



SEPTEMBER 2020 | SR-5



# FIVE FEATHERS

The Official Newsletter of Southern Region, Section 5 - Order of the Arrow

## Distinguished Service Award in 2020 SR-5 Arrowmen Honored with the DSA

The highest recognition within the Order of the Arrow is the Distinguished Service Award, created in 1940 in conjunction with the Order's 25th anniversary. The purpose of the DSA is to recognize and honor those Arrowmen who have rendered distinguished and outstanding service to the Order on a section, area, region or national basis. The award is presented for dedicated service to the Order and Scouting over a period of years.

The first recipients chosen in 1940 were 11 pioneer leaders within the Order. The award is a traditional part of the pageantry and ceremony of each National OA Conference. Due to the cancellation of NOAC 2020, this year's presentations will take place locally. Including these selections, only 1,072 awards have been presented, standing as a testament to the award's high standard of excellence.

The award is a sterling silver arrowhead, bearing an arrow pointing upward and to the wearer's right, suspended from a white neck ribbon upon which are embroidered red arrows. A white square knot embroidered upon red cloth is available for uniform wear.

Among this year's DSA class, two recipients hail from SR-5. Congratulations to both James Barton and Travis Broadhurst.

### James Barton -

James hails from Charleston, South Carolina and Unali' Yi Lodge. James has served on virtually every OA national event staff, working with ceremonies or American Indian Activities, since serving on the 1992 Conference Committee as SE-5 Section Chief. As a youth, he served on NLS Staff and as Section Vice Chief for AIA in 1991. A recipient of the Silver Beaver and Centurion Awards, James' adult service includes many summers as Camp Director at Camp Ho Non Wah, serving on National Camp School staff, and as Unali' Yi Lodge Adviser. Congratulations!

### Travis Broadhurst -

Travis hails from Weaverville, North Carolina and Tsali Lodge. Travis served as the Conference Vice Chief (CVC) of Adventure Central at NOAC 2015, and returned to staff this area again at NOAC 2018. Travis has been four NLS staffs, and promoted OA High Adventure as an author to several OAHA articles and promotions. Travis served as the SR-5 Section Chief 2014-15, and Vice Chief in 2013-14. Congratulations!



# Chief's Corner Robert Bolton, Jr. - Section Chief 2020-21

## My Brothers in SR-5,

It is without question that this year will be remembered as a time of challenge and change among our communities and nation. As lodge events were rescheduled, cancelled and postponed across the country, locally we have experienced this change personally with the cancellation of April's Dixie Fellowship and later August's Carolina OA Conference out of an abundance of caution for the health and safety of our members. Tough decisions were made, as to also cancel the National OA Conference scheduled for 2020, as well as the postponement of the National Scout Jamboree in 2021. During this time, we build excitement for what stands ahead, such as the next NOAC expected to be hosted in 2022.

With the cancellation of NOAC 2020, the national organization shifted its focus towards the virtual "Momentum Launch" hosted in early August as a virtual event of great training, leadership engagement and national updates.

As we are eager to reconvene and fellowship together again, the wait continues, but we are excited for the joys that will come following this pandemic.

As we plan forward and look ahead, the national committee has provided resources to help

lodge as we emerge from COVID-19, including a six-point plan assisting lodges in the areas of induction, program, training and governance. These resources will be shared with lodge leaders by our Section Officers, and can be found on the national OA website and our section's website as a tool to return greater and stronger as we continue to build towards a bright future in our Order's second century.

While limited in fellowship and engagement, we encourage you join us in high spirits and excitement for the future. Let us rededicate ourselves to the high ideals and purposes within our Order. That we will not forget our mission, obligation and admonition. Together we will continue in the service of others, and from this continue our dedication to impact our local councils, communities, lodges, camps and units.

As we navigate forward, our section leadership is dedicated to serving our great lodges and preparing to reemerge from COVID-19 using these national initiatives to innovate and minimize our losses.

