

OA Member A:

Good Evening! I'm _____, an Ordeal/etc member in the Order of the Arrow!

OA Member B:

I'm _____, an Ordeal/etc member in the Order of the Arrow

OA Member A:

Thank you for giving us time out of your meeting so we could come visit you tonight. For those of you that don't know, we will be holding unit elections in your troop/team tonight, where we hope to elect candidates from your unit into the Order of the Arrow. But what is the Order of the Arrow exactly? What do we do? Who can be elected? We are here to answer these questions and more as we hold the election.

OA Member B:

The Order of the Arrow is a National Brotherhood of Honor Campers for the Boy Scouts of America. It exists to recognize and honor scouts and scouters who best live up to the Scout Oath and Scout Law in their daily lives. The OA, as the Order is often called, promotes camping and the outdoors. We emphasize that you not only be a good scout, but also hold true to the ideals of Scouting. At this point in time, we'd like to show this video that will probably answer many of your questions. At its end, we will tell you a little about some the major events the OA does, dispel some myths about the Order, and then hold the election.

(Roll the video. If you do not have one, proceed down below.)

OA Member A:

Having seen the video, are there any questions? (Answer questions at this time.) OK, so some of you may be thinking that the Order of the Arrow is all about service and working. It is true, to some extent. We do focus on service, but it isn't all we do. Throughout the year, we have fun events for you to attend where you can meet new people. Another big event we have is called Dixie, and it is held annually in the Spring. This is where the 10 lodges throughout the South gather for a weekend of fellowship. There are arena shows, powwows, patch trading and lots of food. If you are elected and go through your Ordeal, we highly encourage each of you to attend.

OA Member B:

The second misconception that most people have about the OA is that as soon as a scout is inducted, he will leave his unit behind to focus on the OA. This is simply not the case. As a newly elected Arrowman, you will be expected to give even more service back to your unit, essentially repaying them for the honor they bestowed upon you. Also, some people believe that we just dress up and play Indians. This is not the case either. While some members choose to wear authentic Indian regalia and perform authentic Native American dance, it is not the central focus of our Order. Are there any questions?

So now we will proceed with the election. Scouts, you will elect representatives to our Brotherhood of Cheerful Service, and we are here to assist you in the election. All active registered youth members of this troop, except those 21 years or older, 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. 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 just because he is older than the rest. What really counts is his loyalty to the Scout Oath or Promise.

Campaigning in the 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 beginning the election are there any questions?

OA 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 place and read the list slowly. Arrange the candidates in line facing the voters at the place indicated; the line can be semicircular if the eligible group is large. If ballots have not been prepared in advance by the unit leader, write each name on chalkboard or flip chart as called.)

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

OA Member B:

Who in this group is a friend to all and 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, 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 to 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 desire 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 or Promise, serves your fellow Scout with such an example of brotherhood and cheerfulness that you look up to him with deep respect and admiration?

OA Member A:

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 unused, blank 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 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 those eligible 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 of us.

(Distribute election ballots and pencils, and conduct the election in silence.)

(Collect completed ballots and pencils.)

At this point, count the votes in private with the unit leader. After counting, if anyone is elected, gather their info and record it on the Unit Elections report, and have the Unit Leader sign it. Also have the OA Unit Representative present (if one exists) while counting the ballots and have him sign it. Lastly, you sign and present the Unit Leader with an Adult nomination form. Tell him you need this form signed by the troop committee if they wish to nominate an adult. Arrange a pickup time for the form, i.e. Roundtable, Lodge E-Board night etc...Also ask if there is anyone in the unit who needs to renew their membership. Also leave a copy of the Voice of Brotherhood with the Unit Leader. Ask the leader if he wants to announce who was elected (we highly recommend announcing the results immediately). However, if the unit leader prefers to wait, give him the information for the candidates to receive at a later time (remind him that the Lodge will be mailing a letter to parents in early April).

(IF THE UNIT LEADER WANTS THE CANDIDATES NAMED TONIGHT – **PREFERRED CHOICE**)

OA Member B:

Thank you for your attentiveness this evening. Some of you got elected, and the Order of the Arrow candidates are: _____. Congratulations! It is important to note, that you are not OA members...yet. After being formally recognized at Camp, you must undergo an Ordeal. After you do that, you will become a full member of our Order. If you do not attend an Ordeal, however, you will have to be elected again next year to become a member of the OA. So please, do a service to your fellow scouts, take the next step, and attend an Ordeal.

(IF THE UNIT LEADER WANTS THE CANDIDATES NAMES WITHELD)

OA Member B:

Thank you for your attentiveness this evening. Some of you got elected, and those of you who got elected, congratulations! You will find out at a later date if you were elected or not. For those of you who got elected, it is important to note, that you are not OA members...yet. After being formally recognized at Camp, you must attend an Ordeal. After you do that, you will become a full member of our Order. If you do not attend an Ordeal, however, you will have to be elected again next year to become a member of the OA. So please, do a service to your fellow scouts, take the next step, and attend an Ordeal.

(Gather up all your elections materials...Completed renewal forms, the signed Unit Elections Report that is filled out completely with all signatures, the OA Promotional Video if you have one, and return control of the unit to the SPL. Thank the Unit Leader one more time in private for letting you come to the meeting, shake his hand, and then leave and go home.)

DON'T FORGET TO TURN IN THE UNIT ELECTIONS REPORT AT THE NEXT LODGE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (ECM) MEETING!

(Special thanks to Wauna La-Mon'tay Lodge for providing the basis for this script)