



The following is the 2nd release of the 2017 Lodge 151 OA Election packet.

The Unit Relations of the Lodge this year is working hard on improving the way we receive paperwork from the elections.

The first step in this process was to provide an easy way of submitting your units "Notification of Unit Election" & "OA Troop Representative", the whole process should take no more than 5-10 minutes to complete and submit. Please use the following link <https://www.scoutingevent.com/433-election> .

Note: This will electronically submit the information to the Lodge.

Note the above link becomes active on December 15, 2016

This link will also allow you to enter the name and information of your OA Troop Representative. The lodge highly recommends you enter their information so that the District Chapter Chiefs can reach out to them, and help them to better fulfill their position.

The second step in this process was to provide an easy way of submitting your unit elected youth and placing them into the ordeal they have chosen. Please use the following link <https://www.scoutingevent.com/433-OAReport> .

❖ **Note: This will electronically submit the information to the Lodge.**

- This new way of registering will allow the unit representative placing the new elected members into the Ordeal of the candidates choosing right after the election is completed.
- Only 55 elected candidates are allowed in an Ordeal. This new system will lock entries past 55 from being part of the ordeal.

If the ordeal chosen is closed out, a new ordeal date will need to be picked.

- For each ordeal date, multiple candidates can be entered. If you have a unit with candidates to be registered into different ordeal dates. Complete the first ordeal date you have chosen to have entries placed and then you must start from the beginning to choose a different ordeal date and add its entries.

The registration system is easy to use.

Only two of the forms in this packet are not able to be submitted electronically and must be mailed in:

- Adult Candidate Nomination Form (Page 9-10)
- Marnoc Lodge, #151, Unit Election Report (Page 11)

Mailed to:

Marnoc Lodge - GTC, ATTN: Unit Relations Committee, P.O. Box 68, Akron, Ohio 44309-0068

The lodge will continue to improve the Unit Election process.



Marnoc Lodge #151

Order of the Arrow

Election Packet - 2015

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Visit www.marnoc.org to find out what's happening in Marnoc Lodge.

To: Scoutmasters and OA Troop Representatives,

Marnoc has started a program called Chapters to help you know about what's going on in our Lodge. For each District, there will be a Chapter Chief who will communicate with you about what Marnoc events are coming up. To find out who your Chapter Chief is, visit www.marnoc.org.



IMPORTANT: All Youth elected are be registered electronically by the Troop into the Ordeal of their choosing.

Final Submission Date is April 15, 2017

2017 Membership Qualifications

(From the latest (2010) edition of the Guide to Officers and Advisers)

Youth membership qualifications. All members of, or candidates for membership in, the Order of the Arrow who are under 21 years of age shall be considered youth members or candidates for youth membership, subject to meeting the following requirements:

- Have Unit leader approval. To become eligible for election, a Boy Scout or Varsity Scout must be registered with the Boy Scouts of America and have the approval of his unit leader **prior** to the election. The unit leader must certify his Scout spirit (i.e., his adherence to the Scout Oath and Law and active participation in unit activities).
- Be a registered member of the Boy Scouts of America.
- Hold the First Class rank of the Boy Scouts of America, as a minimum.
- 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.

Adult membership qualifications. All members of, or candidates for membership in, the Order of the Arrow who are 21 years of age or older and who are registered members of the Boy Scouts of America shall be considered adult members or candidates for adult membership. Individuals shall be nominated as a candidate based on the following:

- Adult leaders in units: 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 adults to the lodge adult selection committee. 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 twelve months. Recommendations of the adult selection committee, which consists of the lodge adviser, the chairman of the council committee on which the lodge adviser serves, and the lodge staff adviser, with the approval of the Scout executive, serving as Supreme Chief of the Fire, will be candidates for induction, provided the following conditions are fulfilled:
 - Selection of the adult is based on the ability to perform the necessary functions to help the Order fulfill its purpose, and not for recognition of service, including current or prior achievement and positions.
 - The individual will be an asset to the Order because of demonstrated abilities that fulfill the purpose of the Order.
 - The camping requirements set forth for youth members are fulfilled.
 - The adult leader's membership will provide a positive example for the growth and development of the youth members of the lodge.
 - The nomination must be submitted to the Lodge Selection Committee for final Approval.

