



### **National Pike District Troop, Crew & Ship Unit Leaders and Committee Chairs;**

Greetings from the National Pike Chapter of the Order of the Arrow. We are starting another exciting year of service to our District and wish to keep you informed about the Order of Arrow. To do this we are providing this packet containing the following information:

- An overview of the Order of the Arrow
- Information concerning OA Unit Elections & Call Outs
- The Lodge First Year Arrowman Award
- OA Unit of Excellence Award
- Nentico Camping Award
- The National Pike Chapter Participation Recognition Program
- The National Pike Chapter Service Beads Awarded By The Chapter Chief
- OA Troop Representative job description

It is our hope that after reviewing this information that you will actively encourage your OA representative to attend our chapter gatherings and act as a liaison for your Unit. We will do our best to introduce new topics and program ideas and methods to your youth that they can bring back to Unit meetings and Leadership meetings. Our ongoing goal is to increase interactions between the Troops, Crews & Ships in our District and our OA Chapter.

Our Chapter holds monthly gatherings (except May & July) on the 2nd Sunday of the month. Our Gathering location is **Bethany United Methodist Church** located at 2875 Bethany Lane, Ellicott Coty, Md. 21042. Gatherings normally start at 4:00 pm and last until approximately 5:30 pm. There Chapter Ceremonies Team holds rehearsals after most Gatherings from 5:30 to 6:30 pm.

Thank you for the work you do now for the youth in your Unit. We hope that this year will bring new opportunities for our chapter to work with you in growing the leadership capabilities of Scouts and adding an additional element of fun to their Scouting career.

Most information concerning the Order of the Arrow can be found at our Lodge website – [www.Nentico.org](http://www.Nentico.org) and Chapter website - <http://www.baltimorebsa.org/nationalpike/oa-chapter>

You can always reach our Chapter Leadership team with any questions or concerns via email at [NationalPike@Nentico.org](mailto:NationalPike@Nentico.org).

Please let us know how we can be of service to your Unit.

Yours in Cheerful Service,  
Mats te Plate  
National Pike Chapter Chief 2020

Joel Meredith  
National Pike Chapter Adviser



## Order of The Arrow Overview

### The purpose of the OA is as follows:

- 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 camping, 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.

### How do youth participate in OA?

- OA members in your Unit should participate in all activities that they possibly can to receive the most benefit from the program. This includes attendance at local monthly Chapter meetings where they will learn new ways to bring scouting skills to their Unit as well as events of the Lodge that happen throughout the year. Lodge events will give them opportunity to camp with other older scouts and participate in competitions, service, trainings, and overall fellowship. Additionally, some youth may take on the task of being ceremonialists or special committees which may require attendance at other Lodge business meetings. Certain youth will be elected to Chapter and Lodge Office annually to facilitate the business of the Lodge or Chapter as it pertains to the Council or District.
- OA members can also be active members of the OA in your unit, as a **Unit Representative**. The OA Unit Rep position is a recognized leader position eligible for use toward rank advancement; HOWEVER, the job entails more than bearing the patch. The youth who are selected to be the Unit Rep are required to attend the monthly OA chapter meetings, and to report on OA happenings to their Unit. Additionally, the Unit Rep position should also promote the Order to other OA members in the unit, encouraging participation in OA programs and more.
- Each Troop, Crew & Ship that has an OA Unit Rep should be accountable for their activity during their tenure in order to qualify for the leadership requirement.
- The Chapter will provide you attendance reports if desired by your Unit.

### Why do you want your Youth to participate in the OA?

- The first reason is simply Fun! OA members are given opportunities beyond the normal Unit program that are unique and exciting.
- Second, the OA opens the door to many larger leadership learning experiences. These experiences range in different levels at the Chapter, Lodge, Section or National level.
- Finally, the OA through its commitment to Service re-enforces a life longer habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.

### Which is the Priority? Unit or OA?

The OA is very clear about this issue, and has been for its 100 year history, the UNIT comes FIRST. If there is a scheduling conflict with OA and unit activities or meetings, the Unit activity or meeting takes precedence over any OA activity. Every youth member of the OA MUST be registered with a Scout Unit, they wear no official OA officer patches as their membership in BSA is solely through the unit, and the only officer patch they are allowed to wear on their uniforms is the officer they are serving as in their unit. Going forward, the Chapter will provide all of you an OA Calendar of events as early as possible so that you may consider it while planning your troop year.



## Order of Arrow Representative

If your unit does not have an OA Rep, please consider selection of an OA youth for this leadership position. We hope to bring skills and leadership experience back to the units through the OA program. An active OA Representative can bring your Unit new and exciting scouting ideas. A job description is included in this packet.

## Unit Elections Guidance

To request a Unit election, please contact us through the chapter website **Unit Election Request link**. A member of our Unit election team will contact you to confirm your scheduled time and will communicate all further instructions to conduct the election. **Elections are to be conducted by a Chapter OA Adviser & a youth OA member from outside of your Unit.** This allows all Unit OA members to vote and follows the guidance from National Scouting concerning how to run elections.

