

2025

Unit Elections Script



LOWWAPANEU LODGE 191

ORDER OF THE ARROW

Unit Election Policies

Unit elections are permitted in Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scout units. To become a member of the Order of the Arrow, a Scout, Venturer or Sea Scout is chosen by the unit's youth, including current lodge members. This is a unique feature of the OA. Since the majority of those who select OA candidates are not members of the lodge, membership is not controlled by those who are already OA members.

In a Troop, Crew or Ship, every registered active member under age 21 at the time of an election is eligible to vote. A Scout, Venturer or Sea Scout who carries a current national membership card and participates in at least some unit activities during the year is considered to be a registered active member of the unit. For example, a youth away at college who participates in some activities when home, such as a campout, camporee, or occasional meeting, should be considered a registered active member. A youth who moves away or drops out of the unit because of other interests would not be counted in the registered active membership figure.

No Troop, Crew or Ship may hold an Order of the Arrow election without the presence of an official Elections Team from the lodge. Members of the Elections Committee may not hold elections for their home unit. A visitation team must have at least one adult and one youth lodge member present.

Each year, upon holding an election for youth candidates resulting in the election of at least one youth, the Unit Committee may nominate registered unit adults to the Lodge Adult Selection Committee for approval as candidates for induction. These adults must be 21 or older. The number of unit level adults nominated can be no more than two adults per three youth candidates elected, rounded up where the number of youth candidates is not a multiple of three. In addition, the current Unit Leader (but not assistants) may be nominated, as long as he or she has served as Unit Leader for at least the previous 12 months. Adults must meet all camping requirements, complete the "Adult Candidate Nomination" form and agree to complete the current year's Ordeal and Ordeal ceremony, if approved for induction.

After election, a Scout, Venturer or Sea Scout remains a candidate until completion of the Ordeal and Ordeal ceremony. If this period of candidacy exceeds one (1) year, the candidate is no longer a candidate and can become one again only by being re-elected. The Lodge Executive Committee may extend the one year limit between election and induction if there are extenuating circumstances.

The Unit Leader schedules an election visitation with the lodge. Only one election may be held each year. The Unit Leader provides the Election Team verification that at least 50% of the registered active youth membership is present. If 50% is not present, an election cannot be held. The Unit Leader provides a list of all registered active members of the unit who meet all eligibility requirements, including attitude and participation. A copy of the unit charter should be available in order to look up BSA membership ID numbers.

All elections are conducted in accordance with standard national guidelines as printed in the most current edition of the Order of the Arrow Guide for Officers and Advisers.

Candidate Qualifications

Youth

- 1. A youth under the age of 21, who holds the Scouts BSA First Class rank, the Venturing Discovery Award, or the Sea Scout Ordinary rank or higher and registration as an active member of Scouting America, may be nominated for election with the approval of the Unit Leader. Prior to the annual election, the Unit Leader must certify the nominee's Scouting spirit and youth membership qualifications.**
- 2. A youth must have experienced 15 nights of camping while registered with a Troop, Crew, or Ship within the two years immediately prior to the election. The 15 nights must include one, but no more than one, long-term camp consisting of at least five consecutive nights of overnight camping, approved and under the auspices and standards of Scouting America. Only five nights of the long-term camp may be credited toward the 15-night camping requirement; the balance of the camping (10 nights) must be overnight, weekend, or other short-term camps of, at most, three nights each. Ship nights may be counted as camping for Sea Scouts.**

Adults

Each year, upon holding a unit election which results in at least one youth candidate being elected, the Unit Committee may nominate adults to the Lodge Adult Selection Committee following the procedure on the previous page. The Lodge Adult Selection Committee, with the approval of the Scout Executive, will decide who will be candidates for induction, provided the following conditions are fulfilled:

- 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, tenure or positions.**
- 2. The adult will be an asset to the lodge because of demonstrated abilities that fulfill the Order's purpose.**
- 3. The same camping requirements set forth for youth members are fulfilled by the adult.**
- 4. The adult leader's membership will provide a positive role model for the growth and development of the youth members of the lodge.**

Rules and Regulations

- 1. The number of adults a unit may nominate is based on the number of youth elected.**
- 2. The Election “Call Out Ceremony” script must be followed to the letter.**
- 3. The Election Team must show up for any election that has been scheduled.**
- 4. The Election Team Adviser must enter each Youth Candidate’s data from their Information Sheet into LodgeMaster and submit all completed hard copy election materials to the Council Service Center.**
- 5. At least one member of an Election Team must have attended Unit Elections Training.**
- 6. To be elected to the OA, a youth must hold, at election time, the Scouts BSA First Class rank, the Venturing Discovery Award, or the Sea Scout Ordinary rank or higher and meet the camping requirement (15 days & nights, 1 long-term outing)**
- 7. The only way a candidate can be elected to the OA is by majority vote at an election. A Unit Leader may not give a candidate a needed vote to be elected, but may decide who is eligible for election.**
- 8. No election can be held unless at least 50% of the unit’s active youth are present.**

Election Script

Team Member 3: Hi! We're from Lowwapaneu Lodge 191, which is our local Order of the Arrow Lodge here in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Council. If you don't know a lot about the Order, we are the National Honor Society of Scouting America.

