



Building Your Contingent

Contingent Leader Webinar · Phase One: Planning & Reservation

July 26 – 31, 2027 | University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

National Order of the Arrow Conference · Scouting America

WELCOME

Thanks for being here.

Contingent leadership drives the opportunity for their lodge to participate in NOAC. In the next hour, we'll give you what you need to build your NOAC 2027 contingent — and where to go for more.



Ask as you go

Drop questions in the Q&A panel at any time. We hold the last ten minutes for live answers.



You will get the deck

Slides, the Contingent Reservation Guide, and a recording go out to lodge key three after the webinars.



Involve your youth leaders

If your Youth Contingent Leader is not on this call, forward them the recording of the webinars.



AGENDA

One hour, four parts.

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|-----------|---|--------|
| 01 | Welcome & Vision for NOAC 2027
The conference, the theme, and what 2024 taught us | 12 min |
| 02 | Building a Successful Contingent
Leadership, recruiting, timeline, fees, scholarships | 20 min |
| 03 | The NOAC Ambassador Program
Your direct line to the conference team | 8 min |
| 04 | Contingent Planning for the Conference
Travel, requirements, program, and support | 12 min |

Live Q&A closes us out – Use the Zoom Q&A feature throughout the webinar



01

Welcome & Vision for NOAC 2027

Where we are going, and why it matters

Conference vision · What's new · Theme & story · Lessons from 2024



NOAC 2027

At a glance

8,000

delegates and staff
from all 50 states + beyond

6

days of conference
July 26 – 31, 2027

150+

program opportunities
across five days

4

arena shows at the
State Farm Center



University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign



Five nights of university housing



Fourteen meals included



Leadership · Fellowship · Adventure · Service

NOAC is Scouting America's second-largest national gathering — and the largest gathering of Arrowmen anywhere.



CONFERENCE VISION

Young people leave seeing the best in themselves.

NOAC 2027 is built on one conviction from our brand: People > Program. Invest in the person, and the program takes care of itself. Everything below flows from that.



Belonging

Every delegate finds their people — in their contingent, their lodge, and a brotherhood of 8,000.



Agency

Youth choose their own path through the week and lead it. Adults create the space for that to happen.



Humility

We serve first. The measure of the week is what delegates carry home to their lodges and communities.



WHAT'S NEW

Four new ways to experience NOAC



The Grid

Maker labs, VR, 3D printing, and design challenges. Our newest program area connects the Order's tradition of leadership with the skills shaping the future.



Learning Tracks

Recommended pathways through workshops, NOAC Talks, and MicroLearning — built around a delegate's interests instead of hundreds of standalone sessions.



Lodge Link

Networking spaces, leadership gatherings, and peer exchanges that turn NOAC from a week-long event into a year-round network.



Service at Scale

Hands-on projects and community partnerships that show how service moves from individual acts to lasting impact.

THE THEME



To Serve... To Lead...
To be the reason Scouts want to stay in Scouting.

Young people told us that they didn't want a theme that asks them to be inspired, they wanted a theme that expects movement. Our Time, as a tagline, invites delegates who embrace the mystery to fill in the blank with a meaning personal to their journey. It works for the individual, the lodge, and the organization.

IDENTITY

What our mark stands for.



Belonging. Unity. Service. Change. Personal Agency. Our mark signifies these founding values. The mark was built from years spent inside the traditions of the Order of the Arrow. One symbol, sketched by our design team, kept resurfacing through every draft.

With one edge drawn from the sash and the other curved into motion, the mark took on the shape of an arrow in flight. We wanted to design a mark simple enough that anyone could draw it, while remaining immediately recognizable.

The mark now anchors every touchpoint of NOAC 2027: a reminder to every Arrowman that leadership has always moved in one direction, and change is something each generation chooses to carry forward.



How to tell it in your lodge

Say this

- "This is your turn — six days that belong to you."
- "You pick your own path: The Grid, service, shows, competition."
- "You will come home with something your lodge needs."
- "Eight thousand Arrowmen. You will never be in a room like it again."

Not this

- "It is a training conference."
- "There are a lot of classes to choose from."
- "We go every couple of years."
- "It is expensive, but worth it."



LESSONS LEARNED

What NOAC 2024 taught us



The 2024 conference reached capacity in January 2024, and a waitlist was established for additional registrants. Roughly 6,500 attended. Three considerations for 2027, based on 2024:



We grew the conference

Capacity moved from roughly 6,500 in 2024 to up to 8,000 for 2027 — but slots are still first-come, first-served.



Register as early as possible

Reservations open October 5, 2026, so lodges can budget and recruit against real numbers well ahead of the conference.



We simplified the program offering

Learning Tracks replace a wall of hundreds of sessions with recommended pathways, so delegates spend less time reviewing program details.

