

BROTHERHOOD MEMBERSHIP

Those Arrowmen who have held the Ordeal membership for at least 10 months, and have continued to cheerfully serve their fellow scouts, are eligible to receive Brotherhood membership in the Order of the Arrow.

What does it mean to become a Brotherhood member? Well, first of all, you might have noticed Arrowmen wearing a sash with two red bars that looks like this:



Becoming a Brotherhood member means fully committing yourself to the high ideals of our Order. Above all, you must feel that you are prepared to learn more about OA's higher purpose, while continuing to cheerfully serve your home unit and Lenapehoking IX.

You must have satisfied the following criteria in order to be eligible for Brotherhood membership:

1. Have cheerfully served your home unit for at least 10 months as an Ordeal member
2. Be actively registered in Scouting through your home unit
3. Have paid your annual lodge dues in full
4. An ability to: Recite the OA Obligation, Song, and Admonition, give the sign of the Ordeal, and properly perform the Order of the Arrow handclasp
5. Have developed some understanding of the Ordeal process. To learn more about the Ordeal process, refer to "The Customs and Traditions of the Ordeal" in *The Order of the Arrow Handbook*.

It is extremely important to reflect upon whether or not you believe you are prepared to become a Brotherhood member. Due to the great importance of the Brotherhood, all candidates must bring with them to the Brotherhood Event and turn in at registration a letter to the Lodge Secretary explaining the following:

1. What the OA obligation means to you
2. How you have worked to fulfill the obligation in your home unit and your daily life
3. How your understanding of the Ordeal has helped you to live a life of cheerful service
4. Your vision of future service Scouting, and to the Order of the Arrow in Lenapehoking IX

Do bear in mind that the Brotherhood conversion is a different experience than becoming an Ordeal member. Becoming a Brotherhood member is designed to heighten your awareness of the high ideals of Scouting and the Order of the Arrow. It is not an experience that should be faced with reluctance or apprehension, but rather, should be embraced as a meaningful continuation of your journey through Scouting. Indeed, as Kichkinet described to you before you began your Ordeal, "This Ordeal is but a shadow of the rigors of the journey, but its joys are also shadows of the brighter, greater beauty in a life of cheerful service."