(Introduce yourselves by giving your Name, Unit, Rank, and Honor in the OA)

We are here tonight to perform an election for your unit and also to provide you with some information on happenings in the Council. Let's begin!

Team Member 1: The Order of the Arrow is a national brotherhood of honor campers. 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 camping and maintains camping traditions and spirit. It emphasizes that a good camper is not only skilled in scoutcraft, but also true to the ideals of Scouting and its tradition of the daily Good Turn.

The only way youth can become members of the Order of the Arrow is to be elected for this honor by the members of their Units. To be eligible for election, youth must fulfill the prescribed camping requirements, hold the Scouts BSA First Class rank, or the Venturing Discovery Award, or the Sea Scout Ordinary rank or higher, and be approved by their Unit Leaders.

After being elected, a youth must complete the Ordeal, which is a series of tests of sincere dedication to the high ideals of Scouting and the Order. A youth is admitted to the Order of the Arrow upon faithfully performing the tests and taking a solemn pledge of service. A period of self-improvement and service then follows.

The lodge flap and the distinctive sash identify Order of the Arrow members. They are symbols of our service. Our lodge has its own activities and projects, but our program does not replace its members' responsibility to their Units. Indeed, Arrowmen are expected to give richer service to their Units in return for the honor of being in the Order of the Arrow.

American Indian traditions are a large part of our Order. American Indian drumming, singing and ceremonies add richness to our program and members often make American Indian lore a hobby. However, one does not need American Indian attire or skill in American Indian lore to become a valuable member of the Order of the Arrow.

Tonight you will elect representatives from your Unit to our Order of brotherhood and cheerful service. We are here to assist you with the election. All registered, active members of the Unit, except those 21 or older, are entitled to vote.

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

Remember that an Order of the Arrow election is not a popularity contest! Don't vote for candidates just because they are your friends, or because they are the older members of the Unit. What really counts is their loyalty to the Scout Oath, and their camping skills.

Campaigning in an Order of the Arrow election is not permitted. You are to think for yourself. Do not let others influence your decision. The election is by secret ballot and no discussion will be permitted. No one will know for whom you are voting. This important decision about your fellow Unit members is entirely up to you. Before we announce the names of those eligible and begin the election, are there any questions?

(Answer any questions about the nature and purpose of the Order of the Arrow and the election procedure)

Team Member 2: The following members of this Unit meet the camping and advancement requirements and are eligible for election, as certified by your leaders. Will you please stand and form a line when your name is called.

(Point out a place to line up and read the list slowly. Arrange the candidates in a line facing the voters at the place indicated. The line can be semicircular if the eligible group is large.)

You should now ask yourself the following questions. Your answers will help you to make the right selections.

Team Member 3: *(Pause after each question allowing the voters to think about the answer to the question.)*

- Who in this group is a friend to all?
- Who is easy to get along with and pleasant?
- Who is kind and helpful?
- In those here, with whom would you like to hike and camp?
- Who is cheerful even when they have many tiresome jobs to do?
- Who smiles whenever they can?
- Who obeys promptly and cheerfully?
- Who controls their temper?
- Who would you enjoy camping with for a few weeks?
- Who is always ready to give unselfish and wholehearted service to others?
- Who, in serving others, can forget their own desires and interests?
- Who has served your Unit all year round, faithfully attending your meetings and helping with your service projects?
- Who do you think will continue their service in the future?
- If you were their leader, could you depend on them?

Overall, ask yourself who in this Unit, by living up to the Scout Oath and Law, serves your fellow members with such an example of brotherhood and cheerfulness that you look up to them with deep respect and admiration?

Team Member 2: 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.

Vote **ONLY** for those you believe will continue in unselfish service to your Unit. If you feel that no one is worthy, turn in an unmarked ballot. If you are new and do not know the candidates well enough to vote wisely, you may abstain by not turning in a ballot at all. This will not affect the final results.

Those eligible for election may also vote and they may vote for themselves if they feel they are worthy. When you are finished, fold the ballot in half only once. Give the pencil or pen and your ballot to a member of the Election Team.

