

# OA Elections for Members of Troops and Teams

Once each year, members of Scout Troops and Teams are selected by their units for membership in “Scouting’s Honor Society”, the Order of the Arrow. Youth are elected by other youth in their unit from a list of eligible members provided by the Scoutmaster. “Youth” in the OA is under 21 years of age. Adults are nominated by the unit committee and selected by the Lodge selection committee, with the approval of the Scout Executive. The Camping requirement is exactly the same for both youth and adults.



**CAMPING REQUIREMENT (YOUTH AND ADULT):** After registration with a troop or team, have experienced 15 days and nights of Boy Scout camping during the two-year period prior to 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 Boy Scouts of America. The balance of the camping must be overnight, weekend, or other short-term camps.

**YOUTH MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS:** 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.

**ADULT MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS: (NEW in 2013)** 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 nominate registered unit adults (age 21 or over) 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, rounded up where the number of youth candidates is not a multiple of three. 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 all conditions are fulfilled. *For example: a unit that elects 4 youth may nominate 2 adults leaders and their unit leader for a potential of three adult candidates.*

**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. The individual will be an asset to the Order because of demonstrated abilities that fulfill the purpose of the Order. The adult leader’s membership will provide a positive role model for the growth and development of the youth members of the lodge.**

## Purpose of the Order of the Arrow

As Scouting’s National Honor Society, the Order of the Arrow is an integral part of the Boy Scouts of America. Our purpose is to:

- Recognize those who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives and through that recognition cause others to conduct themselves in a way that warrants similar recognition.
- Promote camping, responsible outdoor adventure, and environmental stewardship as essential components of every Scout’s experience, in the unit, year-round, and in summer camp.
- Develop leaders with the willingness, character, spirit and ability to advance the activities of their units, our brotherhood, Scouting, and ultimately our nation.
- Crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.

# What to know about your Unit's Annual Election

## Unit Leadership check list:

- Make contact with Chapter Election Team (they should be calling you) to Set Annual Election meeting. Elections are normally conducted before April 1st. Chapter contact information is on the attached letter.
- Prepare a list of eligible youth under 21 years. Many units copy this list to serve as a ballot at the election.
- Have available contact information for candidates including Name, Address, Phone, email, and Date of Birth.
- Decide when the election results are announced. See information at Bottom of Page.
- Make arrangements for any video equipment that the election team may request.
- Many units have a "What you're getting into" meeting of eligible members to discuss Membership in the OA before the election. The election team can help with this.
- To have an election the unit must have 50% of the active registered youth in attendance at the meeting. There is no proxy voting allowed.
- Have the election team announce the results and give out congratulation letters to candidates. Letters should go to parents if results are not being announced on election night.

## Election Contacts

- Chapter Adviser & Chief are on the attached letter
- Lodge Membership Vice Chief - Matt Wanner  
thunderstruck5@frontier.com or 503.277.3167
- Lodge Membership Adviser - Dick Phillips  
membership@oa-442.org or 971.237.4085

## OA Chapter Leadership check list:

- Election Teams will call unit leadership before December 31st and set an election date in January, February or March.
- Follow up with the unit leaders no less that one week prior to the election date.
- Have a trained unit election team of at least two youth and one adult who are not members of the unit assigned to the election. Wear your complete uniform including OA sash.
- Have materials to conduct the election including report forms and scripts.
- Conduct the election. Count the votes. Turn in the forms to the Lodge Membership Team.

## Election Process

1. Unit must have 50% + one of the active youth (under 21) present to have the election.
2. Scouts are given a ballot with the eligible names.
3. They vote for all scouts that they think are worthy, and they can vote for themselves.
4. If a scout does not know the scouts well enough to vote they should not turn in a ballot. This will not count against anyone.
5. Election team collects ballots and counts them.
6. The minimum number of votes one must receive to be elected, as follows: If the number of ballots turned in was even (2, 4, 6 etc.), divide this number by two. If the number was odd (1, 3, 5 etc.), add one and then divide by two.
7. If no one is elected, the team announces this fact and a 2nd ballot is held. If the unit still elects no one, this is the final result for the year's election.

## Announcement of Election Results

The Election results should be announced as soon as possible to allow candidates and their families time to plan to attend a weekend ordeal. Wauna La-Mon'tay Lodge recommends announcing at the election meeting. For the candidate and those not elected they won't have to wonder what the results are. Most Chapters have a formal "Call Out" Ceremony at Camporee that is a public recognition of candidates' election. This public recognition should not be a time for Scouts who were not elected to be disappointed by finding out election results at the call out ceremony. Invite families to be part of the Call Out Ceremony.

Some units will still want to announce at a later date such as a Court of Honor. If your unit wants to wait, please give the letter of congratulations to a parent. Ask the parent to select an ordeal date that works for their family.

The Lodge sends a congratulation letter to candidates during the first week of April. This letter explains the ordeal and has registration information for the candidates' ordeal weekend .