Through these challenges, I remain optimistic for the future. In the words of Mahatma Gandhi, "The future depends on what we do in the present." In this present, we will stay positive, work hard,



and continue to make great things happen within Scouting, in our local units, and in our Order of the Arrow lodges.

I hope you enjoy this latest publication of the *Five Feathers* newsletter as we share the excitement and news of the Order of the Arrow and in Southern Region, Section 5.

I wish you good health, and look forward to joining you soon as we continue to serve and pursue our mission within the Order of the Arrow.

*In the Spirit of Cheerful Service,*

*Robert Bolton, Jr.*

**Robert Bolton, Jr.**  
Southern Region, Section 5  
Section Chief, 2020-21

## Leadership Order of the Arrow - Southern Region, Section 5

**Robert Bolton, Jr. Section Chief**

**Stephen Hercka Section Vice Chief**

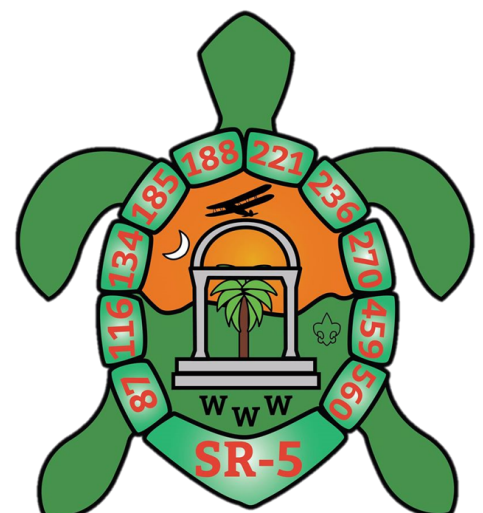
**Christian Blackburn Section Secretary**

**Mac McLean Section Adviser**

**Michael Thompson Associate Section Adviser**

**Tripp Clark Associate Section Adviser**

**oa-bsa.org sr5.org**





# Meet the Team: Introducing our newly elected Section Officers

## Section Chief, Robert Bolton, Jr.

Hailing from Bob White Lodge, Robert Bolton will serve as the 2020-21 SR-5 Section Chief. Robert is an Eagle Scout, and a recipient of the Vigil Honor and Founders Award. Throughout his OA tenure, Robert has served within Bob White as a Chapter Chief, Vice Chief and Lodge Chief, as well as in SR-5 as Associate Coordinator, Host Lodge Coordinator, Section Secretary and Vice Chief. Robert's favorite memories within the OA and Scouting include serving on the PILOT Academy training staff at NOAC 2018, having been able to meet and connect with hundreds

of Arrowmen throughout the conference, creating memories, relationships and friendships that will last a lifetime. As Chief, Robert will oversee the planning of our section's conclave in 2021, which will be hosted at Camp Daniel Boone by Tsali Lodge in N. Carolina. This year's officers will oversee the re-branding of our section conclave's new name and program, while continuing to grow our efforts to support lodges in membership, activation, communication, and training. Congratulations to Robert, and we look forward to a great term ahead!



To contact Robert, visit our section's website at [sr5.org](http://sr5.org) and visit the "Meet Our Leadership" or 'Contact Us' page.

## Section Vice Chief, Stephen Hercka

Stephen is an Eagle Scout and Vigil Honor member of Skyuka Lodge in the Palmetto Council, and will serve as our 2020-21 SR-5 Vice Chief. During his tenure as an OA member, Stephen has served as a two-term Vice Chief of Program, as well as Chapter Chief of Spartan Chapter in Skyuka Lodge. In February of 2020, Stephen was presented with the Indian on the Mountain Award, a prestigious award presented in Skyuka Lodge for exemplary service within the lodge. He is also a founding member of Venturing Crew 28 in Spartanburg, where he served

as the Crew's founding President. He also serves on the council's high adventure committee and assists with programs as the GOLS outdoor leadership property of the Palmetto Council. He is a recipient of the council-level Venturing Leadership Award.



