



2009

## National Order of the Arrow Northern Tier Wilderness Voyage

Charles L. Sommers High Adventure Base – Ely, Minnesota

<http://adventure.oa-bsa.org>



*“The Order of the Arrow is a thing of the out of doors rather than the indoors.  
It was born in an island wilderness. It needs the sun and rain, the woods and  
the plains, the waters and the starlit sky.”*

*E. Urner Goodman*

### THE VOYAGE OF A LIFETIME

The National Order of the Arrow is offering you an opportunity to join Arrowmen from across the country in cheerful service and the formation of lasting brotherhood on the pristine US/Canadian Boundary Waters. Under the direction of the United States Forest Service, experienced Charles L. Sommers staff members with strong Order of the Arrow backgrounds will lead participants on a two week voyage into the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW).

The program is a fourteen-day experience inspired by the traditions of the French and Canadian Voyageurs who ventured the northern wilderness during the 1700-1800's. Traveling thousands of miles by water and portage, these Voyageurs were hired to haul goods and furs to trade with Native Americans and Europeans. In the spirit of these adventurers, Arrowmen will embark on a voyage that is twofold. One-half of the OA Northern Tier Wilderness Voyage focuses on portage trail and campsite maintenance within the Boundary Waters. The remaining expedition is spent on a canoeing adventure that is planned and chosen by the participants in the program. In other words, each crew plans their own voyage! However, the program is not simply portage trail work, camping, and canoeing. The OA Northern Tier Wilderness Voyage is ultimately a journey that challenges Scouts mentally, physically, and spiritually.

Portage trail work is tough and serious. The worksite experience is full of long, strenuous days requiring a great deal of physical effort. Participants are expected to work with great diligence as the tasks being accomplished are designed to benefit generations of Scouts and non-Scouts in the Boundary Waters Wilderness. In addition to mastering portage trail maintenance techniques, Scouts will strengthen their leadership skills, learn advanced wilderness and Leave No Trace camping skills, learn wilderness safety techniques, participate in many motivational activities, and receive special OA instruction. The projects' mission is to maintain, reinforce, and intensify the purpose of the Order of the Arrow through Scout camping traditions. Camping enhances and builds stronger programs and people. Participants are expected to use their experience to benefit their troop, chapter, lodge, and council programs.

### REQUIREMENTS

- Be at least 16 years old the day your program begins, but not yet 21 by its conclusion.
- Be strong and robust (Charles L. Sommers height and weight guidelines listed in this application will be strictly enforced.)
- Be a registered member of both the BSA and a local OA lodge.
- No exceptions can be made to these requirements. Selection for this program is competitive and is both an honor and a privilege.

### HOW TO APPLY

Complete the enclosed application and have it approved by both your Scout Executive and Lodge Adviser. Parental permission is required if you are under age 18. Mail your completed application and \$50.00 deposit to the Order of the Arrow, Boy Scouts of America, PO Box 152079, Irving, Texas, 75015-2079. The Order will begin notifying applicants of acceptance by March 15, 2009. Following receipt, a packet of material will be sent to you to assist in preparing you for your experience in the Boundary Waters. Download additional applications at <http://adventure.oa-bsa.org>. Applications will be accepted until all slots are filled.

### LODGE AND COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES

Lodge and Council should only approve those youth Arrowmen who meet all of the qualifications for this program. Charles L. Sommers is not an easy experience and is a risk for those not physically prepared for the rigors of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW).

## PROGRAM COSTS AND TRAVEL INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

Participant cost is \$150 for the two-week experience. A \$50.00 non-refundable deposit is required with the application. The balance of the fee is due at the time of acceptance as a participant in the program. Additional expenses, including travel to and from Charles L. Sommers as well as miscellaneous purchases, are the responsibility of the participant.

A shuttle van is available from the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport. The shuttle leaves the airport at 1:30 p.m. **the day of your scheduled starting date** and arrives at Charles L. Sommers at approximately 7:00 p.m. (approximately 5 ½ hour trip). If you plan to arrive via plane, you must schedule your arrival **no later than 12:30 p.m.** into the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport.

**IMPORTANT:** Plan to be at Charles L. Sommers by 7:00 p.m. the day of your scheduled trek. Be sure to visit <http://adventure.oa-bsa.org> for tips in planning your travel, as well as equipment needs prior to receiving your information packet.

