

Owaneco Lodge

Connecticut Yankee Council, BSA



Unit Elections Script

Instructions For The Election Team

Please read through the instructions and script before you begin. The script begins on page 4.

- **Meet briefly with the Scoutmaster:**
 - Collect from him the completed **Unit Election Candidate Information Form** or provide him with a blank copy to complete. Make sure all data is completed, including first name (no nicknames), middle name, last name, address, email address, phone number, and date of birth.
 - Check with the Scoutmaster as to the pronunciation of all names. It will avoid embarrassment!!
 - Complete the top of the **Unit Election Report** and have the Scoutmaster sign the form.
 - Ask if the election results will be announced immediately or at a later date. If it will be at a later date (camping event, parents' Night, district call-out), note this on the **Unit Election Report**.
 - Ask the Scoutmaster if they have an OA troop representative, provide them with a blank form to fill out.

- **Setup for the election:**
 - Write the names of the eligible candidates on a page of the flip chart and display that in the front of the room.
 - If there is a table or podium for you to use, set the script up with the first image facing the boys in the Troop.
 - If the table is too low, then hold the script in your hands and let the pages hang after you have flipped them. Don't look or make yourself uncomfortable.
 - Be sure to have the ballots ready before you begin (with or without the candidate names).

- **Run the election:**
 - Before starting the formal election, complete any presentations requested by lodge. Also remind all current members to pay their dues.
 - Run the election. Stick to the script!!!
 - Relax, make eye contact, and speak clearly.

- **After the election:**
 - Make sure the **Unit Election Candidate Information Form** and **Unit Election Report** are fully completed, including first name (no nicknames), middle name, last name, address, email address, phone number, and date of birth. Make sure the status is marked for every candidate and make sure the total number elected is record on the report.
 - If at least one candidate was elected, provide the Scoutmaster with the **Adult Nomination Letter**, which includes instruction on submitting an adult nomination. Remind the Scoutmaster that this must be completed with 30 days of election and before March 15th.
 - If results of the election were announced at the end of the election, meet with the candidates immediately afterwards. Give them the letter from the Lodge Chief and verify their personal information from the list given to you by the SM.
 - Immediately after the election, provide all of the election data to the Vice Chief of Inductions for the chapter if he was not present at the election. The Vice Chief will then submit all of the data online through the Owaneco website unit election system.

Eligibility & Requirements

- **Membership Present:**
 - The Order of the Arrow Unit Elections Team will secure from the unit leader verification that at least 50% of the registered active unit membership is present. If less than 50% are present, no election can be held.
- **Scout Eligibility:**
 - The unit leader provides a list of all registered active members of his/her unit who he/she certifies meet the eligibility requirements, including attitude and participation. Eligibility requirements are: 15 days and nights of camping, 6 days (and 5 nights) of which are in a BSA long-term sanctioned camp the balance of which is make up of short term troop camping (BSA long-term camp includes Jamborees, week-long JLTCs, Philmont, BSA High Adventure treks) within the last two years; at least the rank of First Class Scout at the time of election (Assistant Scoutmasters under the age of 21 must have been First Class Scouts prior to their 18th birthday); proper attitude and participation as determined by the unit leader. The unit leader signs the certification, this signature must be secured before the election may begin.
- **Voting:**
 - All eligible youth (Scouts and Assistant Scoutmasters under the age of 21) who receive votes from at least 50% of those who turn in ballots are elected. If no one is elected, a second vote will be held immediately, and the result of the vote will be final.
 - The unit leader must decide if the results will be announced immediately after the election, or at a later time (such as a ‘call-out,’ or at a camporee, or a parents’ night). The Scoutmaster may be present during the ballot tabulation, but we do not reveal who got how many votes to anyone who was not present at the ballot tabulation. The ballots are taken away from the meeting and destroyed.
- **Adult Eligibility:**
 - In order to nominate an adult, a unit must hold a youth election. A Scout Leader must meet the same camping requirements as the Scouts. The adults registered in the unit may nominate one adult if at least one youth is elected. Should the unit have 51 or more boys registered, it may nominate 2 adults. Adult nominations should be submitted within 30 days of the election and before March 15. The Adult Selection Committee for the Lodge will make the final determination as to whether or not the adult(s) nominated have been accepted and will notify the Scoutmaster and the candidate when that has been done.

OA Election Script

Do not rush through the reading of the script. Take your time, pause, and make eye contact. Remember, for some of the Scouts this is their first contact with the Order of the Arrow, and for many of them the election is the only time they have the opportunity to hear about the Order and its ideals. Don't forget to smile while you are presenting, but make sure that you present this with the appropriate seriousness of purpose.

