



BUCKSKIN LODGE #412

ORDER OF THE ARROW

Overview

Once each year, a unit (troop, crew, or ship) may hold a unit election to elect youth members to become members of the Order of the Arrow. Both youth and adult Scouts and Scouters can become members of the Order of the Arrow (OA), but only youth members are elected. Adult leaders in the unit under the age of 21 are considered youth members for OA purposes, including unit elections. New members are voted on by every youth member of the unit present at the election - not just the OA members.

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

The OA elections must be completed by a trained election team with support of unit Arrowmen, the unit OA representative and their adviser, and the unit leader. Buckskin Lodge follows all Order of the Arrow policies contained in the Guide to Unit Elections.

Scouts who were elected into the Order of the Arrow (OA) by their unit must complete an Ordeal within two years, in order to become a member of Buckskin Lodge. If a candidate does not attend an Ordeal within one year, then the candidate has to be re-elected by their unit. A candidate can only complete their Ordeal in Buckskin Lodge.

After the Election

A Call-Out Ceremony is a form of public recognition used to communicate the honor of being selected for membership into the Order of the Arrow to members, non-members, and the public and impresses the high ideals and standards of the Order of the Arrow. It serves to intensify a Scout's desire to become a member. Units and districts may conduct ceremonies (e.g., at camporee). Some unit leaders recognize Scouts immediately following the election, while others choose to allow the Scouts to be surprised at a Call-Out Ceremony. Scouts are not required to participate in a Call-Out Ceremony in order to participate in an Ordeal.

Unit leaders should encourage Arrowmen in the unit to attend the Ordeal with the candidates to serve as elangomats to work alongside the candidates to help inspire a life of cheerful service and have the opportunity to make a positive life-lasting impact on the candidate and to fan the flame for the next generation of leaders in our Order.