

Boone Trails Chapter – Shawnee Lodge #51

Order of the Arrow Brotherhood Preparation Guide

This Preparation Guide is ONLY to be viewed by members of the Order of the Arrow. It is the responsibility of the Arrowman who received this Guide to make sure that the contents are not viewed by, nor verbally provided to, anyone who is not a member of the Order - including Candidates who have not yet completed the Ordeal.

This is not because the Order is a “secret organization” - in fact it is quite the opposite since non-members also get to vote on who the new members will be. This information should not be shared with non-members for two reasons: first, the Order wants to make sure our ceremonies are special and memorable which is not possible when people know (or think they know) what to expect; and second, as Arrowmen, the ceremonies and traditions are part of our heritage, something that we should respect and cherish. They are NOT a bunch of cheap gossip to be blabbered to anyone and everyone. It is also not appropriate to joke about our ceremonies and traditions: remember that a scout is reverent; not only with regard to religion, but also to those things the scout and others REVERE (that is, hold dear). This includes things like: membership in organizations like the Order, the memories of family and friends who have passed from this world, significant dates like 9-11, and the like.

The format of this Preparation Guide is to list each question from the Shawnee Lodge’s “Brotherhood Questions” handout, then provide the answers to those questions which come from a number of sources including the “Order of the Arrow Handbook,” the National O.A. website, and the Ordeal ceremony itself.

The requirements to be eligible to apply for Brotherhood membership include:

- *Be an Ordeal Member for at least 10 months*
- *Submit the Statement of Rededication*
- *Pass the Brotherhood Questioning*
- *Pay the Fee (\$20.00)*
- *Complete your Brotherhood Ceremony*

Congratulations, and THANK YOU, for caring enough about the Order and your fellow Arrowmen to take the time to be an active member, and in so doing, working toward completing the eligibility requirements so that you can apply for Brotherhood and thereby seal your membership in the Order of the Arrow. Remember the words of Allowat Sakima the night of your Call-Out when he told you that you were chosen, not for what you have done, but for what you are capable of doing and expected to do. You are now in the process of fulfilling those words to a greater level. Be proud of your decisions and actions, yet be humble of the honor your fellow scouts gave you when they saw in you great qualities and therefore elected you to membership in the Order of the Arrow.

1. WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE INITIAL HONOR IN THE ORDER OF THE ARROW?

Ordeal

2. WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSES OF THE ORDER OF THE ARROW?

- Recognize those who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives, and through that recognition, cause others to conduct themselves in a way that warrants similar recognition.
- Promote and maintain camping tradition, responsible outdoor adventure, and environmental stewardship as essential components of every Scout’s experience, in the unit, year-round, and in summer camp.
- Develop leaders with the willingness, character, spirit, and ability to advance the activities of their units, our Brotherhood, Scouting, and ultimately our nation.
- Crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.

3. WHAT ARE THE FOUR PARTS OF THE ORDEAL AND THEIR RESPECTIVE PURPOSES?

- Night Apart from Others: The candidate spends a night alone as proof of courage and self-reliance. It also gives the individual a chance to think over clearly the events taking place.
- Pledge of Silence: The candidate keeps complete silence. This gives him or her the opportunity to pay stricter attention to unspoken thoughts, searching about past deficiencies and resolving on a life of fuller service in the future.
- Arduous Labor: The candidate spends the daylight hours of the Ordeal in meaningful labor. This proves the candidate's willingness to serve others cheerfully.
- Scant Food: The candidate also eats sparingly, thus proving the ability to subordinate the appetites of the body to the higher purposes of the spirit.

4. WHO ARE THE FOUR CEREMONIAL CHARACTERS AND WHAT ARE THEIR OFFICES AND DUTIES?

- Allowat Sakima: (*Al'•lo•watt Sah•kee'•ma*) The Mighty Chief - symbolizes Service [North -]
- Meteu: (*Mee•tay'•o*) The Medicine Man - representative of Brotherhood [West]
- Nutiket: (*Nu•te'•ket*) The Guard - upholds the tradition of Cheerfulness [South]
- Kichkinet: (*Kich'•kin•et*) The Guide - symbolizes helpfulness and friendliness [East]

5. REPEAT THE OBLIGATION FROM MEMORY

I do hereby promise, on my honor as a scout,
that I will always and faithfully observe and preserve
the traditions of the Order of the Arrow:
Wimachtendienk, Wingolauchsik, Witahemui.

