



## Election Ceremony

### OA MEMBER 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 unit. To be eligible for election, a youth must fulfill the camping requirement and hold the First Class rank.

After being elected, the Scout must complete 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 long period of self-improvement and service then follows.

The lodge flap, Universal Arrow ribbon, and the 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 unit. Indeed, each Arrowman is expected to give richer service to his own troop or team in return for the honor his unit extended to him.

American Indian lore is an attractive sideline in our Order. American Indian dances and ceremonies add color to our program of service, and members often make American Indian lore their hobby. However, one does not need American Indian attire or skill in American 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 or team, except those 21 or older, are entitled to vote.

All those who receive votes from at least half of those who turn in ballots are elected. The number of candidates you elect will depend on how your votes agree with votes of other members of your unit.

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 and Law.

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 purpose of the Order of the Arrow and the election procedure.)*

### OA MEMBER B:

The following members of this unit 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 a place to line up and read the list slowly. Arrange the candidates in a line facing the voters at the place indicated; the line can be semicircular if the eligible group is large. Write each name on the chalkboard or flip chart as called.)*

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

### OA MEMBER C:

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 Scout, would you like to hike and camp with him?

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?

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 unit 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?



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?

### **OA MEMBER B:**

Scouts, on the ballot you will be given, print the first and last names of the 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 unmarked ballot. If you are new in the troop or team 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. Those eligible for election also vote, and they may vote for themselves if they feel they are worthy.

The names of the eligible candidates are listed on this chalkboard (flip chart, poster, etc.). When you are finished, fold the ballot only once and give the pencil and ballot to any member of the election team.

*(Distribute election ballots and pencils.)*

*(Collect ballots and pencils. Count the votes in private with the unit leader. The following text should be used whenever there is no formal calling-out ceremony planned.)*

### **OA MEMBER A:**

The following have been elected to the Order of the Arrow. Will you please come forward as your leader calls your name? (Name those elected.) This concludes the election. Thank you for your cooperation. Good camping and good night (day).

*(Elected candidates and any Arrowmen within the unit who can be spared are taken into a separate room where the election team records necessary data and instructs the candidates as to the date, time, and place of the beginning of the Ordeal. The following paragraphs should then be presented as a charge to the candidates and present Order of the Arrow members.)*

### **OA MEMBER B:**

That you, my fellow campers, have been chosen by your companions to become members of the Order of the Arrow 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. The judgment of your fellows could hardly have been mistaken.

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.

### **OA MEMBER C:**

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 (the new candidate) on our journey, let us be mindful of our obligation to help and guide them (him) during the trials that lie ahead.

## **Ceremonies**

Although we might not always understand or remember all that happened, our most vivid and lasting impression of the Order of the Arrow was probably formed during the Ordeal ceremony.

The exhilarating fatigue that comes from working hard with very little food amid the excitement of a special ceremony heightens the experience of the Ordeal. So it is important to the success of the Order that every lodge put on the best ceremonies possible.

Businesses usually are successful when they spend extra time and effort on their customers, and if a lodge is active enough to qualify for the Quality Lodge recognition, it probably can credit some of its accomplishments and strengths to good ceremonies. Because candidates realize and remember that a lot of hard work went into "their" Ordeal ceremony, the lodge's efforts in producing good ceremonies often are repaid by inspired new members who will take an active interest in the activities of the Order.

**Conducting ceremonies.** Ceremonies are an important part of the activities of the Order of the Arrow. They must always be conducted in a manner that is in complete compliance with the ceremony guides and the *Guide to Inductions*. Neither hazing nor any other activity that endangers the health or injures the feelings of the candidates has a place in an Order of the Arrow ceremony.

Ceremonies should be dramatic and held in an appropriate setting with proper use of American Indian attire and council fire techniques. Nothing should be done to detract from the serious purpose of honoring new candidates. The difference between success and failure of a lodge starts with the ceremonies of the Order. Proper attire, well-laid-out ceremonial grounds, rehearsals, and, very important, memorizing speaking parts, contribute to meaningful ceremonies.

