgettable!

WWW,

Charles Coffey

2018 National Chief Attends Section Conference

Thanks again for the awesome hospitality at the S4 Conference last month! I had a blast, and hopefully will be able to make it back again sometime. Giving blood, visiting the High Adventure Village, the awesome Shows, and the VIA Luncheon were just a few of the things that made the weekend special. And of course, I won't forget winning the LodgeBall championship with Semialachee! Leaving the weekend, I was confident in the awesome leadership and capability of the Order of the Arrow throughout Florida; you should all be proud to call yourself an Arrowman in S4. Remember to be humble along your journey, and you will go far. Brothers, you are ready!

See you on the trail,

Anthony Peluso

OA National Chief
Arrowmen,

This November 9th-11th, Echockotee Lodge will be hosting Section S-4’s annual Section Leadership Summit. Participants will be given an incredible experience to increase their leadership skills and enjoy unique activities. In 2018, Section S-4 will be given an unforgettable Section Summit and you won’t want to miss it. Are you All In on your journey to the Summit? Every leader is thrown challenges but at this event you will be given training on how to conquer any challenge.

Make sure to stay up to date with all the info for this event, by following us on Twitter @S4LeaderSummit.

See you at the Summit,
Ford Setzer
SLS 2018 Chairman

Adviser’s Minute

It’s the start of a new year for Section S4; new officers, new exciting ideas, and lots of adventure and fun coming your way. I want to congratulate Tyler, Adrian, and Lathan on their success in becoming the Section’s 2018-19 Officers. I know their leadership, motivation, and belief in the Order of the Arrow will cause growth and betterment for the entire program and our Section as a whole. Their unified goals of planning, developing, and executing our Section’s programs and associated support functions is sure to provide interesting, diversified, and entertainment for every Arrowman. The Officer Team in conjunction with Lodge Leadership and Arrowman who have stepped up to help lead Committees are already furiously working on their new ventures. Highlighting items of work in progress include advancements in overall communication techniques, upgrading of training opportunities, expansion of our ICE and AIA programs, and growth of High Adventure within the Section. Section S4 is a leader within the Region and Nation due to the team effort of the Section’s leadership and each Lodge’s leadership working in unity. The Officers along with their Adviser Team consisting of Bill Granger (Training), Brad Schmidt (Communications), Barry Ekle (ICE), Rick Langford (AIA), Dutchee Arnet (High Adventure) and all of the Lodge’s leadership both youth and adult will assure continued countless accomplishments and boundless success for our great Section S4.

WWW,
Bill Patterson
Brothers,

Thank you all for the opportunity to serve for an amazing two terms as Section Chief. This awesome experience has allowed me to push beyond my boundaries and make lifelong friends. It is my hope that the progress that this section has made during my term, to create a more united and youth-run section will continue for years to come. By opening communication channels between the leaders of our great lodges, we have planted a seed of trust and support throughout the section, forming bonds of brotherhood.

I would like to thank Thomas Driscoll, Elliott Gregg, Adrian Aponte, Bill Gundlach, Bill Patterson, Chris Crowley, and all other section leaders for their continued commitment to the success of this section and the development of all its members.

Our newly elected chief Tyler Shaw has shown great leadership in his home lodge and I am fully confident that he will bring this to the section level.

Thank you for your Brotherhood, Cheerfulness, and Service!

WWW,

Gregory Yentz
Outgoing Section S-4 Chief, 2016-2018

Arrowmen,

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your Section Chief. I would like to thank Gregory Yentz and the rest of the Section leadership for their service to Section S4. It is because of their dedication and the dedication of the Section leadership before them that Section S4 is as great as it is today.

Now it’s time for us to look ahead to the 2018-2019 year. This year our Section has a lot to look forward to. This July, NOAC will be taking place at Indiana University, OAH will be taking place all summer long, this November Section Leadership Summit will be hosted by Echcocktee Lodge, and next April Section Conference will be hosted by Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge.

Our Section certainly has a lot to look forward to this year, and I’m looking forward to spending it with my brothers of Section S4.

WWW,

Tyler Shaw
Incoming Section S-4 Chief, 2018-2019

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Sounds of the Section Production Team

Editor-in-Chief: Lathan Dixon

Writing Team: Gregory Yentz, Kyle Kipple, Tyler Shaw, Ford Spetzer, Anthony Peluso, William Patterson, Lathan Dixon & Charles Coffeey

Editors: Brad Schmidt, Chris Crowley, William Patterson

Suggestions? Email Secretary@SectionS4.org

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