(Distribute the election ballots and pencils)

(Collect the ballots and pencils. The Election Team Adviser should count the votes in private with the Unit Leader. The other Election Team members should continue with the promotion script.)

(Continue the election by performing the “Call-Out Ceremony” after ALL of the other scripts are read. The “Call-Out Ceremony” MUST be performed.)

Lowwapaneu Lodge

Arrowman A: Lowwapaneu Lodge has a lot of exciting opportunities for its members, like the games and activities at our Fellowship Weekends.

Arrowman B: ...Like our Nintendo Night, where everyone is invited out to a night of gaming that spans across multiple Nintendo platforms.

Arrowman A: You could even join the hundreds of Arrowmen annually who work together at Scouting America's High Adventure bases. Arrowmen have amazing opportunities to attend Philmont, Sea Base, Northern Tier, or the Summit for a fraction of the cost.

Arrowman B: Lowwapaneu Lodge has plenty of opportunities for leadership, new friendships, adventure, and fun. We hope to see you join our lodge when we visit again next year!

Goose Pond Summer Camp News

Arrowman A: Get back to the Pond! After a super cool summer camp season in 2024, we're looking forward to another awesome summer camp program in 2025. As always, it will be an amazing adventure, at an amazing place, with amazing people, filled with awesome experiences. Now is the time to get psyched, get ready, and get SIGNED UP for a great week at summer camp at Goose Pond in 2025!

Arrowman B: Cost for summer camp this year is only \$460 if paid in full by May 15th. After May 15th, the cost is \$485. However, we encourage everyone to make a commitment to attend camp now and start saving and making payments to your Camp Leaders regularly.

Arrowman A: The Order of the Arrow is also very active at camp and Thursdays will again be "OA Day" at Goose Pond. We'll have plenty of fun, ceremonies, and recognition as part of the OA programming.

Arrowman B: Talk to your Unit Leaders for details and more information about attending summer camp. We hope to see all of you "Honor Campers" at Goose Pond this summer!

Also make sure that your Cub Scout Pack is signed up for camp at Acahela this summer. Those Cub Scouts are your Troop's future and it's really important that they get a summer camp experience now.

Camp Staff Opportunities

Arrowman A: Are you someone who is enthusiastic, energetic and eager to learn? Do you love Scouting, the outdoors, working with young people, making dreams come true, being part of an absolutely awesome team, and having more fun in a summer than you ever thought possible? If you check any of those boxes, we've got you covered!

Arrowman B: The Council is currently accepting applications from youth and adult leaders who are interested in being a part of the finest Camp Staff teams ever to be assembled! Opportunities exist at Goose Pond Scout Reservation and at our Cub Scout camp, Camp Acahela. If you are interested in the summer of a lifetime, be sure to pick up a Camp Staff Application at the Council Service Center or from the Council website (nepabsa.org) as soon as possible. Contact Dave Srebro if you have questions or for more information. All types of positions exist for those who are age 15 through adult.

Arrowman A: And those who are at least 14 years old by June can apply to be accepted into the Counselor In Training programs at either Goose Pond or Camp Acahela. It's the best deal going, 5 to 7 weeks of summer camp with some great leadership training, all for free!

Arrowman B: See you on camp staff this summer!

Great Medicine NYLT

Arrowman A: Who's heard of Great Medicine NYLT before? Has anyone here taken Great Medicine?

Arrowman B: Great Medicine is a two weekend leadership training course. It's a Council-wide event for youth leaders. It is Scouting America's National Youth Leadership Training, or NYLT. It introduces new leaders to advanced Scouting skills and Skills of Leadership. It is an action-packed program designed to provide youth with 21st Century leadership skills and experiences they can use in their home units and in other situations demanding leadership of others.

Arrowman A: The specific objectives of the course are:

- To give participants the confidence and knowledge to run quality Unit programs
- To give participants a working knowledge of what a leader must BE, KNOW, and DO
- To teach participants a clear focus on HOW TO
- To give participants an opportunity to share ideas and experiences with members of other Units
- To create an atmosphere where you will experience Scouting at its best
- And, to have fun!

Arrowman B: Great Medicine NYLT is staffed by top Council youth trainers. At a minimum, participants must be a First Class Scout or a registered Venturer before the start of the course, or be 14 years old and have at least begun the 8th grade. Ideally, participants are currently, or will potentially soon be, holding the position of Senior Patrol Leader or Assistant SPL in the Troop, or an officer in the Crew.

Arrowman A: The cost is only \$285 if paid in full by March 31st or \$310 after that date. This fee includes all meals, lots of training materials, patch and neckerchief, and more. The course will be held at Goose Pond over two weekends: April 25-27 and May 2-4, 2025.