2017 Unit Election Checklist

Use this checklist to make sure that you have not missed any steps in the elections process. All forms are available electronically from our website www.marnoc.org

To prepare for the election:

- Complete the Notification of Unit Elections (Page 7) online **by January 15, 2017**. Upon receipt of your information, the Elections Committee may contact you to confirm your unit's election date.
- Compile a list of the Scouts who are eligible (see page 4). Record these names on your *Unit Elections Report* (Page 11), and have this list ready for the night of your election.
- Even if no one is eligible, please notify the Lodge.

On the night of election:

You must have 50% of your registered youth in attendance to hold an election. If you do not, you will have to hold the election at another time.

- Have current Arrowmen read the ceremony (page 17-19)
- Pass out ballots and vote. A voter may list on his ballot any combination of names, including all eligible candidates who he believes are worthy to become members. A Scout may vote for himself. To be elected, a youth must have 50% of the number of votes cast. A blank vote turned in counts as a vote cast, i.e. a vote against everyone. If someone does not know the candidates well enough, he may cast no vote by not turning in a ballot. A ballot not turned in does not count against anyone, nor does it count for them. If no one is elected a second vote may be held immediately, and the result of this vote will be final.
- If your unit is nominating an adult(s), complete the *Adult Candidate Nomination Form* (Page 9-10). **Both pages filled out completely** are required for each adult being nominated **including all signatures**.
- Have each elected youth fill out an Ordeal Reservation Form (page 13). This will give the Troop leader or Parents filling in the online registration the information needed to complete the registration. **Note: This form is not to be mailed in.**
- Complete and mail in the *Unit Elections Report* (Page 11). **Note: Scouts registered for Ordeals are Not Confirmed until this Unit Elections Report is received by the Lodge.**
- Complete the *Troop Representative Form* (Page 15 of this packet) and mail in. Your OA Troop/Team representative is an important liaison between your Troop and the Lodge. This information will also be used during summer camp to communicate about camp activities for unit members.

After the election:

- Register the elected youth online at <https://www.scoutingevent.com/433-OAReport> .
- Be sure that all forms (Adult Candidate Nomination, page 9-10; Unit election report, page 11; and OA troop/Team rep form, page 15) are mailed into the lodge by April 15, 2017. .

Mailed to:

Marnoc Lodge - GTC, ATTN: Unit Relations Committee, P.O. Box 68, Akron, Ohio 44309-0068

Election Q&A

ABOUT THE ORDER OF THE ARROW:

Q – What is the Order of the Arrow?

- A** – Boy Scouts of America’s National Honor Society.

Q – What is the Order of the Arrow's purpose?

- A** – Recognize those campers who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives. Such recognition is awarded in hopes that it may 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 in a life purpose.

Q – How can a youth become a member of the OA?

- A** – The only way for a youth to become a member of the OA is to be elected by his peers during his Troop/Team's election.

DATES AND OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT MARNOC'S ELECTIONS:

Q – When do I need to turn in the Notification of Unit Elections form?

- A1** – If you are running an “**Independent Unit Election**” (meaning you are running an election with OA members in your Troop) or a “Unit Election with Lodge Representative” (meaning you would like a Lodge member who is not from your Troop to oversee your election), you need to electronically submit your Troop's Notification of Unit Elections form by January 15th, 2017.
- A2** – If you are running a “**Unit Election run by Lodge Election Teams**” (meaning you would like a Lodge Election team to come to your Troop meeting to run your elections), you need to turn in your Troop's Notification of Unit Elections form by January 15th, 2017.

Q – What date must our Troop Elections be done by?

- A** – Elections should be conducted and results reported/ submitted to the lodge by April 15, 2017. After this date, your newly elected candidates can not be guaranteed a spot in any Marnoc Lodge Ordeal this year.

Q – When do I need to turn in the Unit Elections Report form?

- A** – The unit elections report and all other forms (adult recommendation Form, OA Representative Form) must be mailed in by April 15th, 2017.

Q – How do I contact Unit Relations if I have a question or a concern?

- A** – You can contact us at (unit_elections@marnoc.org)

ABOUT THE ORDEAL:

Q – When will a candidate be notified about his Ordeal?

