



The Order of the Arrow is Scouting's National Honor Society. It recognizes those campers who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives and, by such recognition, cause other campers to conduct themselves in such a manner as to warrant similar recognition, to promote camping, and to crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.

Our next Ordeal, the campout by which the elected candidates become members of the Order of the Arrow, is scheduled for March 7-9, 2008 at Camp Knox. We ask that the elections be scheduled early enough so that not all of the elections are conducted the week before the Ordeal.

Youth Membership Qualifications

1. A Boy Scout or Varsity Scout who holds the First Class rank, is under the age of 21, and is registered as an active member of the troop or team may, with the approval of his unit leader, be nominated for election. Prior to the annual election, the unit leader must certify the nominee's Scout spirit and youth membership qualifications.
2. After registration with a troop or team, the youth must have experienced 15 days and nights of Boy Scout camping during the two-year period prior to the election. The 15 days and nights must include one, but no more than one, long-term camp consisting of six consecutive days and five nights of resident camping, approved and under the auspices and standards of the Boy Scouts of America. The balance of the camping must be overnight, weekend, or other short-term camps. Voting for youth candidates will be based on their spirit of brotherhood, cheerfulness (no matter how tiresome their duties), and a willingness to give unselfish and wholehearted service to others at all times.

Adult Membership Qualifications

Each year, upon holding a troop or team election for youth candidates that results in at least one youth candidate being elected, the unit committee may recommend one registered unit adult, 21 years of age or older, to the lodge adult selection committee. Troops or teams having more than 50 registered, active youth members may nominate an additional adult for every 50 registered, active youth, or fraction thereof. For example, a troop having 51 to 100 registered, active youths may nominate two adults each year if at least one youth has been elected. The adult selection committee,

with the approval of the Scout executive, will decide who will be candidates for inductions provided the following conditions are fulfilled.

1. Selection of the adult is based on the ability to perform the necessary functions to help the Order fulfill its purposes and is not for recognition of service, including current and prior achievements and positions.
2. The individual will be an asset to the Order because of demonstrated abilities that fulfill the purpose of the Order.
3. The camping requirements set forth for youth members are fulfilled.
4. The adult leader's membership will provide a positive example for the growth and development of the youth members of the lodge.

Elections Process

The way a Scoutmaster prepares for an OA election is he or his Order of the Arrow Representative contacts the Chapter Chief to set up an election at a Troop Meeting.

On the date for the election, the Election team will bring a video tape and/or a DVD with a program about voting. Before starting, the Scoutmaster must certify 50% of the registered active youth are present. Registered active youth is a dues paid who participates in some events. If they have dropped completely, you do not have to count them.

The Election team may speak to the Scoutmaster before they add additional comments prior to or after the video presentation. The Scoutmaster provides a list of all registered active members who are eligible for election as stated above. The Election Team will play the video.

The vote is conducted by the Elections Team. Some Scoutmasters have found that pre-printed ballots work well. However, if you give blank sheets, they may fill them in themselves. The election team will count the votes. A youth must receive 50% or more of the total number of voters present to be elected. Thus if a unit has 60 registered youth, the 30 must be present to conduct an election. He must receive 15 votes of the 30 present. If 31 are present, he must receive 16 votes. It is rounded upward.

The Election Team informs the Scoutmaster of the results. The Scoutmaster states when the election results should be announced. If no one was elected, a second vote may be conducted. If anyone was elected, the election stands. If a youth is elected, then the Committee may nominate an adult who satisfies the camping nights requirement on the adult nomination form. The Election team records the information on the Unit Election Form. The election team should give the Scoutmaster a letter for the youth who are elected to given upon their being informed of the election.