I will always regard the ties of brotherhood in the Order of the Arrow as lasting,
and will seek to preserve a cheerful spirit,
even in the midst of irksome tasks and weighty responsibilities,
and will endeavor, so far as in my power lies,
to be unselfish in service and devotion to the welfare of others.

- **BROTHERHOOD**
} **CHEERFUL**
} **SERVICE**

*A helpful hint to remember the second half of the Obligation is to remember that there are three parts that define what the Order stands for: **BROTHERHOOD, CHEERFUL, and SERVICE.***

6. WHAT IS THE LEGEND OF THE ORDER? (Tell it in your own words)

Long ago in the Delaware Valley, the Lenni Lenape lived in happiness and peace, hunting and fishing. This continued for many seasons until neighboring tribes and distant enemies threatened their hunting grounds and peaceful way of life.

Chingachgook, the chief, asked who would go and warn their brothers, the other tribes of the Delaware. Nobody would go. But Uncas, son of the chief, said he would go because he saw a higher vision: if the tribes of the Delaware were to survive as a nation, they would have to stand together and forget their individual needs and wants to better serve their brothers in a life of cheerful service.

As Uncas and Chingachgook went to the other tribal villages, they found some who were willing to join them and serve others. At last the fierce marauders were driven from the lands of the Delaware and peace was restored. Those who had selflessly served their brothers were elevated to positions of great respect by the Chieftain because "he who serves his fellows is, of all his fellows, the greatest."

The Chieftain was asked to make the memory of this service lasting, so Chingachgook bound them into a great and honored Order. Only those who can forget their own interests in order to serve others are

admitted. To this day, we remember and continue this Brotherhood of Cheerful Service: Wimachtendienk, Wingolauchsik, Witahemui.

See page 5 for the Legend (as told by Meteu during the Ordeal ceremony)

7. HOW AND WHEN IS THE SYMBOL OF THE ORDER WORN?

- HOW: Over the RIGHT shoulder with the arrow pointing up
- WHEN: At all (and only) OA functions when in full uniform (which includes the neckerchief*); also, it may be worn when in ceremonial regalia or the BSA civilian dress uniform, but only if approved by the Council Executive

** Note: the Lodge and Chapter OA neckerchiefs should only be worn at OA events.*

8. TELL WHAT THE SYMBOL OF THE ORDER IS AND WHY IT WAS CHOSEN

An arrow because it is straight, its point keen; aimed high, its course is undeviating, its direction onward and upward; it is a symbol of leadership and trueness.

9. GIVE THE HANDCLASP OF THE ORDER. HOW IS IT A MODIFICATION OF THE SCOUT HANDCLASP AND WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS MODIFICATION?

The handclasp is given by shaking with your left hand while interlocking the pinky and ring fingers. The two interlocked fingers represent the bonds of Brotherhood; and, the addition of a second interlocked finger symbolizes an added link to Scouting.

When you were given your sash, Allowat Sakima also gave you the handclasp of the Order of the Arrow.

10. HOW MUST THE ADMONITION OF THE ORDER ALWAYS BE GIVEN?

It is whispered between members of the Order of the Arrow, and it can be used to test if a person is a member of the Order by asking, "What is the admonition?" Allowat Sakima gives the Admonition to you during the Ordeal Ceremony.

We must always safeguard the admonition.

11. WHAT IS THE ADMONITION?

Ahoalton (*Ā'•ho•al'•ton*)

Ā' as in "cat" • *ho* as in "Ho, Ho, Ho" • *al'* as in the name Al • *ton* as in 1,000 pounds)

12. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE ADMONITION?

To love one another

13. DESCRIBE AND GIVE THE HAILING SIGN OF THE ORDEAL?

The sign of Ordeal membership is another way to show that you've been inducted into this organization.

The sign is given with your right hand over your left shoulder, moving your arm away from your body and holding it outward and upward as if drawing an Arrow from the quiver.

