Order of the Arrow Elections and Call-Out Training 2018

Spencer Vito
Denise Blocher
Evc@wiatava.org
Overview

• Role of OA Elections
• OA Eligibility Criteria
• OA Election Team Training
• Roles & Responsibilities
• Rules and Procedures
• Election Checklist
• Election Script and DVD
• Frequently Asked Questions
• Resources

• Call-Outs
About your Lodge EVC

- Inducted into the OA in 2011
- Brotherhood in 2015
- Eagle Scout Class of 2016
- Modoc *Chapter EVC* and Chapter Chief in 2016
- Lodge Vice Chief of Activities 2017
- Vigil Honor in 2017
- Lodge Executive Vice Chief 2018
Induction Sequence

1. Election
2. Pre-Ordeal
3. Ordeal
4. Ordeal Ceremony
5. New Member Orientation
6. Brotherhood Ceremony
Role of OA Unit Elections

• Candidate’s First Step Towards OA Membership
• Visibility of the OA to the entire unit
  – Election teams can create a very positive image of the Order of the Arrow
• Leadership Opportunity for OA Youth
• Required Journey to Excellence objective
  – Bronze: Conduct elections in 39% of units
  – Silver: 64% of units
  – Gold: 99% of units
OA Eligibility Criteria for Youth

- First Class rank or higher
- Under age of 21
- “Active” member of his Unit
- Approved by Unit Leader
- Fifteen nights camping within 2 years of election
  - Five nights of long-term camping
  - Ten nights of “short-term camping”
- Be elected by at least 50% of votes at Unit election
OA Eligibility Criteria for Adults

- Based on ability of adult
  - Provide a positive role model for growth and development of youth leaders

- Same camping requirements as youth

- Nominated by Unit Committee

- Professional Scouters may also make nominations

- Lodge and Council approval
Number of Adults Nominated

- One adult per 3 youth elected
- Unit Leader does not count towards this ratio

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of Youths Elected</th>
<th>Maximum No. of Adults That Can be Nominated</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 + unit leader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1 + unit leader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1 + unit leader</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2 + unit leader</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2 + unit leader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>2 + unit leader</td>
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</tbody>
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Adult leaders in council and district positions

• Lodge adviser, district chairmen, council president, or members of the professional staff may nominate adults to the lodge adult selection committee

• Professional staff
OA Election Team Training

• Done prior to election period
  – Scheduling considerations
• Ideal time is 30-45 minutes
• Include youth and adults expected to participate in teams
• Four page syllabus in *Guide to Unit Elections*
• Training Video Available (6 minutes)
OA Election Team Training

- Introduction
- Rules
- Process
- Performance
  - Mock election
  - Assessment
- Conclusion
Roles & Responsibilities

• Elections Committee / Chair
• Unit Election Team
• OA Troop / Team Representative
• Lodge Adult Selection Committee
Elections Committee / Chair

• Sets time period for elections
• Informs units of election period
• Recruits, organizes and trains unit election teams
• Prepares handout with Ordeal information
• Establishes process to send info about youth candidates and adult nominations to Lodge membership and call-out committees
Unit Election Team

- Conducts meaningful unit election
- Wears complete field uniform with OA sash
- Creates positive image of OA to candidates, Scouts, Scouters, and parents
- Completes Unit Election Report, which is given to Election Committee / Chair
OA Troop / Team Representative

- Ensures troop or team schedules election
- Educates youth about the purpose of the OA
- Maintains excitement among eligible candidates
- Encourages attendance at election
- Remind Troop / Team members in OA to wear sash during election
- Participate in unit election
- Assist in completing the Unit Election Evaluation Form
Lodge Adult Selection Committee

- Lodge adviser, council committee chair, lodge staff adviser
- Review unit nominations
- Make recommendations for adult selection to the Scout Executive
- Adults cannot be called-out until nomination is approved by the Scout Executive
Rules and Procedures

- Lodge determines time of year for elections
- Lodge / Chapter works with unit leaders to determine time and place of election
- Before election, unit leader verifies that 50% of “active” membership is present
- Unit Leader provides list of eligible members
- Youth receiving 50% of ballots turned in are elected
  - Advise Unit Leader that if no youth elected, a second ballot will be held immediately
Election Rules and Procedures

• Voters may list any combinations of names on the ballots, including all eligible candidates.

