

Cahuilla Lodge #127
California Inland Empire Council
Ceremony Expert Program



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Objective of the Ceremony Expert Program:

The objective of the Ceremony Expert Program is to develop and train youth and adults to perform highly effective and inspirational ceremonies. The program will also teach the elements of successful ceremonial performances to each team. Leading trainers will assist each youth with developing skill in delivering the part of his character and his relationship with his other characters, allowing that person to be both a strong individual and team player. Adults will be trained to coach and advise the youth, helping with memorization and technical details while keeping a careful eye on the overall performance of the team.

With the successful implementation of this program, Cahuilla Lodge will field many strong ceremony teams that will be an asset at Ordeal Induction Weekends and be a strong player in Section and National Competitions.

Outline of the Ceremony Expert Program:

In order for a system to be developed and run efficiently, it is important to understand the program's organization. The Second Vice Chief and his advisor oversee the program. They are in charge of appointing certifiers based on their own judgment. It is recommended that those who are appointed have lots of experience in ceremonies. These certifiers may be temporary or permanent depending on the situation. The certifiers will fill out a form evaluating the performance of the youth and/or team. He will then "recommend" to the Second Vice chief whether or not they should be certified. His recommendation should be considered and approved by the Second Vice Chief.

Part 1: Youth: Character Certification

To create better ceremonies, the Lodge must give credit to those conduct good ceremonies. A youth can be certified in as many ceremonies as they can pass for. Adults cannot be certified.

- Must be an active ceremonial team member and a dues-paid member of the Order of the Arrow.
- Schedule a character performance evaluation with a qualified trainer selected by the Second Vice-Chief and Adviser.
- Must successfully memorize and deliver 100% of all lines.
- Must have a qualifying score from a qualified trainer using the Ceremony Evaluation Form.
- Must be dressed in attire that is appropriate for his part as judged by the qualified trainer.

Once the qualified trainer sees the candidate qualifies, that person gives the candidate's name to the Lodge Second Vice Chief and a Certification Card and Certificate is given to the recipient.

Part 2: Youth: Team Certification

Any ceremony team meeting the following requirements can become a quality ceremony team, increasing their performance by giving them a goal to strive towards:

- Have at least 8 practices throughout the year
- Perform at Fall Fellowship
- Complete at least one event other than Fall Fellowship (i.e. Conclave or Ordeal)
- Have all teams members certified (can occur concurrently).
- Conduct at least 2 ceremonies (not including lodge performances, Arrow of Light teams must conduct at least 4)
- Every team member must be an OA member in good standing (dues paid).
- Conduct exceptional ceremonies, must have 3 adult and 3 youth recommendations submitted to the Second Vice Chief using the Ceremony Evaluation Form.

Part 3: Adult Team Certification:

The role of the adult in a successful ceremonial performances is important. However, without the knowledge and skills necessary to coach the youth, the role is diminished. To help provide ceremonial teams key adults to help coach the youth, qualified trainers will also certify adult ceremony experts. To qualify, an adults must follow the process below:

- Be an active dues-paid adult selected by his or her Chapter Adviser to work with a ceremony team.
- The adult must be responsible for coaching a complete team of four (4) youth.
- Must attend the Fall Fellowship session on Coaching Youth Ceremony Team Members.
- Must coach the youth so all four (4) characters earn their Youth Character Certification.
- Must coach the team so it earns the Youth Team Certification.

Quality Ceremony Teams will be presented with Certificates at a Lodge Event honoring them. Each certification will be given to a specific ceremony. Therefore certification is given to Pre-Ordeal, Ordeal, Brotherhood, Arrow of Light, and Call-Out Ceremony teams.

In Conclusion:

By implementing this program, the lodge will be able to increase the amount of ceremony activity and provide a source for more members to become involved. The program is designed to increase the overall quality of ceremonies and provide initiative for new members to be a part of this long tradition of the Order of the Arrow.