



NA TSI HI LODGE

ORDER OF THE ARROW

January 15, 2024

Dear Unit Leader:

The Order of the Arrow is Scouting's National Honor Society.

The OA recognizes those Scouts and Scouters - who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives and, by such recognition, causes other Scouts to conduct themselves in such a manner that to warrant similar recognition, to promote camping, and to crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.

Each Scouts BSA troop, Venturing Crew and Sea Scout ship with qualified Scouts are urged to hold an election no later than **April 30** of this year, to select candidates for Induction to our Order at one of this year's Induction Weekend. (See Council Website for Dates)

The date and place of your unit's election are chosen by you, as unit leader. Elections can be held in person or via online meetings such as Zoom (although in person meeting are preferable). On our [Lodge Website](#) is a questionnaire about Elections. If you fill it out, we can give you a hand or simply join your unit's election to talk about the OA.

SCOUTING'S NATIONAL **HONOR** SOCIETY



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Membership Qualifications:

Unit elections are permitted in Scouts BSA, Venturing, and Sea Scout units

The standard Order of the Arrow membership requirements are as follows:

1. Be a registered member of the Boy Scouts of America.
2. Have experienced 15 nights of Scout camping while registered with a troop, crew, or ship within the two years immediately prior to the election. The 15 nights must include one, but no more than one, long-term camp consisting of at least five consecutive nights of overnight camping, approved and under the auspices and standards of the Boy Scouts of America. Only five nights of the long-term camp may be credited toward the 15-night camping requirement; the balance of the camping (10 nights) must be overnight, weekend, or other short-term camps of, at most, three nights each. Ship nights may be counted as camping for Sea Scouts.
3. At the time of their election, **youth must be under the age of 21**, hold the Scouts BSA First Class rank, the Venturing Discovery Award, or the Sea Scout Ordinary rank or higher, and following approval by the Scoutmaster, Crew Advisor or Sea Scout Skipper, be elected by the youth members of their unit.
4. Young Adults in the units such as Assistant Scoutmasters who are 18, 19 or 20 years old are also considered to be **youth members** for the purpose of OA elections. All requirements shown above must be met for a young assistant scoutmaster to be eligible for election.
5. Adults (age 21 or older) – See below.

Adult Eligibility

Adults (**age 21 or older**) who meet the camping requirements may be nominated by the Unit Committee for review and approval by the Lodge's adult selection committee. Please upload your ADULT NOMINATION forms after uploading your YOUTH ELECTION Results. When you tell us (**in advance**) when you are holding an election, our system will send you a link to automatically upload both the Youth and Adult candidates to our system.

Unit Election Support

We recommend that when you hold your election, it is run by an Election team of three OA youth members. For transparency purposes, the National OA Committee strongly recommends at least one youth member **youth OA member who is not a part of your unit and has been properly trained** on current election rules, is a part of the team used to conduct the Election. Other team members can be OA members from your unit, such as your OA Troop Representative.



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Our Elections Team is happy to attend your unit's election to assist in helping to make it a memorable experience. Please reach out to them via the Lodge website or directly at their new email address, elections@natsihi.org

On behalf of our Lodge's membership, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your support of this year's election schedule and for conducting a unit election.

In closing, we would like to request that you encourage your unit's OA members to get involved in the OA today by participating in Lodge events. If you haven't experienced the Order of the Arrow in the last couple of years, we think you will be surprised at what the OA has to offer.

Yours in Brotherhood,

Cole P.

Cole P.
Lodge Chief 2023-2024

Please note:

Complete Unit Election documentation can be found at the Lodge's website, <http://www.natsihi.org/lodge-forms/elections/>.