• Election team stresses the following points:
  – Select candidates who set best examples of brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service.
  – Vote for those you believe will continue in unselfish service to your unit.
  – If none are worthy, turn in a blank ballot.
  – If voter does not know candidates well enough to vote wisely, abstain and do not turn in a ballot.
  – Candidates may also vote.
Election Rules and Procedures

- Election team counts number of ballots and records on election form
- Election team determines minimum number of votes need
  - Even number of ballots: divide by 2
  - Odd number of ballots: add 1, then divide by 2
  - Record this number on election form
- Election team and unit leader count votes in private
- If at least one youth elected, this is the final results
- If no youth is elected, a second ballot is conducted immediately. Time is allowed for further explanation
Election Rules and Procedures

• The unit leader decides whether or not to announce the results of the election

• Candidacy is good for one year
  – If candidate does not participate in Ordeal within one year, they must be re-elected / nominated

• Adult nominations
Election Checklist: Before the Election

- Get Info about Unit
- Contact Unit Leader
- List of Eligible Candidates
- Provide List of current OA members from Unit
- Solicit Adult Nominations
- Contact OA Troop / Team Representative
- Confirm Unit Election Team is Available
  - Minimum 3 youth
  - Adult Support
- Reconfirm with Unit Election Team
- Prepare Supplies
- Deal with Scheduling Conflicts
Election Checklist: At the Election

- Be in proper uniform
- Bring supplies
- Bring forms and handouts
- Bring unit elections video
- Bring the video equipment
- Bring elections ceremony scripts
- Arrive Before Unit Meeting

- Determine who is eligible
- Get contact information of those eligible
- Determine active membership
- Assign duties
- Consider adult nominations
- Determine if results are to be announced
- Conduct the election
Election Checklist: At the Election

• Count the ballots
  – Remember, no quotas
• If no one is elected
• Complete the Unit Elections Report
• Announce the results
• Hold the call-out ceremony

• Distribute the Ordeal handout
• Identify potential election team members and elangomats
• Complete the evaluation
• Thank the unit leader
Election Checklist: After the Election

• Report on the election
• Turn in forms
• Turn in adult recommendations
• Recruit unit elections volunteers
• Recruit Elangomats
• Reschedule a missed election
Election Script and DVD

• Script
  – Found in Guide to Elections
  – Three Parts
    • Consider Using One Arrowman from Unit
  – Allows for consistency and completeness

• DVD
  – Seven minutes long
  – Adds another dimension to election
  – Requires AV equipment, time to set up and take down
  – http://www.oa-bsa.org/pages/content/lodge-program-resource-videos
Frequently Asked Questions

• When does a Scout have to earn his First Class Rank to become eligible for election?
• Can a Scout use the same camping nights towards the requirements of Camping merit badge and for the OA camping requirement?
• A Scout who recently joined my troop camped a lot in his previous troop. Should that camping be counted when deciding if he can be listed on the election ballot for my troop’s unit election?
Frequently Asked Questions

• A Scout in my troop is also registered in a Venturing crew. Can camping trips with the crew count towards the camping requirement?

• If a Scout goes to summer camp and a jamboree in the same summer, how do these count towards the camping requirement?

• Does the long term camp have to be at my council’s camp?
Frequently Asked Questions

• What does “… under the auspices of the Boy Scouts of America” mean in the camping requirement?

• I went on several camping trips when I was registered as a Webelos den leader and before I registered as an assistant Scoutmaster. Can those trips count towards the OA camping requirement?

