

**WESTERN REGION CHIEF  
FINAL REPORT**



**WEST IS BEST**

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2006 WESTERN REGION CHIEF**



## **INTRODUCTION**

It has been a stellar year for the Western Region! The 2005 Western Region Chief, Ross Armstrong, accomplished his goal of building a great foundation for 2006, and it made things get off to an easy start this year. The amount of dedication I have observed in the youth and adult members of our Order has amazed me. The spirit of brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service truly lives on here in the Western Region.

It's impossible to recount all my year's experiences in the following report. My thoughts filled three entire journals during my term as Western Region Chief, but I will do my best to make a few necessary points.

## **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

### *National Leadership Seminar*

The National Leadership Seminars have been the most challenging and rewarding part of my responsibilities as Region Chief. After my election I read every evaluation from the 2005 seminars. The evaluations were outstanding with only rare complaints about food or lodging. I knew I had big shoes to fill and I am happy to say we received equally outstanding reviews this year. We held Seminars at Philmont, Alaska, Salt Lake City, and San Francisco. We are trying to hit each area of our region every other year.

I used the seminars as an opportunity to develop not only the participants, but the trainers as well. James Arriola and I worked for weeks prior to each seminar to carefully select the youth staff. At our final NLS in San Francisco, we had an entire staff of youth and young advisers. I hope in the future the region can use more local talent in each NLS. We have so many talented trainers in the west that it's easy to select a staff from all over the region. I recommend that the next Chief do some research and find one or two talented local youth and ask them to be on staff.

Our NLS trainers pay their own travel fees so they can staff an NLS. This equates to some youth paying \$1,000 per year in travel fees. We would like to assist them with these travel costs, but we need ways to generate income. This is a problem that future chiefs must address.

The NLS programs would not have been as successful as they were if it wasn't for the hard work of our NLS Coordinator, James Arriola. James did a wonderful job helping me select the staff and ensuring that they would all make it to the site. He kept me on my toes and together we learned a lot. I strongly encourage future region chiefs to use our national websites's online tools to invite your NLS staff. It makes things so easy to organize!

### *National Lodge Adviser Training*

The region held two NLATS programs this year in conjunction with two of our NLS weekends. I was too busy with NLS on those weekends to be very involved in the NLATS, but I was able to

participate in a Q&A session in Utah and I found it to be very beneficial for advisers as well as myself. Future region chiefs should definitely make an effort to attend at least one NLATS session per weekend. As our last chief, Ross Armstrong, took a major role in planning the NLATS and I thank him for his work.

### *Region Chief Exchange*

We had the privilege of hosting the Southern Region Chief Dustin Counts at our Philmont NLS. I know he found this to be very helpful for him because it took place before his NLS and gave him the opportunity to observe the weekend before executing his. I was able to visit his NLS in Mississippi and it was great. I learned a lot from watching another NLS and I know the three I did afterwards were much better because of the ideas I learned there.

## **NATIONAL ORDER OF THE ARROW CONFERENCE**

The National Order of the Arrow Conference was definitely the highlight of my term. There were over 8,000 Arrowmen in attendance, making this largest NOAC ever, and we had representation from 100% of the Lodges. It all better than I could ever hope. The Region Chiefs were given a lot of credit for promoting NOAC, but all of the credit goes to Michael Gollner, Evan Hess, Scotty Keenan and the rest of the National Events Promotion Committee. Chad Wolver represented the West on this Committee and he always kept me up to date on the status of each lodge. His countless hours of phone calls and emails are what filled NOAC with people chanting “West Is Best!”

Speaking of “West Is Best,” I’d like to discuss the shirts we sold at NOAC. I apologize for stepping on the National Committee’s toes by selling our shirts on-site at NOAC. The Western Region has a lot of creative ideas on how to make us some much-needed money. I saw youth wearing the “West Is Best” shirts at every single event I attended after NOAC, and at every event I was bombarded with questions as to where they could buy one of the shirts. The demand was so high for these shirts for a few reasons: the design was “cool”, had a catchy phrase on it, and we deliberately didn't put on anything about NOAC on it. I’ve had youth tell me they wear these shirts to school, not something they normally do with most scouting shirts. For future national events, we should keep in mind that if we want participants to be excited about the apparel, we need to make it cool, not just slap on the event name. Let’s make souvenirs they would buy anywhere, just because they want them! I’d be more than willing to help out in the future with any trading post designs and ideas.

