



Order of the Arrow Q&A:

Q: What is the Order of the Arrow?

A: The Order of the Arrow, a youth-run organization, is the National Honor Society of the Boy Scouts of America and is great way for you and those worthy of giving back to what Scouting has done for you and to sharpen the main principles you have learned throughout your Scouting career. It is meant to honor those Scouts and Scouters who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their everyday lives and want to help others through their service and devotion.

Q: Does this pull boys away from my troop?

A: No, this is just can extra program for your scouts who are above and beyond the rest in following the Scout Oath and Law. Before they complete their induction new members must promise to "return in service to their unit" and on completion they receive the following communication from the Lodge Chief:

You now have many other important choices and I am more than confident that you will meet each of them just as well!

The first, and by far most important of these choices is to give back to your home unit. It is safe to say that you would not be where you are without your fellow scouts in your home unit. These scouts have guided you throughout your scouting journey, constantly standing by your side. These scouts deemed you worthy for membership in the Order the Arrow at your election. Now you must demonstrate to them your willingness to serve the troop. Remember- an Arrowman's primary duty is to his home unit!

Q: What do you have to do to be eligible for the Order of the Arrow?

A : Youth Requirements:

- Scout must be a registered Boy Scout.
- Scout must hold a minimum rank of First Class.
- After registration with a troop or team, Scout must have experienced fifteen (15) days & nights of Boy Scout camping during the two-year period prior to the election. The fifteen days and nights must consist of one, but no more than one, long-term camp consisting of six (6) consecutive days and five (5) nights of resident camping approved and operated under the auspices & standards of the Boy Scouts of America. The balance of the camping must be overnight, weekend, or other short-term camps.

Adult:

- Have the same 15 days and 15 nights of camping stated above

- Be nominated by your troop committee (YOU CAN NOT FILL THIS OUT YOURSELF). Adults are nominated not for recognition or for tenure, but for the future service they can provide to the Lodge. Adult nominations are reviewed by an Adult Selection Committee prior to them becoming official candidates for induction as an Ordeal member according to guidelines and standards established by the National Order of the Arrow Committee.

Q: How do I sign up for an election?

A: Talk to anyone with an Order of the Arrow Sash on at this booth.

Q: My troop already conducts elections and we have Scouts who are members — what more can we do and why should we do it?

A: The mission of the Order of the Arrow is to fulfill its purpose as an integral part of the Boy Scouts of America through positive youth leadership under the guidance of selected capable adults

As Scouting's National Honor Society, 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.

Units who make the Order of the Arrow an integral part of their program find that it aids in the retention of older youth by providing additional and challenging leadership opportunities over and above the troop. It provides an opportunity for Scouts to regularly associate with high caliber Scouts from other units in the District and Council sharing leadership experiences and opportunities.

Q: How do I make the Order an integral part of my troop program?

A: Seek to earn the Order of the Arrow Unit of Excellence Award (see separate description of requirements and checklist - copies are also available in the Lodge Files section of the Lodge website: nnjbsa.org/oa). Use the Lodge calendar of events in your annual troop program planning to target which Lodge opportunities your troop will take advantage of as a troop. Ensure that your troop has an active OA Troop Representative, that the Chapter and Lodge are aware of who that individual is, and consider appointing one of your Assistant Scoutmasters to be the OA Troop/Team Representative Adviser.

Speak to your Chapter Chief and Chapter Adviser for more ideas on how to get the OA members in your troop more involved.