14. WHAT IS THE FULL NAME OF THE ORDER?

Wimachtendienk, Wingolauchsik, Witahemui

(Wee•mok'•ten•dee•enk) (Win'•go•lau'•sik) (Wi'•tah•hem'•oo•ee)

15. IN WHAT LANGUAGE IS IT GIVEN?

Lenni Lenape (*Len'•ee Len•ah'•pee*) - the language of the Delaware Indians

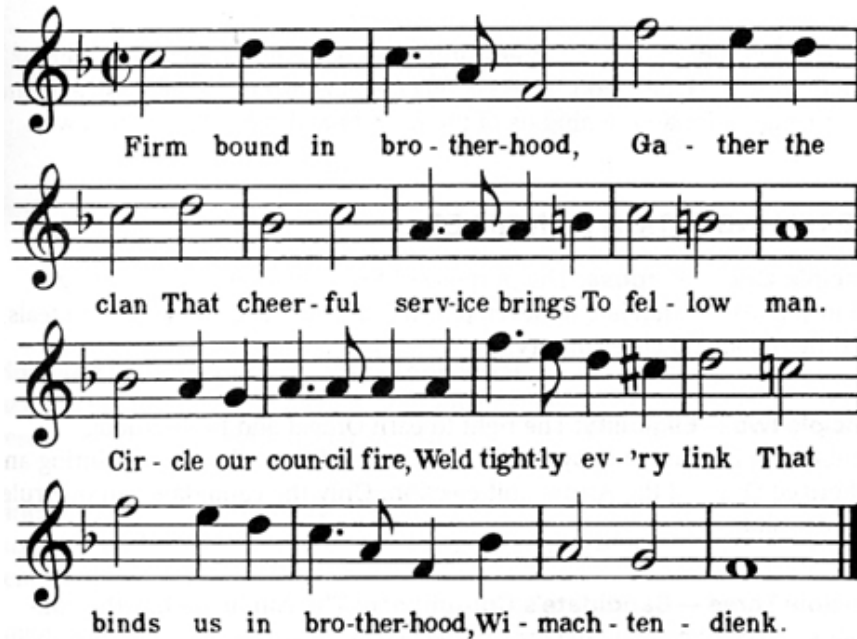
16. WHAT IS ITS MEANING IN ENGLISH?

Brotherhood of Cheerful Service

17. GIVE THE WORDS OR SING THE SONG OF THE ORDER.

The lyrics to the *Order of the Arrow Official Song* were written by founder E. Urner Goodman and put to the music of the *Russian Czarist National Anthem* by Alexi Lvov (1883), after he'd modified it somewhat.

Order of the Arrow events and meetings are closed by forming a fellowship circle, joining hands right over left, and singing the official song.



Firm bound in bro-ther-hood, Ga-ther the
clan That cheer-ful serv-ice brings To fel-low man.
Cir-cle our council fire, Weld tightly ev-'ry link That
binds us in bro-ther-hood, Wi-mach-ten-dienk.

18. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE BROTHERHOOD MEMBERSHIP?

To seal one's membership in the Order of the Arrow and to insure a greater understanding of the significance of the Ordeal and the Order so that one might be more fully dedicated to its ideals.

STATEMENT OF REDEDICATION:

One of the other requirements you must prepare for is to write a Statement of Rededication. It does not need to be long and drawn out. You can simply write three paragraphs, each of which addresses the following:

- (1) What the Obligation means to you;
- (2) Describe how you've been fulfilling this Obligation in your home unit and in your daily life; and, how you have used your understanding of the Ordeal to help you do a better job of living up to the Obligation (now that you know what the Obligation means to you, it's time to ask yourself how you've been fulfilling it in your daily interactions with others); and,
- (3) Describe your specific plans for giving service in the Lodge program (when you were inducted into OA, the only commitment you made was to return in service to your unit, but now that you've chosen to become a Brotherhood member, it is time to make a commitment to the Order of the Arrow; note that your plan for service doesn't have to be anything overwhelming, in fact it's not expected to be).

You should address your Statement to the "Shawnee Lodge Recording Secretary" - this is simply a matter of protocol as it will be accepted whether you do so or not. **MAKE SURE YOUR NAME AND TROOP NUMBER APPEAR SOMEWHERE ON YOUR STATEMENT.**

BROTHERHOOD FEE:

Also, be sure to bring twenty dollars (\$20.00) CASH with you. You may wish to bring more as the Lodge's Trading Post will be open on Saturday.

