

**Abnaki Lodge**  
**Narragansett Council, BSA**

**LODGE RULES OF OPERATION**

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**SECTION I**  
**NAME AND AFFILIATION OF THE LODGE**

1. The name of this lodge of the Order of the Arrow shall be Abnaki Lodge W.W.W.
2. The purpose of this lodge shall be in accordance with the statements of the purpose set forth in the Order of the Arrow handbook and in the Orientation booklet.
3. This lodge will be affiliated with the Narragansett Council-BSA, and shall be under the administrative authority of its Scout Executive who is the Supreme Chief of the Fire.
4. This lodge shall be divided into as many chapters as there are executive operating districts of the Narragansett Council and the chapter shall take the name of their respective district.
5. The totem of this lodge shall be the bear and peace pipe.
6. The possession of the lodge pocket flap is restricted to members of the lodge. There shall be a separate flap with a different design, which may be traded.
7. The official lodge pocket flap shall be worn only on the right pocket flap of the official Scout uniform.
8. Any lodge National Conference patch shall be worn only by the delegates or staff attending.
9. Current BSA registration in the Narragansett Council shall be a prerequisite for membership in this lodge.

**SECTION II**  
**REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR ELECTION TO MEMBERSHIP**

1. The requirements and procedures for election to membership shall be as stated in the official Order of the Arrow handbook.
2. Procedures for the administration of unit elections:
  - a. Conduct of elections
    1. Elections will be held between November 1 and May 31st of each year.

Exceptions to this can be made by chapter advisers only, in consultation with the lodge adviser. Adult nominations have to accompany the election result for their respective troop.

2. Elections will be held in chapters by trained election teams appointed by the chapter chiefs.
  3. Request for elections must be made by the unit leader to the chapter chief or chapter adviser of the unit leader's district.
  4. Reports of elections must be sent to the lodge adviser and be postmarked no later than June 5th.
  5. Candidate letters, written by the lodge chief to include time and place for the ordeal, equipment needed and other necessary information will be sent to the candidate by first class mail in advance of the first ordeal weekend. This letter must be presented by the candidate when reporting to the ordeal.
- b. Preparation for elections
1. An executive meeting to instruct chapter officers and members of duties and responsibilities in conducting elections will be held at the appropriate time, usually at the lodge leadership development weekend.
  2. Before November 1 a letter will be sent to all unit leaders by the lodge chief explaining the principles and purpose of the Order, and instructing them as to the election procedures.
  3. There may be elected by the lodge executive committee up to eight adults per year from council members at large. Chartered Organization Representatives are to be placed in the unit quotas.
  4. Any Order of the Arrow member transferring in from another lodge currently registered in his former lodge will transfer in at no charge. Transferring Arrowmen will be allowed to purchase one restricted lodge flap patch. Transferring Arrowmen who fail to show proof of current registration will be subject to Section VI paragraph 5.

### **SECTION III** **OFFICERS AND ADVISERS**

1. The officers of this lodge shall be: Lodge Chief, Lodge Vice-Chief, Lodge Secretary, and Lodge Treasurer. These officers must be under 21 years of age throughout their entire term of office.
2. In the event that any lodge officer becomes incapable of service, or fails to fulfill his duties, a replacement may be appointed by the remaining lodge officers in consultation with the lodge adviser. Removal from office shall be by vote of the active executive board members upon recommendation of the lodge adviser, and approval of the Scout Executive.

3. The officers of each chapter shall be: Chapter Chief and Chapter Secretary and such other officers as the chapter may deem necessary for the carrying out of their activities.
4. The lodge officers shall be elected at the Annual Meeting at the May ordeal with the new terms of office to begin June 1 immediately following, and lasting one year from that date. If any outgoing officer so wishes he may choose to step down at the time of election of his successor with that successor assuming the duties of his office immediately.
5. The chapter officers shall be elected at a time which is practical for that chapter. Their term of office shall begin immediately following and lasting one year from that date. If any outgoing officer so wishes he may choose to step down at the time of election of his successor with that successor assuming the duties of his office immediately.
6. The lodge and chapter advisers shall be appointed by the Scout Executive or his designee. Committee advisers shall be appointed by the lodge adviser and lodge staff adviser.
7. No member of this lodge shall hold more than one elected lodge office in the lodge. Any member holding office at the lodge level should not hold any elected chapter office.
8. The executive committee of the lodge shall consist of all duly elected lodge officers, chapter chiefs, all duly appointed lodge committee chairmen and advisers, all duly appointed lodge and chapter advisers, the immediate past lodge chief, and the Scout Executive or his representative. All business conducted at these meetings will be final with regards to Section X of these rules. A quorum of this committee shall consist of:
  - a.) At least four (4) members under the age of 21,
  - b.) At least one (1) lodge officer,
  - c.) At least two (2) advisers be present.
9. Arrangements shall be made by the Lodge Chief or Lodge Executive Committee for a training session for all newly elected lodge and chapter officers.
10. The Lodge Chief may at any time appoint such special committees as are necessary for the execution of the Lodge's affairs.
11. The Chapter Chief may at any time appoint such special committees as are necessary for the execution of the Chapter's affairs.

