



The Order of the Arrow is Scouting's National Honor Society.

Eligibility

Scouts are elected to the Order by their fellow unit members, by both OA members and non-members. To become a member, a youth must be registered and at least First Class rank. As of the date of the election, a Scout must have experienced fifteen days and nights of Boy Scout camping during the two-year period prior to the election. The fifteen 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 (such as Summer Camp, SeaBase, Jamborees, Philmont, etc...). The balance of the camping must be overnight, weekend, or other short-term camps.

Voting

Voting is held once per year, during winter or early spring months at a regular Troop meeting. The list of Scouts that are eligible candidates will be provided on election night. Troop members can vote for as many candidates as they feel are worthy of the honor. The number of Scouts that can be elected is determined by the number of Scouts present when voting occurs (in other words, the more Scouts there that night – the more that can be elected!). The Scoutmaster must approve the election results, and they will not be disclosed to anyone other than the Scoutmaster until the Call-Out ceremony is held at summer camp. Election to the OA is an honor, not a right. Some of the things a Scout needs to think about before he decides whom he is voting for:

- Does this Scout live by and practice the Scout Oath and Law in a daily routine?
- Is this a Scout that has helped and taught younger Scouts?
- Is this a Scout that works to get along with all Scouts?
- If you were stranded on a desert island, would you want to be stuck with this Scout?
- Does this Scout 'do his best'?
- Is this Scout always 'prepared'?
- Is this a Scout you want to be like?

These are also things that a Scout who feels he 'deserves' to be voted into the OA needs to think about. How are YOU looked upon by your fellow Scouts?

Tap-Out

The Tap-Out ceremony is held on Wednesday nights during Summer Camp. It is an incredible ceremony of which the elected candidate will remember for the rest of his life.

Ordeal Ceremony

The Ordeal ceremonies for elected candidates are held during a weekend campout performed by the Buckeye Council's OA 377 Sipp-O Lodge. They occur once in the spring and once in the fall. After the candidate is elected and/or Tapped-Out, he becomes an Ordeal Candidate and must attend one of the two next Ordeal weekends. If he fails to do so, then his Candidate status will be lost and he will have to be re-elected by his fellow Scouts the following year. Specific information pertaining to the Ordeal weekend will be provided to the Ordeal candidate after the Call-Out Ceremony. Dates and other information pertaining to Ordeal weekends, Fellowships, and other Lodge functions will be detailed in the Lodge's *Stag* newsletter and explained by your Troop's OA Representative or Scoutmaster. Your Scoutmaster and fellow Arrowmen can help the Ordeal Candidate be ready for the weekend and can answer any remaining questions the Candidate or his parents may have.

Troop #: _____

Our Troop election date is: _____