

SCOUTMASTER'S GUIDE



To Order of the Arrow UNIT ELECTIONS



Owasippe Lodge 7

Order of the Arrow Unit Elections



To: Unit Leaders

From: Order of the Arrow
Owasippe Lodge 7
Pathway to Adventure Council

Subject: Annual Unit Elections

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 habit of helpfulness as a life purpose.

Each Boy Scout troop or Varsity Scout team with qualified Scouts is urged to hold an election not later than the end month of May, to select candidates for an Ordeal. The date and place of the election are selected by you, as unit leader.

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, 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.
3. 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 result in at least one youth candidate being elected, the unit committee may nominate registered unit adults, 21 years of age or older, to the lodge adult selection committee for approval to be candidates for induction. The number of adults nominated can be no more than one-third of the number of youth candidates elected, rounded up where the number of youth candidates is not a multiple of three. In addition to the one-third limit, the unit committee may nominate the currently-serving unit leader (but not assistant leaders), as long as he or she has served as unit leader for at least the previous 12 months. 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 role model for the growth and development of the youth members of the lodge.

The election should be held at a regularly scheduled unit meeting. Every effort should be made to have 100 percent attendance of both youth and adults at this meeting. Only an election team from the Order of the Arrow shall conduct the election. Your Order of the Arrow Troop/Team Representative can assist the election team with scheduling and conducting an unit election. Please notify your Chapter of the date and place set aside for the election of candidates and schedule an election team to conduct an election.

Unit Election Rules and Procedures for Order of the Arrow Elections

In Boy Scout troops and Varsity Scout teams, every registered active member of the unit under age 21 at the time of election is eligible to vote in an Order of the Arrow unit election.

A Boy Scout or Varsity Scout who carries a current national membership card and participates in at least some unit activities during the year is considered to be a registered active member of the unit. For example, a youth away at college who participates in some unit activities when home, such as campouts, camporees, or occasional unit meetings, should be considered a registered active member.

A youth who moves away or drops out of the unit because of other interests would not be counted in the registered active membership figure.

OA elections are held in qualified troops and teams only under the direction of the lodge in the council where the unit is chartered. The lodge or chapter must approve all unit election teams in advance of their holding an election in a troop or team. No unit may visit outside its own council and hold an OA election under the auspices of a lodge of another council. In all cases, newly elected candidates for membership in the Order, both adult and youth, should complete the Ordeal and be inducted into the Order by the lodge that serves the council in which their unit is chartered.

Unit Election Rules

1. The lodge shall determine the time of year unit elections will be held and should inform troop and team leaders of this by mail well in advance. The lodge, through the unit elections committee, should work with the troop/team leader in establishing the time and place to conduct the election.
2. Hold the election at the time and place determined by the unit leader, and have Boy Scouts or Varsity Scouts assembled with their unit leader ready to elect candidates. Elections are not to be held in Venturing crews or Cub Scout packs. The Order should be represented by a two- or three-member team from the lodge or chapter unit elections committee.
3. Before the election, the unit leader must verify to the OA team that at least 50 percent of the registered active unit membership is present. If at least 50 percent is not present, an election cannot be held. The number of registered active members and the number present are entered in the spaces provided on the Unit Leader Election Report. If the unit leader is an Arrowman, he may explain to the group the purpose of the Order of the Arrow and the basis upon which candidates should be selected, and describe the method of election. If the unit leader is not a member of the Order, a member of the OA team should make this presentation with the unit leader's consent, demonstrating that election leadership is a cooperative effort of the unit leader and the OA team.
4. The unit leader provides a list of registered active members of the unit who meet all eligibility requirements, including attitude and participation. The names of these members are entered on the report form and the unit leader signs the certification.
5. The election team leader explains the following to the unit leader: This is the current method of election approved by the national OA committee in use by the lodge. All eligible youths who receive votes from at least 50 percent of those who turn in ballots are elected. If no one is elected, a second vote may be held immediately, and the result of this vote will be final.
6. A voter may list on his ballot any combination of names; including all eligible candidates he believes are worthy to become members of the Order of the Arrow.
7. The OA team conducts the election. A unit election ceremony and a unit elections video is available from the OA. Stress the following points: "Select 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/team. .If

you feel that no one is worthy, turn in a blank ballot. If you are new in the unit and do not know the candidates well enough to vote wisely, you may abstain by not turning in a ballot at all; this will not affect the final result. Youths eligible for election also vote, and they may vote for themselves if they feel they are worthy.”

8. When the voting is finished, the OA election team counts the number of ballots turned in and enters the numbers on the Unit Election Report.
9. The OA team determines the minimum number of votes one must receive to be elected, as follows: If the number of ballots turned in was even (2, 4, 6, 8, etc.), divide this number by two. If the number was odd (1, 3, 5, 7, etc.), add one and then divide by two. The number of votes a youth must receive to be elected is entered on the Unit Election Report.
10. The election team and the unit leader count the votes in private. All votes count equally. If at least one has been elected, the election result is final. The OA team places a check next to the names of those who have been elected.
11. If no one is elected, the OA team announces this fact and states that the unit will now be given the opportunity to vote again. Time is allowed for further explanation of the purpose of the Order and the election procedures, and for any questions. No information about the votes received by candidates is to be revealed at any time. The second ballot is then held immediately, and if the unit still elects no one, this is the final result for this year's election.

Announcement of results: As soon as the election is completed, the unit leader may or may not choose to announce to the entire unit the names of members who have been elected. Names and addresses of the newly elected candidates must be forwarded to the lodge membership committee immediately. Candidates will be called out at the earliest possible time, either at a resident camp, a camporee, or a special ceremony.

Candidate status: After election, Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, or adults remain candidates until completion of the Ordeal and Ordeal ceremony. If this period of candidacy exceeds one year, the candidate's name will be dropped. To become candidates again, they must be re-elected. The executive committee of the lodge may extend the one-year limit between election and induction if a candidate is ill or there are other unusual circumstances.

Adult recommendations: Each year, upon holding a troop or team election for youth candidates that result in at least one youth candidate being elected, the unit committee may nominate registered unit adults, 21 years of age or older, to the lodge adult selection committee for approval to be candidates for induction. The number of adults nominated can be no more than one-third of the number of youth candidates elected, rounded up where the number of youth candidates is not a multiple of three. In addition to the one-third limit, the unit committee may nominate the currently-serving unit leader (but not assistant leaders), as long as he or she has served as unit leader for at least the previous 12 months. 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.

All adult recommendations must be entered on the official lodge adult petition form. This form must be completely filled out and signed. It is preferred that the completed adult petition(s) be attached with the youth election form at the time of the unit election. If this is not possible, the completed form can be returned to the council service center no later than one week from the date of the unit election. The lodge election team shall indicate on the official youth election form the numbers of adult petitions that are pending. Due to the timing of the adult approval process the lodge cannot accept adult petitions beyond the due date.

Adults may not be called out until the lodge adult selection committee approves them. Maintain the privacy of adult recommendations and the actions of the lodge adult selection committee.