

## THE CHALLENGES OF BROTHERHOOD MEMBERSHIP

Your completion of the Ordeal sets you on the path of an exciting adventure. After 10 months of service to your unit and fulfilling certain requirements, you will be able to seal your membership in the OA by taking part in the Brotherhood ceremony. Brotherhood membership marks the completion of your induction into the Order of the Arrow.

You must meet five challenges before you can enter the Circle of the Brotherhood. The first of these you should meet now. The next three require steady effort over a period of months. The last challenge you must meet after you are satisfied that you are accomplishing the first four.

This list may seem daunting at first, but when broken down into smaller parts, you'll find it's quite manageable. Follow us, and we'll show you everything you need to know.

### CHALLENGE 1: MEMORIZE THE SIGNS OF ARROW MEMBERSHIP

Memorize the Obligation of the Order, which you received from Allowat Sakima. Also, memorize the Order of the Arrow Official Song, the Admonition, the sign of Ordeal membership, and the Arrow handclasp

#### The Order of the Arrow Official Song

Firm bound in bro-ther-hood,  
Ga-ther the clan  
That cheer-ful serv-ice  
brings to fel-low man.  
Cir-cle our coun-cil fire,  
Weld tightly ev-'ry link  
That binds us in bro-ther-hood,  
Wi-mach-ten-dienk.

#### The Admonition

Ahoalton—"To Love One Another"  
The admonition of the Order of the Arrow is Ahoalton. It is pronounced Ah'-ho-al'-ton. The admonition is a word in the Lenni Lenape language that means "To Love One Another". It is whispered between members of the Order of the Arrow, and it can be used to test if a person is a member of the Order by asking, "What is the admonition?" Allowat Sakima gives the Admonition to you during the Ordeal Ceremony.  
We must always safeguard the admonition.

#### The Sign of Ordeal membership

The sign of Ordeal membership is another way to show that you've been inducted into this organization. The sign is given with your right hand over your left shoulder, moving outward as if drawing an Arrow from the quiver.

#### The Arrow Handclasp

When you were given your sash, Allowat Sakima also gave you the handclasp of the Order of the Arrow. The handclasp is given by shaking with your left hand while interlocking the pinky and ring fingers.

### CHALLENGE 2: ADVANCE IN YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE ORDEAL

Gain a thorough understanding of the Ordeal through which you have passed.

The Ordeal is a journey within your own character. Candidates will bring something different out of their Ordeal, as it is intended to be a time of reflection. It is upon this journey that a candidate comes to a deeper understanding of each the Scout Oath, Scout Law, and the principles of the Order of the Arrow. Reflection on your own Scout life and character help create this understanding.

The induction Sequence seeks to encourage and inspire Arrowmen with the ideals of the OA and Scouting. This allows the traditions that Arrowmen hold dearly to be passed along.

It all begins with your election by the Scouts in your unit. Following your election, you were called out. Next came your Ordeal, which began with the Pre-Ordeal ceremony before an unlit fire, and ended with the Ordeal ceremony before a blazing campfire. Here you accepted the Obligation and received your Ordeal sash. The final step is the acceptance of Brotherhood membership, which marks full membership in the Order of the Arrow.

1. Election >
2. Call-Out >
3. Pre-Ordeal Ceremony >
4. The Ordeal >
5. Ordeal Ceremony >
6. New Member Orientation >
7. Journey to Brotherhood >
8. Brotherhood Ceremony

## Order of the Arrow Obligation

*I do hereby promise, on my honor as a Scout,  
that I will always and faithfully observe and  
preserve the traditions of the Order of the Arrow,  
Wimachtendienk, Wingolauchsik, Witahemui.*

*I will always regard the ties of brotherhood  
in the Order of the Arrow as lasting, and will  
seek to preserve a cheerful spirit, even  
in the midst of irksome tasks and weighty  
responsibilities, and will endeavor, so far as  
in my power lies, to be unselfish in service  
and devotion to the welfare of others.*

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(Sign your name.)

### **Who is Kichkinet? Nutiket? Meteu? Allowat Sakima?**

Kichkinet is your guide in the ceremonies. He symbolizes helpfulness and friendliness. Nutiket is the guard of the Circle. He upholds the tradition of cheerfulness. Meteu is the medicine man and representative of brotherhood. He reminds us of our need to love one another. Allowat Sakima, the mighty chief, symbolizes service. From him you accepted the Obligation of the Order.

