



June 16, 2008

To the parents of

Congratulations! Your son has been elected to be a candidate for membership in the Order of the Arrow. The OA, as it is called, is the National Honor Society of the Boy Scouts of America. It was organized in 1915 to recognize honor campers. The purposes of the OA are to recognize those campers who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives, to develop and maintain camping traditions and spirit, to promote Scout camping, and to crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.

Candidates for the Order of the Arrow are chosen not only for what they have done, but also for what they are expected to do in serving the welfare of others. Because your son was selected for candidacy by the unique method of being elected by his peers, we are sure that he is well worthy of this honor.

Before a candidate may become a member of the OA, he must undergo an "Ordeal" within one (1) year of his election. If he does not, then he must be elected to be a candidate again. In the next year, we will hold an Ordeal on **September 19-21, 2008 or March 13-15, 2009** at **Knox Scout Reservation**. This weekend will offer a unique opportunity for him to reflect on his personal commitment to the principles and purposes of the Order of the Arrow. The weekend is undertaken by every new candidate and is a meaningful and inspiring experience that will not soon be forgotten. Once elected, a youth must complete his Ordeal within one year of his election. If he does not, then he must be re-elected by his Troop.

Induction in the Order of the Arrow will open many new doors for your son. Our lodge participates in many events every year. In addition, the OA provides some of the most valuable youth leadership training and opportunities available. These opportunities will build upon the knowledge he already has received during his Scouting experience. This is truly an exciting time for you and your son. Your encouragement will be appreciated.

Please feel free to contact me at 706-840-3414 if you have any questions concerning the Order of the Arrow. Thank you for your support of your son and of Scouting.

Sincerely,

Patrick Garcia
Bob White Lodge Chief

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR ORDEAL EVENTS

1. The Ordeal weekend is open to all OA members and newly elected Ordeal Candidates. Candidates should arrive no later than 7:00 pm on Friday night. The event will end on Sunday morning by approximately 12:00 Noon concluding with General Lodge Meeting, New Member Orientation and distribution of member packets containing Membership card, pocket flap, and OA handbook. Special arrangements can be made to accommodate late arrivals on Friday night due to football, band, or other activities, and on Sunday to accommodate religious requirements. The fee is \$45.00 for which the Ordeal members receive a sash, a book, a lodge flap, membership card, and all meals. The OA Store will be open Sunday morning and after the General Lodge Meeting for the purchase of OA memorabilia such as t-shirts, patches, and other items. Members frequently spend between \$20.00 and \$25.00 at the OA Store.
2. However, Candidates should make every effort to stay for the entire event due to safety issues regarding traveling on Saturday night and missing out on important information at the New Member Orientation. Saturday's activities will be tiring and last late into the evening (approx. 10:00 pm).
3. Candidates should arrive in clothing to work and sleep outdoors and members in complete Scout uniform. All Scouts should have a complete Scout Uniform in their gear.
4. All attendees must have a copy of a current Class I Medical Form.
5. After check-in on Friday night, Candidates and members will set up their tents in a designated campsite. They will need the normal toiletries, change of clothes, etc. for Saturday night. Candidates will need only the following items when they report back to the designated assembly area:
 - a. Sleeping bag or bed roll
 - b. Ground cloth
 - c. Work clothes, work gloves, and work boots/shoes (may be subject to getting paint, dirt, oil, etc. on them so plan accordingly). Candidates may return to the designated area in their work clothes.
 - d. Canteen or water bottle
 - e. Small flashlight (no lanterns)
 - f. Raingear such as a poncho
 - g. Pocket knife
 - h. Sunscreen and insect repellent
6. Members should bring work clothes, gloves, boots/shoes, and tools, as they feel necessary for service projects on Saturday.
7. Brotherhood Candidates should plan on attending a Pre-Ordeal Ceremony on Friday night and arrive accordingly.
8. Eat before you arrive on Friday night.