To contact Stephen, visit our section's website at [sr5.org](http://sr5.org) and visit the "Meet Our Leadership" or 'Contact Us' page.

## Section Secretary, Christian Blackburn

Christian hails from Unali' Yi Lodge Charleston, S. Carolina, and will serve as the 2020-21 SR-5 Secretary. Christian is an Eagle Scout, and recipient of the Vigil Honor. During his time as an OA member, he has served as Treasurer and Lodge Chief in Unali' Yi. In March of 2020, Christian attended the National Leadership Seminar hosted in Atlanta. Outside of the OA, Christian also serves the current Area 5 Boatswain for Sea Scouts. Christian's favorite memories as an Order of the Arrow member include competing as Allowat Sakima during the

ceremonies competition during each year's section conclave, and enjoys the opportunity to meet with Arrowmen from all areas of SR-5 during events, such as conclave and Carolina Indian Seminar. As Secretary, Christian will aide the Section Officer team in advancing the Order's mission of service and growth, while serving as a key resource and leader for section-wide communication with the ten lodges and hundreds of Arrowmen throughout SR-5. Congratulations to Christian, and we look forward to a great term ahead!



To contact Christian, visit our section's website at [sr5.org](http://sr5.org) and visit the "Meet Our Leadership" or 'Contact Us' page.



# SR-5 Arrowmen Honored at the National Annual Meeting



Presented during the BSA National Annual Meeting, the **Silver Buffalo** is Scouting's highest recognition for distinguished service to youth at the national-level and is presented by the National Court of Honor. This year's Silver Buffalo class recognizes the service of 14 outstanding Scouting volunteers, including recognition of SR-5 Associate Section Adviser, **Michael Thompson** from Atta Kulla Kulla Lodge 185 in Greenville, SC.

Mr. Thompson's service includes tenure as National Vice Chairman of Recognition, Awards, History & Preservation on the National Order of the Arrow Committee, and as U.S. Team Leader for Operations, Logistics, Human Resources, and Training at the 24th World Scout Jamboree. He also serves as a member of the National Membership Standards Committee and Churchill Task Force.

Has served Regionally as a Vice President and executive board member, Area 5 President and as Blue Ridge Council President.

During his 35 years as a Scouter, Mr. Thompson has been recognized as a recipient of the Vigil Honor, Founders Award, Centurion Award and Distinguished Service Award from the Order of the Arrow. He has also been honored with the Distinguished Eagle Scout, Silver Antelope and Silver Beaver awards. We send our warmest congratulations to Mr. Michael Thompson from the SR-5 team! Well deserved!

At the regional-level, the **Silver Antelope** is the highest honor presented to a volunteer Scouter who has distinguished outstanding service to youth within their region. Created in 1942, the Silver Antelope was awarded to eight Scouters by the Southern Region and National Court of Honor in 2020. Included in this group are two of SR-5's very own: Glenn Stoner and Randy Potts

Mr. **Glenn Stoner** is an Eagle Scout and Vigil Honor member of Skyuka Lodge. Mr. Stoner's service to Scouting includes serving as President of the Piedmont Appalachian College of Commissioner Science, Associate Area Commissioner, Assistant Council Commissioner, executive board member, and council Wood Badge coordinator. He also has served as a long-time Order of the Arrow adviser, unit commissioner, district committee member, Area Commissioner, Council Commissioner, District Commissioner and as a troop committee member. Glenn has also been recognized with the Silver Beaver, Wood Badge beads, NESA Outstanding Eagle Scout Award, Doctorate of Commissioner Science, Distinguished Commissioner Service Award, District Award of Merit and the Founders Award. Both Vigil Honor members, Glenn and his wife, Elizabeth, live in Lake Wylie, SC.

