



AJAPEU LODGE 2

ORDER OF THE ARROW

Dear Order of the Arrow Candidate,

Congratulations on being elected for induction into the Order of the Arrow (OA), Scouting's National Honor Society. You have been recognized for demonstrating the highest ideals of Scouting and are now a Candidate. We hope that you join us and take advantage of the unique opportunities for leadership, service, and fun that the OA offers.

To become a Brother, or member of the OA, you must complete an Induction Weekend within 18 months of your election. During this weekend, you will participate in an "Ordeal" experience that is meant to be symbolic, not challenging. In addition to ceremonies and service projects, the weekend consists of fun, food, festivities, and more food. Everything we do revolves around our three principles: brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service.

To become a Brother, or member of our Order, a Candidate must participate in a full "Ordeal" experience during an Induction Weekend within 18 months of their election. The dates for the 2026 Induction Weekends are **April 17-19, May 29-31, and September 25-27.**

As soon as you can, please select a weekend, put it on your calendar, and register here: <https://www.wccscouting.org/oa-inductions>. The registration links are already open. If you have problems registering, let us know.

We realize this is a new experience for you and you may have a question or two. There really is not much you have to do to prepare but we put together this packet of information to address the most important things and to answer the most common questions that we are asked. Please read through the entire document and contact us if you have any questions.

Your Induction Weekend will probably leave you a little tired, but mostly energized and excited to look at yourself and Scouting in a completely new way. If you have any questions or concerns prior to the weekend, please feel free to contact me, my Associate Lodge Advisers, or the Chapter Adviser responsible for your district (see contact section below).

Yours in Brotherhood,

Robert Michell | Lodge Adviser - ajapeubear@gmail.com

What is an Induction Weekend?

To complete the induction process and become a member or “Brother” each Candidate, youth and adult, must complete a full Induction Weekend. The “Ordeal” part of it is symbolic and is designed by the national organization to help you understand the basic principles of the OA – brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service. All Scouting safety rules and guidelines are strictly followed and the safety of all of our participants is foremost as it is in any other Scouting activity. By now I am sure that you have been on unit hikes and camping trips that were a lot more challenging than the Induction Weekend will be.

The Ordeal experience during the Induction Weekend is a journey of personal discovery where you learn about the OA. You will find out about the different things we do, meet new people who will be in the OA with you, have some fun, and enjoy the fellowship of our Lodge. During the weekend you will see a couple of really impressive ceremonies, spend a few hours working on a few service projects at camp, learn about upcoming events, discover how the OA operates, enjoy a great banquet, participate in some fun activities on Saturday night, and wrap up the weekend with your Chapter and Lodge meetings on Sunday morning. It is a busy and fun weekend that is sure to provide great memories. Our Lodge Trading Post will be open for you on Saturday evening and Sunday morning selling patches and other items.

There are several required activities spread throughout the weekend and you will need to be there for the entire time from Friday night through Sunday morning, so please plan accordingly.

What do I need to do now?

After becoming a Candidate, the most important next step is to register for one of the three scheduled Induction Weekends. We plan to offer these weekends in April, May, and September so that you can choose the weekend that best fits your schedule. If you do not complete an Induction Weekend within 18 months of your election, your candidacy will expire and you will need to qualify and be elected again in the future. We strongly encourage you to attend the earlier weekend if possible as it will enable you to attend Conclave with us in June, and be able to attend summer camp as an Arrowman and participate in the OA Day activities found at every Scout Summer Camp. Be aware that we do have limitations on the number of Candidates we can accommodate, so sign up early or you may not get the weekend you want.

Our registration sites can be found on the Washington Crossing Council calendar here:

<https://www.wccscouting.org/oa-inductions>

The registration for our events are open.

Do I need my field (“Class A”) uniform during the Induction Weekend?

Yes, you will need to pack your uniform, but will not have to wear it until dinner on Saturday. The dress code for the weekend is as follows:

- Old work clothes - Arrival on Friday through Saturday afternoon
- Field (“Class A”) uniform - Saturday evening through departure on Sunday
- Scouting appropriate comfortable clothes - Saturday night (optional)

What do I need to bring with me to the Induction Weekend?

