



## Guide to Unit Elections

The information contained in this summary is intended to comply with national policy for unit elections for the Order of the Arrow. Unit elections must be conducted according to national policy without exception. Revisions to the current national policy at the time of the election supersede this document.

### **General**

1. Unit elections may be conducted in Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scout units. The unit must be registered and in good standing in the BSA in Washington Crossing Council (WCC).
2. Units may have one and only one election per 12 months. In WCC, unit elections may be held from December 1 until the following February 28. Earlier than December is permitted, but not later than February 28.
3. All unit elections must be conducted under the supervision of the Lodge/Chapter. Elections not supervised by the Lodge/Chapter will not be recognized as valid by the Lodge. Venturing and Sea Scout elections will be conducted by the Chapter (District) where their primary meeting place or chartering organization is located according to their choice.
4. Unit leaders are requested to schedule an election date with their Chapter (District) Adviser at least 3 weeks prior to the requested election date. A scheduling form is included in your recharter packet and it is also available on the Lodge webpage on the Council website.
5. Prior to your unit election please prepare a list of the eligible youth who will be on the ballot including the following information:
  - a. Name
  - b. BSA ID number
  - c. Date of Birth
  - d. Home address
  - e. Phone number
  - f. email (one that will actually be looked at)
6. Make sure you have your adult nomination forms completed and signed so we can collect them at your election.
7. Please ensure that all eligible youth and adults in your unit are interested in becoming a member of the Order of the Arrow and intend to complete the process by attending one of the Ordeal weekends before putting them on the youth ballot or nominating adults.
8. Candidates must complete the induction process within one (1) year of their election. In WCC, this means attending one of the three (3) scheduled Ordeal weekends. After that time, candidacy expires and the person must meet the eligibility requirements and be re-elected/nominated in a future election cycle. Candidacy does not carry over to the next year.

## Eligibility

### Youth

- Be a registered member of the Boy Scouts of America.
- 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.
- At the time of their election, youth must be under the age of 21, hold the Scouts BSA First Class rank, the Venturing Discovery Award, or the Sea Scout Ordinary rank or higher, and following approval by the Scoutmaster, Crew Advisor or Sea Scout Skipper, be elected by the youth members of their unit.
- Young adults between the ages of 18-21 who are registered in the BSA with their Troop (as ASMs) are considered "Youth" for the purposes of the OA and may be elected as a youth provided they meet the criteria outlined above and in accordance with same election procedure applied to youth under the age of 18.

### Adults

- Adults are not elected, but nominated by their unit committee.
- An adult nomination form must be fully completed by the committee for each adult nominated. Incomplete nomination forms (including signatures) will not be accepted.
- Adults (age 21 or older) who meet the camping requirements as described above may be selected as Candidates following nomination to and approval by the lodge adult selection committee.
- The number of adult nominees may not exceed one-third the number of youth candidates *elected*, rounded up where the number of youth is not a multiple of 3. (1-3 youth = 1 adult; 4-6 youth = 2 adults, etc.)
- In addition to the one-third limit, the currently serving unit leader (but not assistant leaders) may be nominated as long as he/she has served as the unit leader for the previous 12 months.
- Selection of the adult is based on the ability to perform the necessary functions to help the Order fulfill its purpose and is not for recognition of service, including current and prior achievements and positions or tenure.
- The individual will be an asset to the Order because of demonstrated abilities that fulfill the purpose of the Order
- The adult leader's membership will provide a positive example for the growth and development of the youth members of the lodge.

### **Questions? - OA contacts:**

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