The takeaway for your lodge: expanded capacity is not unlimited capacity. Reserve early.

02

Building a Successful Contingent

Leadership, recruiting, money, and deadlines

Leadership team · Recruiting · Timeline · Fees & budget · Scholarships

Your lodge's journey to NOAC 2027

The conference lasts six days. Planning one well takes a year. Here is the whole arc — today we are living in Phase One.

01

Prepare Your Lodge

July – October 2026

- Select Adult & Youth Contingent Leaders
- Establish your contingent budget
- Estimate attendance
- Recruitment plan
- Reserve your contingent spaces

02

Register Your Delegates

Nov 2026 – April 2027

- Collect payments
- Firm up your contingent roster
- Communicate with families
- Prepare travel plans

03

Make Program Plans

Spring 2027

- Program selections
- Housing requests
- Medical forms
- Special events & travel details

04

Experience Conference

July 2027

- Travel and check-in
- Six days of NOAC
- Bring the experience home



STEP ONE

Form your contingent leadership team



Every lodge should identify both an Adult Contingent Leader and a Youth Contingent Leader before making its reservation. These two are the primary contacts with national conference staff for the entire planning process.



Youth Contingent Leader

Leads the contingent: recruiting, delegate communication, and the conference experience. Choose someone who can carry a year-long project, not just the highest-ranking youth officer.



Adult Contingent Leader

Supports and supervises. Owns budget, registration mechanics, council coordination, and compliance. Choose someone who will still be available in July 2027 and who coaches rather than takes over.



Submit the Key Leaders During Registration

During your contingent's initial registration, you will provide the name and email of both your youth and adult contingent leaders. Registration grants their access to the Contingent Dashboard in NOAERS and adds them to mailing lists

CONTINGENT COMPOSITION

Youth-first, and safely supervised



The Order remains committed to maximizing youth participation while ensuring a safe, well-supervised conference. These policies apply to every contingent.

3:1

youth to adults

Strive for this minimum ratio whenever possible.

1:15

adult per youth

A minimum of one adult leader is required for every 15 youth.

2

deep leadership

Required at all times, with female leadership when female youth attend.

- Adult participation should reflect the leadership necessary to supervise the contingent — no more than that.
- Conference staff register separately and do not count toward contingent ratios.
- All contingents must comply with current Scouting America Safeguarding Youth policies.
- Additional Safeguarding Youth guidance will be included in the 2027 Contingent Guide.

Filling your contingent



Start with last time

Pull your 2024 roster. Past delegates are your best recruiters and your easiest yeses — ask each of them to bring two people.



Go where youth already are

Lodge events, chapter meetings, unit visits, and your lodge's group chats. A five-minute pitch in person beats a newsletter every time.



Recruit in pairs

Almost nobody signs up alone. Ask youth to commit with a friend and your conversion rate roughly doubles.



Name the number early

Publish an estimated all-in fee and a payment schedule as soon as you can. Uncertainty about money kills more registrations than the price does.

Promotional patches: one NOAC 2027 promotional patch is provided for each delegate slot reserved through May 28, 2027. Use them as recruiting currency.

TIMELINE

Key dates and milestones



MILESTONE	DATE	WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU
Registration opens	October 5, 2026	Reserve delegate slots in NOAERS. First-come, first-served.
Discounted registration ends	January 29, 2027	Last day to lock the \$675 rate. Paid in full by January 31.
Trailblazer scholarship deadline	January 29, 2027	Applications due, with contingent leader approval.
Complete your roster	March 2027	Recommended, so delegates can complete registration tasks.
Standard registration ends	May 28, 2027	Last day to earn a promotional patch.
Late registration begins	After May 28, 2027	\$825, and subject to available space.
Conference	July 26 – 31, 2027	Arrive on campus between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on July 26.



Three registration options

Lodges may reserve any combination of discounted, standard, and late slots. Most contingents save money by reserving their anticipated core attendance as discounted registrations.

TYPE	FEE	RESERVATION PERIOD	REFUND POLICY
Discounted	\$675	Oct 5, 2026 – Jan 29, 2027	Non-refundable, but transferable within the same contingent
Standard	\$750	Oct 5, 2026 – May 28, 2027	Refundable less the \$100 deposit through the published cancellation date
Late	\$825	After May 28, 2027	Subject to space availability; a late registration fee applies

Planning tip

Your initial reservation doesn't have to be final. Most lodges reserve their core at the discounted rate, then add slots as interest grows — subject to availability.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Your conference fee covers



Five nights of university housing



Four and one-half days of programming



Fourteen meals



Training sessions



Activities and competitions



Conference shows



Conference materials



Insurance



Delegate recognition items

Not included — budget for these separately

Travel to and from Urbana-Champaign, shuttle fees, meals on travel days, lodging before July 26, apparel, optional activities, and incidentals.