- A** – The candidate should receive a letter addressed directly to him from the lodge by the middle of May, 2017. It will detail when their Ordeal has been scheduled, what to bring, what not to bring, cost of the Ordeal, when to show up and when to be picked up.

Q – What do I do if I don't get a letter, or need to change my Ordeal date?

- A** – The most common reason that a candidate does not receive a letter is that the Troop did not complete or register the Scout for his Ordeal online. Please check this first and then contact the membership committee at (membership@marnoc.org)

Q – Can parents come to the ceremonies?

- A** – Yes and no. The call out ceremony performed Wednesday night during retreat at summer camp is the only ceremony open to the public (nonmembers). Nonmembers, including parents, are *highly discouraged* from attending the other ceremonies. Please see page 15 (About the Ordeal) of this packet for a deeper explanation or contact the lodge adviser with any questions (adviser@marnoc.org)

Notification of Unit Election

Marnoc Lodge, #151

Unit #: _____ District: _____ Date of Election: _____

Option 1 - Independent Unit Election

With this option, the Lodge will not send anyone to your unit's election, and you are responsible for using the attached script for the election, and ensuring that all election materials are in and received by the Lodge no later than April 15, 2017.

Please be aware that due to the nature of the Election Ceremony, if your troop does not have at least three youth Arrowmen to conduct the Ceremony properly, you should not consider this option. The ceremonies of the Lodge are an important part of the customs and traditions of the Order. If you do not have enough Arrowmen to fulfill this requirement, you may still have an election, but please select one of the following options below. **Note: The Troop is responsible for submitting all the election results.**

Option 2 - Unit Election with Lodge Representative

With this option, the Lodge will send a representative to your unit's elections to oversee their conduct. The representative will also act as "OA member C" in your election. Please ensure that all paperwork is in order according to the checklist in your election packet (page 3) in order for an easier election process. If choosing this option, make sure you complete the election data/time information below.

Be sure your Troop has at least two Arrowmen to conduct the Ceremony properly; otherwise, you should not consider this option. If you do not have enough youth Arrowmen to fulfill this requirement, please select the "Unit Elections run by Lodge Elections Team" option. **Note: The Troop is responsible for submitting all the election results.**

Option 3 - Unit Election Run by Lodge Elections Team

With this option, the Lodge will send an Election Team to run your Unit Election. A group of three youth Arrowmen will arrive at the designated date/time and conduct the election per the attached script. Please ensure that all paperwork is in order according to the checklist in your election packet (page 3) in order for an easier election process. If choosing this option, make sure you complete the election date/time information below. **Note: The Troop is responsible for submitting all the election results.**

Please provide the following additional information regarding your election if you choose the 2nd or 3rd option:

Location of Election: _____ Date*: _____ Time*: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Scout Contact Name & Phone #: _____

*The Lodge Election Team will arrive approximately 15 minutes before this time.

Submit online:

1. Online at <https://www.scoutingevent.com/433-election> (Only method of submission)





Adult Candidate Nomination Form

Each year, upon holding a troop or team election for youth candidates that results in at least one youth candidate being elected, the unit committee may nominate registered unit adults (age 21 or over) to the lodge adult selection committee. 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. Recommendations of the adult selection committee, with the approval of the Scout executive, serving as Supreme Chief of the Fire, will be candidates for induction, provided all conditions are fulfilled.

Please print clearly and complete all of the information requested

District: _____ Unit Number: _____ Position: _____
First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____ Last Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Birth Date: ____ / ____ / ____ Years as Adult: _____ Home Phone: _____
Email address: _____

Training Completed: _____
Positions Held: _____
Scout as Youth / Rank: _____
Community Activities: _____
Employment / Trade: _____
Camping Requirement: _____

Long Term Camping (list dates and location): _____

The camping requirement set forth for youth candidates must be fulfilled by adults for them to be considered. To be eligible, the adult must have completed 15 days and nights of Boy Scout camping during the two-year period prior to nomination. 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 BSA. The balance must be overnight, weekend, or other short-term camps. **Include above the dates and location of the resident camping experience.**

Please also make a brief statement regarding the individual for each item on the next page.