The return trip leaves at 7:30 a.m. on your last scheduled day from the Sommers Base arriving at the Minneapolis Airport at 12:30 p.m. **Participants are strongly encouraged to find a travel companion from their home council to ease the process of traveling to the base.**

Those applicants not accepted as participants in the program will have their deposit returned. Participants canceling acceptance will be eligible for a refund if notification is received in the national office by May 15, 2009. No-shows are not eligible for a refund.

### NATIONAL OA VOYAGE DATES

*Note: All dates are in the summer of 2009*

Session 1 June 10 - 24	Session 4 July 1 – July 15
Session 2 June 17 – July 1	Session 5 July 8 – 22
Session 3 June 24 – July 8	Session 6 July 15 – 29

### 2009 NATIONAL OA VOYAGE CODE OF CONDUCT

The general welfare of any group depends on the conduct of each individual member. A strong code of conduct ensures the success of our national service project and provides the maximum benefit to every participant. As an Arrowman, I understand this and support the reasonable demands of conduct expected of me.

#### As a member of the Order of the Arrow I will:

- Live the Scout Oath and Law and Order of the Arrow Obligation.
- Observe, respect, and strive to live the Boy Scout Outdoor Code.
- Observe the rules of the BWCAW, U. S. Forest Service, Charles L. Sommers, and my Voyage Foremen.
- Wear my full official BSA uniform or work clothes as required. Unofficial decorations are not part of my official uniform.
- Attend and participate in all functions of the program.
- Be personally responsible for damage or loss of property.
- Respect all safety procedures and learn to use equipment properly.
- Observe quiet hours.
- Keep my tent clean and dispose of trash in its proper place.
- At all times, be considerate of participants and staff at Charles L. Sommers, and individuals within the BWCAW.
- Understand the purchase, possession, or consumption of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, or illicit drugs at any time during the program will not be permitted and will result in dismissal from the program at the expense of the participant. This standard shall apply to all participants. Compliance with state law regulations will apply at all times.
- Respect the laws of the State of Minnesota, the city of Ely, the Township of Fall Lake, and Charles L. Sommers rules prohibiting the use of fireworks, firearms and gambling. Infraction of these regulations will be grounds for immediate dismissal from the program at the expense of the participant.

### PHOTO (TALENT) RELEASE STATEMENT

I hereby assign and grant to the Boy Scouts of America the right and permission to use and publish the photographs/film/video tapes/electronic representations and/or sound recordings made during my visit to Charles L. Sommers High Adventure Base by the Boy Scouts of America, and I hereby release the Boy Scouts of America from any and all liability from such use and publication.

I hereby authorize the reproduction, sale, copyright, exhibit, broadcast, electronic storage and/or distribution of said photographs/film/video tapes/electronic representations and/or sound recordings without limitation at the discretion of the Boy Scouts of America and I specifically waive any right to any compensation I may have for any of the foregoing.

By signing below, I acknowledge I have read and promise to abide by the code of conduct for the OA Voyage, have read and understand all the information about the Order of the Arrow Voyage Program, and agree with the Photo (Talent) Release Statement.

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Participant Signature

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Parental Signature (if applicant under 18)

# 2009 OA NORTHERN TIER WILDERNESS VOYAGE APPLICATION

(Please type or print neatly)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH (you must be 16 by date attending) \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_ HEIGHT \_\_\_\_\_ WEIGHT \_\_\_\_\_

### SCOUTING EXPERIENCE:

Years Involved \_\_\_\_\_ Currently registered in Troop, Team # \_\_\_\_\_ OA Honor: O \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ V \_\_\_  
(circle one)

### ORDER OF THE ARROW EXPERIENCE:

Leadership Position Held \_\_\_\_\_

Years at Summer Camp \_\_\_\_\_ Years on Summer Camp Staff \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Charles L. Sommers Experience (include years) \_\_\_\_\_

Other High Adventure Experience \_\_\_\_\_

### I PREFER THE FOLLOWING DATES:

1<sup>st</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_ 3<sup>rd</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

\$50.00 deposit enclosed     \$150.00 full fee enclosed

**(Make check payable to Boy Scouts of America)**

### PARENTAL APPROVAL

Our son has our complete permission to participate in the OA/Northern Tier work project during the period indicated above. We understand that these projects are physically demanding and involve a high degree of personal risk to participants. It is understood that this is a voluntary activity and it is a privilege to be selected as a participant.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### LOCAL COUNCIL APPROVAL

Council Name \_\_\_\_\_ Number \_\_\_\_\_

Lodge Name \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_

We certify that this person meets the age and physical requirements for the program and is a registered member of the Boy Scouts of America and a member of an Order of the Arrow Lodge. In addition, we certify that this is an individual we are pleased to have represent our council and lodge.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signed by Lodge Adviser

