



abnaki lodge, www
Election of youth to order
(to age 21)

Unit leader **must** provide a list of eligible Scouts to Election Team. Eligibility requirements are:

- Scout is a registered member of unit.
- Scout is at least 11 years of age and under 21 years of age.
- Scout is First Class or above at time of election.
- Scout has attended required unit activities during past year.
- Scout has camped for at least 15 days and nights, including 6 consecutive long-term days and nights, during the prior two (2) years.
- **Unit Leader has an obligation to consider Scout Spirit (attitude & participation) as a final determining factor.**

Unit Election Procedure:

Scheduling and Preparation

- Each unit should request, through the chapter adviser, the scheduling of a unit election. The chapter adviser, or the unit election coordinator, will confirm the date and time of the scheduled unit election to the unit leadership.
- Election Team leader, upon arrival, will verify with the troop adult leadership that at least 50% of active (registered) youth (**under 21 years of age**) members are present. (Remember, youth who are 18 years or older, but have not reached their twenty-first (21st) birthday and are properly registered with the unit are considered to be eligible youth for voting purposes. They may also be eligible for election, as determined by the Scoutmaster.)
- The unit leader (Scoutmaster) will provide the Unit Election Team with a list of eligible unit members who have met the qualifications, and determined by the unit leader to meet the requirements for attitude and participation. The unit leader must sign the Unit Election Report Form to certify the names as eligible.
- Each Election Team consists of active OA members who are not members of the unit for which the election is being conducted. If necessity dictates that members of the unit help with the election, they may not be involved in the tally of ballots.
- If the unit leader is a member of the Order, he may instruct the troop on the purposes of the Order of the Arrow. If the unit leader has not done so, a member of the Unit Election Team should make this presentation, explaining that it is an honor to be elected to the Order by your troop. Election to the Order is an indication that the members of your troop expect great things from those who are elected. They have recognized the individual's potential for camping and leadership and have bestowed upon him an honor, as well as an opportunity to develop his skills through the Order of the Arrow. The team will also explain the method of selection.

Voting

- Election is to be done by means of a confidential paper ballot.
- The Unit Election Team will distribute and/or post a full listing of those troop members who have been determined by the Scoutmaster to be eligible for election to the Order of the Arrow.
- The Unit Election Team will distribute to each voting youth a single ballot. Ballots may be blank or may consist of a full listing of eligible troop members. Although not required, units may wish to prepare printed ballots in advance.
- Scouts will be instructed that they may list/select/vote for as many, or as few, eligible candidates on their ballot as they may wish. That is, each can vote for as many as they may feel are deserving of the honor and whom they expect to develop and provide leadership to the troop. This includes turning in a blank ballot, indicating that the Scout does not feel that any of the candidates is worthy of his vote.

- If a Scout is new to the troop and does not feel that he can make an honest judgment of the candidates, he may withhold his ballot. This will not adversely effect the election.
- When each troop member has had sufficient time to complete his ballot, the Unit Election Team will collect all ballots and retire to a private area for the tally. **Troop members, including adult leaders, are not to be present during the tally.**

Tally of Ballots

- Only members of the Unit Election Team are to be involved in the ballot tally. If Arrowmen from the troop have assisted the election team in the distribution and collection of ballots, they will be thanked and dismissed from the area. Also, **no adult leaders may be involved in the ballot tally.**
- Scout must be selected by 50% of ballots cast. Remember, a troop member is not required to submit a ballot, nor is he required to vote for any candidate (blank ballot). However, the tally is to be based on only those ballots that have been submitted, including blank ones.
- Only if no Scouts are selected in first round of balloting may a second round to be conducted.
- In the case of a second round of balloting, results are final. No further balloting is permitted.
- Upon completion of the ballot tally, the Unit Election Team leader will complete the Unit Election Report, including all required information on each Scout who is elected, including full and proper name, complete home address and telephone number, a valid e-mail address, and candidate's date of birth.

