



2009 Unit Elections

Dear Scoutmasters & Coaches,

The Order of the Arrow is Scouting's National Honor Society. It recognizes those campers who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives and, by such recognition, cause other campers to conduct themselves in such a manner as 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 Boy Scout troop or Varsity Scout team with qualified Scouts is urged to hold an election between January 1, 2009 and April 10, 2009, to select candidates for membership in the Order of the Arrow. The date and place of the election are selected by you, as unit leader.

Youth Membership Qualifications:

1. A Boy Scout or Varsity Scout who holds at least the First Class rank, is under the age of 21, and is registered as an active member of the troop or team may, with the approval of his unit leader, be nominated for election. Prior to the annual election, the unit leader must certify the nominee's Scout spirit and youth membership qualifications.
2. After registration with a troop or team, the youth must have experienced 15 days and nights of Boy Scout camping during the two-year period prior to the election. The 15 days and nights must include one, but no 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 the Boy Scouts of America. The balance of the camping must be overnight, weekend, or other short-term camps.
3. Members of the troop or team between the ages of 18 and 20 are considered youth members for Order of the Arrow elections and must meet all the youth requirements as stated above.

Voting for youth candidates will be based on their spirit of brotherhood, cheerfulness (no matter how tiresome their duties), and a willingness to give unselfish and wholehearted service to others at all times.

Adult Membership Qualifications:

1. Each year, upon holding a troop or team election for youth candidates that results in at least one youth candidate being elected, the unit committee may recommend one registered unit adult, 21 years of age or older, to the lodge adult selection committee. Troops or teams having more than 50 registered, active youth members may nominate an additional adult for every 50 registered, active youth, or fraction thereof. For example, a troop having 51 to 100 registered, active youth may nominate two adults each year if at least one youth has been elected. The adult selection committee, with the approval of the Scout executive, will decide who will be candidates for inductions provided the following conditions are fulfilled.
2. 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.
3. The individual will be an asset to the Order because of demonstrated abilities that fulfill the purpose of the Order.
4. The camping requirements set forth for youth members are fulfilled.
5. The adult leader's membership will provide a positive example for the growth and development of the youth members of the lodge.

To schedule an Order of the Arrow election for your unit in 2009, please contact:

Thunderbird District:	Steve Carlson	jumpbum@centurytel.net	253-265-6708
Sleeping Giant District:	Scott Maresh	wapitioa@q.com	253-227-1309
Sasquatch District:	Jack Sergiojan	molodyetz@aol.com	1-360-495-4446

The election should be held at a regularly scheduled unit meeting. Every effort should be made to have 100 percent attendance of both youth and adults at this meeting. 50 percent of the registered, active youth (under 21) is required to conduct an election. An election team from the Order of the Arrow will be on hand to conduct the election.

In Cheerful Service,
Scott D Maresh
Inductions Adviser