Unit Recommendation: The adult leader, who fulfills the above requirements, is recommended for membership consideration in the Order of the Arrow. Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Unit Leader: _____
Print Name Signature

Committee Chairman: _____
Print Name Signature

-OR-

District/Council Recommendation: The adult leader, who fulfills the above requirements, is recommended for membership consideration in the Order of the Arrow. Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Nominator: _____
Print Name & Position Signature



Adult Candidate Nomination Form (cont.)

(This page must be submitted with the adult candidate information)

1. Selection of the adult is based upon the ability to perform the necessary functions and not for recognition of service, including current or prior achievement and position. The individual's abilities include:

2. As Scouting's National Honor Society, our purpose is to:

- Recognize those who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives and through that recognition cause others to conduct themselves in a way that warrants similar recognition.
- Promote camping, responsible outdoor adventure, and environmental stewardship as essential components of every Scout's experience, in the unit, year-round, and in summer camp.
- Develop leaders with the willingness, character, spirit and ability to advance the activities of their units, our Brotherhood, Scouting, and ultimately our nation.
- Crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.

This adult will be an asset to the Order of the Arrow due to demonstrated skills and abilities, which fulfill the purpose of the Order of the Arrow, in the following manner:

3. This adult leader's membership will provide a positive role model for the growth and development of the youth members of the lodge because:

Marnoc Lodge, #151, Unit Election Report

Unit #: _____ District: _____ Date of Election: _____

Number of registered active youth: _____ Number present at elections: _____

At least half of the registered active youth unit members must be present to hold an election.

Fill in the names and ranks of eligible youth before election. Check the names of elected youth.
Strike through the names of non-elected youth.

Name	Rank	Check if Elected	Name	Rank	Check if Elected

I certify that the above youth members are eligible and approve them as nominees for election. I also understand that the election results will be final for the year.

Unit leader's signature

Number of Troop members under 21: _____

Number of above in attendance: _____

Number of ballots cast: _____

Election team members' names (printed):

Order of the Arrow Troop Representative (printed):

Lodge Representative / Unit Leader (printed):

Number of votes required to be elected: _____

Number of youth elected: _____

Election team members' signatures:

Order of the Arrow Troop Representative's signature:

Lodge Representative / Unit Leader signature:

Note: Remember to complete one (1) for each Candidate Elected make additional copies of this page if needed.
 This is the information needed that the Troop or Parents will enter into the electronic registration system.

This form should be completed by the conclusion of your unit elections and will be used to enter the information at <https://www.scoutingevent.com/433-OAReport> .

The Troop or Parents are responsible for registering the Youth Scout online. Do not mail this form.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone #: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Unit #: _____
 District: _____ Council: _____
 E-Mail Address: _____

Please list your preferences below.

2017 Ordeal Dates:	Your Preference (circle your selection):				
Ordeal 1 – June 2-3 (weekend)	#1	#2	#3	#4	Can't Attend
Ordeal 2 – June 21-22 (week 1 of camp)	#1	#2	#3	#4	Can't Attend
Ordeal 3 – July 12-13 (week 4 of camp)	#1	#2	#3	#4	Can't Attend
Ordeal 4 – August 4-5 (weekend)	#1	#2	#3	#4	Can't Attend

-----Cut Here-----

This form should be completed by the conclusion of your unit elections and will be used to enter the information at <https://www.scoutingevent.com/433-OAReport> .

The Troop or Parents are responsible for registering the Youth Scout online. Do not mail this form.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone #: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Unit #: _____
 District: _____ Council: _____
 E-Mail Address: _____

Please list your preferences below.

2017 Ordeal Dates:	Your Preference (circle your selection):				
Ordeal 1 – June 2-3 (weekend)	#1	#2	#3	#4	Can't Attend
Ordeal 2 – June 21-22 (week 1 of camp)	#1	#2	#3	#4	Can't Attend
Ordeal 3 – July 12-13 (week 4 of camp)	#1	#2	#3	#4	Can't Attend
Ordeal 4 – August 4-5 (weekend)	#1	#2	#3	#4	Can't Attend



OA Troop/Team Representative

Registration Form for the OA Troop/Team Representative

Date of Submission: ____/____/____

Term of Office: ____/____ to ____/____

Name: _____ Troop/Team #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

District: _____ Phone #: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Circle One: Ordeal Brotherhood Vigil

Scouting Experiences: _____

OA Experiences: _____

Please list the three Marnoc Lodge Executive Council committees that you would like to serve on in order of your preference. You can find a list of committees on www.marnoc.org:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

If you are unfamiliar with the Marnoc Lodge Executive Counsel (LEC), we would like to invite you to come to one of the meetings. The LEC is open to any Marnoc Lodge OA member to come and see how Marnoc Lodge gets things done.

