

KLAHICAN LODGE ORDER OF THE ARROW ELECTION TEAM PROCEDURES

Election team members should introduce themselves to the unit members giving some Scouting background on themselves.

TEAM MEMBER A:

To become a member of the Order of the Arrow, a Scout is chosen by vote of the youth in his unit. This is a unique feature of the Order since the majority of those who select their candidates for this honor are not members of the lodge. However, lodge members in the unit have a vote as well as non-members.

TEAM MEMBER B:

Fellow Scouts, the Order of the Arrow is a national Brotherhood of honor campers. Its purpose is to recognize and honor those campers who best live up to the Scout Oath or Promise 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, a youth must fulfill the camping requirements, hold the First Class rank, and have the approval of his Scoutmaster.

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 to the Order. A long period of self-improvement and service then follows.

The 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 members' responsibility to his unit. Each Arrowman is expected to give richer service to his own unit in return for the honor it has 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 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 under the age of 21 are entitled to vote.

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 the Order of the Arrow is not a popularity contest! Don't vote for a Scout just because he is your friend or because he is a good athlete, or because he is older than the rest. What really counts is his loyalty to the Scout Oath or Promise.

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 procedure)

TEAM MEMBER A:

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 this list slowly. Arrange the candidates in a line facing the voters at a place indicated: the line can be semicircular if the eligible group is large. Write each name on a chalkboard or flip chart as called)

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

1. Who in this group is a friend to all and a brother to every other Scout?
2. Who is pleasant and easy to get along with?
3. Is he kind and helpful?
4. If you were a Tenderfoot, who would you like to hike and camp with?
5. Who is cheerful, even when he has many tiresome jobs to do?
6. Who smiles whenever he can?
7. Who obeys promptly and cheerfully?
8. Does he control his temper?
9. If you were at camp with him for several weeks, do you think you would enjoy him?
10. Who is always ready to give unselfish and wholehearted service to others?
11. Who, in serving others, can forget his own interests and desires?
12. Who has served your unit all year round, faithfully attending your meetings and helping with service projects?
13. Do you think he will continue his service in the future?
14. If you were his patrol leader, could you depend on him?
15. In all, ask yourself: Who in this group, by living up to the Scout Oath or Promise, serves your fellow Scouts with such an example of brotherhood and cheerfulness that you look up to him with deep respect and admiration?

TEAM MEMBER B:

On the ballot you will be given, print the first and last names of all 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 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 and this will not affect the final result.

Those of you who are candidates may vote also and if you feel you are worthy, you should vote for yourself. Remember, vote only for those you feel are worthy.

The names of those eligible are listed on this chart. When you are finished, fold the ballot in half 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. Hold second election if needed, complete Unit Election Sheet, mail Unit Election Sheet to lodge office and Jim Taylor)

UNIT ELECTION PROCEDURE (Review this with the unit leader prior to election)

1. Klahican Lodge conducts unit elections each year in March, April and May.
2. The election should be held at the regular unit meeting location.
3. Ask all, candidates to print their name, address, phone number and date of birth on a roster of candidates.
4. The election team must advise the unit leader that at least 50% of the registered active unit membership must be present to hold an election. If less than 50% are present, the election cannot be held.
5. The unit leader provides the election team with a list of all qualified active members of the unit and certifies that they are eligible.
6. To be eligible a Scout must:
 - A. Be a registered Scout
 - B. Be a First Class Scout or higher
 - C. After registration with the unit, have at least 15 days and nights of camping including 5 consecutive nights of resident camping within 2 years of the election.
 - D. Have unit leader approval. The unit leader must certify the candidate's Scout Spirit, his adherence to the Scout Oath and Law, and participation in unit activities.
7. All eligible youth who receive votes from at least 50% of those who turn in ballots are elected. If no one is elected on the first ballot, a second vote may be held immediately and the result of this vote will be final.
8. When the voting is finished, the election team counts the number of ballots turned in and enters the number on the Unit Election Sheet.
9. The election team counts the votes in private with the unit leader. All votes count equally. If at least one Scout is elected, the vote is final. If no one is elected on the first election, the team announces this fact and states that another vote will be held immediately. No information about the votes received by candidates is to be revealed at any time. If no one is elected on the second vote, the result is final for this year's election.
10. The election team completes the election sheet listing those elected. All information about those elected must be entered on the form, including name, address and phone number.
11. The election team announces that those elected will be tapped out at summer camp.
12. The election team mails the election form to the person identified on the sheet and a copy to the Scout office.
13. Thank the Unit leader and the Scouts for allowing you to conduct the OA election.

The above election procedures were compiled from "The Order of the Arrow Guide for Officers and Advisors" and serves as the official reference for election procedures.