Mr. **Randy Potts** hails from Unali' Yi Lodge in Charleston, SC. An Eagle Scout, Randy has also received the regional **Alumnus of the Year Award** in 2020, Silver Beaver, NESA Outstanding Eagle Scout Award, Distinguished Council Commissioner Award and Vigil Honor. Mr. Potts is president of the National Organization of Sea Scout Alumni, serves on the NESA National Committee, and BSA Alumni National Committee. Randy also serves as regional Vice Commodore, Alumni Chair, and an executive committee member. He also serves as the Area 5 Alumni Chair, and is the National Council Representative for the Coastal Carolina Council. Previously, Randy has served as an Associate OA Section Adviser, Membership Chair, council Vice President of Finance and Membership, Lodge Adviser, and as District Chairman.



Presented by the BSA Alumni National Committee, the national-level **Alumnus of the Year Award** is presented to recognize individuals who have given outstanding service to reconnect and reengage alumni in serving the mission and program of Scouting. **Russell Smart** hails from Greenville, South Carolina, and Atta Kulla Kulla Lodge and is the 10th recipient of this national-level award. Russell is a recipient of the Vigil Honor, Silver Beaver, Silver Antelope, Silver Buffalo and Distinguished Service Award. Russell has served numerous National OA Conferences, National and World Scout Jamborees, served as the Program Group Chairman for the National Scout Jamborees in 2013 and 2017, and is a past Blue Ridge Council President.

*Due to the cancellation of this year's National Annual Meeting by COVID-19, each of these awards will be presented locally.*

**Congratulations to Mr. Thompson, Mr. Stoner, Mr. Potts and Mr. Smart**  
**From the SR-5 Officers, Advisers and Council of Chiefs**





## Lodge Spotlight: Skyuka 270 Summer Ordeal Fellowship

Our SR-5 Brothers,

Skyuka Lodge 270 recently hosted our Summer Ordeal on August 14-15 at Camp Old Indian. The event was a tremendous success inducting 53 new Ordeal members and hosting a total of 109 brothers. The lodge administration implemented several policies to safely allow the event to run including a mask mandate, liability form, health and well-being pre-check before exiting vehicles, and utilizing an outdoor set-up. Out of an abundance of caution, and to allow for sufficient social distancing, our entire event ran in an outdoor fashion including program, sleeping and dining throughout the weekend. Continued steps were taken for ceremonies, activities and projects to maintain appropriate distancing for safe gathering.

In addition to these policies, we also added a "Saturday Only" option for any brothers who require indoor sleeping arrangements that could not be accommodated or did not feel comfortable attending for the weekend's entire duration.

Even while undergoing changes to our event to safely gather during COVID-19, we managed to host an Ordeal full of fun, food, and fellowship concluding our Ordeal shortly before lunch and allowing our new Brothers to see not only the service but also the great fellowship that is encompassed throughout our Order.

*Max Robinson*

**Max Robinson**  
Skyuka Lodge 270  
Lodge Chief, 2020



## Re-Emerging from COVID-19

For more information, visit [oa-bsa.org/coronavirus](https://oa-bsa.org/coronavirus)

As our communities begin to emerge from sheltering in place and we adjust to our new "normal", the Order of the Arrow will seek to help lodges re-engage in their activities, support their local council, and provide cheerful service to their communities. As we continue to re-emerge from COVID-19, national has created a six-point plan to assist lodges with these goals:

- Provide lodges with suggestions and support to maintain an active, robust program that will attract membership participation.

- Maintain a priority for compliance with BSA and local health and safety guidelines.

- Focus on meeting the needs of the youth membership by providing structured activities that appeal to their desire for fellowship and fun while remaining consistent in our purpose.

- Continue to focus on enhancing membership.

- Maintain a sense of optimism as we develop a pathway that will ensure future growth and relevance of the OA within Scouting and nation.