### **What tokens did the four ceremonial principles reveal to you in the pre-Order and what did they represent?**

Nutiket gave the bow to Allowat Sakima as a token of liveliness and flexibility under stress, the principle of cheerfulness. Meteu gave the bowstring to Allowat Sakima as a token of the ties of Brotherhood also symbolized by rope in the Ordeal ceremony. Allowat Sakima strung the bow uniting brotherhood and cheerfulness for service, and drew an arrow from a quiver as a token that your election separated you from your fellows for something higher. Allowat Sakima asked you to test the bow as a sign of willingness to test the dedication to the Scout ideals, which led to your election. Lastly, Kichkinet shot the arrow upward, symbolizing the pathway you will follow if your dedication is unwavering.

### **What are the tests of the Ordeal, and what do they illustrate?**

- The night alone focuses attention on your need for courage and self-reliance on the trail ahead. You must be willing to accept individual responsibility for your thoughts and actions. You will find that your course will set you apart from your friends to the extent of isolation, but you must act according to your resolution regardless of what others do or fail to do. *It also gave you the chance to think over clearly the events taking place.*
- Your pledge of silence emphasizes the continuing need for you to spend time in thoughtful silence. Difficult decisions will face you now and in the future, and you will need to search your heart and spirit deeply to find the resolution that will guide you onward successfully. *This gave you the opportunity to pay strict attention to unspoken thoughts, thinking about past difficulties and committing to future service.*
- The scant food test illustrates self-denial. Often you will find it necessary to abandon mere personal comfort or desires if you are to fulfill your Obligation. *You ate sparingly, thus proving your ability to subordinate the appetites of the body to the higher purposes of the spirit.*
- The day of work indicates your willingness to give service, even when this service involves hardship and toil. In the Ordeal, you worked with the help and cooperation of other candidates and members, but now you must be ready to serve without the help and cooperation of others. *This proved your willingness to serve others cheerfully.*

As a whole, these four elements of the Ordeal provide a meaningful and inspiring experience for the candidate. They allow the total participation of the mind and spirit. However, the four elements of the Ordeal are only one step in the induction sequence.

### **What are the three symbolic preparations for the obligation?**

Before you entered the circle, you placed your hand on the shoulder of the candidate ahead of you to indicate your intention to continue in service to your own Scout unit. Kichkinet, seeing that all of you had the same purpose, symbolized this bond of brotherhood by binding you all together with the rope. Finally, upon Allowat Sakima's direction, Kichkinet asked you to advance before the fire of cheerfulness.

### **What is the tradition given us by Uncas as described in the legend?**

The legend tells how the peaceful lives of the Lenni-Lenape Indians were threatened by the neighboring tribes and distant enemies. Chief Chingachgook's call for volunteers to go and alert other villages of the tribe was met with apathy and indifference from the tribal members. Uncas cheerfully offered his help despite the negative attitudes of everyone around him. He cared enough for others that he was willing to face hardship and danger to protect them from harm. Uncas clearly saw a higher vision, and his desire for his brothers was that they could see it, too. The self-sacrificing service given by Uncas and Chingachgook is said to have saved the tribe from annihilation.

### **What is the significance of Allowat Sakima's description of the Arrow in the Ordeal ceremony?**

The chief stated that the various qualities attributed to the Arrow are ingredients of leadership. His discussion is a continuation of Meteu's comments about the Arrow in the pre-Ordeal. The Ordeal asks individuals to act according to their sense of right, regardless of the attitudes or actions of others. The four tests and the Obligation point the way, and Allowat Sakima reveals this way as one of real leadership. Any member who understands his or her Obligation and is striving to fulfill it inevitably becomes a center of strength in his or her troop. His or her example sets the pace in cheerful service, and his or her dedication has a rich effect on those who know him or her. Although wearing the sash identifies a Scout or Scouter as a member of the Order, it is his or her efforts to fulfill his or her Obligation that truly distinguishes them and provides others with a glimpse of the Arrow.

### **What is Ordeal Membership?**

Like the Ordeal, it is a time of trial, during which your understanding of the traditions of the Arrow will be put to the test. In the Ordeal Ceremony, each advancement you made into the circle was challenged, but your resolution and faithfulness in time of testing enabled you to go forward. You will find this true also in the experiences ahead. By striving to fulfill your Obligation, you will provide the higher vision of the Brotherhood, Cheerfulness, and Service to your fellow Scouts, even as Uncas did for his tribe.

### **When are you ready to accept brotherhood membership in the Brotherhood?**

Successfully meeting the demands of the Obligation is usually rather hard for the first several months. Gradually, however, your dedication to it will bring about changes that will make it easier for you. Eventually, the Spirit of Cheerful Service will become almost second nature to you, and you will be fulfilling the Obligation and hardly even thinking about it. As this experience develops, you are beginning to see the Arrow, and you are ready for the Brotherhood.

