



## The ArrowCorps2014 Story

### HISTORY

Scouting and Mt. Rainier share a long history. In the summer of 1924, a series of Eagle Scout trail projects began in Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks. The projects received strong national interest from Scouts who came from out-of-state, often on their own dollar, to give service to the iconic parks. The directors of Mount Rainier National Park heard about the great progress at the other sites and in 1925 proposed that Scouts unable to travel to Montana and Wyoming come there instead. Participation grew as more Eagle Scout candidates saw the projects as a way to finish off their Scouting trail. In all, 350 Eagle Scout trail crew projects were completed over 10 summers at Mount Rainier. Their accomplishments included building sections of the Wonderland Trail, a 92-mile trail circumnavigating the mountain that is used by thousands of people every year.

Scouts were active on the mountain, too. Two early figures in the Northwest climbing community were Troop 65 Scoutmaster Clark Schurman and Troop 1 Scoutmaster E. S. Ingraham, both of Seattle. Ingraham made 13 ascents of the mountain (the first in 1888 with John Muir) and lent his name to the Ingraham Glacier, while Camp Schurman named in honor of the late Scoutmaster. Scouts from both troops were monumental in establishing a number of climbing routes on the mountain itself that continue to be popular with the 10,000 mountaineers who attempt the summit each year. In 1947 the Seattle Area Council acquired Camp Sheppard, a former property of the Civilian Conservation Corps, and established a permanent property in the Mountain's shadow. In the 1960's, youth leaders from the Camp Sheppard High Adventure Base contributed to the design and construction of Camp Schurman, carrying metal roof panels and bags of mortar to 9,500' to build the ranger hut that remains to this day.

### LEGACY

In 2011, ArrowCorps502 brought together a hundred Scouts from around the nation in a week of service and fellowship. Six sites throughout Mt. Rainier National Park and Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest were selected on the basis of conservation need and historical and environmental interest. As much as completing service, the project sought to develop expedition leadership skills, a sense of outdoor ethics, and a new appreciation for conservation in a way that was highly visible to both the Scouting community and the public at large. The project was made possible through the efforts of a small group of youth and adult leaders, who worked to build a comprehensive partnership with the National Park Service and National Forest over three years of training and preparation. ArrowCorps502 empowered participants and staff to gain a new outlook on what they were capable of achieving and the difference they could make in their community and their world.

## **FUTURE**

In the two years since the project, the legacy of ArrowCorps502 has only continued to grow. Mt. Rainier National Park credits ArrowCorps502 with a substantial increase in the number of Scouts recreating in the park. T'Kope Kwiskwis received the 2012 OA National Service Award for distinguished commitment to service, one of only eight Lodges nationwide to do so. Lodge trainers traveled to the National Order of the Arrow Conference in 2012 to teach others how to plan major conservation service projects. Two Conservation Leadership Schools in 2012 and 2013, hosted by Cascade Leadership Challenge and Crew 502, have prepared a new generation of Scout leaders for our next project, ArrowCorps2014. The work that we began with ArrowCorps502 lives on.