



Lowwapaneu Lodge 191

Order Of the Arrow

Northeastern Pennsylvania Council
72 Montage Mountain Road
Moosic, PA 18507
(570) 207-1227 ~ www.lowwapaneu.org

July 15, 2020

Dear OA Candidate,

Congratulations on your Election to the Order of the Arrow! The Order is Scouting's National Honor Society. Your fellow Scouts in your home Troop have chosen you to represent them. The Order of the Arrow is a service and leadership organization. Our main focus is to our camps and the Scouting programs of our Council.

As you can imagine this year has been unique in our organization. Below you will find information about our organization and about an induction weekend we are scheduling for **August 14-15, 2020 at Camp Acahela**

You have now started on the trail to membership in the Lodge. You must take your Ordeal before December 31, 2021. If you do not take your Ordeal in this time, you will have to be re-elected by your Troop. This letter will give you some important information about what the Ordeal is, what you must do to sign up for the Ordeal and what to bring with you on the Ordeal weekend. **Please read this entire letter carefully!** **KEEP THIS LETTER UNTIL YOU TAKE YOUR ORDEAL.**

Use the registration form you received at the time of your election to register for the Ordeal.

About the Ordeal

Despite what you may have heard about what happens at the Ordeal, be assured that the Ordeal is not a hazing of any kind. There are strict guidelines that the Lodge follows in conducting your induction. There are four tests that you must pass to become a member. They will be explained shortly. For the Native Americans, the ordeal was a time when the young men of the tribe left behind the things of childhood and became adults. It was a serious time in a person's life. The Ordeal for us is also serious. You will not be harassed or pressured but you must also decide to do your best to follow the tests. It is not an easy thing to do. To help, you will have with you a Brother Scout who guides your path. He is called an Elangomat, which means "Friend" in the Lenape language.

You must plan to be in camp for the entire weekend. For the August 2020 Ordeal, you need to be in camp starting on Friday shortly after **5:00 PM** and ending on Saturday at **6:00PM**. You will be required to leave the camp at this time.

The four tests of the Ordeal are:

- Spend a night alone camping under the stars
- Spend the day in service working on various camp projects
- You will be given little to eat until the Ordeal is over
- During your Ordeal you will keep strict silence at all times

How the Ordeal Works

You must be present for the entire Ordeal. Do not arrive late or plan to leave early. On Friday night, dress in outdoor/camping clothes and be sure to eat a good meal before you arrive; no food will be served on Friday.

When you arrive at camp, you should wear a mask from the time you leave your car until you are told it is your option to remove it. You should also pack an extra mask just in case you need it during the weekend. You will be directed to store most of your gear in an assigned area in the dining hall when you arrive. You will need the equipment you are taking with you Friday night packed separately.

You will then register outside of the dining hall. Make sure to bring with you all of the **equipment** you are taking with you Friday night, your **medical form**, and your COVID waiver Form. **You should not be wearing your Class A uniform when you arrive at registration. Registration is between 5:00 and 6:00 PM. Please arrive and register no later than 6:00 PM.** If you arrive after 6:00 PM you may not be able to participate in the Ordeal. You will go through a check of your data and turn in your medical form when you register. You will then be assigned to a group with an Elangomat.

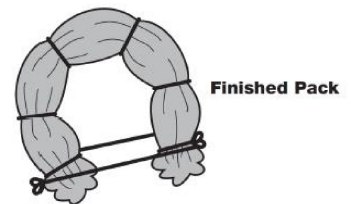
Your Elangomat will explain what you need to know about the Ordeal and will look over the equipment that you will be taking with you Friday night. You may have **only** the items listed below with you on Friday. Remember to dress appropriately for the weather and overnight experience:

- Sleeping bag (#1 of 2)
- Poncho or rain gear (the weekend goes on, rain or shine!)
- Ground cloth/tarp that is large enough to put one half under your sleeping bag and put the other half over the top of your bag in case of rain/dew.
- Filled water bottle or small canteen (at least one quart)
- Face Mask
- Work Gloves

For Friday night you will need a Horseshoe pack (Civil War Style)

Here is how you can construct your pack:

- Unroll your sleeping bag and roll it the other way (long way), creating a long thin tube. Tie the ends and middle with thick string or cord.
- Lay out your plastic ground cloth and fold it so it is big enough to roll entirely around the outside of your sleeping bag. Tie the ground cloth around the outside of your bag.
- Now Bend the tube in half like a horseshoe and tie the ends together. You can now slip the pack over your head and under one arm with the ends down.
- Pack your other items inside the roll. You now have a waterproof and hands-free pack.
- A picture of this “bedroll pack” is on the right or more details on it can be found at www.lowwapaneu.org/ordeal



There will be a Parents Meeting scheduled a few days before the ordeal through a virtual meeting. Please watch the e-mail you provided at the time of election for more information.

