



Malibu Lodge • Election Requirements

About the Order of the Arrow

The Order of the Arrow (OA) is Scouting's National Honor Society. The fourfold purpose of the OA is:

To recognize those campers – Scouts and Scouters – who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives, and by such recognition cause other campers to conduct themselves in such manner as to warrant recognition.

- To develop and maintain camping traditions and spirit.
- To promote Scout camping, which reaches its greatest effectiveness as a part of the unit's camping program, both year-round and in the summer camp, as directed by the camping committee of the council.
- To crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.

Order of the Arrow Elections

Once each year (calendar year or "Scouting" year), a chartered Boy Scout Troop may hold a unit election to elect members of their troop to become members of the Order of the Arrow. Both youth and adult Scouts and Scouters can become members of the OA. New members aren't elected only by the OA members in your troop; everyone in the troop votes (thereby insuring that Scouts are elected mostly by people who are not OA members). If you troop has no active OA members, that's fine. A unit election team, trained in the latest OA election policies, will visit a regular troop meeting at your invitation to conduct the election for you.

Youth elections are normally held at a normal troop meeting, and take about 20 minutes to complete. In order for an election to be held, at least 50% of your active youth members must be present (based on your current chartered troop membership) – if less than 50% are present, the election must be rescheduled. Only elections conducted by an official OA election team trained by Malibu Lodge will be considered valid. Members of your own troop cannot conduct an election for your troop.

The requirements for election for youth members (in the OA, a 'youth' is anyone under the age of 21; this differs from the BSA 'youth' which ends at the age of 18) are as follows:

1. Must be under 21 years old at the time of election.
2. Hold at least the First Class Scout rank (this includes Assistant Scoutmasters over the age of 18 but under the age of 21; they have to have earned First Class before their 18th birthday).
3. In the past two years, have completed fifteen (15) days and nights of camping under the auspices of the Boy Scouts of America. The fifteen days and nights of camping must include one long-term camp of six days and five nights, and the balance of the camping must be short-term (1, 2, or 3 night) camps.
4. Have these requirements certified by the Scoutmaster, and be given a general endorsement of the candidate's Scout Spirit by the Scoutmaster, BEFORE the election is conducted.
5. To be elected a youth candidate must receive half or more votes of the number of ballots turned in to the election team.
6. If elected a candidate must complete the Ordeal in the same year as he is elected.

How to nominate an adult for membership in the Order of the Arrow

As long as the unit successfully elects one youth member to the Order, the troop then may also nominate (not elect) an adult for membership. Large troops may nominate one adult for every fifty youth members registered in the unit. Where youth membership is given by his peers as a recognition for service, adults are nominated and accepted if their membership will enrich the Order of the Arrow experience for the youth, or provide some service to the Lodge, the Camp, or the Council. Adult membership should not be given solely as a recognition or honor.

The requirements for election for adult members (in the OA, an 'adult' is anyone 21 years of age or older; this differs from the BSA 'adult' which starts at the age of 18) are as follows:

1. Must be a registered and active member of the Sam Houston Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America at the time of nomination.
2. Must be at least 21 years old at the time of nomination. Both males and females are eligible.
3. In the past two years, have completed fifteen (15) days and nights of camping under the auspices of the Boy Scouts of America. The fifteen days and nights of camping must include one long-term camp of six days and five nights, and the balance of the camping must be short-term (1, 2, or 3 night) camps.

A separate Adult Nomination Form exists for adult Scouters. At the end of a successful election for youth, the Election Team will give the Troop Committee Chairman an adult nomination form. The nomination form is completed in full and returned to the election team or the Chapter Adviser. Only nomination forms that have been signed by the Chapter Adviser will be considered by the selection committee. The Lodge Adult Selection Committee will review the form and make a decision on the adult's nomination. Please remember that nomination does not ensure approval. If approved, the troop will be notified so that they can decide how they will inform the candidate. Adult candidates need to complete the Ordeal within one year, same as a youth member.