Check the Marnoc Lodge Calendar on our website: www.marnoc.org for dates and times of LEC meetings.

To view the job description for an OA Troop/Team Representative, please visit our web site at www.marnoc.org.

Mail completed form to:

Marnoc Lodge - GTC, ATTN: Unit Relations Committee, P.O. Box 68, Akron, Ohio 44309-0068



About the Ordeal

From the current (2012) edition of the OA Handbook. This information is not to be shared with candidates, but is provided in the event that parents have questions or concerns about the Ordeal and ceremonies.

Mystery and the Ordeal.

The candidates will undergo a process and ceremonies in which they are challenged and helped to think about their lives. The mystery in which we cloak these steps is part of the induction. Candidates receive less benefit if they know about the induction in advance. Knowledge lowers expectancy, dulls the edge of experience. In other words, **you hurt the experience when you tell them about the Ordeal. They are better off knowing nothing until they receive the challenges from the age-old figures in the pre-Ordeal ceremony.** Be vague when answering questions about the Ordeal. Do not confirm or deny what they think they know. Leaving a sense of mystery adds to the Order of the Arrow. Stretching the truth or just plain lying is not Scoutlike.

Purpose of the Ordeal.

- It is the purpose of the Ordeal to have candidates reflect on their own Scout life and character and come to a deeper understanding of the Scout Oath and the principles of the Order. The purpose is realized through a fourfold Ordeal that includes sleeping alone, silence, work and a limited amount of food.
- The candidate spends a night alone as proof of courage and self reliance. It also gives the candidate the chance to clearly think over the events taking place.
- The candidate keeps complete silence. This gives them the opportunity to pay stricter attention to unspoken thoughts, searching out past deficiencies and resolving on a life of fuller service in the future.
- The candidate spends the daylight hours of the Ordeal in meaningful labor. This proves the candidate's willingness to serve others cheerfully.
- The candidate also eats sparingly, thus proving the ability to subordinate the appetites of the body to the higher purpose of the spirit.

Ceremonies (emphasis below from the original)

- The ceremonies of the Order of the Arrow were developed to help members learn and be inspired to fulfill the Order's high purpose.
- Youth and adult candidates for membership into the Order of the Arrow are introduced to the Order's concepts of servant leadership through a safeguarded ceremonial induction. Nonmembers should not attend the ceremonies.
- Although the content of the ceremonies is private, the ceremonies were designed to avoid offending any religious belief and have received the approval of religious leaders. The ceremonies are consistent with Scouting traditions and the spirit of the Scout Oath and Law.
- The Order of the Arrow recognizes and respects the right of any parent, Scout Leader or religious leader to be interested in the content of the ceremony. The lodge adviser, or his designee, may discuss the content of the ceremony and any other issues brought to his attention by one of these interested and responsible adults, with the understanding that the adult will maintain the confidentiality of the ceremony.
- If after discussing the ceremony with the lodge adviser, the parent, Scout leader or religious leader continues to have questions about the content of the ceremony, that person will be permitted to read the ceremony text and view the Order's ceremony training DVD. Following this, parents will be in a position to decide whether to allow their son to participate in the ceremony. Candidates may not become members without completing the pre-Ordeal and Ordeal ceremonies.

Unit Election Scripts

OA Member A:

Fellow Scouts, the Order of the Arrow is Scouting's National Honor Society. The Order of the Arrow recognizes and honors those campers who best live up to the Scout Oath and Scout Law in their daily lives.

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.

After being elected, the Scout must complete 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 into the Order.

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 or team, except those 18 or older, are entitled to vote.

All those who receive votes from at least half of those who turn in ballots are elected. Remember that an Order of the Arrow election is not a popularity contest! Don't vote for a Scout just because he is your friend or just because he is a good athlete or because he is older than the rest. What really counts is his loyalty to the Scout Oath and Law.