THE LEGEND

Years ago, in the dim ages,
In the valley of the Delaware,
Lived a peaceful tribe of Indians --
Lenni Lenape their name was.
Deer and bear, wildcat and panther
Through the forest oft they hunted.
On the bosom of the river
Peacefully they fished and paddled.

Round their busy village wigwams
Still the chase they nimbly followed.
In this state of bliss so happy
Many moons they lived contented,
Springtime blossomed into summer,
Summer into autumn ripened,
Autumn died on winter's bosom;
Thus the seasons in succession
Never ending seemed to pass on.

But, behold, a cloud arising
Changed how soon this peaceful aspect.
Neighboring tribes, and distant enemies,
Suddenly disturbed their hunting.
Then Chingachgook, aged chieftain
Of the tribe, made quick inquiry:
"Who will go and carry warning
Of this dire and dreadful danger
To all Delawares, our brothers?"
But none wished to make the journey.

Then spoke up the noble Uncas,
Worthy son of the old Chieftain,
"O my father, I am ready;
Send me on this gracious errand.
If we would remain a nation,
We must stand by one another,
Let us both urge on our kindred
Firm devotion to our brethren
And our cause. Ourselves forgetting,
Let us catch the higher vision.
Let us find the greater beauty
In the life of cheerful service."

Off upon the trail they started,
Old Chingachgook and young Uncas;
And in every tribal village
Some were found who were quite willing
To spend themselves in other's service.
When at last the fierce marauders
Were forced back to their own country
And peace was declared between them,
They who first themselves had offered
For the service of their Brethren,
To the places most respected
By the Chieftain were promoted:
For, said he, who serves his fellows
Is, of all his fellows, greatest!
As a seed dropped by the sower
On good soil bears quick fulfillment;
So this saying of their chieftain
In their hearts found glad acceptance
And they asked that in some manner
He should make its memory lasting.

So together fast and firmly
Chief Chingachgook bound these warriors
In a great and honored Order,
Into which can be admitted
Only those who their own interests
Can forget in serving others.
And so clear must be their purpose
So to live, that their companions,
Taking note of their devotion,
Shall propose them to the Order,
We, therefore, to them succeeding
To the present day perpetuate
The names and token of this
BROTHERHOOD OF CHEERFUL SERVICE
Called by Delawares: WIMACHTENDIENK
WINGOLAUCHSIK WITAHEMUI!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oz-6KMwRU0E>

<http://www.lulu.com/content/881511>

The Five Challenges

Memorize the sign of Arrow membership.

Memorize the Obligation of the Order, which you received from Allowat Sakima; and the Order of the Arrow Official Song which are presented below. Also, memorize the the Admonition, the sign of Ordeal membership and Arrow handclasp. (These will be demonstrated to you if needed.)

Advance in your understanding of the Ordeal. Gain a thorough understanding of the Ordeal through which you have passed.

Serve you unit and retain your registration in Scouting. During a period of at least 10 months, strive to fulfill your Obligation by continuing and expanding your service to your troop or team.

Plan for service in your lodge. Retain you registration in your Order of the Arrow lodge and keep your dues paid. Be aware that acceptance of Brotherhood membership involves a pledge of service to the lodge. develop a concrete idea of how you plan to fulfill this pledge.

Review your progress. When you earnestly feel that you have met the challenges above, write a letter to your lodge membership secretary. In this letter:

Explain what you think the Obligation means.

Describe how you have been fulfilling this Obligation in you troop or team and in you daily life, and how you have used you understanding of the Ordeal to aid in this service.

Describe you specific plans for giving service in the lodge program.

THE LEGEND (Alternate Version)

Many years ago, the Lenni Lenape Tribe of the Delaware Indians inhabited the Delaware River Valley. Here they pursued the deer, the bear, the wildcat, and the panther. Their villages were numerous and powerful; their hunting parties strong. They tilled the fields aswell as followed the chase. They were a peaceful people, never warring with other tribes unless first attacked.

