

The Mark Twain US Forest is over 1.5 million acres of National Forest located in the southern half of Missouri. In the Mark Twain National Forest, the Cedar trees are an invasive species that is taking over the natural grasslands of the Mark Twain Forest. The 2008 *ArrowCorps<sup>5</sup>* project will take place in the Bateman area that lies between Springfield and Branson, Missouri. The US Forest personnel have stated that if we do not help get rid of the cedar trees in this area of the Mark Twain Forest, that in 10 years it will be a cedar forest and there will be no natural grassland left.



## How will we be organized?

1000 OA members will be organized into 10 Sections. Each Section will be made up of five Crews of 20 people, and every Crew will be made up of Squads of 5 people. Councils are asked to bring squads or crews of persons 14 years or older to work in the forest. There is no ratio for adults to youth although we want a strong youth contingent from each council. Crews will consist of a crew leader with four "squads" of five people (all participants must be 14 or older, and adults are welcome). Each "squad" will consist of a "Squad Leader" with 4 other participants. Each squad will have 1 Bow Saw, 2 Loppers for small branches, 2 hand saws, and a rope.

## Training

Each participant and staff member will undergo great training to help ensure that *ArrowCorps<sup>5</sup>* is a safe, enjoyable work environment. We will follow the Incident Command Structure and ICS 100 and 200 training will be provided for key staff. Each crew leader will receive "Conservation USA" training, and "Chain Saw Certification" will be required for those operating a chain saw.

## Project Description

The main purpose of the project is to remove the invasive cedar trees that have invaded local grasslands. Processes will include work with hand-saws and chainsaws to cut down cedar trees, de-limb trees, and other work associated with the process of removing invasive species.

## Recreational Opportunities

Recreation for participants and staff will include Shows, learning to fly fish, rafting the local rivers and many other activities.