



Subject: Annual Unit Elections

Dear Scouters,

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

Each Boy Scout troop with qualified Scouts is urged to hold an election during the official Lodge elections period in early spring 2012 to select candidates for an Ordeal Induction to be held at Camp Woodland. The dates of the election period are January 1st, 2012 to March 31st, 2012. The date and place of the election for your troop are selected by you, as unit leader, in consultation with the Troop Order of the Arrow Representative. Elections completed and reported to the Lodge by April 1st, 2012 will enable candidates to attend the Spring 2012 or Fall 2012 Ordeal Induction. The first of these Induction opportunities has been scheduled for Friday May 4th thru Sunday May 6th at Camp Woodland. Dates for the fall weekend are October 19st thru Sunday October 21st.

Youth Membership Qualifications:

- 1 A Boy Scout who holds the First Class rank, is under the age of 21, and is registered as an active member of the troop 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, 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.

Each year, upon holding a troop election for youth candidates that results in at least one youth candidate being elected, the unit committee may recommend one registered unit adult, 21 years of age or older, to the lodge adult selection committee. Troops having more than 50 registered, active youth members may nominate an additional adult for every 50 registered, active youth, or fraction thereof. The Lodge adult selection committee, with the approval of the Scout executive, will decide who will be candidates for inductions provided the following conditions are fulfilled. (The adult nominations may be prepared by the troop committee before the unit election and submitted to the election team the evening of the unit election or mailed to the council office in Syracuse).

Adult Membership Qualifications:

- 1 Selection of the adult is based on the ability to perform the necessary functions to help the Order fulfill its purposes 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.

Have your Troop Order of the Arrow Representative contact the Lodge (brothersofthenorth@verizon.net) to make an appointment for your election to be conducted by a Unit Election Team appointed and trained by the Lodge. Appointments can be made now through March 1st, 2012 and the elections will then be conducted between January 1st and March 31st, 2012. 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. A minimum of 50% of the registered unit membership must be present for an election to be held. A trained election team of 2 to 3 youth with an adult advisor from the Order of the Arrow Lodge elections committee will be on hand to conduct the election. (These arrowmen will be scouts and scouters from outside your unit.)

The National Order of the Arrow policies upon which these election procedures are based can be found in the National Order of the Arrow Publication "Guide for Officers and Advisors" which can be downloaded at: <http://www.oa-bsa.org/resources/pubs/GOA-2008.pdf>. A video on conducting the unit election can be found at: <http://oa-bsa.org/resources/videos>, as well as the video used during the election visit to the Troop.

Questions and concerns can be addressed to the Lodge Unit Elections Chair, Jonathan Pinckney; the Lodge Chief, Stephen Gasparini; or the Lodge Adviser, Ellen M. Tyler at brothersofthenorth@verizon.net, or the Lodge Staff Advisor, Leo Brizzi at leo.brizzi@scouting.org or 882-0892.

Respectfully yours,

Jonathan T. Pinckney
Lodge Unit Elections Chair

Stephen J. Gasparini
Lodge Chief

Ellen M. Tyler
Lodge Adviser

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Lodge Staff Adviser