Once the Ordeal process begins, you will be with your Elangomat until the Ordeal is over on Saturday night. For Saturday evening induction ceremony you must have a **COMPLETE SCOUT UNIFORM** (Class A), including official Scout pants or shorts with Scout belt and Scout socks. If you do not have something, borrow what you need.

You will be able to briefly stop in the dining hall Saturday morning and drop off your horseshoe pack and if necessary, change into clothes that you can work in and that can get dirty.

Lodge Smoking Policy

Per policy of the Boy Scouts of America and Pennsylvania State law, no one under 18 years of age will be permitted to smoke during the Ordeal Weekend. Adults who smoke are asked to remove themselves from any areas with youth present. Smoking is forbidden in all buildings, entrances and tents. Adults may not smoke **at all** during the 24 hours of the Ordeal.

Medical Forms & Issues

All candidates must have at least part A and part B of the Medical form filled out and signed when they arrive. Please bring a **PHOTOCOPY** of this medical form only.

Any medical problems, physical restrictions, or need to take medication, should be brought to the attention of the registration staff and your Elangomat. All medication should arrive in their original containers inside a sealed bag with the scouts name and instructions on when to administer the medicine.

Any problem that would require some change in the four tests of the Ordeal should also be brought to the attention of the Ordeal Committee at the time of registration. Please bring a written note stating the problem and necessary restrictions. In the case of temporary restrictions, i.e. broken bones, the candidate should consider waiting until a later date to take his Ordeal.

Signing up for the Ordeal

To attend the Ordeal you **MUST** register at the Council Service Center or online at www.lowwapaneu.org. A registration form is attached. Pre-registration is needed by the Lodge to insure the proper administration of the Ordeal and that adequate supplies are available. The maximum number of candidates for an Ordeal is 50. At the time of this writing, there are still spots available for the Achela Ordeal. If you have already registered/paid for the Goose Pond Ordeal that was scheduled for May 29 - 31, 2020 please send in the registration form. We will transfer your payment.

The cost for the Ordeal for 2020 is \$50.00 per person. If this fee is a hardship for anyone, please do not hesitate to contact Lodge Advisor Mike Minello or Staff Advisor Dave Srebro at the Council Service Center for possible "Ordealship" funds.

The induction fee covers the following:

- All food for the Weekend
- Lodge dues until the end of 2021
- Your Ordeal sash
- Your new Brotherhood Sash (at the time you Seal The Bond)
- A Lowwapaneu Lodge pocket flap-patch
- An Order of the Arrow Member Handbook
- An Information for New Members Book, various printings and mailings

If you will be attending a future ordeal, keep this letter. All the information is applicable to both weekends. **Another copy of this letter will NOT be sent to you again later.**

Requests for refunds of any kind must be specific and made in writing to the Lodge Executive Committee before the end of September. All refunds are subject to service fees and/or deposit forfeits.

If you have any questions please direct them to:

J Croom, Ordeal Advisor
570-499-8855 or jcroom@lowwapaneu.org

Mike Minello, Lodge Advisor
570-840-3560 or mike.minello@lowwapaneu.org

Dave Srebro, Lodge Staff Advisor
570-207-1227 or dave.srebro@scouting.org

Yours in Scouting,

J.
J Croom
Ordeal Advisor

Jimmy
Jimmy Bianchi
Ordeal Chairman

-----✂-----

I will be attending the:

Acahela Ordeal **August 14-15, 2020**

Name: _____ Troop #: _____

Complete Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Ordeal Fee: **\$50.00** - Method of Payment: Cash Check # _____

(Checks should be made payable to *Lowwapaneu Lodge* and returned with this registration slip to the Council Service Center at the above address. Credit cards are also accepted in person at the Scout Shop)

You may also pay online using a credit card at www.lowwapaneu.org