The Induction Weekend is pretty much like most other weekend camping you do with your unit, if not a little easier since all meals are prepared for you. A separate Candidate Packing List is provided, but please note the following:

- **Eat Dinner Before Arrival** – There will be a Cracker Barrel (snack) on Friday night, but dinner will **not** be served. This is a change from previous Induction Weekends.
- **Medical Forms** – Bring a completed Scouting Annual Health and Medical Record for check in on Friday night (Parts A and B only / no physical needed). A parent’s signature is required for all youth under 18. Make sure you include a photocopy of the front and back of your insurance card. Candidates may pick up their forms on Sunday morning at breakfast. Unclaimed forms will be destroyed immediately after the weekend.
- **Equipment & Packing** – All Candidates must separate their gear into two packs as described below. Your gear only has to be carried from the parking lot to your campsites, so backpacks are not required. The contents for these packs can be found on the separately provided Candidate Packing List.
 - Friday Pack
 - This is typically a smaller pack that will contain the minimal set of gear needed for Friday night through early Saturday afternoon when the service projects complete. Personal medications and rain gear (depending on the weather forecast) should be in this pack.
 - Saturday Pack
 - This is typically a larger pack that will contain any additional gear that you need from Saturday afternoon until you leave on Sunday. Your field (“Class A”) uniform and cell phone should be in this pack. This pack will not be accessible until Saturday afternoon after the service projects complete.

Do I need to bring any money?

Consider bringing some money for the Lodge trading post or our Saturday night auction of Scouting memorabilia. Lodge patches range in price from \$3-\$20, but most are \$5. Please note that the Lodge is not responsible for any money or valuables brought to camp.

What if I have medical, dietary, or other special needs?

We always have at least one health officer as well as other staff with medical training so we can deal with just about any medical situation. At check-in, our health officer will do a brief screening of your medical form to find out about medications, medical conditions, and any other health related concerns. Please make sure you bring any medications in the original container with the pharmacy or doctor contact information and dosage on the label. For Candidates who are under 18, all controlled medications must be secured and administered by our medical staff.

When you register for your Induction Weekend, please indicate any medical, dietary, or other special needs. If your medical or special needs are severe or significant, please get in touch with a Lodge Adviser so that we can plan appropriately. For severe food allergies, we may ask that you talk to our cook or possibly provide your own food for the weekend. With advance notice, we can typically work out a plan for you that meets the program requirements.

What is the schedule for the Induction Weekend?

Friday Night

- **Check-in – 6:30-7:30 PM.** Please, park in the parking lot across from the main camp. Check-in will be in the Manny Marx pavilion next to the lake according to your district (OA Chapter). Your medical form will be reviewed at this time. You will receive instructions for where to go next and where to take your equipment during the check-in process. Registration will close at 7:30 PM so that we may begin the Ordeal activities on time. If you will be arriving later than 6:30 PM, please contact either the Lodge Adviser, Robert Michell or Associate Lodge Adviser, Stephen Kiel.
- **Welcome Gathering – 7:30 PM** (approx.) Candidates, parents, and guests will assemble in the Parade Field next to the camp office for a few words of welcome from our Lodge Chief and Lodge Adviser.
- **Call Out Ceremony – 7:45 PM** (approx.) Immediately after the welcome gathering, all are invited to watch the Call Out ceremony in the camp office parade field. Immediately following the ceremony, all parents and guests will be asked to exit the camp.
- **Cracker Barrel – 8:00 PM** (approx.) Candidates and Brothers will gather at Foster Hall for refreshments and fellowship after which the Induction activities will start.

Saturday

- **Morning** – Light breakfast and service projects
- **Afternoon** – Light lunch, games & fun activities, reflection time, and new members' meeting
- **Evening** – Banquet, Scouts' Own service, Induction Ceremony, fun fellowship activities, and Cracker Barrel (snack)

Sunday

- **Breakfast, Pack-up, & Clean-up** – Membership cards, handbooks, and patches are distributed and health forms are picked up (or shredded if left behind).
- **Chapter & Lodge Meetings**
- **Departure/Pick-up – 12 Noon** – Everyone should be picked up from the camp parking lot no later than 12 Noon on Sunday morning. Please wait in the parking lot and do not attempt to walk around camp to find your new Arrowman – they will come to you, proudly wearing their new, bright white sashes. No cars are permitted in camp, please.

Who can I contact if I have other questions?

The Ajapeu 2 OA Lodge is divided up into 4 Chapters, i.e. one for each District in our Council. If you have questions, please start by contacting the adult Chapter Adviser for your District's Chapter because they work directly with your units. For additional help, the Lodge Advisers are also available. The names and contact information for the Ajapeu 2 Advisers is given below.

