



FOCUS 2019: Induction Rate Committee

# OA Welcome Session

Exist Today, Thrive Tomorrow





# Order of the Arrow **Welcome** Session

(60 Minutes or Less)

## *pre*

- Give a flyer to the candidate at the call-out or unit election and encourage them to bring required items for induction registration
- Send out a personalized letter to all candidate's parents via US Mail
- Always invite all Unit Leaders and Unit Commissioners
- Consider running this during an accommodating time and location (Sunday afternoon), and more than once prior to your ordeal
- This can be done either on a Chapter or Lodge level

## *upon arrival*

- Receive items/register those needed for induction (I.e. medical forms, program fees, permission slip)
- Data Audit via OA Lodgemaster

## *w/both parents and candidate*

- Welcome and Introduction of Key Lodge Administration
- Background of the Order of the Arrow (History)
- Mission and Purpose of the OA
- Contemporary Order of the Arrow
  - Leadership and Character Development Org
  - Open to all Scouting
- The Honors
- Lodge Chief/Key Volunteer Personal Story
- What can you do in the OA?
  - Local
  - National
- All Q/A w/Lodge and Chapter Key Leadership
  - Lead by saying we would like to invite any questions about the OA with the exception of the Ordeal, we will cover that later.

## *w/parents*

- Basic Ordeal walkthrough
  - Service
  - Ceremonies
- Lodge Adviser Q/A

## *w/candidates*

- Elangomats and other Lodge/Chapter Leaders play COPE games, social activities, food, etc.

## *w/parents and candidates*

- Play Lodge Chief/Parent National Video
- Dismiss

# *Order of the Arrow* **Welcome Session**

- 1. Welcome and Introduction** - This section entails the youth leader running the program welcoming the parents and thanking them for attending, as well as sharing a little about themselves and any other Arrowmen running the orientation.
- 2. Important Information** - This section is very important for the knowledge of parents. The presenter will want to make sure that each parent writes this information down or pre-printed for them. It includes basic information such as their (Child's) lodge and chapter name, as well as options to choose from regarding Ordeal dates/location. The presenter will want to be sure that each parent has chosen a date or registered for their child's induction before leaving the meeting.
- 3. Background of the Order of The Arrow** - This section provides great insight regarding the founding of our organization, and how we have achieved success for over a century. The presenter should not bore them to death with 1,000 dates and stories, but simply give a quick synopsis of our key history as an organization.
- 4. Mission and Purpose of the Order of the Arrow** - Simply read the mission and purpose of the OA, and answer any questions that might come up.
- 5. Contemporary Order of The Arrow** - This section provides great insight regarding how the Order of The Arrow benefits youth as an organization. It should be highly emphasized that we are a leadership development organization, and wish to see our members continue to develop those skills beyond their induction. We want parents to understand that our goal is to build their Scout into a better person and leader, which will help their unit, chapter, and lodge thrive.
- 6. The Honor's** - This section talks about the different honors in our organization, the Ordeal (Induction), Brotherhood, and Vigil. It breaks each one down, and works through how each are obtained or earned, and the requirements associated with each.
- 7. My Story** - This section showcases the youth representative running the orientation providing their own personal story about what the Order of The Arrow means to them. What made them get involved? How has the Order of the Arrow benefited your career outside of Scouting? What skills has the organization provided you that you couldn't earn anywhere else? The story should be inspiring and really work to build a relatable connection with the candidates present.
- 8. What can I do in the Order of The Arrow?** - This section has 2 unique parts to it - both local and national opportunities. The local opportunities should include the activation event, which is an event held within 6 months (but preferably within 90 days) following an induction weekend with the intent to involve new members, encourage retention at the local level, build personal growth, and ensure future involvement in the OA, as well as local leadership and service opportunities, such as chapter or lodge meetings. The national opportunities should include the National Order of The Arrow Conference (NOAC), National

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Leadership Seminar (NLS), Order of The Arrow High Adventure (OAHA), and Section Conclave. Handouts are available on the national website, and it is recommended that information on these opportunities is handed out for the parent to take home and review.

- 9. Candidate Question and Answer Session** - This section should give candidates an opportunity to engage in conversation regarding any questions they have about the OA or its opportunities. It should be emphasized that this section is only permitted for candidates to answer.
- 10. Breakout** - During this section, it is best if the candidates are led by another pair of youth Arrowmen in attendance in team building activities. It should create a friendly, learning environment where candidates can feel comfortable by enjoying a time of fellowship and brotherhood.
- 11. Induction Process Walkthrough** - This section will take place simultaneously with the candidate breakout, and should provide an in depth synopsis of what candidates will experience throughout the induction weekend, highlighting the engaging opportunities that follow.
- 12. Parent Question and Answer Session** - This section will take place simultaneously with the candidate breakout, and should provide an opportunity for parents to engage in a conversation regarding any questions that have about the OA, including its induction process, leadership opportunities, time commitment, etc. Some examples of the types of questions that may be asked along with suitable responses are as follows:
  - **Q:** "Will my child get to eat during the induction? I've heard rumors that they are essentially starved throughout the weekend."
    - i. **A:** Yes of course. The Ordeal includes a challenge of scant food which highlights the symbolism of self denial, but by no means are they starved or left to go hungry.
  - **Q:** "What benefits will my child receive by completing their induction?"
    - i. **A:** The benefits are endless. From being provided opportunities that will work to develop their leadership skills in Scouting and beyond, as well as provide an emphasis on unit involvement, whether that's simply attending meetings, or earning the rank of Eagle Scout or Summit Award, or Quartermaster Award.
  - **Q:** "How much money will I have to commit to the organization?"
    - i. **A:** This question varies by lodge, but ensure that you provide them the truth while making sure to address the expenses associated with each item, and the reasoning behind the cost.
  - **Q:** "How much of my child's time will this take? They are already very busy."
    - i. **A:** Your child's involvement can vary based on how involved they want to be. They can attend basic events (fellowships and inductions) as a part of the organization, or they can become very involved and attend other meetings, planning conferences, national events, and so much more.

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- **Q:** “Can I attend any of the events with my child? I’d like to see them get their ordeal or brotherhood.”
  - i. **A:** Nothing in our organization is a secret, however, we highly encourage you to consider allowing your child to do this on their own. This allows them to have this experience, as every other candidate has, as well as allows you the anonymity in the future if you ever become a member of our organization.

**13. Welcome Back Candidates!** - This section should welcome candidates back into the room where the parents are meeting with the lodge leadership. It would be beneficial to ask a few candidates to stand and share what they enjoyed about the team building activity with the group. This will showcase to parents right off the bat that the OA’s leadership is engaging and fun!

**14. Play Video Interviewing Youth & Adult Arrowmen About the Order’s Impact** - *This section is very unique and will resonate closely with parents. It showcases a video where youth & adult Arrowmen are interviewed, answering questions about what the Order of the Arrow has done for their life. It highlights the opportunities they will receive beyond the OA, and how the organization prepared them for life.*

**15. Thanks For Coming!** - This section should provide a very brief thank you to the parents from the leadership running the orientation program. It should again be emphasized that an induction date must be picked, as well as the activation event date and first eligible brotherhood opportunity should be added to their personal calendars. Parents should also be provided necessary contact information for lodge leadership, as well as online sources such as the lodge and OA websites.