BUDGETING

Building your contingent fee



Your contingent fee is the conference fee plus everything it takes to get delegates there and home. Build the whole number before you publish one.

Conference fee	\$675 – \$825 per delegate, depending on when you reserve
Transportation	Air, charter bus, rail, or personal vehicle — airfares are lowest months out
Airport / rail shuttle	IND or ORD: est. \$70 – \$90 round trip · CMI or CHM: est. \$10 – \$20 round trip
Travel meals & lodging	Meals on travel days, plus a hotel if you arrive before Monday, July 26
Patches & apparel	Contingent flaps, delegate patches, t-shirts, trading stock
Recreation & contingency	Pre- or post-conference activities, on-site purchases, and a buffer

Then decide how much of that number your lodge will absorb through fundraising or financial assistance — and start those efforts now, not in the spring.

How the money actually moves



Billing

Fees are invoiced to your council through the National OA Office: an initial invoice after the discounted period closes, a second in June, and a final invoice after the conference.



Cancellations & transfers

Discounted fees are non-refundable but transferable to another delegate in the same contingent. Standard deposits are transferable one-for-one but non-refundable. Standard cancellations by the published deadline are refunded less the deposit; after it, no refund except in extraordinary circumstances.



What this means for your lodge

Coordinate early with your staff adviser and council registrar to keep invoices on schedule. Collect participant money ahead of each due date and put your own deadlines in writing before opening registration.



The Trailblazer Scholarship Program

Trailblazer ensures financial need isn't a barrier to NOAC. Lodges remain the primary source of aid — Trailblazer supplements for youth with demonstrated need.



Registered by Jan 29, 2027

Must be registered in NOAERS as a youth delegate or youth staff member.



Application by Jan 29, 2027

Submit a complete Trailblazer application which was routed to the contingent leader.



Under 21 on July 31, 2027

Applicant must be under the age of 21 through the last day of the conference.

October 5, 2026

Applications released

January 29, 2027

Applications due

Spring 2027

Recipients selected and notified

On award

Funds applied to the NOAERS account

Tell youth who may need help to start the conversation with lodge leadership now, and to join local fundraising while they wait for the application to open.

03

The NOAC Ambassador Program

Your direct line to the conference team

Purpose • What to expect • How to use yours





One youth member for every lodge

The NOAC Ambassador is youth member, selected by the lodge, to be a passionate peer leader within the lodge, encouraging folks to register and conveying the conference vision.

What an ambassador does

- Checks in with your contingent leadership on a regular cadence
- Provide promotional information to the lodge
- Shares key information to aid in recruiting members to join the conference contingent.
- Brainstorm lodge promotional ideas, sharing the conference vision.

What an ambassador is not

- Not a substitute for your contingent leadership team
- Not a registrar — contingent leaders handle administrative tasks.
- Not a decision-maker on refunds, policy, or council billing
- Not a one-way channel — tell them what you need

How your ambassador helps you prepare



Now – October

Getting set up

Helps begin identifying promotional activities to excite lodge members about NOAC 2027.

Oct – January

Filling the contingent

Shares recruiting material and messaging, continue recruiting and promotional efforts. Advocates for the conference experience in partnership with contingent leadership.

Feb – May

Locking it down

Get the lodge excited about program – offerings will be released and sign-ups begin during this timeframe. Missing sign ups significantly impacts the NOAC experience. Help with pre-conference hype ideas.

June – July

Getting there

Last minute push – make sure everyone is ready for NOAC, excited to embrace the experience, and build lasting relationships.

Use this program as an opportunity to elevate a young person in your lodge – build the hype for NOAC from within.

04

Contingent Planning for NOAC

Getting there, getting cleared, and what awaits

Travel & housing · Requirements · Program · Ongoing support



Getting your contingent to campus



Arrival day: Monday, July 26

Plan to arrive on campus between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. On-campus housing is not available before July 26 — arrive earlier and you are booking a hotel. The first conference meal is dinner Monday evening.



Shuttle hubs

Charter shuttle service is planned from Indianapolis (IND), Chicago O'Hare (ORD), Willard (CMI), and the Champaign-Urbana Amtrak station (CHM). A limited Midway (MDW) service is being explored but should not be relied on.

IND or ORD

est. \$35 – \$45 each way

est. \$70 – \$90 round trip

CMI or CHM

est. \$5 – \$10 each way

est. \$10 – \$20 round trip

Shuttle service carries an additional fee; final pricing is announced before registration. Driving? Complimentary long-term parking is planned near the State Farm Center, and a limited number of permits closer to residence halls will be sold.



