Scout Units and OA Elections of their Members

Each year, members of Scouting units are selected by their units for membership in "Scouting's Honor Society", the Order of the Arrow. Youth are elected by other youth in their unit from a list of eligible members provided by the Unit Leader. "Youth" in the OA is under 21 years of age. Adults are nominated by the unit committee and selected by the Lodge selection committee, with the approval of the Scout Executive. The Camping requirement is the same for both youth and adults.

<u>CAMPING REQUIREMENT (YOUTH AND ADULT)</u>: After registration with a troop, Sea Scout Ship or Venturing Crew. have experienced 15 days and nights of Scout camping during the two-year period prior to election. The 15 days and nights must include one, but not more than one, long-term camp consisting of six consecutive days and five nights of resident camping, approved and under the auspices and standards of Boy Scouts of America. The balance of the camping must be overnight, weekend, or other short-term camps. The unit leader assures that the spirit of the camping requirement has been met.

<u>YOUTH MEMBERSHIP REQUIRMENTS effective February 1, 2019:</u> A First Class member of a Scout BSA troop, Venturing Discovery Award, or Ordinary Sea Scout who is under the age of 21, and is registered as an active member of their unit may, with the approval of their unit leader, becomes eligible for election. Prior to the annual election, the unit leader must certify the eligibility of scouts who will be on the ballot for that year.

<u>ADULT MEMBERSHIP REQUIRMENTS:</u> Each year, upon holding a unit election for youth candidates that results in at least one youth candidate being elected, the unit committee may nominate registered unit adults (age 21 or over) to the lodge adult selection committee. The number of adults nominated can be no more than one-third of the number of youth candidates elected, rounded up where the number of youth candidates is not a multiple of three. In addition to the one-third limit, the unit committee may nominate the currently serving unit leader (but not assistant leaders), as long as he or she has served as unit leader for at least the previous 12 months. Recommendations of the adult selection committee, with the approval of the Scout executive, will be candidates for induction, provided all conditions are fulfilled. *For example: a unit that elects four (4) youth may nominate two (2) adult leaders and their unit leader for a potential of three adult candidates.*

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 and positions. The individual will be an asset to the Order because of demonstrated abilities that fulfill the purpose of the Order. The adult leader's membership will provide a positive role model for the growth and development of the youth members of the lodge.

Purpose of the Order of the Arrow

As Scouting's National Honor Society, the Order of the Arrow is an integral part of the Boy Scouts of America. Our purpose is to:

- Recognize those who 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.

What to know about your Unit's Annual Election

Unit Leadership check list:

- Contact the Chapter Election Team (they should be calling you) to schedule the annual election meeting. Elections are normally conducted before April 1st.

- Prepare a list of eligible youth under 21 years old, and send this list to the Chapter, with contact information for candidates including Name, Address, Phone, email, gender, BSA ID # and Date of Birth.

- Make arrangements for any video equipment that the election team may request.

- Some units may have a "What you're getting into" meeting of eligible members to discuss Membership in the OA before the election. The election team can help with this.

- To have an election the unit must have 50% plus one (1) of the active registered youth in attendance at the meeting. There is no proxy voting allowed.

- Have the election team announce the results and give out congratulation letters to candidates.

OA Chapter Leadership check list:

- Automated emails will be sent to all Unit Leaders through Lodgemaster every two weeks, beginning the Monday after Vigil Selection, with scheduling running from this date to March 31st. Elections need to be held on or before the respective District's camporee.

- Follow up with the unit leaders no less than one week prior to the election date.

- Have a trained unit election team of preferably at least two youth and one adult who are not members of the unit assigned to the election, in full uniform including OA sash.

- Have materials to conduct the election including report forms and scripts.

- Conduct the election. Count the votes. Send information to Chapter Membership Vice-Chief/Chapter Chief to be imputed into Lodgemaster

Election Process

1. Unit must have 50% + one of the active youth (under 21) present to have the election

2. Scouts are given a ballot with the eligible names.

3. They vote for <u>all</u> Scouts that they believe exemplify the Scout Oath and Law, including voting for themselves. Emphasize that Scouts are able to vote for more than one eligible Scout.

4. If a scout does not know the scouts well enough to vote they should not turn in a ballot. This will not count against anyone.

5. The election team collects ballots and counts them.

6. The minimum number of votes one must receive to be elected, as follows: If the number of ballots turned in was even (2, 4, 6 etc.), divide this number by two. If the number was odd (1, 3, 5 etc.), add one and then divide it by two.

7. If no one is elected, the team announces this fact and a round of voting is held, after a summary of what the OA is, and a full repeat of voting procedures/rules (not a popularity contest, voting for more than one Scout, etc.). If the unit still elects no one, this is the final result for the year's election.

Election Contacts

If you have any questions, please ask your

Chapter Chief/Chapter Membership Vice-Chief, Chapter Adviser OR

Lodge Membership Vice Chief -

Aaron Watt — membership@cpc-oa.org

Lodge Membership Adviser -

Ron Stankye – membership@cpc-oa.org

Announcement of Election Results

The Election results must be announced the night of to allow candidates and their families time to plan to attend an Induction weekend. This is the policy for the entire Lodge, without exceptions. To explain the rationale behind this: for the candidates who were elected, but especially those who were not elected, there is no wait to find out the results of the election. Announcing the

night of as stated above gives families time to plan to attend an Induction, as well as more time to ask questions about and learn about what the OA is. Most Chapters have a formal "Call Out" Ceremony at Camporee that is a public recognition of candidates' election. This public recognition must not be a time for Scouts who were not elected to be disappointed by finding out election results at the public call out ceremony. Invite families to be part of the Call Out Ceremony, oftentimes held at Camporee. This brings up the problem with the time between learning of being a candidate and the Induction weekends: most District's camporees are held in late April or early May, often with only two weeks between camporee and the first Induction weekend. Please send an email to the contacts listed above if you have any questions on this or receive pushback from unit leaders on this.