## **HIGH ADVENTURE PROGRAMS**

### *OA Trail Crew*

I had the opportunity to be a part of OATC629A in 2003, and this year I was a member of crew OATC609B. Both experiences were highlights of my Scouting career. I love building trail at Philmont because work has never been so fun. The guys in my crews were some of the most interesting people I have ever met and many of us stay in contact today. For this year’s trek week we decided to do the “Super Black Death,” one of the most challenging hikes in Philmont.

On the last day we hiked from Mt. Philips to the Tooth Of Time, reaching seven mountain peaks in one day! It challenged us all mentally and physically and every member of our crew completed the challenge. I think every Arrowman should experience OATC, and I'd like to thank all of the foremen and staff who make that possible each summer.

### *OA Wilderness Voyage*

This year on OAWV705A I had my first canoeing experience besides our man made lake at summer camp! It was a very different experience from Trail Crew, and a great experience. We spent our first week working on a portage with mud up to our knees. I smashed so many rocks into gravel, I don't know if I ever want to see gravel again in my life! One day while at work a civilian crew used our portage and asked how much we were getting paid for our work. We told him we paid to come work. He replied, "There's not enough DEET in the world for me to work out here!" and I quickly responded with, "It's all about the cheerful service, man!" The unselfish service we're giving to the thousands of people who use the Boundary Waters area really exemplifies the principals of the OA.

Our trek week was quite the adventure. We decided to go on the longest trek a Voyage Crew had ever completed, paddling 182 miles from Birch Lake to International Falls. We nicknamed it the Birch to Barney's Trip because in the town of International Falls we hiked to Barney's Family Restaurant for our first civilized meal! I now know what it's like to paddle fifty miles in just one day. I even saw one arrowman paddle every inch of the voyage, refusing to give up his paddle and take a break. I was inspired and refreshed at OAWV and I don't know how my term would have ended up if wasn't for my experiences in Minnesota.

### *Promotion*

Evan Chaffee did an outstanding job as our High Adventure Promotions Chairman. We communicated multiple times per week, and he wanted to fill these programs for the right reasons. It was like he had a personal goal to fill them! He worked every single day, calling and emailing potential participants, as well as creating awesome promotional materials. We did fill the High Adventure Programs for the first time ever and we even needed to add two more slots to every single OATC session! These programs were filled because of the hard work not only by this year's chiefs but by the work done by the 2005 Region Chiefs and our High Adventure Promotions Team. The High Adventure Programs need to continue for as long as possible, therefore we must continue to fill them. They are the only thing we're doing on a national level that encompasses everything we stand for as an organization: brotherhood, cheerfulness, service, and celebrating the outdoors. The lessons I learned at OATC and OAWV are the best lessons I've learned in my entire life.

## **COMMUNICATION**

### *Western Region Newsletter, "The Mustang"*

At the beginning of the year David Carson and I asked Rick Miller to be our Editor-In-Chief because we thought it would compliment his responsibilities as editor of "The Daily Legend" at

NOAC. Unfortunately Rick was much too busy with his responsibilities as a NOAC CVC to really improve “The Mustang.” We published three issues this year, a little shy of our goal of four. We distribute the Mustang online, and had a print edition for NOAC. This is a valuable communication tool for the Region and our next Editor-In-Chief should be someone who is passionate about developing a team and meeting deadlines.

*www.western.oa-bsa.org*

The region website has been a great communications tool, but we are not yet using it to its maximum potential. Alex Begg has done an outstanding job as Webmaster and he continues to improve the site with his creative ideas. One of my goals this year was to create an area on the site where Arrowmen could track me on my travels and read a blog describing the places I’d gone, the people I’d met, and the things I’d learned. Rob Rosamond and I developed the concept into the site but by the time it was finished there was too much catching up to do and the idea fell through. The blog is ready to go, so I encourage next year’s chief to use this awesome communication tool!

