

ORDER OF THE  
ARROW

# *The Vigil Nomination*

## *Tips & Recommendations*

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# What guidance does the Vigil Selection Committee use?

- There are two sentences which contain all of the points to look at each candidate's nomination
- They are published and are public knowledge
  - <http://www.oa-bsa.org/misc/anr/vigilhonor.htm>
- The language is clear and concise
- Comparison of the candidate to the selection criteria is hard part of the process

# The Guidance

- The Vigil Honor is a high mark of distinction and recognition reserved for those Arrowmen who, by reason of exceptional service, personal effort, and unselfish interest, have made distinguished contributions beyond the immediate responsibilities of their position of office to one or more of the following:
  - Lodge
  - Order of the Arrow
  - Scouting community
  - Scout Camp
- Under **NO** circumstances should tenure in Scouting or the Order of the Arrow be considered as reason enough for a Vigil Honor recommendation.

# What Does It Mean? – The How

- by reason of exceptional service, personal effort, **and** unselfish interest
  - **exceptional service**
    - We all should serve, right?
    - How should we serve?
    - Is the service exceptional?
  - **personal effort**
    - This means the individual must exert the effort
  - **unselfish interest**
    - Service given without expecting a return
- Did you notice the **and** that connects all three points?

# What Does It Mean? – The What

- have made distinguished contributions beyond the immediate responsibilities of their position of office
  - distinguished contributions
    - Characterized by excellence or distinction
    - Standing above others in attainment
  - beyond the immediate responsibilities
    - This means they did more than their position required

# What Does It Mean? – The Where

- to one or more of the following:
  - Lodge
  - Order of the Arrow
  - Scouting community
  - Scout Camp
- The Vigil Honor is awarded to an Arrowman. There is nothing that says that distinguished service to one area is more important than distinguished service to any other area.

# What Does It Mean? – The Negative

- Under **NO** circumstances should tenure in Scouting or the Order of the Arrow be considered as reason enough for a Vigil Honor recommendation.
- This tells us that the current How, What, **and** Where are to be considered.
- The past can show important patterns, but without the present...

# The Nomination Form Asks One Question

- Specifically, what has this candidate done to be considered for the Vigil Honor?
  - You must explain the How, What, **and** Where
    - Be **SPECIFIC** (it is in the question for a reason)
    - Be concise (rewrite it as many times as you need)
    - Avoid lists (lists without context have no meaning)
  - When in doubt, reread the instructions (the instructions are available in the same place as the nomination form)

# General Tips – not in any order

- It is not who nominates that is important, it is the candidate.
- Don't assume that which is self evident to you is understood by anyone else.
- Don't assume that big things in your district or chapter are understood by anyone else.  
Remember, it is the individual candidate that is considered, not the event, not the district, not the chapter, etc.

# General Tips – not in any order

- Break down the outstanding service into terms others can understand.
  - For example, if the candidate was in charge of an event, explain what the candidate did that was above and beyond (remember that word **outstanding**)
  - Just being in charge of something does not explain what **outstanding** service the candidate gave

# Form Tips – not in any order

- The whole nomination form needs to be filled in.
- Outside activities are asked for to show how a candidate lives the obligation in their everyday life, however, outstanding service to the community is not something that is considered by the committee. If there isn't anything for outside activities, that is OK. Remember, the Vigil Honor is for service to the
  - Lodge
  - Order of the Arrow
  - Scouting community
  - Scout Camp

# Name Tips – not in any order

- Make sure you fill out the Suggested Vigil Name
  - The candidate is known by the nominators much better than anyone else.
  - They who know the candidate closest should suggest the name and not leave it to someone who does not know the candidate.
- Remember that the dictionary of the language of the Vigil names is frozen in time more than a century ago, so concepts such as webmaster or skateboarder don't work.