#### **SECTION IV**

#### **PRODECURE FOR ELECTION TO OFFICE**

1. The order of election for lodge officers shall be:
  - a.) Lodge Chief
  - b.) Lodge Vice Chief
  - c.) Lodge Secretary
  - d.) Lodge Treasurer

2. Nominations shall be allowed from the floor for each office.
3. At the close of nominations each nominee will be given a chance to speak for up to five (5) minutes
4. After the speeches, each arrowman present, under the age of 21 will be given the opportunity to cast one vote for each office until a candidate is elected.
5. A candidate for an office must receive a majority (50% of the votes plus one). If this is not achieved a run-off shall occur between the two candidates receiving the highest votes. Each Candidate shall receive up to two (2) minutes to speak.
6. In the case of a tie vote, the current officers shall caucus immediately to cast the deciding vote.
7. This procedure will be followed for each office
8. Chapter Chiefs and any other elected chapter office shall be elected by the plurality vote of all the members of the chapter present and voting at the election meeting.
9. Elections shall occur at the Spring Ordeal and newly elected candidates will take office at the June executive board meeting.

## **SECTION V** **LODGE ACTIVITIES**

1. The lodge will hold at least one meeting and at least two other activities annually.
2. The time and place of these activities must be set by action of the executive committee at least one month prior to the activity.
3. The executive committee may call special activities of the lodge. Communication of the purpose of such activity must be given to all active members through the lodge newsletter, special mailing, website or e-mailing.
4. The executive committee of this lodge shall hold meetings every month from September to June inclusive. Notice of such meetings must be sent to all members of said committee through the lodge newspaper, special letter, website or e-mail.
5. Special meetings of the executive committee may be called by the Lodge Chief or the Scout Executive.
6. Each meeting of the lodge shall open with the Obligation of the Order of the Arrow and shall close with the Song of the Order.
7. Members over the age of 21 are not allowed to vote.

8. The Lodge shall publish a newsletter to be distributed to each member of the Lodge. The newsletter shall be published at least four (4) times a year.

## **SECTION VI** **DUES AND FEES**

1. The induction fee of the lodge shall include:
  - a. 1 Ordeal Sash
  - b. 1 Lodge flap patch (restricted)
  - c. 1 Order of the Arrow Handbook
  - d. Dues for the current year
  - e. Membership card
  - f. Lodge orientation booklet
2. The dues of the lodge shall be established by the Executive Committee by 12/31 of the preceding year..
3. The annual dues must be paid prior to November 30<sup>th</sup> for the following year. All members who are active will receive notification of dues through the lodge newsletter or special mailing. If dues are not paid by December 31st, membership will be considered inactive and membership will expire.
4. Dues are payable to the Lodge Treasurer. Dues should be sent to Narragansett Council or paid at any official lodge activity. Make checks payable to Narragansett Council or website.
5. Inactive members may be restored to active status by paying the current years dues.
6. All approved bills will be paid by the council office.
7. All Lodge funds shall be payable to the Narragansett Council or Abnaki Lodge. All lodge funds shall be sent to Narragansett Council in care of the Lodge Treasurer. All lodge funds shall be held in trust by the Narragansett Council and shall go through the normal accounting procedures used by the council.

## **SECTION VII** **BROTHERHOOD MEMBERSHIP**

1. The attainment of Brotherhood membership shall be in accordance with the latest edition of the Order of the Arrow Handbook.
2. Upon attainment of the Brotherhood membership, and upon paying the brotherhood fee, a brother shall be given:
  - a. 1 Brotherhood Sash
  - b. 1 Lodge flap patch (restricted)
  - c. Membership Card

**SECTION VIII**  
**THE VIGIL HONOR**

1. The election to Vigil Honor membership shall be in accordance with the latest edition of the Order of the Arrow Handbook.
2. Upon attainment of the Vigil Honor, the brother shall be given:
  - a. 1 Vigil Sash
  - b. 1 Lodge flap patch (restricted)
  - c. Membership Card
  - d. 1 Vigil certificate
  - e. 1 Vigil pin
  - f. 1 Vigil Ceremony booklet

**SECTION IX**  
**CEREMONIES**

1. Ceremonies shall be conducted in accordance with the latest publications of the National Committee Order of the Arrow.

**SECTION X**  
**AMENDMENTS**

1. These rules shall be subject to amendment at any Annual Meeting of the lodge, provided that such amendment(s) has (have) been proposed in writing at an executive committee meeting at least one (1) month prior to the Annual Meeting of the lodge. The executive committee shall review the proposed amendment and make a non-binding recommendation to the general membership present at the Annual Meeting. A two-thirds vote of the voting members at the meeting is required for adoption of the amendment.
2. Interim amendments to the Lodge Rules may be adopted provided the Lodge Executive Committee is notified at least 25 days prior to a Lodge Executive Committee meeting that a change is to be voted on. The amendment will be adopted if a 2/3 majority of the youth present. The interim amendment (s) must be ratified at the Annual Meeting of the lodge.

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