Arrowman B: Registrations must be filed by your Unit Leader on the appropriate forms available at the Council Service Center, the Council website (www.nepabsa.org), or from your Unit. See your Unit Leader to make a reservation for this excellent training opportunity.

Call Out Ceremony

(Continue the election by performing the “Call Out Ceremony” after ALL other scripts are read. The “Call Out Ceremony” MUST be performed.)

(By this time, the candidates should have joined the rest of the Unit members.)

(Before this ceremony begins, have Election Team members or other OA members ready to serve as escorts for the candidates elected.)

(Ask the Unit members to be quiet. Perform the following ceremony in a dignified manner.)

Team Member 2: The Order of the Arrow was founded by Dr. E. Urner Goodman and Colonel Carroll A. Edson during the summer of 1915 at the Philadelphia Council’s Treasure Island camp. These two men, working with their staff on Treasure Island, originated the ideals that became the basis for this national brotherhood of honor campers of Scouting America.

Team Member 1: When Dr. Goodman began the Order of the Arrow back in 1915, he realized that Scouts who were to be chosen to set the example in their Troops would need further encouragement and inspiration if they were to fulfill their role in Scouting. They devised the Ordeal experience to give new Arrowmen this inspiration to uphold and strengthen the ideals they were to follow. The tests of the Ordeal are four-fold. These tests are as follows:

(Pause slightly after each of the 4 ordeal tests.)

Team Member 2: Eat you nothing but the scant food you will be given. Learn by fasting, sacrifice, & self-denial, to subordinate desires, to the spirit’s higher purpose.

Team Member 3: Your directions are whispers, urgings, promptings, deep within your hearts and spirits. Therefore, strictly keep a pledge of silence before the Ordeal.

Team Member 2: Spend a day in arduous labor, working gladly, not begrudging. Seek to serve, and thus be faithful to the high ideals and purpose of the Order of the Arrow.

Team Member 3: All your strength will be required when you face the isolation which a leader often faces. So on your Ordeal, beneath the heavens; sleep alone apart from others.

Team Member 1: The Ordeal has a different meaning to each candidate who completes it. The physical tests are deeply significant. It is a time of deep searching and high resolve: a unique opportunity to experience all the richness and warmth of brotherhood. Candidates need this experience not only for their own benefit, but because their Obligation will require unusual devotion to the work of bringing this spirit to their own Unit.

Team Member 3: My friends, before us are those who have met the rank eligibility and significant camping experience requirements for Order membership. You duly elected them today as Order of the Arrow candidates. It is the privilege of Lowwapaneu Lodge to honor them now on their selection to begin this new journey into brotherhood.

Team Member 2: Candidates, as your name is called, take one step forward, raise your right hand to the Scout sign, and repeat the Scout Motto: “Be Prepared”

<<Recognize each candidate individually by calling their name and escort them forward>>

Team Member 1: (Face Candidates)

Congratulations on your candidacy for the Order of the Arrow! Soon, you will again find yourself before us. Then, we will present you with new challenges, new tests, as you set out upon a long and toilsome journey, a journey to find the arrow.

(At this time, give each candidate the Spirit of the Arrow Booklet #1 and a handshake. Congratulate the candidates on their selection to the Order.)

(Now, you will ask the newly elected candidates to join you in another location to receive and fill out the required paperwork.)

(As stated above, the Election Team Adviser must enter each Youth Candidate Information Sheet’s data into the Lodge Master system and submit all completed hard copy election materials to the Council Service Center.)

Talking Points for Gathering with Current OA Members

Team Member 1: At this time, we would like to please speak with all those who are already OA members in the room, both youth and adults. *(This does not include the newly elected candidates)*

(Pull the group away from the rest of the Unit)

Team Member 2: Lowwapanew has a lot of fun opportunities coming up this year, *(encourage them to take a picture of the dates listed on the next page)*. There are three opportunities to Seal Your Bond in Brotherhood this year, if you have not already done so... at our April Fellowship Weekend at Camp Acahela, our Spring Ordeal at Goose Pond, and our Fall Ordeal at Camp Acahela.

Team Member 3: Is anyone not receiving our emails? *(if they aren’t, ask them to write their email addresses CLEARLY onto a piece of paper)*.

Team Member 1: We can’t wait to see you at an event soon!

2025 Lowwapanau Lodge Dates

April 11-12: OA Fellowship Weekend at Camp Acahela

May 30 - June 1: Spring Ordeal at Goose Pond Scout Reservation

July 12: Lodge Picnic at Goose Pond Scout Reservation

August 6-10: Section E17 Conclave at Guatajaka Scout Reservation in San Juan, PR

August 15-17: Fall Ordeal at Camp Acahela

Paperwork Flow

