



January 22, 2017

Dear Unit Leader,

The Order of the Arrow is Scouting's National Honor Society. It recognizes those who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives and, through that recognition, cause others to conduct themselves in such a way that warrants similar recognition, to promote camping, to develop leaders, and to crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.

Once each year, a Troop or Team may hold a unit election to elect youth members of their troop or team to become members of the Order of the Arrow. Both youth and adult Scouts and Scouters can become members of the OA, but only youth members are elected. Assistant Scoutmasters under the age of 21 are considered youth members for OA purposes. New members are voted on by every youth member of the troop present at the election - not just the OA members.

Elections are normally held at a regular troop meeting, and take about half an hour to complete. In order for an election to be held, at least 50% of your active youth members must be present – if less than 50% are present, the election must be rescheduled.

The OA elections must be completed by the OA Chapter Election Team with support of unit Arrowmen, OA troop/team representative and unit leader.

Each Boy Scout troop or Varsity Scout team with qualified Scouts is urged to hold an election no later than April 30, 2016, to select candidates for an Ordeal to be held at Boseker Scout Reservation. 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, the youth must 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. 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.

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### Adult Membership Qualifications:

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 recommend registered unit adults, 21 years of age or older, 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. 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, will be candidates for induction, 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 purpose 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 example for the growth and development of the youth members of the lodge. **All adults are expected to actively participate on a Chapter or Lodge Committee** and, if approved, will be notified of their acceptance as a candidate.

Adult recommendation forms must be completed by the scoutmaster. Incomplete forms will not be considered.

Please contact your Chapter Chief to schedule a date for the election of candidates. The election should be held at a regularly scheduled unit meeting or camping experience. Every effort should be made to have 100 percent attendance of both youths and adults at this meeting. An election team from the Order of the Arrow will be on hand to conduct the election.

If you have any questions regarding the election process, please do not hesitate to contact me or my adviser.

Respectfully yours,

**James Vineyard**  
Lodge Chief  
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**Travis Martois**  
Lodge Adviser  
[adviser@snakepower.org](mailto:adviser@snakepower.org)

### SCOUTING'S NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Lodge Chief: James Vineyard • Adviser: Travis Martois • Lodge 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chief: Griffin Martois • Adviser: James Quinn • Lodge 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chief: Trenton Fenstermaker • Adviser: Ronnie Macias • Lodge 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Chief: Justin Ewell • Adviser: Larry Krikorian • Lodge Secretary: Jorge De La Torre • Adviser: Ann De La Torre • Lodge Treasurer: Jesse De La Torre • Adviser: Ron Price • Lodge Staff Adviser: Tucker Adams