Team Leader:

Scouts of Troop _____, my name is _____, and I am a member of the election team for _____ Chapter, Owaneco Lodge of the Order of the Arrow. Joining me on the election team are _____ and _____.

The election of a fellow Scout to the Honor Society of the Boy Scouts of America is a solemn and serious occasion and must be given your careful consideration.

In order to hold this election to the Order of the Arrow, at least 50 percent of the registered active youth members of this unit must be present. Mr. Scoutmaster, do you have the required number of members present?

*The Scoutmaster will confirm that the required number of Scouts is present and the election may then proceed. If there are less than the required number of youth members present, the election **MUST BE RESCHEDULED** to another time.*

Member A:

Fellow Scouts, the Order of the Arrow is a national brotherhood of honor campers and Scouting's National Honor Society.

Its purpose is to recognize, and honor, those campers who best live up to the Scout Oath and Scout Law in their daily lives, and to guide them in expanding the service that has made them outstanding.

The Order promotes Scout camping and maintains camping traditions and spirit. It emphasizes that the good Scout camper is not only skilled in Scoutcraft, but is also true to the ideals of Scouting and its tradition of the Daily Good Turn.

The only way that a Scout can become a member of the Order of the Arrow is to be elected for this honor by the members of his troop. To be eligible for election, a youth must fulfill the camping requirement and hold the rank of First Class.

Remember to continue reading slowly and clearly!!!

After being elected, the Scout must undergo the Ordeal, which is a series of tests of his sincere dedication to the high ideals of Scouting and the Order. If he is faithful in performing the tests, he takes a solemn pledge of service and is admitted to the Order. A long period of self-improvement and service then follows.

Point to your Pocket Flap, your ribbon (if you have it hanging from the pocket), and your sash as you say them.

This patch, this arrow ribbon, and this distinctive sash identify the Order of the Arrow members. They are symbols of service. Our lodge has its own activities and projects, but our program does not replace the member's responsibility to his troop. Indeed, each Arrowman is expected to give richer service to his own troop in return for the honor his troop had extended to him.

Indian Lore is an attractive sideline in our Order. The Indian lived in the open air and their culture is ours to preserve. Indian dances and ceremonies add color to our program of service, and members often make Indian lore their hobby. However, one does not need Indian attire or skill in Indian lore to become a valuable member of the Order of the Arrow.

Scouts, you will elect representatives to our Brotherhood of Cheerful Service, and we are here to assist you in the election. All registered, active members of this troop, under 21, are entitled to vote.

All candidates who receive votes from at least half of those who turn in ballots are elected. The number you elect will depend on how your votes agree with the others in the troop.

You may vote for as many of those eligible as you feel are worthy.

Remember that an Order of the Arrow election is NOT a popularity contest! Do not vote for a scout just because he is your friend or just because he is a good athlete or because he is older than the rest. What really counts is his loyalty to the Scout Oath.

Campaigning in the Order of the Arrow election is not permitted. You are expected to think for yourself. Do NOT let others influence your decision.

The election is by secret ballot and no discussion will be permitted, so no one will know for whom you are voting. This important decision about your fellow Scouts is entirely up to you.

Before we announce the names of those eligible and begin the election, are there any questions?

Give the Scouts time to reflect on what has been said. Pause for a moment. Member A should move to the side so that he can guide the eligible boys to stand in the right place while Member B prepares to continue with the script.

Member B:

The following members of this unit have met the camping and advancement requirements and are eligible for election as certified by your unit leader. Please stand and form a line up front as your names are called.

Read the list slowly. Pause between each name to give time for the candidate to come to the front before calling the next name.

Arrange the candidates in a line facing the voters in the troop. Also display the flip chart page with the names of those eligible.

When all candidates have been called, say to the group of eligible candidates:

If you do not wish to become a member of the Order of the Arrow you may return to your seat and no one will think the less of you.

If any Scouts remain standing, continue with the script.

Are you willing to live by and practice the principles of Brotherhood, Cheerfulness, and Service of the Order of the Arrow?

After the candidates have responded in the affirmative, continue with the script.

Scouts, you should now answer each of the following questions to yourself. Your answers will help you make the right selections.

Read these questions slowly and deliberately while pausing after each one for a few seconds.

- Who in this group is a friend to all and a brother to every other Scout?
- Who is pleasant and easy to get along with? Is he kind and helpful?
- In all, if you were a Tenderfoot, would you like to hike and camp with him?
- Who is cheerful, even when he has many tiresome jobs to do? Who smiles whenever he can?
- Who obeys promptly and cheerfully? Does he control his temper?
- If you were at camp with him for several weeks, do you think you would enjoy it?
- Who is always ready to give unselfish and wholehearted service to others?
- Who, in serving others, can forget his own desires and interests?
- Who has served your troop all year around, faithfully attending your meetings and helping with your service projects? Do you think he will continue his service in the future?
- If you were his patrol leader, could you depend on him?