## **REGION AND SECTION OPERATIONS**

### *Region Gathering*

This year’s Region Gathering was a huge success. All thirteen section chiefs were in attendance at the Heard Scout Pueblo in Phoenix, AZ. We spent a fun night of fellowship at the Arizona State Fair on Friday night. The highlights were the many rides we went on and our Area eating contest! Saturday was packed full of training aimed at helping this year’s chiefs. I’d like to thank all of our trainers, especially Dr. Glenn Ault who taught us about servant leadership. The day concluded with the first ever “Western Region Idol!” We learned that each section chief in or region has a unique or even humorous talent. I hope this will become a region tradition because it was a blast. Only the section chiefs and advisers were in attendance. Those returning from the previous year, where all of the section officers were invited, strongly preferred the smaller, more intimate group. The section chiefs become very good friends at the gathering and I know it will help the region excel in the following year.

### *Section Conclaves*

I was able to visit eight section conclaves this year and I had a wonderful time at each. The programs, training, and activities at each event were great. I do feel there is a common lack of promotion in most Sections. We had a training session at our Region Gathering to help improve the promotion skills of our upcoming section chiefs so they can better communicate with their lodges and hopefully boost attendance at their events.

Each and every conclave business meeting was affected by a new rule that each lodge has one vote for each youth present at the election, with a maximum of ten votes. We are such a widespread region that some youth need to leave early Sunday morning to make it home in time. At one conclave I attended, there was just one boy in attendance from a lodge. We had some cases where youth needed to fly home for religious or other reasons. I do agree with the rule,

and I made the recommendation to the sections most affected that they move their elections to Saturday night. I promised a few lodges in the country that I would pass on their concerns in this report, and maybe we can find an alternative to the rule for some of our special cases here in the West. We do want everyone to be represented fairly.

### *Region Board Meeting*

The Region Board Meeting was very exciting. I was able to stay at a gorgeous resort outside of Las Vegas, Nevada, and it was my privilege to represent the OA on the executive board. They were all very impressed by the work the OA is doing and praised our region's accomplishments. I wish I could have stayed longer, but I flew directly from the meeting to a conclave in Idaho!

### *Chairmen*

I continued Ross Armstrong's tradition of having youth chairmen serve on the Western Region OA Committee. These gentlemen made my life easy this year and for that I am eternally grateful.

Communications:	David Carson
High Adventure Promotions:	Evan Chaffee
Quality Lodge:	Joey Dworak
Training:	Jake Wellman
National Events Promotion:	Chad Wolver

I recommend that future western region chiefs continue this tradition and that they select up and coming youth in the Region. Three of these chairmen were lodge chiefs at the beginning of the year, and now all three of them are Section Chiefs. They learned a lot and developed as leaders because of the work they did as chairmen.

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

This year has been quite the trip. My favorite band, Plus 44, put it best when they said, “the past is only the future with the lights on.” I had a vague idea of what to expect when I was elected last December, but this year far surpassed my expectations. I have met some of the most wonderful and selfless people in the world. Complete strangers treated me with more hospitality than I have ever experienced before. The best part of this year was meeting the youth of our Order and seeing what amazing potential they have to become our future. The OA is doing something wonderful in a world where many horrible things are happening. We’re teaching love and service when the world is full of hate and selfishness. One of the biggest lessons I learned this year was how important it is to love one another. It’s funny that it was the first thing said to me as an Arrowman, but it never really hit me until the end of this year. Taking care of my fellow man is a priority for me, and I hope it will continue to be that way for the rest of my life.