• We have an adult assistant Scoutmaster who is two nights shy of the camping requirement.
Frequently Asked Questions

• Five days after the youth election the assistant Scoutmaster will have met the camping requirement. Can the troop committee nominate the assistant Scoutmaster several days after the youth election?

• Do youths have to be present for an election, or can they participate by phone or Skype or vote through an absentee ballot?

• Do youths have to be present to be placed on the election ballot and be elected?

• As a unit leader, how do I determine which youths are active and thus count for purposes of determining if a quorum is present for an election?
Frequently Asked Questions

• Can a troop/team conduct its own election?
• What’s the status in the Order of assistant Scoutmasters and assistant Varsity Scout Coaches who are under age 21?
• Can a unit use pre-printed ballots in an election?
• Can “All of the above” be included as a choice on a pre-printed ballot?
Frequently Asked Questions

• Can a unit leader or council add requirements to the national OA requirements for election?
• What is the unit leader’s role in a unit election?
• Can a unit leader adjust the results of the youth election results before the results are announced?
• How do you keep the elections from being a popularity contest?
• Can you help me better understand the number of unit adults who can be nominated when a troop/team conducts an election?
Frequently Asked Questions

• What is the role of the unit leader (Scoutmaster or Varsity Scout Coach) and the unit committee chairman in signing the adult nomination form? Do they decide which adults get nominated or does the troop/team committee make the decision?

• What should our lodge do if a Scoutmaster or Varsity Scout Coach mistakenly certifies a Scout as eligible for election when he is not eligible and that Scout is subsequently called out?
A chapter election team recently conducted an election for a troop in my chapter and three Scouts were elected. The day after the election, the Scoutmaster contacted me to ask for a supplemental election because he accidentally left some Scouts off the list of those eligible for election. Can the chapter arrange for another election?
Call-Outs
1. Recognizes each elected Scout as a candidate for membership in the Order of the Arrow.
   i. Method to publicly recognizes honor of being inducted.
   ii. Helps increase candidate’s excitement about the Order of the Arrow.

2. Organized by EVC and Ordealmaster
   a. Held at District Camporees
   b. Normally conducted during campfire
3. Recognition items (NOT NEEDED, RECOMMENDED)
   i. Not specifically stated in National rules
   ii. Can be created at a chapter meeting

4. Ceremony at Call-Out
   i. Audience should be respectful and silent.
   ii. Usually accompanied by presentation or slideshow
      1. Purpose of Ceremony
      2. Purpose of the Order of the Arrow.
      3. Lodge history
      4. Reason for candidate selections
      5. Roll call with name and unit number
      6. Inspire non-members to uphold Scout ideals
   iii. Should have Native American theme
5. Take candidates to impressive location
   i. Mystery, remote.
      1. Away from view of camp and civilization
   ii. Introduce themselves (Chief)
   iii. Pass out information regarding Ordeal
      1. Packets
         a. Letters to parents
         b. Ordeal permission slip
         c. Downhill meeting information
         d. Spirit of the Arrow No.1 - "Upon a Lofty Journey" IV.
   iv. Spirit of the Arrow booklets
      1. Should never be discussed with candidates
Call-Out Ceremony Cont.

6. Do not violate Ninth Principle! (National Rules, not guidelines)
   i. No set call-out ceremony
   ii. Safety
      1. Handicapped-accessible
      2. No hazing
      3. Youth Protection
Resources

• **Order of the Arrow Guide to Inductions**
  – www.oa-bsa.org/pages/content/guide-to-inductions

• **Order of the Arrow Guide to Unit Elections**
  – www.oa-bsa.org/pages/content/guide-to-unit-elections

• **Order of the Arrow Guide for Officers and Advisers**
  – www.oa-bsa.org/pages/content/publications#goa

• **Election Video and How to Conduct a Unit Election**
  – http://www.oa-bsa.org/pages/content/lodge-program-resource-videos