

The Customs and Traditions of the Ordeal

What is the name of the initial membership in the Order of the Arrow?

Ordeal Membership

Why is it so called?

Because it is preceded by a four-fold ordeal.

What are the four parts of this ordeal and their respective purpose?

1. Night of camping under the stars to prove self-reliance
2. Day of arduous toil to show willingness to serve others
3. 24 hours of scant food to show power of self-denial
4. Silence to turn my thoughts inward

How were you prepared for the Ordeal?

I was lead by Kichkinet to the North end of camp, where the significance of the arrow was first revealed to me as I tested the bow.

When you had completed the Ordeal, how were you dealt with?

I was placed on the trail that leads to the circle of the lodge.

By whom were you first stopped as you approached the circle?

By Nutiket, the guard, who asked if I had passed the Ordeal without flinching?

Who next barred your further progress?

Meteu, who inquired if I had been given the admonition.

Had you been given the admonition?

I had not, but Kichkinet, my guide, had, and gave it for me.

Before whom did you last arrive?

Before Allowat Sakima, the chief of the fire, who asked if I had been completely prepared to receive the Obligation.

What was Kichkinet's reply to this inquiry?

Only in the binding of them together.

How did Kichkinet call the attention of each of these officers to your presence?

By three taps of the hand upon the right shoulder.

What do these three taps signify?

The three parts of the Scout Oath.

How did each one of these officers respond to Kichkinet's taps?

By one tap followed by two taps, on the right shoulder.

What did these taps represent?

The twelve points of the Scout Law.

How were you and your companions bound together?

By a rope, which, until we took the Obligation, represented our ties to the Brotherhood.

How was your preparation for the Obligation completed?

Nutiket directed me to hold my right hand in the Scout sign and repeat the Obligation after Allowat Sakima

Repeat the Obligation. (See Front Page)

In what did Meteu then instruct you?

In the legend upon which our Order is founded.

Who are the central figures of that legend?

The aged chieftain, Chingachgook, and his son, Uncas, who by their cheerful and self-sacrificing

services are said to have saved the Delaware lodges from annihilation.

What did Allowat Sakima then impart to you?

The symbol and handclasp of the Order, the admonition, and the sign of Ordeal membership.

What is the symbol of the Order?

The arrow, whose undeviating course when aimed high is a token of leadership.

How is it worn?

Pointing over the right shoulder.

Give the handclasp of the Order. (Give it.)

How must the admonition always be given?

Whispered in the ear.

What is the admonition? (Give it.)

What does it mean? **To love one another.**

What is the sign of the Ordeal? (Give it.)

What is the full name of our Order?

Wimachtendienk, Wingolauchsik, Witahemui

In what language is it given?

In the language of the Delaware Indians, the Leni Lenape.

What is its meaning in English?

The Brotherhood of Cheerful Service.

Give the words (or sing) the song of the Order (pg 1)

What does Chilantakoba mean?

'Brown Pelican'

What are the totems of our Lodge?

The Brown Pelican

Rededication To Service

Your statement of rededication is perhaps the most meaningful part of your Brotherhood. The statement is your personal commitment to future service. This statement should not be taken lightly. Each arrowman should spend a great amount of effort in the preparation of his statement of rededication.

This statement should not be a resume of a brother's past service. It is to be a look towards future goals for service in the Scouting movement.

By reviewing the questionnaire and discussing highlights of the Ordeal, each arrowman should come to understanding the Order with a deeper meaning.

The significant mental impressions taken from this experience will help to uphold the heritage and tradition of our Lodge.

The Brotherhood seals the membership of an Arrowman into the Order of the Arrow. Ideals such as self-denial, self-reliance, service, meditation, and unity are reinforced by the Brotherhood.

Sample Letter of Rededication

Lodge Secretary
Chilantakoba Lodge, SELA Council
Order of the Arrow

The obligation, much like the Eagle Charge, is a promise to carry on the traditions and ideas of the Order of the Arrow; whereas the Eagle Charge deals with the fundamental scouting principles.

It is my duty to represent the Order of the Arrow to the members of my troop and to encourage them through their Ordeal. The obligation clearly stresses cheerful service to others. It is service that is so important to continuing the Scouting movement in that the Order of the Arrow is instrumental in maintaining facilities for Scouting. Without the Order of the Arrow, scouts would not have as many fine facilities as there are.

I will work more closely with members of the lodge to promote the Order's ideals. I will encourage our new scouts to strive for recognition and membership in the O.A. In taking the obligation, I pledge a greater effort on behalf of my lodge and the Order of the Arrow.

Anonymous Arrowman

The Brotherhood

Brotherhood membership in the Order of the Arrow is not a rank or a step up the ladder in the same sense as from First Class Scout to Star, Life and Eagle Scout.

Brotherhood membership is the completion of the process of becoming a true Arrowman.

Brotherhood members have no special privileges that are not open to Ordeal members, except to attend Brotherhood ceremonies. They do, however, have additional responsibilities and obligations.

After 10 months or more of active membership in the Order, Ordeal members may "seal" their membership and learn more about the true meaning of brotherhood by becoming Brotherhood members.

The Brotherhood Ceremony, when properly conducted, is one of the most meaningful experiences available to members of the Boy Scouts of America. Those being inducted should have an inspirational experience and should, as a result, do their best to live a life of cheerful service to others.

Members should not take part in the Brotherhood ceremony unless they truly wish to continue actively in Scouting and the Order of the Arrow.

The Brotherhood is an opportunity for members to evaluate their past contributions to Scouting and the lodge and to reaffirm their belief in the high purpose of the Order. The ceremony is intended as a source of inspiration, motivating its members to render even greater service to Scouting.

Brotherhood Conversion Req

10 months' as an Ordeal member

Registered active member in Scouting

Registered active member in the OA

Write a letter of rededication

Memorize the Obligation

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, which I have now received. 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.

OA Official Song

**Firm bound in Brotherhood, gather the clan,
That cheerful service brings to fellowman.
Circle our council fire, weld tightly every link,
That binds us in Brotherhood, Wi-mach-ten-dienk**

The Admonition

Complete the brotherhood hike

Complete the brotherhood ceremony