Many moons they lived in this blissful state of happy contentment. Springtime blossomed into winter, in what seemed a never-ending succession of seasons. But a cloud arose on this peaceful scene. Neighboring tribes and distant enemies began to raid their hunting grounds. Then Chingachgook, the chief of the Lenni Lenape Tribe, made inquiry, "who will go and warn the villages of the Delawares of the danger which

threatens?" But none wished to go. But Uncas, his son, said; "My father, here I am; send me. All these villages are of our blood-the Lenni Lenape. What is danger to one is the affair of all. The need is urgent. They are six to our one, and if we are to survive as a nation, we must all stand by each other. Meanwhile, let us both urge on our kindred the necessity of unselfish devotion to each other and the cause in which we are enlisted, and as they get this higher vision, send them forth on their errand of cheerful service."

Then Chingachgook and Uncas set to work. In every village were found some who were willing to give themselves cheerfully in the service of others. Their enemies were compelled to return to their own lands, and when peace was declared, they who first went out to serve their kindred were raised to places of high eminence in the tribe by the chief. For, he said, "The servant of all is the greatest of all." And these men became so convinced that they besought the chief to perpetuate it in some manner.

So Chingachgook bound them together in a Brotherhood into which only they can be admitted who can forget their own interests and advancement while looking out for those of their brothers. And these must also be considered and recommended for membership by their associates.

And so we, the followers of the early Indian on this soil, perpetuate to the present day the Brotherhood of Cheerful Service.

PRE-ORDEAL CEREMONY

As a candidate, the Pre-Ordeal ceremony presented you with the challenges of membership in the OA. Any ceremony in the Order of the Arrow is rich with symbolism, and the Pre-Ordeal is no exception. During this ceremony you were introduced to the principals: Kichkinet, the guide; Nutiket, the guard; Meteu, the medicine man; Allowat Sakima, the mighty chief.

Each ceremonial principal represents a different value of the OA, and is also conveyed through the token that he presented to you during the ceremony.

The first principal to speak to you was Nutiket, who referred to the "fifteen blazes" that allowed you to find them that evening. Those stand for the twelve points of the Scout Law, and the three parts of the Scout Oath. Nutiket also told you that you'd been sent to seek a vision of yourself, of your purpose, and that each principal would present you with a challenge to help you on that quest.

Nutiket's challenge to you was to eat scantily. He said, "So tomorrow eat you nothing but the scant food you'll be given. So tomorrow learn by fasting, sacrifice, and self-denial to subordinate desires to the spirit's higher purpose." He then bent the bow he was holding, as a symbol of cheerfulness under hardship.

Next, the medicine man, Meteu reminded you of the unspoken lessons that are all around us in the natural world, but are all too often muted by conversation. His challenge was to keep a pledge of silence. He said, "This Ordeal is but a pattern for a journey whose directions are the whispers, urgings, promptings deep within your hearts and spirits. Therefore, from this moment onward, till you take the Obligation strictly keep a pledge of silence." He then presented the bowstring, symbolizing the bond of brotherhood that silence can create.

Allowat Sakima asked who was ready to go upon a journey, to accept the full ordeal. After having strung the bow, combining brotherhood and cheerfulness, he had you test it as a symbol of your "strength and will" to go on.

He then compared you to an arrow, saying that just as a hunter draws his best arrow from the quiver, the Scouts in your unit chose to honor the best they have with membership in the OA.

Allowat Sakima challenged you to a day of arduous labor. He said “Spend the day in arduous labor working gladly, not begrudging, seek to serve, and thus be faithful to the high ideals and purpose of the Order of the Arrow.”

Kichkinet began by asking that you leave your daily cares behind, and to focus on the challenges before you. He took the arrow, aimed high and shot it far, telling you “Thus do you appear to others, on the path of cheerful service.”

Kichkinet’s challenge was to spend the night alone, apart from others. “All your strength will be required when you face the isolation which a leader often faces. So tonight beneath the heavens sleep alone upon your groundsheet,” he said.

The ceremony ended, and your Ordeal began as Kichkinet states “Now with courage on this first step follow me, and these my brothers. Let us try to find the Arrow!”

THE ORDEAL CEREMONY

The Ordeal ceremony is rich in its symbolism and possesses the foundation of the existence of our Order— the Obligation and Admonition. The Ordeal ceremony has its own sequence described as the challenges, the Obligation, the legend, and the explanation.

