



2027 National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC)

TKC Lodge Participant Guide

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

Welcome to NOAC 2027!

The National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC) is the premier national gathering of the Order of the Arrow, bringing together thousands of Arrowmen from across the country for a week of fellowship, leadership development, training, competitions, service, and unforgettable experiences. **NOAC 2027 will be held July 26–31, 2027, at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.** More than 8,000 participants from more than 200 contingents are expected. Participants will stay in university residence halls, and the conference will feature large evening shows, training opportunities, lodge competitions, ceremonies, athletics, recreation, patch trading, and opportunities to meet Arrowmen from throughout the nation.

Who Can Attend?

Participants must be members of the Order of the Arrow and registered members of Scouting America. Participants can be youth and adults from our lodge. All participants aged 18 or older must have current Safeguarding Youth Training.

Do I Need to Be a Chief to Attend?

No! What is unique about this experience is we want as many members to attend as possible. So that means if you are a newly completed Ordeal member you can go on this trip. The conference is for youth and adult leaders. The training and networking of NOAC will make our entire lodge stronger. Plus, experiences which will create memories that will last a lifetime!





Why Attend NOAC?

Experience the Order of the Arrow on a national scale. Participants can:

- Meet Arrowmen from across the United States.
- Develop leadership skills.
- Participate in OA training.
- Experience major national shows and ceremonies.
- Compete with other lodges.
- Participate in athletics and recreation.
- Trade patches and lodge memorabilia.
- Build friendships and connections.
- Experience a week on a major university campus.
- Bring new ideas and enthusiasm back to their home lodge.

Conference at a Glance

Event: 2027 National Order of the Arrow Conference

Dates: Monday, July 26 – Saturday, July 31, 2027

Location: University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

City: Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

Expected Attendance: 8,000+ Arrowmen

Housing: University residence halls

Conference Type: Lodge contingent event

Transportation: Lodge-arranged transportation with everyone traveling as a contingent and arriving together.



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Proposed Lodge Itinerary

The following is a planning itinerary for our lodge. Specific NOAC program times will be updated when the official schedule is released (Spring 2027 by the National NOAC committee).

PRO TIP: There will be lots of activities during the day. As we get closer to the event there will be a schedule published. There are A LOT of activities (i.e. leadership classes, ceremonies, service, competitions) for you to sign up for. Think of it like signing up for merit badges at camp. You can choose as many or as few activities and instruction periods which matches your interests. Some people in the past have not taken any classes. Just know YOU control how active you want to be or what activities you wish to participate in.

Monday, July 26 — Arrival & Opening Day

Morning/Afternoon

- Meet at designated lodge departure location.
- Participant check-in and verification of paperwork.
- Load gear.
- Depart for Champaign-Urbana.
- Group lunch/meal stop during travel.

Late Afternoon

- Lodge contingent arrival at the University of Illinois.
- NOAC check-in and registration.
- Receive conference materials and credentials.
- Move into assigned residence halls.
- Room assignments and lodge orientation.
- Explore the conference area.
- Attend initial NOAC activities and training sessions.
- Lodge contingent meeting.
 - Review safety,
 - Campus transportation .
 - Provided meals and dining halls.
 - Lodge meeting times and procedures.



Evening

- Opening activities.
- National NOAC opening show/program.
- Lodge gathering.
- Return to residence halls.



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Tuesday, July 27 — Training, Fellowship & Activities

Morning

- NOAC training sessions.
- Leadership development opportunities.
- Lodge contingent activities.

Afternoon

- Additional training and program sessions.
- Recreation and athletic activities.
- Patch trading and fellowship.
- Lodge competitions/activities.

Evening

- Large-scale NOAC program or show.
 - Lodge fellowship.
 - Free time and patch trading.
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Wednesday, July 28 — National Fellowship Day

Morning

- Training and educational sessions.
- Lodge and section activities.

Afternoon

- Recreation and competitions.
- Meet Arrowmen from other lodges.
- Patch trading.
- Visit conference activity areas and the National OA Trading Post.

Evening

- Stadium/arena show or major conference program.
- Lodge gathering.
- Evening fellowship.