This should be done with the assistance of the Scoutmaster, after he is advised as to who was elected, or another qualified adult leader. However, remember that **no one from the troop is to be advised of the actual number of votes received by any candidate.** Results are to be expressed as those who were elected.

Notification of Candidates

- Scouts are either elected to membership or they are not. There is no placement as to who gained the most votes. No one, I repeat, no one is to be told the number of votes gained by any candidate. This is especially true as it applies to the adult leadership.
- The privilege of notifying the candidates is the sole responsibility of the Scoutmaster. The Scoutmaster will be given a candidate package for each Scout that is elected. The package shall consist of the following:
 - Welcome letter from the Lodge Chief - This lists the Ordeal dates for the year, the fee for the Ordeal, the items that the candidate is to bring to the Ordeal, and the times for drop-off and pick-up.
 - Ordeal registration check-in form - This form is for the use of the candidate when checking in at an Ordeal. It requests that the candidate provide similar information for verification, and also contains a Class 1 Medical Form. The candidate is to **completely fill out this form** and submit it upon check-in at the ordeal.
 - Each candidate **is required to register** for the ordeal of his choice, either on-line or through the Council Administrative Office in East Providence, or the Scout Shop in Warwick or Swansea. He is to bring the completed Ordeal Registration Check-in Form with required medical information, signed by his parent or guardian, with him to the Ordeal. **Full and proper name is required; no nicknames!**
- The Unit Election Team leader will also provide the Troop Committee Chair (or the designated adult leader) with a single copy of the Unit Adult Candidate Recommendation form, **only if the troop has elected at least one youth candidate** to the Order of the Arrow. If no Scouts were elected, this form will not be provided. The unit may recommend to the Lodge only one adult candidate, to be considered by the Lodge for election to the Order. The troop is advised that the same consideration and honor should be attached to this recommendation and that the submission of **this form does not constitute election of the adult.** It is further noted that **final approval is the sole responsibility of the Lodge Adult Selection Committee.** The qualifications are described on the form.
- The Election Team will explain that the Scout's who are elected are solely responsible for registering and attending an Ordeal within the twelve (12) month period following the date of the election. **As ordeal dates and/or location are subject to change, based on council requirements, candidates are responsible for obtaining this information through the council or lodge web sites, or by contacting the council office. The Scout will not necessarily receive any further communication, with the exception of the above described candidate package, which is now the responsibility of the Scoutmaster to hand to the Scout.**

Election Reporting

The Unit Election Team is responsible for the timely reporting of names of those youth who are elected from a unit. This report is to be submitted within a week of the unit election.

The following information **is REQUIRED** to be provided by the unit leadership to the Unit Election Team immediately following the election and prior to their departing the election site!

- The full and proper name of each candidate properly elected as it is entered on the unit charter, **no nicknames!** (If a candidate's name is William, do not put Bill; if Nicholas, do not put Nick, if Alexander, do not put Alex, etc.)
- Complete home address of each candidate, including street, city, state, and zip code. If the family uses a post office box for mail, that is to also be included. However, the complete street address must be provided.
- Home telephone number of each candidate, including area code.
- Date of birth of each candidate
- A valid and working e-mail address. This may be the e-mail address of a parent or responsible adult within the household

NOTE: Election results are valid for 12 months from the date of the election. Candidates not taking their Ordeal within this time frame must stand for re-election.

Although the Unit Election Team may provide information as to the dates and locations of ordeals and induction ceremonies, it is the responsibility of the candidate to obtain and verify, prior to registration, all dates and locations; and to register for the ordeal of his choice.

Adults: Unit committee may nominate **one (1) adult (over 21 years of age)** provided that at least one youth was elected. It is important to note that this nomination must be approved by the unit committee and then by the Lodge Adult Selection Committee prior to an adult attending an ordeal.

This is a synopsis of the unit election procedure as described in the official Order of the Arrow, Guide for Officers and Advisers. For official rules and requirements, refer to the Guide.