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signed by Scout Executive

RETURN TO: Order of the Arrow  
Boy Scouts of America  
P O Box 152079  
Irving, TX 75015-2079

Order of the Arrow Action:

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Notified \_\_\_\_\_

Packet Mailed \_\_\_\_\_

Exp #: OAV: \_\_\_\_\_

ORDER OF THE ARROW



Account 79050-8260  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

2009

**National Order of the Arrow Northern Tier Wilderness Voyage  
Charles L. Sommers High Adventure Canoe Base – Ely, Minnesota  
REFER A FRIEND**

**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Session(s) Requested:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please take a moment to provide us with the contact information of fellow members of your lodge, Chapter, and OA members within your troop who you feel would also enjoy the opportunity of a Voyage of a lifetime this summer. This information will remain confidential, and will be used for the purpose of providing the person(s) listed with information about the Order of the Arrow Wilderness Voyage program.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_



**Thank you!**

"Nowhere do the ideals of the Order and Scouting ring truer than in the expansive wilderness of the Boundary Waters. The open spaces on the lakes there linger with you not as just a mental image, but as a mindset you can only gain from going there yourself."

**Frank Sturges** – OAHA Southern Region  
Co-Cordinator, OA Voyage Past Participant  
& Foreman

"The OA Voyage is a special opportunity to participate in an adventure that is as unique as its participants. The memories of your Voyage will last not only through your Scouting career but will be carried with you throughout your life. From the lakes to the friends you make, it's an unforgettable experience"

**Dave Nguyen** – OAHA Promotional  
Coordinator, Past OA Voyage Foreman

***Order of the Arrow  
Scouting's "National Honor Society"***

## **PURPOSE OF THE ORDER OF THE ARROW**

To recognize those campers – Scouts and Scouters – who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives and by such recognition, cause other campers to conduct themselves in such manner as to warrant recognition.

To develop and maintain camping traditions and spirit.

To promote Scout camping, which reaches its greatest effectiveness as a part of the unit's camping program, both year-round and in the summer camp, as directed by the camping committee of the council.

To crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.

## **OUR VISION FOR THE ORDER OF THE ARROW**

To be recognized as Scouting's National Honor Society and an integral part of every council. Our service, activities, adventures, and training for youth and adults, are model of quality leadership development and programming that enrich, support, and help extend Scouting to America's youth.

## **OUR STRATEGY: INCREASED SERVICE**

In support of our vision to be recognized as Scouting's National Honor Society and an integral part of every council, the Order of the Arrow (OA) intends to dramatically increase the level of service we provide to councils and to the national organization. We intend to do more, much more, to help the Boy Scouts of America fulfill its mission to serve our nation's youth.

In the years ahead we will expand our reach beyond camping to include greater focus on leadership development, membership extension, adventurous programming, and broader service to Scouting and the community.

[www.oa-bsa.org](http://www.oa-bsa.org)

**Order of the Arrow**



**Boy Scouts of America**

# NORTHERN TIER WEIGHT LIMITS FOR CANOEING

It is strongly recommended that each participant in a Northern Tier expedition **should not exceed** the maximum acceptable weight-to-height table shown below. Those who fall within the recommended weight limits are much more likely to have an enjoyable trek and avoid incurring injuries and health risks. Extra weight puts strain on the back, joints, and feet. The portage trails can be very muddy, slippery, and rocky and present a potential for tripping and falling.

We also strongly recommend that no participant be less than 100 lbs. in weight. Extremely small participants will have a very difficult time carrying canoes and heavy packs.

The load limits of the canoes is another important reason to limit participant weight. We put 3 people per canoe. The total participant load per canoe must not exceed 600 lbs. (an average of 200 lbs. per participant).

<b>Height</b>	<b>Recommended Weight</b>	<b>Maximum Weight</b>
5'0"	100 – 138 lbs.	166 lbs.
5'1"	101-143	172
5'2"	104-148	178
5'3"	107-152	183
5'4"	111-157	189
5'5"	114-162	195
5'6"	118-167	201
5'7"	121-172	207
5'8"	125-178	214
5'9"	129-185	220
5'10"	132-188	226
5'11"	136-194	233
6'0"	140-199	239
6'1"	144-205	246
6'2"	148-210	252
6'3"	152-216	260
6'4"	156-222	267
6'5"	160-228	274
6'6"	164-234	281
6'7" +	170-240	295

This table is based on the revised Dietary Guidelines for Americans from the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health and Human Services.