Not everything that happened this year was good. For any future national officers reading this report, know that it will be a busy year. I now have friendships to re-kindle and a career to begin, two things I had to neglect a bit this year. It can put a strain on school and on relationships with girls, family, and friends, but I promise when you come out of it you will have the best time management skills and not to mention memories that will last a lifetime. My spring 2006 semester was the best of my college career, with a 3.75 GPA, and I expect just as good grades when my fall grades arrive. It is a fun job but a hard one as well. It will take a lot of time and energy but it’s worth it. By God, it’s worth it. Good luck to any future officers reading this, and please feel free to contact me at any time. My email address will always remain [chief2006@western.oe-bsa.org](mailto:chief2006@western.oe-bsa.org). If you need me, I’ll be there.

I am now about to embark on a new part chapter in my life journey, but I feel more prepared than ever to take on life’s challenges. The Order of the Arrow has taught me so many things; it’s molded me into the man I am today. I turn 21 just three days after Dallas, and I hope I can make an impact on the lives of youth like the advisers who have had such a tremendous impact on me. I wish Dr. Goodman were still alive today because I’d like to thank him for making such an impact on my life. His ideas and his spirit of cheerful service have transcended even his own death, and that’s something very powerful.

## Travel Schedule / Events Attended

Dec 27-30	OA National Planning Meeting	Westlake, TX
Jan 14	Wipala Wiki Lodge Banquet	Tempe, AZ
Jan 27	Double Vigil Golf Classic	Phoenix, AZ
Jan 28	Western Region OA Committee Meeting	Tempe, AZ
Feb 4	Nebagamon Lodge Banquet	Las Vegas, NV
Mar 10-12	NOAC Site Visitation	East Lansing, MI
Mar 17-19	Western Region NLS/NLATS – Philmont	Cimarron, NM
Mar 24-26	Southern Region NLS	Canton, MS
Apr 7-9	Section W-5A Conclave	Cimarron, NM
Apr 21-23	Section W-1B Conclave	Tacoma, WA
Apr 28-30	Section W-5C Conclave	Great Falls, MT
May 5-7	Section W-4B Conclave	Costa Mesa, CA
May 23-27	National Meeting of the BSA	Washington D.C.
May 31-Jun 5	Western Region NLS – Camp Gorsuch	Anchorage, AK
Jun 8-23	OA Trail Crew	Cimarron, NM
Jul 4-18	OA Wilderness Voyage	Ely, MN
Jul 25-Aug 3	National Order of the Arrow Conference	East Lansing, MI
Sept 8-10	Section W-1A Conclave	Bend, OR
Sept 15-17	Section W-3B Conclave	Dixon, CA
Sept 21-22	Western Region Executive Board Meeting	Las Vegas, NV
Sept 22-24	Section W-1C Conclave	Lewiston, ID
Oct 13-15	Western Region NLS/NLATS - Camp Tracy	Salt Lake City, UT
Oct 20-22	Western Region Gathering	Phoenix, AZ
Nov 10-12	Section W-4C Conclave	Las Vegas, NV
Nov 17-19	Western Region NLS – Camp Bothin	San Francisco, CA
Dec 2	Siwinis Lodge Banquet	Los Angeles, CA
Dec 27-30	OA National Planning Meeting	Westlake, TX

### **I'd like to extend my thanks to the following people:**

My family, Cori Lomonte, the 2005-2006 Western Region Section Chiefs, Sean Murray, Chris Schildknecht, Russ Bresnahan, Dustin Counts, Jon Fuller, Patrick Murphy, Ross Armstrong,, David Carson, Evan Chaffee, Joey Dworak, Jake Wellman, Chad Wolver, Max Juhl. Tony Clark, Rob Rosamond, Eric Svingen, Steve Bradley, Mike Bliss, Gene Wadford, Irene Fujimoto, Tom Fitzgibbons, Clyde Mayer, Carey Miller, Judy Kolb, Carolyn Toler, Steve Silbiger, James Arriola, Del Loder, Clint Takeshita, Jeff Posey, Robert Fudge, Chris Roach, Matt Griffis, OATC609, Adam “The Boss” Jordan, Nathan “Virgil” Brenner, OAWV705, the staff of all of the High Adventure Programs, Section W-4C, Wipala Wiki Lodge, Walpi Kiva Chapter and Troop 75.