- In all, ask yourselves: Who in this group, by living up to the Scout Oath, serves his fellow Scouts with such an example of brotherhood and cheerfulness that you look up to him with deep respect and admiration?

Would the candidates now please return to their seats.

At this point, encourage the scouts to separate themselves from one another to encourage privacy.

Team Leader:

OPTION A: If BLANK BALLOTS are used, read the following.

- Scouts, on the ballot you will be given, print the **first and last names** of the candidates who, in your opinion, have set the best examples of brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service. **No nicknames please.**

OPTION B: Or if PREPRINTED BALLOTS are used, read the following.

- Scouts, on the ballot you will be given, vote for the candidates who, in your opinion, have set the best examples of Brotherhood, cheerfulness, and Service.

Please read the remaining points to everyone very clearly and repeat any section as necessary. Do not handout the ballots (paper) until you have finished explaining the procedure. Once you have explained it and are handing out the ballots please make sure that the Scouts remain in silence and do not speak. It is very important to maintain this atmosphere of seriousness of purpose until the ballots have all been collected. If any scouts have questions they should remain seated and raise their hand so that you can come to them.

- Vote only for those you believe will continue in unselfish service to your troop. **If you feel that no one is worthy, turn in an unmarked ballot.** You do not need to vote for anyone if you feel that no one deserves to be elected.
- If you are new in the troop and do not know the candidates well enough to vote wisely, you may abstain – that is, **you may choose not to vote.** This will not affect the final result. If this is your preference, please do not turn in a ballot.

- You may vote for as many of the candidates as you wish, or you may vote for none. All of the Scouts who are eligible may be elected if that is what you think should happen. The decision is up to you. **Those eligible for election also vote**, and they may vote for themselves if they feel they are worthy.
- The names of the eligible candidates are listed. When you are finished, fold the ballot only once, and return it only to a member of the election team. Remember, this is a secret ballot. We ask that no one talk until after all the ballots have been collected. Please remain at your place and wait in silence until then. If you have any questions please raise your hand.
- We will now hand out the ballots. Maintain silence until they have all been collected.

Please circulate around the Scouts and remind them of the need for silence if you find it necessary. Use the Scout Sign as needed to maintain the silence that is required. Collect ballots as they are completed.

*Once the ballots have been collected, leave the room with the Adult Adviser who has come with you, use a separate private area to count the ballots. The Scoutmaster may be present during the counting of the ballots, but no other members of the troop should be present. **ONLY MEMBERS OF THE ELECTION TEAM ARE PERMITTED TO HANDLE THE BALLOTS ONCE THEY ARE MARKED!!!** All ballots should be taken by the team and destroyed at a later time.*

Complete the status column on the Unit Election Candidate Information form (E = elected, N = not elected, D = declined). Complete the bottom of the Unit Election Report.

After the ballots have been counted and the results verified by the Election Team and Adult, take them to the Scoutmaster, so that he knows the results. Provide him an adult nomination form.

OPTION A: If Results ARE NOT To Be Announced

After the ballots have been tabulated if the results are NOT to be announced at once, read the following.

Those who have been elected will be announced later. Thank you for your cooperation. Remember to *be ever cheerful in service and devotion to the welfare of others*. Good Camping and good night.

OPTION B: If Results ARE To Be Announced

After the ballots have been tabulated IF the results ARE to be announced at once, continue with the rest of the script.

The following Scouts have been elected to the Order of the Arrow. As your names are called, please come forward and stand up front.

Call out names of those Scouts elected. When all Scouts have been called, continue with the script.

Congratulations to (all of) you. This concludes the elections. Thank you for your cooperation. Remember to *be ever cheerful in service and devotion to the welfare of others*. Good camping and good night. If the elected candidates would follow us please.

Elected candidates are taken into a separate pre-arranged room. The following paragraphs are then presented as a charge to the candidates.

Member A:

That you, my fellow campers, have been chosen by your companions to become members of the Order of the Arrow reflects great credit upon you, and I congratulate you upon your election. You have impressed upon those who have lived closest to you the sincerity of your purpose to live in accordance with the high ideals of the Scout Oath. The judgment of your fellows could hardly have been mistaken. In a short time, you will take upon yourselves another solemn obligation to be unselfish in service and devotion to the welfare of others. Your fellow Scouts elected you because they felt that you would continue your service. Do not let them down.

When you are through, hand the candidates the envelope which contains the letter from the Lodge Chief with information about the upcoming Ordeal Dates.