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 purpose of the Order of the Arrow and the election procedure.)

OA Member B:

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

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

OA Member C:

Who in this group is a friend to all and a brother to every other Scout? Who is pleasant and easy to get along with? Is he kind and helpful? In all, if you were a Tenderfoot Scout, would you like to hike and camp with him?

Who is cheerful, even when he has many tiresome jobs to do? Who smiles whenever he can? Who obeys promptly and cheerfully? Does he control his temper? If you were at camp with him for several weeks, do you think you would enjoy it?

Who is always ready to give unselfish and wholehearted service to others? Who, in serving others, can forget his own desires and interests?

Who has served your unit all year round, faithfully attending your meetings and helping with your service projects? Do you think he will continue his service in the future? If you were his patrol leader, could you depend on him?

In all, ask yourselves: Who in this group, by living up to the Scout Oath, serves your fellow Scouts with such an example of brotherhood and cheerfulness that you look up to him with deep respect and admiration?

OA Member B:

Scouts, on the ballot you will be given, print the first and last names 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 unmarked ballot. If you are new in the troop or team and do not know the candidates well enough to vote wisely, you may abstain by not turning in a ballot at all, and this will not affect the final result. Those eligible for election also vote, and they may vote for themselves if they feel they are worthy.

The names of the eligible candidates are listed on this chalkboard (flip chart, poster, etc.). When you are finished, fold the ballot only once and give the pencil and ballot to any member of the election team.

(Distribute election ballots and pencils.)

(Collect ballots and pencils. Count the votes in private with the unit leader. The following text should be used whenever there is no formal calling-out ceremony planned.)

OA Member A:

The following have been elected to the Order of the Arrow. Will you please come forward as your leader calls your name? *(Name those elected.)*

This concludes the election. Thank you for your cooperation. Good camping and good night (day).

(Elected candidates and any Arrowmen within the unit who can be spared are taken into a separate room where the election team records necessary data and instructs the candidates as to the date, time, and place of the beginning of the Ordeal. The following paragraphs should then be presented as a charge to the candidates and present Order of the Arrow members.)

OA Member B:

That you, my fellow campers, have been chosen by your companions to become members of the Order of the Arrow reflects great credit upon you, and I congratulate you upon your election.

OA Member C:

My brothers in the Order, as we welcome these new candidates (the new candidate) on our journey, let us be mindful of our obligation to help and guide

Common mistakes

Every procedure of an OA election is in place for a reason; we want your elections to uphold the high ideals of the Order of the Arrow. These elections are not popularity contests – only a youth’s character demonstrated by brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service are grounds for election.

Here are some common mistakes made conducting OA elections:

- Non-secret ballots

E.g., Raise-of-hands, voters’ names on ballots, watching who votes for whom, etc. If scouts’ votes are not secret, they may feel compelled to vote for candidates who do not deserve election or not to vote for candidates who do.

- Election of a candidate without his consent

E.g., Someone not present is elected without telling a friend or leader they would like to be elected, someone who does not wish to be elected is elected, etc. Election into OA is a commitment, one that can only be made by the candidate.

- “Nullification” of an elected youth

The scoutmaster CAN remove a name from the eligibility list before elections are conducted- but once a youth is elected, he cannot be removed from the list.

- Scouts compelled to cast a ballot or not to cast a ballot

E.g., Scouts not allowed to abstain, new scouts prevented from voting, scouts not allowed to cast blank ballots, etc. The choice to vote or not is a privilege afforded to every registered scout- even if the OA election is their first troop meeting.

- No scout was compelled to vote for a candidate or candidates

E.g., ‘Campaign speeches’, leaders telling scouts who should be elected, etc. If a candidate deserves election, his actions alone should be ample proof.

- Candidate appointment

E.g., Troop leaders, PLC, SPL, or other deciding who should enter OA. Election into OA is based off whether or not one’s peers believe he exemplifies brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service.

- Ballots not counted by scoutmaster and election team

Election into OA is a very serious matter. Every member of the election team and the scoutmaster should count the ballots and votes for each candidate separately. By re-counting, potentially harmful mistakes can be avoided.