### Our Six Point Plan:

1. Communicate with our leaders/members
2. Modify our traditional calendar of events to focus on unit elections and inductions in the months of June through December
3. Create expanded opportunities to induct adult unit leaders
4. Advance the roll out of the induction's portal
5. Support our existing Arrow membership with engagement tools to keep them active
6. The Order of the Arrow will encourage Innovation, guided by and in accordance with the Guide to Safe Scouting and the Order's Ten Induction Principles, encourage lodges to be innovative through challenges.

These resources and more to assist lodges in re-emerging from COVID-19 can be found on the OA website at [oa-bsa.org/resources/reemerging](https://oa-bsa.org/resources/reemerging)



## Section Officer Request Form!

Want a Section Officer to attend your lodge event?

Want an SR-5 Section Officer to attend your lodge's fellowship, induction, banquet, or event? Here's the chance to invite them to your event today! Throughout the year, the SR-5 Section Officers will travel around the section providing training, guidance, fellowship and cheerful service to each of our 10 lodges. Section Officers can attend your event by inviting one, two or all three using our online Section Officer Request Form, which is found on our website at [sr5.org](https://sr5.org) at the top of our Meet Our Leadership page under the About Us tab. Our officers are here to serve and fellowship with YOU. Request must be made via the Lodge Chief.





# Chiefly Speaking

At Momentum Launch this week, we will chart a new course for the Order of the Arrow for the remainder of 2020. Our joint commitment to bold, decisive action will enable our organization to emerge from this crisis stronger than ever before.

The instant we let these tough moments define this year and our legacies as leaders, we seal our movement's fate. This year will be remembered for each day that we take the opportunity to advance our organization. As we move through the second half of 2020, we invite you to join us in staying true to that promise. Together, here's how we'll make it happen:

- Providing each eligible Scout an election opportunity by visiting every remaining unit before December 31.
  - Encouraging each candidate to complete their induction through up-scaling our individual outreach.
  - Inspiring all existing members to become active Arrowmen through regular virtual and/or in-person events.
- Last October we committed to thrive, setting up this year as our greatest opportunity for growth to-date. By fulfilling this promise, 2020 will be defined by the leaders who kept the momentum going. Our top priority as a national organization continues to be supporting lodges and chapter in these efforts.

On behalf of the national committee, we are publishing our plan as a national organization to join you as we

redefine 2020. Don't let the tough moments control your year, for your abilities are far stronger than any obstacle you encounter. The challenges of the moment seek to define your term, but your character and resolve will leave a legacy.

**With eyes to the sky,**

*Zach Schonfeld*

**Zach Schonfeld**  
Order of the Arrow, BSA  
National Chief, 2020

*Noah Smith*

**Noah Smith**  
Order of the Arrow, BSA  
National Vice Chief, 2020

**Original article published on August 5, 2020 at [oa-bsa.org](https://oa-bsa.org)**



Brothers,

It is hard to believe that we already find ourselves more than halfway through the year. This week, we are supposed to be gathered together for the 2020 National Order of the Arrow Conference. We may be physically absent, but we aren't alone. This week as we come together for Momentum Launch we all must look ahead to delivering our programs in this "new normal."

In any leadership role, specific moments arise that seek to define your term. Less than four weeks after our organization started experiencing a period of rapid change and restructuring, we began facing an unprecedented pandemic that would test each of us immensely. The spread of this virus has led to more tough decisions in our organization, like events from the local to the national levels. We know many of you are adapting your chapter or lodge's programs to reach our member safely. That is no easy undertaking - we're grateful for your leadership in trying times. It is tempting to believe these moments can overshadow this year.



# Momentum Launch!

Following the cancellation of the National OA Conference in 2020, Momentum Launch was created as an interactive and engaging event experience that will help launch the momentum our organization needs to continue filling its purpose during the COVID-19 environment we find ourselves in. Registration to participate in this virtual experience was \$30, and allowed delegates to review a commemorative OA face mask, Momentum patch, access to an archive of the event's streamed program, participation in the event-wide game, and opportunities for engagement with Arrowmen nationwide during this unique, virtual experience and event.

