



Order of the Arrow OUTDOOR ADVENTURES SUB-COMMITTEE

About the Order of the Arrow's Get Kids to Camp Partnership

PURPOSE OF THIS PROGRAM

To establish a matching grant program through which Order of the Arrow lodges and the Councils they serve will partner with the support of the national Order of the Arrow committee to get their Scouts to camp by providing trained and qualified adults to serve as unit leaders for units (chartered or provisional) otherwise unable to attend council summer camp.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The national Order of the Arrow committee authorized the establishment of two programs to encourage summer camp attendance by Scouts who would not otherwise have an opportunity to attend.

1. First, there is a matching grant program available to local councils to provide funding supplemental to the monies which may already be provided their lodge to cover the summer camp fee for qualified and trained adults to serve as leaders of a provisional unit, organized to assemble Scouts whose unit may not attend summer camp, who wish for a second summer camp week, or who may not have been able to attend camp the week their scout unit attended. It would be ideal if these provisional leaders would be younger adults who were active in their Order of the Arrow Lodge as youth.
2. The second program is to simply encourage adult leaders in current Scout units to invite scouts from council troops who are not able to attend camp, to do so with their units.

While the primary purpose of these programs is to increase summer camp opportunities for council youth, a secondary purpose is to provide younger adult Arrowmen who are past local lodge leaders, or older adults who seek to become more active in the program of the camp, lodge, or council an incentive to do so.

The *OA Get Kids to Camp Partnership* is a partnership between the local council, the local lodge, and the national Order of the Arrow committee. 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. However, if this is not possible and if finances are an issue for qualified adult(s) for a particular unit, the local lodge will seek financial support from individuals within the council and/or provide monies from the lodge's resources to cover the leader's camp fees. The national Order of the Arrow committee will make available matching funds to supplement the amount needed for these leaders' fees up to 50% of the total need.

DETAILS OF THE PROGRAM

Complete details of the program (e.g., eligibility requirements, administrative structures, applications, and reporting mechanisms, etc.) will be available on the national Order of the Arrow web site (<http://oa-bsa.org/programs/getkidstocamp>). A few aspects of the program are outlined below:

- **How Much:** Local councils will be able to apply for *matching* grant monies to supplement up to 50% of the total amount the local lodge is providing to the *Get Kids to Camp Partnership*. Grant amounts will be tied to the respective weekly adult summer camp fee for the council making the request. A council may apply for up to four (4) matching grants per calendar year; the monies will provide funding for four trained and qualified adults. A limited number of matching grants are available, therefore this is a first-come, first-served program; get your applications in early!
- **Application Process:** Applications can be found at www.oa-bsa.org. Applications are due on April 15 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 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.