What the week actually feels like



Five nights, residence halls

Housing assignments are distributed after travel information is collected and rooms are finalized. Roommate requests are part of Phase Three.



Air conditioning

The State Farm Center is fully air-conditioned, and the conference expects more than 90% of delegates to be housed in air-conditioned halls.



6 – 10 miles of walking a day

The campus is flat but large, with activities across multiple venues. The conference anticipates partnering with local transit for campus bus routes.



Plan for physical demands

Delegates with mobility or accessibility needs should review the accessibility information in the Contingent Guide and contact the conference team early.

Two things to tell families now: NOAC is a walking conference, and campus is largely cashless — send delegates with a debit or prepaid card, not cash.

REQUIREMENTS

Youth protection, adults, and health forms



These apply to every NOAC 2027 participant. Start them early — they are the most common reason a delegate cannot travel.



Registration & council approval

All participants must be registered Scouting America members, approved by their council through NOAERS.



Safeguarding Youth Training

Adults 18+ must hold current training valid through the conference.



Criminal background check

Adults 18+ undergo a background check per Scouting America policy.



Annual Health & Medical Record

Required for all, valid through the conference — complete on or after July 1, 2026.

The July 1, 2026 AHMR signature date is the one to circulate today — physicals taken before it will not be valid in July 2027.



What your contingent can expect



Service

Thousands of Arrowmen making a lasting impact through meaningful, hands-on service projects.



STEM — The Grid

Maker labs, VR, 3D printing, and design challenges in the conference's newest program area.



Recreation

Games, tournaments, and outdoor activities — a place to recharge, compete, and connect.



Learning

Workshops, NOAC Talks, and training sessions, organized into recommended tracks.



Arena Shows

Four high-energy shows at the State Farm Center — speakers, entertainment, celebration.



Festival

Traditions, friendships, patch trading, and lodge spirit on full display.

Program selection happens in Spring 2027 — 150+ opportunities across five days. Delegates choose their own path, which is exactly the point.

TWO MORE THINGS

Virtual viewing and lodge merchandise



Virtual viewing option

Stream select programming — keynotes and evening shows — if you can't attend in person. Not a replacement for the week. Virtual registrants get a patch; pricing releases Spring 2027.

CORRECT

- NOAC 2027 at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- NOAC 2027 – Illinois



Lodge merchandise & patches

Lodge merchandise may not use University of Illinois trademarks or athletic branding — no Block I, no Illinois wordmark, no athletic logos. Custom patch orders must go through an official Scouting America licensee. Official NOAC 2027 Brand Guidelines release before registration opens.

NOT PERMITTED

- University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign 2027
- Illinois 2027
- U. of I. 2027

Resources and requirements ahead



WHAT	WHEN	WHAT YOU SHOULD DO
Contingent registration opens; Concierge assigned at registration	October 5, 2026	Reserve your slots in NOAERS the week it opens
Trailblazer scholarship application	October 5, 2026	Identify youth with financial need now
2027 Contingent Guide released	Fall 2026	Read it — it covers Phases Two through Four
Conference Brand Guidelines released	Fall 2026	Wait for it before finalizing patch and apparel art
Medical submission opens	Spring 2027	Make sure exams are dated on or after July 1, 2026
Program selection	Spring 2027	Have your roster complete so delegates can participate
Final travel instructions	Summer 2027	Confirm shuttles, parking, and arrival timing



What is available to contingent leadership



NOAC website

noac27.org — program information, news, FAQs, and every resource as it releases.



NOAERS

Where reservations, rosters, and delegate registration live (NOAERS).



Reservation Guide

This webinar's Phase One guide. The full Contingent Guide follows registration opening.



Contingent newsletters

Regular updates sent to everyone listed on your Contingent Leadership Information Form.



Concierge Team

Dedicated staff member plus concierge@oa-scouting.org for planning and registration questions.



Contingent Leader webinars

This series continues. Future sessions go deeper as each planning phase opens.

BEFORE YOU LOG OFF

Four things to do this week



1 Name contingent leadership

Confirm your Adult and Youth Contingent Leaders — today, if you have not. During registration you will provide these details to lock them in.

2 Estimate your number

Pick a realistic target contingent size. You can adjust it later.

3 Draft the budget

Conference fee plus travel, meals, patches, and a buffer. Publish one number.

4 Calendar October 5

Registration opens. Reserve discounted slots the week it opens.

QUESTIONS

Ask us anything.

Use the Q&A panel. Anything we do not get to, we answer by email — and common questions show up in the next contingent newsletter.

concierge@oa-scouting.org



Thank you.

We will see you at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign,
July 26 – 31, 2027.

noac27.org • concierge@oa-scouting.org