You began the evening with your guides, who asked you to put your left hand on the shoulder of the candidate in front of you as a symbol of your intent to return in service to your unit. Kichkinet met the group, and observed your unity of purpose. He then bound you with a rope, which symbolized the ties of Brotherhood, joining you with fellow Scouts. The rope was removed after you took the Obligation, for it has and always will connect all members of our organization.

As Kichkinet guided you to the Fire of Cheerfulness, you were stopped by the remaining three principals. Kichkinet greeted them with three taps on the shoulder, which was replied to with one tap, followed by two taps. These taps have significance: the first, meaning the three parts of the Scout Oath; the second, signifying the 12 points of the Scout Law. The three officials exemplify the three principles of the Order of the Arrow: Brotherhood, Cheerfulness, and Service.

Kichkinet allowed you to enter the circle by his answering the challenge of each principal. The unlit fire from the Pre-Ordeal ceremony is now blazing brightly, demonstrating the spirit of cheerfulness that burns within each member.

Once you were placed in a position to receive further knowledge, Allowat Sakima gave you the Obligation, a sacred bond that we trust will never be broken. Immediately upon receiving the Obligation, you became a member of the Order of the Arrow.

Allowat Sakima then asked Meteu to give you the Legend, which tells of the philosophical origins of our Order. In it, the Lenni Lenape nation lives peacefully until enemies threaten the tribe. Chief Chingachgook asks for someone to carry warning to the other villages. No one wishes to make the journey until his son, Uncas, accepts the challenge. Uncas carries the warning to their brother Delawares, in each place finding more like him willing to make a sacrifice for their fellow man. The enemies are forced back, and upon returning home, those who joined the effort in saving the Delawares ask Chingachgook to make the memory of their service lasting. He did so by creating the Brotherhood of Cheerful Service.

You then heard Nutiket's explanation of the Ordeal. In it, he reveals why you were selected for the Order, led North, asked to test the bow, and then took upon yourself the challenges of the Ordeal.

Upon completion of the explanation, you were presented with your Ordeal sash, as Allowat Sakima gave you the OA handclasp, and whispered the Admonition in your ear. It is a powerful reminder of what you must always strive to do as a Scout and brother in the OA.

The ceremony was concluded by the fifteen candles being extinguished. Each serving as a reminder of a Scout's greatest duties: the Scout Oath and Law.

You, like all Arrowmen, must strive to continue and expand the service to your unit. As Allowat Sakima said in the Pre-Ordeal ceremony, "Friends, those who chose you need you."

The points it needs to address

Writing the letter to your lodge secretary is a chance for you to reflect on some important aspects of the Order of the Arrow. It is intended to help you clearly think about the ideals of the OA, and how you've put them to use in your life – whether you ever realized it before, or not. You should think about the following things and convey them in your letter

Explain what you think the Obligation means – This at first can be an intimidating request, but it's not as hard as you may think. First realize that you're being asked what you 'think', in other words, for your opinion. There is no single correct answer, so you shouldn't worry about being wrong.

What has proven helpful to many Arrowmen in your position is to have the Obligation right in front of them when fulfilling this requirement. Read a few lines at a time, and ponder what exactly it is you've obligated yourself to. Once you've written down your thoughts, you're done with this part of the letter.

Describe how you have been fulfilling this Obligation in your troop or team and in your daily life, and how you have used your understanding of the Ordeal to aid in this service – Now that you know what the Obligation means to you, its time to ask yourself how you've been fulfilling it in your daily interactions with Scouts and non-Scouts alike.

Also, how has the Ordeal experience helped you fulfill the Obligation? Remember that the Ordeal's aim was to teach you the importance of brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service. One question you might ask yourself is 'what did the challenges of the Ordeal teach, that has helped me to better serve my unit?'

A description of your specific plans for giving service in the lodge program – When you were inducted into the OA, the only commitment you made was to return in service to your unit. Now that you've chosen to become a Brotherhood member, it is time to make a commitment to the Order of the Arrow. Your plan for service doesn't have to be anything overwhelming, in fact it's not expected to be.

If you don't already know where your help is needed, ask the youth leaders of your lodge or chapter where they could use your help.