To Schedule a Unit Election

Unit elections are held from January 1st through December 30th. Only elections conducted by an official OA election team trained by Malibu Lodge will be considered valid. Members of your own troop cannot conduct an election for your troop. An Election Team consists of two OA youth members and one Adult OA member.



SAMPLE ELECTION FORMS

(YOUTH AND ADULT)

INSTRUCTIONS:

The enclosed forms are designed to be reproduced by lodges and distributed for use at unit elections conducted by lodge election teams.

Material is provided in this format, for lodge support, to maintain nationwide standards and continuity.





UNIT ADULT CANDIDATE RECOMMENDATION

[Age: 21 and over]

Selection and induction into the Order of an adult Scouter should take place only when the adult's job in Boy Scouting or Varsity Scouting will make Order of the Arrow membership more meaningful in the lives of the youth membership. It must not be for the purpose of adult recognition.

Circle One: **TROOP** **TEAM**

Unit Number: _____ District: _____ Nominee's Position: _____

Nominee's Name: _____ Nickname: _____
Last, First, Middle (PRINT FULL NAME)

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Birthdate: _____ Phone: [B] () _____ [H]() _____
MONTH-DAY-YEAR

Woodbadge _____ Scouter Key _____ How long registered as Adult _____ Scouting Positions Held _____

Scout as a Youth _____ Rank _____ Community Activities _____

Church Activities _____ Vocation _____

Special Interest _____

Each year, upon holding a troop or team election for youth candidates which results in at least one youth candidate being elected, the unit committee may recommend one adult 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. The following conditions are the basis for candidate selection and MUST be fulfilled to be considered. Make a brief statement regarding the individual for each item.

1. Selection of the adult is based upon ability to perform the necessary functions to help the Order fulfill its purpose, and not for recognition of service, including current or prior achievement and position. The individual's abilities include:

2. This adult will be an asset to the Order because of demonstrated abilities that fulfill the purpose of the Order, in the following manner:

3. The camping requirements that apply for youth candidates apply to adult candidates and must have been fulfilled within the most recent two years prior to recommendation for membership. The requirement, which is a minimum of fifteen days and nights of camping, which must include six days and five nights of resident camping approved and under the auspices and standards of the Boy Scouts of America, was fulfilled as follows:

4. This adult leader's membership will provide a positive role model for the growth and development of the youth members of the lodge because:

UNIT RECOMMENDATION

The adult leader who fulfills the above requirements (complete above information) is recommended for membership consideration in the Order of the Arrow.

Date: _____ Unit Leader: _____ Committee Chairman: _____
Signature (unless unit leader is the candidate being recommended) Signature

--or--

DISTRICT/COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION

The adult leader who fulfills the above requirements (complete above information) is recommended for membership consideration in the Order of the Arrow.

Date: _____ By: _____ Position: _____
Signature

LODGE ADULT SELECTION COMMITTEE

SELECTED: [] NOT SELECTED: []

Comments:

Authorizing Signatures & Date

Council Camping Chairman* : _____

Lodge adviser: _____

Lodge staff adviser: _____

Scout executive: _____

- Signature of the Council Camping Chairman or chairman of the council committee on which the lodge adviser serves.





UNIT ELECTION REPORT

Council Name _____ Lodge Name _____

Troop or Team _____ Date of Election _____

Number of registered active youth _____ Number of youth present _____

NOTE: At least half of the registered active unit members must be present to hold an election.
(Fill in names and ranks of eligible youth before election.)

Name	Rank	Check If Elected	Name	Rank	Check If Elected

I certify that the above youth members are eligible and approve them as nominees for election.

_____ Unit Leader's Signature

Number of members eligible _____

Number of ballots turned _____ Number of votes required to be elected _____

Number elected _____

Mail election report to

Election team members' signatures:

List names and addresses of those elected on back of this form.



Order of the Arrow
Scouting's "National Honor Society"