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Thursday, July 29 — Leadership & Competition

Morning

- Leadership and OA training sessions.
- Lodge meetings and activities.

Afternoon

- Athletic and lodge competitions.
- Ceremony-related activities.
- Service and fellowship opportunities.
- Free time to explore campus and conference activities.

Evening

- Major NOAC evening program.
- Lodge fellowship and social activities.

Joseph, New Ordeal Member
and Jon (3rd NOAC)



“We are excited to experience
NOAC together with the Lodge!”

Friday, July 30 — Final Full Day

Morning

- Final training sessions.
- Complete remaining activities and competitions.

Afternoon

- Lodge activities.
- Patch trading.
- National fellowship opportunities.
- Begin packing and preparing for departure.

Evening

- Closing/final NOAC program.
- National recognition and celebration.
- Final lodge gathering.



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Saturday, July 31 — Closing & Return Home

Morning

- Check out of residence halls.
- Final conference activities.
- Load luggage.

Afternoon

- Depart University of Illinois.
- Travel home as a lodge contingent.

Evening

- Estimated arrival home, depending on transportation and travel time.

Costs/Payments Timeline/Refunds

- Registration opens on 8/01/26 and closes on 12/01/26.
- Register online at council website. [TKC NOAC 2027](#)
- Reserve your spot as either a youth, young adult (18-20), or an adult (21+).
All participants pay the same amount.

Cost: Early \$900 (early period ends 10/01/2026)
 Regular \$1,100
 Minimum Payment \$100 (Deposit, non-refundable)

Payments (please note: an additional processing fee for Credit or Debit cards)

- \$100 holds your spot.
- Remaining 50% due by February 1, 2027 (\$400 for early/\$500 for regular)
- Final 50% due by June 1, 2027 (\$400 for early/\$500 for regular)
- Payments are made through MyCouncil on the Samoset website.

Refunds

- We have to pre-pay for the rooms and conference. **Thus, there are NO REFUNDS AFTER SEPTEMBER 30, 2026.**



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- Funding can be transferable to another Scout or Leader, however that will be your responsibility to find another participant to go on the trip.

Fundraising

Various fundraising opportunities are being considered. More information will be coming out in the months ahead. Some Scouts also use money earned through their individual troops fundraising and also helps to cover trip expenses. This varies from Troop to Troop (not controlled by TKC). Check with your Troop if this is a possibility.

Scholarships

Funding assistance is available for members with a documented need. Scholarships are available through Samoset Council and the National Order of the Arrow office. Please contact Senior District Executive Kristin Tobin at Kristin.tobin@samoset.org for more information.

What Your NOAC Registration Includes

Final lodge pricing will depend on the national registration package and our lodge's transportation arrangements. Participants should expect the overall cost to account for some combination of:

- NOAC registration
- University residence-hall housing
- Conference meals
- Lodge transportation
- Lodge contingent apparel
- NOAC merchandise/patches
- Lodge activities
- Program activities

Bring spending money. Meals traveling there and back are not included. The main meals during the week are covered. There will be areas open throughout the week for additional meals or snacks. There will also be trading posts and other items available at the conference for sale.

Participant Expectations

All participants are expected to:

1. Represent our lodge and council in a positive manner.
2. Follow all Scouting America and NOAC rules.
3. Participate in scheduled lodge activities.



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4. Be on time for transportation, meals, meetings, and assigned activities.
5. Respect University of Illinois facilities and residence halls.
6. Keep assigned rooms and common areas clean.
7. Stay with the lodge contingent when required.
8. Follow the directions of lodge youth and adult leaders.
9. Practice the ideals of the Order of the Arrow throughout the conference.
10. Help make NOAC an outstanding experience for everyone in our contingent.

What to Bring

- Scouting America uniform
- OA sash
- Government-issued photo ID, if required
- Annual Health and Medical Record
- Prescription medications
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Clothing for six days
- Sleepwear
- Toiletries
- Towel and shower supplies
- Refillable water bottle
- Phone and charger
- Small backpack/day bag
- Rain gear
- Sunscreen
- Hat
- Spending money
- Laundry supplies
- Fan or other personal comfort items, if desired
- Lodge flap patches
- Trading patches, Lodge flap patches
- Patch-trading bag
- Comfortable OA/Scouting clothing, Lodge contingent apparel
- Small items for trading

Important: Avoid bringing irreplaceable or highly valuable memorabilia for patch trading.