### **CHALLENGE 3: SERVE YOUR UNIT. RETAIN YOUR REGISTRATION IN SCOUTING.**

During a period of at least 10 months, strive to fulfill your Obligation by continuing and expanding your service to your own troop or team.

You, like all Arrowmen, must strive to continue and expand the service to your unit. As Allowat Sakima said in the Pre-Ordeal ceremony, "Friends, those who chose you need you."

Extending Brotherhood, Cheerfulness, and Service to the members of your unit is your primary responsibility. Any activities within the Order of the Arrow should come only after you've fulfilled your duty to your unit. This is why one of the requirements for Brotherhood is that you stay active in your unit for a period of at least 10 months following your induction into the OA. By staying involved, and being a positive example to the Scouts in your troop, you can make a difference in a big way.

### **CHALLENGE 4: PLAN FOR SERVICE IN YOUR LODGE**

Retain your registration in your Order of the Arrow lodge and keep your dues paid. Be aware that acceptance of Brotherhood membership involves a pledge of service to the lodge. Develop a concrete idea of how you plan to fulfill this pledge.

The Order of the Arrow provides many opportunities to serve. You are a unique individual with interests and skills different from anyone else, and there are several ways you can help your lodge. As you think about what role you would like to play in the OA in the future, imagine all the great things that you can become involved with: ceremonies, lodge or chapter leadership, ordeal administration, dancing, and many, many others.

Probably one of the best ways to find out what you can do is to ask one of your lodge or chapter leaders how you can help. The key is to find what is right for you and do it!

### **CHALLENGE 5: REVIEW YOUR PROGRESS**

When you earnestly feel that you have met the four challenges above, write a letter to your lodge secretary. In this letter:

- Explain what you think the Obligation means.

This at first can be an intimidating request, but it's not as hard as you may think. First realize that you're being asked what you 'think', in other words, for your opinion. There is no single correct answer, so you shouldn't worry about being wrong. What has proven helpful to many Arrowmen in your position is to have the Obligation right in front of them when fulfilling this requirement. Read a few lines at a time, and ponder what exactly it is you've obligated yourself to. Once you've written down your thoughts, you're done with this part of the letter.

- Describe how you have been fulfilling this Obligation in your troop or team and in your daily life, and how you have used your understanding of the Ordeal to aid in this service.

Now that you know what the Obligation means to you, it's time to ask yourself how you've been fulfilling it in your daily interactions with Scouts and non-Scouts alike. Also, how has the Ordeal experience helped you fulfill the Obligation? Remember that the Ordeal's aim was to teach you the importance of brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service. One question you might ask yourself is 'what did the challenges of the Ordeal teach, that has helped me to better serve my unit?'

- Describe your specific plans for giving service in the lodge program.

When you were inducted into the OA, the only commitment you made was to return in service to your unit. Now that you've chosen to become a Brotherhood member, it is time to make a commitment to the Order of the Arrow. Your plan for service doesn't have to be anything overwhelming, in fact it's not expected to be.

Writing the letter to your lodge secretary is a chance for you to reflect on some important aspects of the Order of the Arrow. It is intended to help you clearly think about the ideals of the OA, and how you've put them to use in your life – whether you ever realized it before, or not. You should think about the following things and convey them in your letter

If you don't already know where your help is needed, ask the youth leaders of your lodge or chapter where they could use your help.

Putting it all together

You now know what it is you need to say. The next step is deciding how to say it. When typing or writing out the letter, it might be helpful to address the points as they appear above, or in your OA Handbook. There is no need to go beyond the points that you've been asked to address, and there is no minimum length to your letter. However, a thoughtful letter will likely take up at least half a page.

If you're still not sure what's expected, here is the sample framework of a letter an Arrowman wrote to his lodge secretary on his way to Brotherhood.

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*Dear Lodge Secretary,*

*In my efforts to become a Brotherhood member in the Order of the Arrow, I'd like to tell you what our Obligation means to me. I believe that **[insert what the Obligation means to you]**.*

*Since I completed the Ordeal, I have worked to fulfill the Obligation by **[insert what you've done to fulfill the Obligation]**.*

*I gained an understanding of **[insert an ideal that the Ordeal helped you understand better]** at the Ordeal that has helped me in my daily life by **[insert how it has helped you]**. In addition, I have been able to serve my troop by **[insert how you have served your unit]**.*

*I look forward to sealing my membership in the Order of the Arrow by becoming a Brotherhood member. As a Brotherhood member of Nentego Lodge 20, I plan to serve the OA program by **[insert how you plan to serve]**.*

*Yours in Brotherhood,*

***[Insert your name here]***