

Order of the Arrow Regional Cub Scout Task Force

Position Overview and Description

The Northeast Region OA Cub Scout Task Force identifies Cub Scout support as an integral component in supporting chapters and lodges in their efforts to in turn help their councils. As the future of Boy Scouting, the Cub Scouts today are the Arrowmen of tomorrow. Understanding the importance of OA/Cub Scout relations, the Order of the Arrow—the *National Honor Society of the Boy Scouts of America*—must endeavor to provide support to help a lodge ultimately help Cub Scouts. Since 2005, the Northeast Region has maintained an active Cub Scout Task Force dedicated to providing tools, resources, training, webinars and assistance to lodges throughout the region, diligently working to assist them in developing and improving Cub Scout relations and programs in concert with local councils.

The OA Cub Scout Task Force is led by a youth chairman appointed by the Region Chief. Together with the Task Force adviser, the chairman builds a committee dedicated to fulfilling the committee's annual goals set forth by the chairman. Specific goals and action plans vary each year but the theme remains the same: help lodges and their councils help the Cubs. A broad topic by itself, the dynamics of this guiding idea allows the Task force to develop a year around specific ideas and deliverables; no two years generate the same content with the same action items. The non-comprehensive list below outlines common action-items carried out by the Task Force:

- Host webinars on a variety of OA/Cub-related topics such as understanding the importance of OA/Cub relations or how to improve OA/Council dynamics in order to foster greater collaboration in support of Cub Scouting.
- Develop a pool of Cub-related resources and Best Practices to equip lodges with the vital information on improving their efforts in Cub Scouting.
- Conduct surveys at region events in order to identify what lodges are doing with Cub Scouting and to identify weak areas throughout the region indicating where the committee should move in developing its supportive measures.

While action-items are unique to each task force based on the needs they identify, they all tend to revolve around support of Cub membership (recruiting and retention), program, and finance. Whether it is developing presentations for Arrowmen to deliver at new parent orientations or creating initiatives to address the ever growing concern with membership decline, the Cub Scout Task force is an active and engaged part of the region. Committee members—typically (but not limited to) Section Chiefs, past/current Cubmasters, council membership chairmen, and other Arrowmen passionate in supporting Cub Scouts—from across the region come together to do their part to ensure a successful future in Scouting. Studies suggest that the largest drop in membership occurs between Bear and first-year Boy Scouts, a transition period that is receiving increasing attention from the Task Force due to its direct relation to Cub Scouting. If one region is able to maintain active, progressive, and support initiatives for over a decade, think of the possibilities when all four regions come together to develop a strong relationship between the OA and Cub Scouts.