For delegates participating in Momentum Launch, the excitement began on Tuesday, August 4 at 8:30 PM with the Opening Show, previewing the week's upcoming events and introducing the leadership and staff behind Momentum's programming. Beginning at 10:00 on Wednesday morning, delegates could participate in one of two training sessions: Developing Lodge Leadership and Unit Elections, providing insight and guidance on leadership development and the new unit elections recommendations from section and national officers around the country. Throughout the day on Wednesday, delegates could participate in other exciting training sessions, such as Momentum of Service, Opportunities for New

Members, insight on lodge Chapters, Communications and Inductions, as well as Developing Leadership Training within your own lodge.

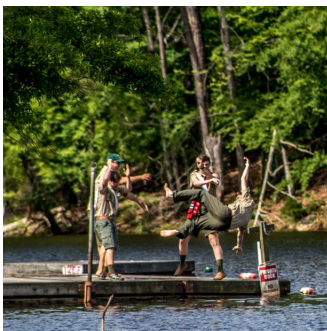
Delegates also experienced the team of four Region Chiefs compete in the Chef'd cook-off competition. Another exciting delegate-wide activity was an afternoon game of Kahoot, testing an Arrowman's trivial knowledge of the OA and Scouting. The day also featured several special guests, such as NASA Astronaut Col. Doug Wheelock, former Secretary of Defence and former BSA National President Robert Gates, and BSA CEO/President Roger Mosby, followed by an adult leadership campfire chat. The evening closed out with a round of Tried and True Trivia, a game show competition of the four Region Chiefs hosted by Nat. Vice Chief Noah Smith. Thursday was the final day of Momentum Launch, and welcomed signature training sessions, such as Activation, Practical Skills for the Future, Analyzing Situations and Leading Forward: A Discussion on Lodge Success. This training also included the event's key training program: Delta. This final day welcomed a number of other great panel guests, such as Assistant Chief Scout Executive Al Lambert, and former Secretary of State and former BSA National President Rex Tillerson. A highlight of today was the Onward and Upward Painting Special, an inside look on a special project artwork piece by Josh Hunt,



who has been commissioned over the past several years to recreate commemorative art to capture important moments of our Order's valued history. Another game of Tried and True Trivia was conducted between members of the national OA committee, as well as the finals match between the two previous winning teams. Delegates had the opportunity to ask questions on our national leadership during the Campfire Chat with National Officers, just before the Chef'd: Finals. The closing show, hosted at the Summit Circle, helped to guide a reflection on where we stand today, and where we will move forward tomorrow. Through Momentum Launch, lodge leaders are now inspired with the tools to guide our members through the patch of COVID-19. The question of the week still remains: *Does pineapple belong on pizza?* Want to find out, be sure to visit the Momentum archive and register to access the event's trainings and more!







Thank you for reading! Next edition in October of 2020

# Five Feathers: September 2020

The Official Newsletter of Southern Region, Section 5

"Things of the spirit are what count: brotherhood - in a day when there is too much hatred at home and abroad; cheerfulness - in a day when the pessimists have the floor and cynics are popular; service - in a day when millions are interested in getting or grasping, rather than giving."

~E. Urner Goodman  
Order of the Arrow, Founder



## Section Conclave 2021

April 23-25, 2021 at Camp Daniel Boone

## National Leadership Seminar

Due to gathering restrictions and concerns surrounding COVID-19, the September NLS & DYLC in Greensboro, North Carolina, has been postponed until December 10-12, 2021. At this time, the NLS & DYLC scheduled for November 13-15, 2020, in Little Rock, Arkansas, is still going to be held. To register, visit [southern.oa-bsa.org/nls](https://southern.oa-bsa.org/nls) for more details!

**Stay Connected Online!**

Visit our website at [sr5.org](https://sr5.org) and follow us on Facebook at Section SR-5, Order of the Arrow for the latest updates from the Order of the Arrow and Section SR-5.

