

Unit Election Ceremony Script

OA Member A:

Fellow Boy Scouts, the Order of the Arrow is 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 Scout craft, but also holds 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 unit. To be eligible for election, a youth must fulfill the camping requirement, hold the First Class rank, and have Scoutmaster approval.

After being elected, the Scout must complete the Ordeal, which is a series of tests of his sincere dedications 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 into the Order of the Arrow. A long period of self-improvement and service then follows.

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, except those 21 or older, are entitled to vote. All those who receive votes from at least half of those who have turned in ballots are elected. The number of candidates you elect depend on how your votes agree with votes of other members of your unit.

Remember that the Order of the Arrow is not a popularity contest! Don't vote for a scout just because he is your friend or just because he's a good athlete or because he is older than the rest. What really counts is his loyalty to the Scout Oath and Law.

Are there any questions? *(Pause...wait for a response)*

OA Member B:

The following members of this unit have met the camping and advancement requirements and are eligible for election, as certified by your Scoutmaster. Will you stand and form a line over here *(point to a spot)* as your names are called?

(Point out a place to line up and read the list slowly. Arrange the candidates in a line facing the voters. If possible, write each name on a chalkboard or flipchart as called.)

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

OA Troop Representative:

Who in this group are 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 Scout, would you like to hike and camp with him?

Who is cheerful, even when he has some 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 unit all year round, 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 your fellow Scouts with such an example of brotherhood and cheerfulness that you look up to him with deep respect and admiration?

OA Member B:

Scouts, on the ballot you will be given, print the first and last names, or if appropriate, mark the box next to the name, 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 troop. If you feel that no one is worthy, turn in an unmarked ballot. If you are new in the troop and do not know the candidates well enough to vote wisely, you may abstain by not turning in a ballot at all, and this will not affect the final result. 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 on this chalkboard (flip chart, poster, whiteboard, etc). When you are finished, fold the ballot only once, and give the pencil/pen and ballot to any member of the election team.

Before we distribute ballots, are there any questions about the election process?

(Be sure to have the candidates take their seat so they also can vote. Distribute the ballots and pencils/pens.)

(Collect ballot and pencils/pens, and take the ballots to a private area for counting.)

OA Member A:

Thank you for your cooperation. Good Camping and good night.