## Youth Requirements:

### New Member Requirements:

Beginning February 1, 2019, unit elections will be permitted in Scouts BSA, Venturing, and Sea Scout units. The Order of the Arrow membership requirements are as follows:

1. Be a registered member of the Boy Scouts of America.
2. Have experienced 15 nights of camping while registered with a troop, crew, or ship within the two years immediately prior to the election. The 15 nights must include one, but no more than one, long-term camp consisting of at least five consecutive nights of overnight camping, approved and under the auspices and standards of the Boy Scouts of America. Only five nights of the long-term camp may be credited toward the 15-night camping requirement; the balance of the camping (10 nights) must be overnight, weekend, or other short-term camps of, at most, three nights each. Ship nights may be counted as camping for Sea Scouts.
3. At the time of their election, youth must be under the age of 21, and hold one of the following ranks corresponding to the type unit which they are being considered for election: Scouts BSA First Class rank, the Venturing Discovery Award, or the Sea Scout Ordinary rank or higher, and following approval by the Scoutmaster, Crew Adviser or Sea Scout Skipper, be elected by the youth members of their unit.
4. Adults (age 21 or older) who meet the camping requirements may be selected following nomination to and approval by the lodge adult selection committee.



### Adult Nominations:

Each year, upon holding a Troop, Crew or Ship election for youth candidates that results in at least one youth candidate being elected, the unit committee may nominate registered unit adults (age 21 or over) to the lodge adult selection committee. The number of adults nominated can be no more than one-third of the number of youth candidates elected, rounded up where the number of youth candidates is not a multiple of three. In addition to the one-third limit, the unit committee may nominate the currently-serving unit leader (but not assistant leaders), as long as he or she has served as unit leader for at least the previous 12 months.

Recommendations of the adult selection committee, with the approval of the Scout executive, serving as Supreme Chief of the Fire, will be candidates for induction, provided all conditions are fulfilled.

1. At the time of the completed election the Unit may consider **Adult Nomination**. If the Unit Committee wishes to nominate one or more adults for membership in the Order of the Arrow, the Unit Committee needs to complete and sign the Adult Candidate Nomination Form. The Unit Committee should complete the Adult Candidate Nomination Form(s) prior to the Unit Election meeting and have it available for the unit elections team to pick up at the end of the election. In the event that the Unit Committee cannot complete these forms on that night, the deadline for turning them in is THREE DAYS after the date of the election – and it must be submitted directly to the Chapter leadership in order to be valid. The Chapter will inform the Unit Committee of when and how they will be notified of the Lodge Adult Selection Committee's action.
2. The camping requirement set forth for youth candidates must be fulfilled by adults for them to be considered. To be eligible, the adult must have completed 15 days and nights of Boy Scout of America camping during the two-year period prior to nomination. The 15 days and nights must include one, but no more than one, long-term camp consisting of six consecutive days and five nights of resident camping, approved and under the auspices and standards of the BSA. The balance must be overnight, weekend, or other short-term camps. Include above the dates and location of the resident camping experience.
3. Selection of the adult is based upon the ability to perform the necessary functions and **not for recognition of service**, including current or prior achievement and position.
4. As Scouting's National Honor Society, our purpose is to:
  - 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 camping, 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.
5. Adults being considered for nomination should be assessed based on how they will be an asset to the Order of the Arrow due to demonstrated skills and abilities, which fulfill the purpose of the Order of the Arrow.
  - This adult leader's membership will provide a positive role model for the growth and development of the youth members of the lodge because.



### **Order of The Arrow journey:**

Being selected to the Order of the Arrow is not an event, but rather it is a beginning of a journey. The journey begins with **Ordeal Membership** based on the purpose of the Order and an individual's continued commitment to those principles. To continue the journey, the Order encourages everyone to seal their membership by becoming a Brotherhood member and undertaking their Brotherhood 10 months after their Ordeal induction.

### **Youth & Adult Involvement:**

Part of the primary purpose of the Order is to create new and expanded opportunities for youth to grow as leaders. There are many opportunities at the Chapter and Lodge level for youth to engage and explore.

Adult leaders are encouraged to support the OA program at the unit level and can seek volunteer roles at the Chapter and Lodge level. The role of adults is to support the Lodge towards its mission, by which enable youth to develop in their leadership and character.

### **Vigil Honor:**

One does not obtain the Vigil Honor. The Vigil Honor in the Order of the Arrow is a distinguished award. The process for the Vigil Honor is much like that of the District Award of Merit, Silver Beaver or any other distinguished award. There is a nomination process and a selection committee.

### **Call-Out / Notification of Selection to the Order of the Arrow:**

Upon completion of your Unit election a unit has a number of options for to notify those nominated to the Order of the Arrow.

