



Ho-Nan-Ne-Ho-Ont Lodge  
Order of the Arrow  
Allegheny Highlands Council 382  
Boy Scouts of America  
50 Hough Hill Road, P.O. Box 261  
Falconer, NY 14733  
Phone (716) 665-2697  
Fax (716) 665-5212  
[www.alleghenyhighlands.org](http://www.alleghenyhighlands.org)  
[info@oalodge165.org](mailto:info@oalodge165.org)

Dear Scoutmaster:

Now is the time to start planning for your Order of the Arrow elections. All elections need to be completed during the winter, and the results sent to the scout service center *no later* than April 30. You may conduct your own election, and if you have active Arrowmen in your troop, please encourage them to help you. With this letter are instructions to conduct the election, and the election form to send in to the service center.

Also on the election form is a place to nominate one adult leader in your troop. We encourage leaders to get active in the lodge. We can always use additional help at our ordeals and fellowships.

Because of the size of our five-county council, it is extremely difficult for the lodge to have a representative at every election. We appreciate your understanding, and help. If you need additional information or would like an election team member to assist you, please contact the lodge through our web site, which is linked on the council website. It has a lot of information about our lodge and our activities. Send your email to [servicecenter@alleghenyhighlands.org](mailto:servicecenter@alleghenyhighlands.org), detail your request, and someone from the lodge will contact you in short order.

There are always two ordeals every year, one in the spring and one in the fall, for new candidates to become members, and for members to bind their ties to the order by becoming brotherhood. Additional information will be sent to the candidates when we receive your completed election form.

#### Youth Qualifications

1. Be registered in the BSA
2. Hold the rank of first class scout, or higher
3. Experience 15 days and nights of Boy Scout camping during the two year period prior to the election. This must include one summer camp experience.

#### Adult Qualifications

1. Be registered as a leader in the BSA
2. Same camping requirement as a boy scout.

## How to conduct the Troop election

1. Fifty percent of your registered boy scouts must be present at your OA election.
2. Read the purpose of the Order of the Arrow below to your Troop to set the stage for the election.

*Scouts, the Order of the Arrow is Scouting's National Honor Society. Its purpose is to recognize and honor those campers who best live up to the scout oath and Scout Law in their daily lives, and to guide them in expanding the service that has made them outstanding. The Order promotes scout camping and maintains camping traditions and spirit. It emphasizes that the good scout camper is not only skilled in scoutcraft, but also true to the ideals of Scouting and its tradition of the daily Good Turn.*

*The only way that a Scout can become a member of the Order of the Arrow is to be elected for this honor by the members of his troop. To be eligible for election, a scout must hold the First Class rank, and have camped 15 days and nights over the last two years, and have attended scout summer camp.*

*This is not a popularity contest! Don't vote for a scout because he is your friend, or because he's cool, or because he's older than the other scouts. The question to ask your self is this: Is he a good scout, does he help others, does he truly represent what the scouts are all about?*

*After being elected, the scout must complete the ordeal, which is a series of tests of his sincere dedication to the high ideals of Scouting and the Order. If he is faithful in performing the tests, he takes a solemn pledge of service and is admitted into the Order.*

*Our OA lodge has its own activities and projects, but our program does not replace your responsibility to your troop. Each Arrowman is expected to give richer service to his troop.*

*American Indian lore is an attractive sideline in the Order of the Arrow. American Indian dances and ceremonies add color to our program of service, and members often make American Indian lore their hobby. However, you don't need American Indian attire or skill in American Indian lore to become a valuable member of the Order of the Arrow. Every registered scout under 21 may vote.*

3. Announce the eligible scouts for election. Explain that every member who gets at least half of the votes of those present will be elected.
4. Hand out a slip of paper to each member, and ask them to privately write down all those members they feel are deserving of this honor.
5. Collect them all. Add them up and determine who has been elected. Remember: every scout whose name is listed by over half of the votes is elected.
6. Announce the new OA candidates and congratulate them. Inform them about the ordeal and that they will receive information about attending.
7. Fill out the election form and return it to the scout service center as soon as possible.
8. Don't forget to nominate an adult from your troop.

Lastly, Annual membership dues for OA members are due at the beginning of the year. They are \$10 for 1 year, \$19 for 2 years, or \$26 for 3 years. Please have your members pay their dues on time, and if you can do that from your unit account, that would be most convenient. Just include a list of names of the Arrowmen whose dues should be paid for. Also, please encourage anyone in your troop who has not been involved for a while to please strongly consider doing so, adults included! The OA has a lot to offer out older scouts, and ultimate goal is to keep them involved in scouting and loyal to your troop. Thank you. As a scoutmaster myself, I know how hard our job can sometimes be. But we keep doing it, because we have seen all the great things our program does to help boys become good men. Time and time again. Let the OA help you keep those older boys involved. It works. Call the service center, or email us for any help you need.