

UNIT ELECTION CEREMONY

ORDER OF THE ARROW

A:

Fellow Boy Scouts, the Order of the Arrow is Scouting's National Honor Society. Its purpose is to recognize and honor those campers who best live up to the Scout Oath and Scout Law in their daily lives and to guide them in expanding the service that has made them outstanding. The Order promotes Scout camping and maintains camping traditions and spirit. It emphasizes that the good Scout camper is not only skilled in Scoutcraft, but also true to the ideals of Scouting and its tradition of the daily Good Turn.

The only way that a Scout can become a member of the Order of the Arrow is to be elected for this honor by the members of his troop. To be eligible for election, a youth must fulfill the camping requirement and hold the First Class rank. In addition, your unit leaders must certify his Scouting Spirit, his adherence to the Scout Oath and Law, and his participation in troop activities.

After being elected, the Scout must undergo the Ordeal, which is a series of tests of his sincere dedication to the high ideals of Scouting and the Order. If he is faithful in performing the tests, he takes a solemn pledge of service and is admitted into the Order. A period of self-improvement and service then follows.

B:

This patch, this arrow ribbon, and this distinctive sash identify the Order of the Arrow member. They are symbols of service. Our lodge has its own activities and projects, but our program does not replace the member's responsibility to his troop. Indeed, each Arrowman is expected to give richer service to his own troop in return for the honor his unit extended to him.

Indian lore is an attractive sideline in our Order. Indian dances and ceremonies add color to our program of service, and members often make Indian lore their hobby. However, one does not need Indian attire or skill in Indian lore to become a valuable member of the Order of the Arrow.

Scouts, you will elect representatives to our Brotherhood of Cheerful Service, and we are here to assist you in the election. All registered active members of this troop, except those 21 or older, are entitled to vote.

A:

All those who receive votes from at least half of those who turn in ballots are elected. The number you elect will depend on how your votes agree with other members' votes. Remember that an Order of the Arrow election is not a popularity contest! Don't vote for a Scout just because he is your friend or just because he is a good athlete or because he is older than the rest. What really counts is his loyalty to the Scout Oath.

Campaigning in an Order of the Arrow election is not permitted. You are expected to think for yourself. Do not let others influence your decision. The election is by secret

ballot and no discussion will be permitted, so no one will know for whom you are voting. This important decision about your fellow Scouts is entirely up to you.

Before we announce the names of those eligible and begin the election, are there any questions?

(Answer any questions about the nature and purposes of the Order of the Arrow and the election procedures.)

B:

The following members of this troop have met the camping and advancement requirements and are eligible for election, as certified by your Unit Leader. Will you stand and form a line over here (*point*) as your names are called?

(Point out place to line up while 'D' reads the list slowly. 'B' will arrange the candidates in a line facing the voters at the place indicated; 'F' will write each name on the chalkboard or flipchart, as they are called.)

C: (*Read names*)

B:

Scouts, you should now answer each of the following questions to yourself. Your answers will help you make the right selections.

D:

Who in this group is a friend to all and a brother to every other Scout? Who is pleasant and easy to get along with? Is he kind and helpful? In all, if you were a Tenderfoot, would you like to hike and camp with him?

E:

Who is cheerful, even when he has many tiresome jobs to do? Who smiles whenever he can? Who obeys promptly and cheerfully? Does he control his temper? If you were at camp with him for several weeks, do you think you would enjoy it?

F:

Who is always ready to give unselfish and wholehearted service to others? Who, in serving others, can forget his own desires and interests? Who has served your troop all year round, faithfully attending your meetings and helping with your service projects? Do you think he will continue his service in the future? If you were his patrol leader, could you depend on him?

D:

In all, ask yourselves: Who in this group, by living up to the Scout Oath, serves your fellow Scouts with such an example of brotherhood and cheerfulness that you look up to him with deep respect and admiration?

G:

Scouts, on the ballot you will be given, print the first and last names of all candidates, who, in your opinion, have set the best examples of brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service. Vote only for those you believe will continue in unselfish service to your troop. If you feel that no one is worthy, turn in an unused ballot. If you are new in the troop and do not know the candidates well enough to vote wisely, you may abstain by not turning in a ballot at all, and this will not affect the final result. If you vote for fewer than the maximum number allowed, you will, in effect, be casting a vote against all others listed. Those eligible for election also vote, and they may vote for themselves if they feel they are worthy. Do not write down any name other than the candidates that have been announced.

The names of those eligible are listed here (*point*). When you are finished, fold the ballot only once and give the pencil and ballot to any of us.

(Distribute election ballots and pencils.)

(Collect ballots and pencils. Count the votes in private with the Unit Leader.)

CALLOUT CEREMONY:

(Form troop into a large circle, facing inward. 'B' steps inside the circle and walks slowly in front of the scouts around the circle at least twice with his arms folded. 'A' will identify new candidates by holding sash above individuals. Upon reaching new candidate, 'B' will stop in front of him, pause and look into their eyes, and then place both of his hands upon the candidates shoulders and pull them into the circle. 'F' & 'G' will escort new candidates to the middle of the circle.)

(When all new candidates are in the middle of the circle, all OA MEMBERS move into the circle with them.)

Unit Leader:

The following scouts have been elected to the Order of the Arrow.

(Read their names, slowly)

(The following paragraphs are then presented as a charge to the candidates and present Order Members.)

B:

That you, my fellow campers, have been chosen by your companions to become members of the Order reflects great credit upon you, and I congratulate you upon your election. You have impressed upon those who have lived closest to you the sincerity of your purpose to live in accordance with the high ideals of the Scout Oath and Law. The judgement of your fellows could hardly have been mistaken.

Unit Leader:

In a short time, you will take upon yourselves another solemn obligation to be unselfish in service and devotion to the welfare of others. Your fellow Scouts elected you because they felt that you would continue your service. Do not let them down.

A:

My brothers in the Order, you have proved during the past year that the traditions of our Brotherhood are not a collection of meaningless words. As we welcome these new candidates on our journey, let us be mindful of our obligation to help and guide them during the trials that lie ahead.

Unit Leader:

This concludes the election. Thank you for your cooperation. Good camping and good night.