- Call Out at the District Camp-o-ree / Adventure-o-ree.
- Upon Request addressed to Chapter Adviser & Chapter Ceremonies Team at [NationalPike@Nentico.org](mailto:NationalPike@Nentico.org)
- A Unit may Self Perform their own Call Out with coordination from Chapter Ceremonies Team.
- Out of Council Summer Camp Call Out. To hold an out of Council Call Out you must contact the Lodge through the Lodge website at least two weeks prior and submit your online request at <http://www.nentico.org/>. Note that while a Call Out can be conducted out of Council, at no time can an Ordeal candidate take their Ordeal out of Council.
- Note that while a Call Out is not required to attend the Ordeal, a formal Call Out supported by the Chapter is where the information about Ordeals is provided to the candidate. If your candidates are not called out through the Chapter, please obtain the Ordeal Candidate documents from [nentico.org](http://nentico.org) under resources. You may also contact the chapter to obtain the letter and schedule that you will need to provide to the candidates.
- **Once elected, all candidates have a maximum of 1 year to complete their Ordeal.** Consider the date that your candidates will be made aware of their election when scheduling your OA elections. A candidate may attend any of the lodge Ordeals listed on our calendar.
- **Note: No Unit may perform a Call Out for other Units**



## **First Year Arrowman Award (James A Mitchell Award)**

To help new members become active in the order, the first year Arrowman award is available for youth members that complete the requirements listed on the award form. This is a good way to help encourage new Ordeal members to become active. Completed forms should be sent to [NationalPike@Nentico.org](mailto:NationalPike@Nentico.org) or turned in at any a chapter meeting. The form for this award can be found on the Lodge website. Note that many of the requirements for the First Year Arrowman Award are part of the chapter Participation / Recognition Program as well. Thus, a scout can work towards to recognition at the same time.

## **OA Unit of Excellence Award**

The **Order of the Arrow Unit of Excellence Award** was created in 2012 to recognize Units who have a high degree of participation in the OA program. There are 5 categories to the Award; and Units who want to be recognized with this Award must complete requirements in all 5 -- Leadership, Planning, Conversion, Elections and Participation. There are recognition items available for the troop, OA representative, Assistant Scoutmaster for OA, and the Scoutmaster for Troops that earn this award. The form for this award can be found on the Lodge website.

## **Nentico Camping Award**

The Nentico Camping Award recognizes Troops that provide a year-round camping program to their youth while also having youth in OA and attending chapter meetings. A camping promotion visit by the OA is also required and can be done when you run your annual OA election. A completed application for this award must be turned in to the chapter no later than the last week in November. The form for this award can be found on the Lodge website.

## **National Pike Chapter Participation / Recognition Program *Introduced in 2019***

The National Pike Chapter has established a program to recognize youth and adults that actively participate in the chapter through attendance and service on committees. Recognition items include a pocket patch and two types of chapter neckerchief. Specific details on the program can be found on the chapter website -

<http://www.baltimorebsa.org/nationalpike/oa-chapter>

## **Chapter Service Beads *Introduced in 2019***

- **One to Four Years**
  - First Beads to be award at December – 2019 Chapter Banquet

The Chapter Service Beads like the Lodge Service Bead is awarded by the Chapter Chief annually for service rendered by to Arrowman to the chapter. The selection is solely at the discretion of the Chapter Chief for up to four years of service with advice from Chapter Adviser.

A black leather or polyethylene necklace with a pendant. A white and red bead of Brotherhood colors sandwiched between a yellow bead of the Lodge colors strung on a thong with a Silver Chapter Totem of a Covered Wagon charm.

For each additional year two and three another yellow bead will be added to the necklace. When an Arrowman reaches a fourth year the Chapter Totem will be replace with a Gold Covered Wagon charm.



## OA Troop / Unit Representative Duties

The Order of the Arrow Troop representative is a youth serving their Troop/Unit as the primary liaison to the Chapter and Lodge. They meet the units need by providing a communication and programmatic link to and from all Arrowmen, Scouts who are not presently members of the Order and adult leaders. These efforts are meant to assist the unit and its members in achieving the mission of The Boy Scouts of America, and at the same time fulfilling the lodge's role in the strategic plan of the Order of the Arrow of being an integral part of the Council. By setting a good example, he/she enhances the image of the Order as a service arm to the Troop/Unit. They are appointed by the Senior Patrol Leader with the approval of the Scoutmaster. This is a good position for a Scout seeking Life or higher ranks.

### OA Troop Representative Duties

Attend unit, chapter or lodge meetings regularly as a youth representative of the Unit to the Order.

- Should attend at least 50% of Chapter meeting during their term of office.
- Serves as a two-way communication link between the troop and the lodge or chapter.
- Arranges with the lodge or chapter election team to conduct an annual Order of the Arrow election for the unit at a time approved by the unit leader.
- Arranges with the lodge or chapter for at least one camp presentation visit to the unit annually.
- Makes at least one high adventure presentation to the unit, to include OA programs annually.
- As requested by the SPL, participates in Troop Court of Honors by recognizing: high adventure participation of troop members, induction of new OA members, changes in OA honors of troop members, leadership of troop members and other appropriate activities.
- Promotes Ordeal members to obtain the Brotherhood membership
- Promotes new Ordeal members to obtain the First Year Arrowman Award
- Promotes all unit OA members to pay annual lodge dues.

### Qualifications:

Under 18 years old, appointed by the SPL with SM approval, OA member in good standing (lodge dues paid)

### Reports to:

Senior patrol leader, mentored by the Unit OA Adviser/ASM.

May be included in the PLC at the discretion of the troop leadership.