Residence Hall Living

Participants will stay in University of Illinois residence halls. Current NOAC information indicates the dorms will have air conditioning.



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Participants should be prepared for a college campus environment rather than a traditional Scout camp. Expect considerable walking between residence halls, dining locations, program areas, and activity venues.

Room assignments and specific residence hall information will be provided when available.

Weather & Comfort

Late July in central Illinois can be **hot and humid**. Participants should plan for:

- Hot outdoor temperatures
- Humidity
- Significant walking
- Sudden summer thunderstorms
- Strong sun exposure

Stay hydrated, use sunscreen, and bring comfortable footwear.

Transportation

Our lodge will travel as a **contingent**. Final transportation arrangements will be announced after registration numbers and transportation requirements are established.

Tentative Travel Plan

Outbound: Monday, July 26, 2027

Conference: Monday, July 26 – Saturday, July 31

Return: Saturday, July 31, 2027

Depending on the lodge's final transportation arrangements, participants should expect a group bus/van departure from the lodge's designated Wisconsin meeting location.

General Information (from NOAC)

Annual Health and Medical Record (AHMR)



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All participants must submit a current Scouting America Annual Health and Medical Record (AHMR) before attending NOAC 2027. The AHMR must remain valid through the conclusion of the conference. For NOAC 2027, this means the medical examination must have been completed on or after July 1, 2026. Medical forms will be submitted electronically through the conference registration system. Detailed submission instructions, deadlines, and additional medical requirements will be published in the 2027 Contingent Guide.

Will residence halls and conference facilities be air-conditioned?

Yes. The State Farm Center, where conference shows and major gatherings will be held, is fully air-conditioned. In addition, the conference expects more than 90% of delegates to be housed in air-conditioned residence halls. Additional housing information and assignments will be provided in the 2027 Contingent Guide.

How much walking should participants expect?

NOAC is an active conference, and participants should expect to walk approximately 6–10 miles each day. Although the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is a relatively flat campus, it is large, with activities taking place across multiple venues.

Will transportation be available around campus?

The conference anticipates partnering with the local transit system to allow NOAC participants to use campus bus routes throughout the week. While this service will help reduce some walking, participants should still expect to walk substantial distances each day.

Is NOAC appropriate for participants with mobility concerns?

Participants should carefully consider the physical demands of the conference when deciding whether to attend. Walking long distances and spending time outdoors during the summer are integral parts of the NOAC experience. Individuals with mobility concerns or other accessibility



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needs are encouraged to review the detailed accessibility information included in the 2027 Contingent Guide and contact the conference team with any questions.

Is smoking, electronic cigarettes, vaping, or smokeless tobacco permitted?

Both the NOAC Code of Conduct and the university's Smoke and Tobacco-Free Campus Policy strictly forbid smoking, electronic cigarettes, vaping, and smokeless tobacco. There are no exceptions, including prohibitions on the use of these products and activities in privately owned vehicles on university property.

What forms of payment are accepted at NOAC and on campus?

Depending on the goods and services being purchased – as well as the venue or merchant – both cash and card (credit, debit, or pre-paid) MIGHT be accepted. Note, however, that many university outlets do NOT accept cash, and other venues (e.g., the NOAC Trading Post) highly prefer cashless payments. For both convenience and safety, contingent members and staff are strongly encouraged to use cashless payment methods whenever possible (e.g., credit, debit, or prepaid cards).

Stay Connected

Official NOAC information will be released as planning continues. Participants should rely on the national Order of the Arrow and our lodge for final dates, costs, registration requirements, transportation information, and the official daily schedule.



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Questions

Contact Senior District Executive Kristin Tobin at
Kristin.tobin@samoset.org

Kristin

“I believe the OA provides a fantastic opportunity for members to grow in their leadership skills. I’m excited to be a part of this program!”



SCOUTING'S NATIONAL **HONOR** SOCIETY



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