Ajapeu 2 Chapter Chiefs and Chapter Advisers

- **Pahaquarra Chapter** / Hunterdon Arrowhead District - pahaquarra@ajapeu2.org
 - **Liam N.** | Chapter Chief
 - **James Breazzano** | Chapter Adviser
 - **Tracey Giannouris, Ed Morris** | Associate Chapter Advisers
- **Sanhican Chapter** / Mercer Area District - sanhican@ajapeu2.org
 - **Ian W.** | Chapter Chief
 - **David Yasko** | Chapter Adviser
- **Tohickon Chapter** / Tohickon District - tohickon@ajapeu2.org
 - **Finn G.** | Chapter Chief
 - **Cassandra San José** | Chapter Adviser
 - **Amy Wulfleff** | Associate Chapter Adviser
- **Tukwsit Chapter** / Tamanend District - tukwsit@ajapeu2.org
 - **Lucy J.** | Chapter Chief
 - **Mike Wysocki** | Chapter Adviser
 - **Sandy Johnson , Joshua Nelson** | Associate Chapter Advisers

Ajapeu 2 Lodge Chief and Lodge Advisers - chief@ajapeu2.org / advisers@ajapeu2.org

- **Alice M.** | Lodge Chief
- **Robert Michell** | Lodge Adviser
- **Susan Dorfman, Stephen Kiel** | Associate Lodge Advisers
- **Todd Warner** | Lodge Staff Adviser



AJAPEU LODGE 2 - CANDIDATE PACKING LIST

ORDER OF THE ARROW

Dress code:

- Old work clothes - Arrival through Saturday afternoon
- Field (Class "A") uniform - Saturday evening through departure
- Scouting appropriate comfortable clothes - Saturday night (optional)

Bring:

- An up to date, completed, and signed **Medical Form** (Parts A & B) - **REQUIRED FOR ALL EVENTS!**
- Spending money for Lodge Store, Camp Trading Post (if open), and Saturday night auction (optional)

Wear:

- Old work clothes
- Outerwear appropriate for the forecasted weather
- Hiking Boots/sturdy footwear for the trails of "Rockanickon"

Pack in Friday Pack:

- Sleeping Bag (and Pillow)
- Large Ground Cloth (big enough to wrap around you)
- Poncho or Rain Suit
- Work Gloves
- Flashlight or Headlamp with Working Batteries
- Water Bottle with Water
- Insect Repellent
- Sun Protection (Hat and Sunscreen)
- Personal Medications

Pack in Saturday Pack:

- Field ("Class A") uniform
- Extra clothes for later in the weekend
- Toiletries (towel, soap, etc.)
- Tent or hammock for Saturday night (adirondacks or camp tents are **not** always available)

Do Not Bring:

- Anything normally prohibited by Scouting rules
- Electronics (cell phones are permitted, but cannot be used during the Ordeal)
- Food, snacks, mess kits (food, etc. is provided)
- Matches or other fire-starting materials



AJAPEU LODGE 2

ORDER OF THE ARROW

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Congratulations! Your son or daughter has been elected as a Candidate for the Order of the Arrow (OA) by his or her peers in their unit. For over 100 years, elected candidates have been recognized as models of the highest ideals in scouting.

As Scouting's National Honor Society, we forge lifelong bonds among the leaders in Scouting and:

- Recognize those who exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives and, through that recognition, cause others to act in the same way
- Reinforce a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others
- Create and deliver peer-led, adult-guided, advanced leadership experiences for Scouts and Scouters that positively impact their unit, community, and ultimately our nation
- Be an integral part of Scouting America and encourage participation in all it offers through units, outdoor adventures, and national events to further the Scouting experience

That purpose is leading us towards the vision for the Order of the Arrow: "To be why Scouts want to stay in Scouting." The OA offers its members, or Brothers, more leadership positions and training, high adventure, fun service projects, and camaraderie. While not a replacement for a Troop, Crew or Ship, the OA is a means to challenge, excite, energize, and ultimately retain our members so that they can better return to and serve their units.

The attached information packet has more details about the next steps, but the most important thing to note is that your son or daughter will have to attend and complete one of the two Induction Weekends we offer to complete their "Ordeal" experience. Please read through the information carefully and feel free to contact me with any questions.

The Induction weekend, sometimes called the "Ordeal", is the first step toward full membership in the Order. The "Ordeal" experience is meant to be symbolic, not challenging, and is a lot easier than most scouting camping trips. In addition to working on some basic service projects for a few hours during their Induction Weekend; there is time scheduled for games and other activities so our newest Brothers can continue to make new friendships, and to become more "at home" in their Lodge.

The OA provides a lot of additional opportunities to enhance your Scout's experience. I hope that you will support your son or daughter by registering them for an Induction Weekend and then encouraging them to participate in many of our activities thereafter. Based on the positive impact that the OA had on me and my son, I am confident that this will be a worthwhile investment.

Yours in Brotherhood,

Robert Michell | Lodge Adviser - ajapeubear@gmail.com