



# OPERATIONS UPDATE

99-2

February

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## UNIT ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN TROOPS AND VARSITY TEAMS ONLY

Since its beginning in 1915, the Order of the Arrow has been a program of Boy Scouting. When it became the official "honor camping" program of the Boy Scouts of America in 1948, it was linked to Boy Scouting. In the 1974 reorganization of the BSA, the national Order of the Arrow committee became a subcommittee of the national Boy Scout committee.

Today, after 84 years of existence, the Order of the Arrow continues to be a service and program arm of Boy Scouting. Although its members have and continued to provide service and support to Cub Scouting, Exploring in the past, and now the new Venturing program, its roots have always been in the Boy Scout program.

A few volunteer Scouters in the Boy Scouts of America have asked why OA unit elections are not permitted in Venturing Crews. Crews are not authorized to conduct elections for two major reasons:

- o The Order of the Arrow is a program for Boy Scouts and Varsity Scouts between the ages of 11 - 18. If that Boy Scout policy changes, the Order would readily welcome venturers into the Brotherhood of Cheerful Service.
- o Venturers do not earn the First Class rank of the Boy Scouts of America, a key membership requirement that must be met before a Boy Scout or Varsity Scout is eligible for election into the Order of the Arrow.

If anyone would like additional information about the Order's unit election policy, please contact Clyde Mayer, OA Director, at the national BSA office.