



Order of the Arrow Unit Elections



To all Scoutmasters

Thank you for your time in helping us to prepare for our upcoming visit to your Unit. The Order of the Arrow is Scouting's National Honor Society. By allowing us the time to talk with your Scouts and conduct an election, you help to honor those Scouts who are deserving of this high honor.

When the election team visits your Unit, we ask that you already have a list of the Scouts who are eligible from your Unit available. This will help to speed up the election process. Elections on average take about 20 minutes to complete. We will be playing a video about the Order of the Arrow and talking about our local OA Lodge and Chapter. After that, we will be conducting the elections. If possible, we ask that a TV and DVD player be made available. If not, then we can work around that.

It is possible for all eligible Scouts from a Unit to be elected in to the OA. Scouts are instructed that they should vote for those eligible youth that they believe best live up to the Scout Oath and Law. Scouts receiving a minimum of 50% of the vote are then elected. Scouts who are elected by their Units for eligibility for membership in the OA can be notified that night of the election or at the Callout Ceremony at the District's Spring Camporee.

I'd like to emphasize a few points on the election process and rules that will help to facilitate a smooth election.

- Elections for all Units must be completed by March 31, 2016
- All elections are opened and closed at the Troop meeting. There can be no proxy voting by Scouts who are not present at the time of the election. Also, there can be no follow up elections for youth who didn't get elected the first time or were not eligible at the time of the election. Once the election is officially closed, that's it.
- At least 50% of the registered active youth in your Unit must be present in order to hold an election. If there is less than 50% present, then the election will have to be rescheduled. Only those Scouts that are registered in your Unit may vote.
- In the Order of the Arrow, a person is considered a youth until the age of 21. So, any Scouts registered in your Unit that are under the age of 21 may vote in the election.

There is a section to our Chapter website that is entirely dedicated to Unit Elections. On this website you will find all of the needed resources and information to help you. There is also a submission form that you can use to submit the names of Scouts eligible for an election. The names submitted will be used to pre-print their names on an election ballot. This helps to speed up the election process and alleviate any confusion of who is who with new Scouts in your Troop or Team. The address to the election portion of our website is http://www.acachapter.org/oa_unit_elections

Available for download at www.acachapter.org/oa_unit_elections, is the adult nomination form. All Units are allowed to nominate 1 adult per 3 Scouts elected for candidacy in the OA by their Unit. Adults are not elected by the members of their Unit, but are nominated by the Troop Committee. If no youth are eligible from a given Unit, then no adult may be nominated. Please have the adult nomination forms ready to turn into the visiting election team. If you need more time filling it out then it may be turned in to the Chapter Adviser or District Executive no later than March 31, 2016.

On the following pages you will find an information sheet about the history and purpose of the Order of the Arrow, youth and adult requirements membership, and instructions on the election process.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at any time.

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ACA Chapter of Cahuilla Lodge #127

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



The Purpose of the Order of the Arrow is fourfold:

- To recognize those Scout 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
- To crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others

The History of the Order of the Arrow is rich with tradition:

The Order of the Arrow (OA) was founded by Dr. E. Urner Goodman and Carroll A. Edson in 1915 at the Treasure Island Camp of the Boy Scouts of America. It became an official program experiment in 1922 and was approved as part of the Scouting program in 1934.

In 1948 the OA, recognized as the BSA's national brotherhood of honor campers, became an official part of the national camping program of the Boy Scouts of America. The Order of the Arrow has more than 176,000 members in lodges affiliated with more than 327 local Boy Scout Councils.

It is an honor to be Eligible for the Order of the Arrow:

Scouts are elected to the Order by their fellow unit members, *following approval by the Scoutmaster or Varsity team Coach*. To become a member, a youth must be:

- a registered member of a Boy Scout troop or Varsity Scout team and hold at least the First Class rank.
- The youth 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. The balance of the camping must be overnight, weekend, or other short-term camps.

Adult selection is based on their ability to perform the necessary functions to help the Order fulfill its purpose, and is not for recognition. Selected adult Scouters must be an asset to the Order because of demonstrated abilities, and provide a positive role model for the youth members of the Lodge. Adults must also meet the same camping requirements as the youth Scouts.

The Election is to confirm those eligible for the Order of the Arrow:

An OA election may be held when at least 50% of the Troop is present. Each Scout eligible for the Order of the Arrow may be elected. You may vote yes for any and all eligible Scouts. This is NOT a contest. You should vote for every eligible Scout that you feel represents the Ideals of Scouting and Service. Again, ALL eligible Scouts may be elected to the Order of the Arrow. The results of the election will be given to the Scoutmaster who may keep them secret until the "Call Out Ceremony" which is held annually at the District's Spring Camporee.

The Induction ceremony, called the Ordeal, is the first step of membership:

An eligible candidate must attend an Ordeal during the year in which he is nominated. If he does not, he must be elected again. The Ordeal is a weekend long ceremony held at one of the Councils Scout Camps. During the experience, candidates maintain silence, work on camp improvement projects, and are required to sleep alone, apart from other campers. The entire experience is designed to be a period of self reflection and self improvement. After you have passed your Ordeal, you are considered an Arrowman. After 10 month's of active service to your Troop and Lodge, you will be eligible for the ties of Brotherhood in the Order.

Unit Election Team Evaluation Sheet

Dear Scoutmaster,

This is a unit election review sheet. If you would, could you observe the unit election for your troop, and fill out this form? Its purpose is to help better the future elections so as to make them more profitable to you. Please turn in with your adult nomination form. Thanks in Advance for your time.

Please Grade on a Scale of 1-10, 10 being highest.

- Was the Elections Team Polite? _____
- Did they seem prepared? _____
- Did they seem to have the proper resources? _____
- Did they seem to know the content of what was being presented? _____
- Were they Punctual? _____
- Were they dressed properly? _____
- How effective was their presentation? _____
- Did the youth seem to keep interest? _____
- Did the Election run smoothly? _____
- Was the video shown? Y / N
 - (If yes) How was the video? _____
- Did you have a Camping Promo. Presentation? Y / N
 - (If yes) How was it? _____

Additional Comments