

Wipala Wiki Lodge Grand Canyon Council

Dear Parent,

Congratulations! Your Scout has been elected as a candidate for the Order of the Arrow, the National Honor Society of the Boy Scouts of America. For over 100 years, the Order of the Arrow (OA) has recognized Scouts and Scouters who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives. This recognition provides encouragement for others to live these ideals as well. Arrowmen are known for maintaining camping traditions and spirit, promoting year-round and long-term resident camping, and providing cheerful service to others. OA service, activities, adventures, and training for youth and adults are models of quality leadership development and programming that enrich and help to extend Scouting to America's youth.

Candidates for the Order of the Arrow are chosen not only for what they have done, but also for what they are expected to do in serving the welfare of others. We are sure that your scout is worthy of this honor because your Scout was selected for candidacy by the unique method of being elected by their peers.

How does a candidate become a member of the Order of the Arrow? It's easy: they must simply complete their induction weekend. Our lodge offers two opportunities a year to complete the induction weekend and join the Order of the Arrow. Detailed information about the induction weekend, its cost, and this year's opportunities for induction can be found at <https://oa.grandcanyonbsa.org/calendar/>. Your Scout must complete their induction weekend within 18 months of their election. If they don't complete it in this timeframe, they must be reelected by their unit.

Induction into the Order of the Arrow will open many new doors for your Scout. The Order of the Arrow provides some of the most valuable youth leadership training and opportunities available. These opportunities will build upon the knowledge they already have received during their Scouting experience. In addition, our lodge participates in several events every year. This is truly an exciting time for you and your Scout. Your encouragement will be appreciated.

The Ordeal is a vital part of the Induction Process of the Order of the Arrow. The Ordeal provides a time for a Scout to reflect upon their experiences within Scouting. These reflections will hopefully broaden their experiences, and reaffirming their love for Scouting.

During the Ordeal experience, a candidate is required to:

- Maintain silence
- Work on Camp improvement projects
- Receive small amounts of food
- Sleep alone and apart from other campers

The entire experience is designed to enrich significant values that are a core part of scouting. Induction weekends are filled with many activities, all of which are safe and fully supervised in accordance with BSA Policies. There are hundreds of thousands of OA members, all of whom have participated in an Ordeal. The Ordeal experience is one that no scout will ever forget because of the honor that has been given by being inducted into the Order of the Arrow.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions concerning your scout's upcoming Induction weekend or the Order of the Arrow. Thank you for your support of your Scout and of Scouting.

Thank you for your time! We look forward to meeting you, and to welcoming your Scout as a member of the Order of the Arrow soon.

Yours in Brotherhood,

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