



Dear Ordeal Candidate,

Congratulations on your election into the Order of the Arrow! Our lodge is grateful to have dedicated Scouts like you in our council who live the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives as well as cheerfully serve others to the best of their ability.

Becoming a member of the Order of the Arrow, or OA for short, is an esteemed recognition. You have been chosen by your peers because of the loyalty you have shown to the ideals of Scouting. Through the OA, you will have the opportunity to meet many amazing people in our local area who share the same passion for Scouting, many of whom may become great friends. And, of course, OA events are some of the most fun experiences you'll have in Scouting! After you complete your Ordeal, a new world of fellowship is opened up to you, with opportunities to meet Arrowmen from around our area and the nation.

Before you can officially become a member, you must first undergo the Ordeal Experience. Currently, there are two opportunities to complete the Ordeal with the Lowaneu Allanque Lodge. If additional ordeal opportunities are created, they will be communicated to you and your unit via email. Per national policy, candidates are not permitted to conduct their Ordeal with a lodge other than the one they were elected to. Enclosed you will find an Ordeal Information & Equipment List Sheet. Registration is done online for Ordeal Candidates on the lodge website (www.oa41.org) or on the Three Fires Council website. Please pre-register to help us make the Ordeal run smoothly.

- 2025 Spring Fellowship: May 30th -June 1st, 2025 – Camp Big Timber, Elgin, IL
- 2025 Fall Fellowship: September 5th to 7th, 2025 – Camp Big Timber, Elgin, IL

Available on our website (www.oa41.org/ordeal-candidate-information) are resources available to candidates, including an orientation video detailing the ordeal. Additional resources will be provided in the candidate portal closer to this summer, instructions on registering for the candidate portal are provided in this packet.

The Order of the Arrow provides many opportunities as an extension of Scouting. There are various leadership opportunities, ranging in scope from serving as a unit representative, to serving as the National Chief! There are also opportunities for you to learn new skills, both for the outdoors and life, and to attend BSA National High Adventure bases – like Philmont Scout Ranch and the Florida Sea Base – at a reduced cost. Finally, the OA gives you the opportunity to attend many events and meet new people in your district, our council, the region, and around the nation. All that is required to take advantage of these opportunities is to be inducted as an OA member by completing your Ordeal.

Please remember: If you do not complete your ordeal in the given time you will need to be re-elected. For additional information regarding the Order of the Arrow, please visit the lodge website www.oa41.org or visit the Order of the Arrow website at www.oa-bsa.org. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your unit leader, the lodge chief, or lodge adviser (Found on oa41.org). We look forward to seeing the candidates at one of our Ordeal ceremonies this year.

Yours in
Brotherhood,

Liam Connelly
Lodge Chief

Jen Cain
Lodge Adviser



The Ordeal

The next step of the Induction, called the Ordeal, is the first step toward full membership in the Order. During the experience, candidates maintain silence, receive small amounts of food, work on meaningful service projects, and sleep apart from other campers. The Induction experience is an inward journey designed to teach deeper, more personal meanings of the Scout Oath and Law. All candidates for membership **MUST** complete the Ordeal at one of the opportunities listed below. If additional ordeal opportunities are created, they will be communicated to you and your unit via email.

● 2025 Spring Fellowship Ordeal	May 30th -June 1st, 2025 at Camp Big Timber, Elgin IL
● 2025 Fall Fellowship Ordeal	September 5th-7th, 2025 at Camp Big Timber, Elgin IL

Pre-register.... It is simple and easy – go to www.aa41.org, Your check in at the event will be faster. On-site Registration begins at 6:30pm for the fellowship events. You should arrive at camp no later than 7:15pm.

Equipment List

- BSA Medical Form (Parts A & B) & any medications
- Water Bottle
- Work Gloves & Work Clothes (we may be painting)
- Scout Uniform (Required)
- Extra Clothing (for Saturday night)
- Rain Gear, Jacket, or Coat (remember a Scout's 10 essential items?)
- Sleeping Bag (appropriate for the weather conditions)
- Ground Tarp (to use for Friday night)
- Tent (to be used after the completion of the Ordeal Ceremony only)
- Boots or sturdy shoes (remember the grass does get wet in the morning and we will be working)

The Ordeal candidate will be provided food, eating utensils, and a drinking cup. They are not to bring any of these items. During the Ordeal the candidate will receive very small portions of food during the day followed by a large evening meal prior to the Ordeal Ceremony. All Ordeal Candidates receive the same amount of food as this is part of the Induction experience. The food provided during the work day will meet minimum daily requirements of nutrition. Candidates with health restrictions should provide the information on the BSA Medical Form and notify the Lodge prior to the event. The Ordeal Induction is designed that all candidates may participate.

Ordeal Candidates will sleep under the stars the first evening. The candidates may use a ground cloth and sleeping bag the first evening. No additional camping equipment is allowed during the candidate's Ordeal. After the completion of the Ordeal Ceremony the new Ordeal member will use a tent to sleep in. Scout uniforms or Scout activity shirts are to be worn at all times except during work projects. No civilian clothing is permitted at the Order of the Arrow events except during work projects.

If you have any general questions or concerns, please contact a member of lodge/chapter leadership, who may be found on the contacts page. You may also contact the Lodge Adviser, Jen Cain, for any OA inquiry.

"He who Serves his fellows is, of all his fellows, greatest" -E. Urner Goodman



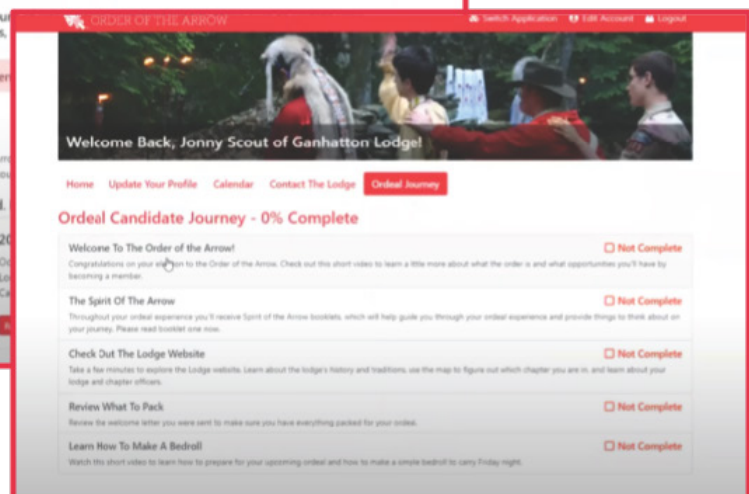
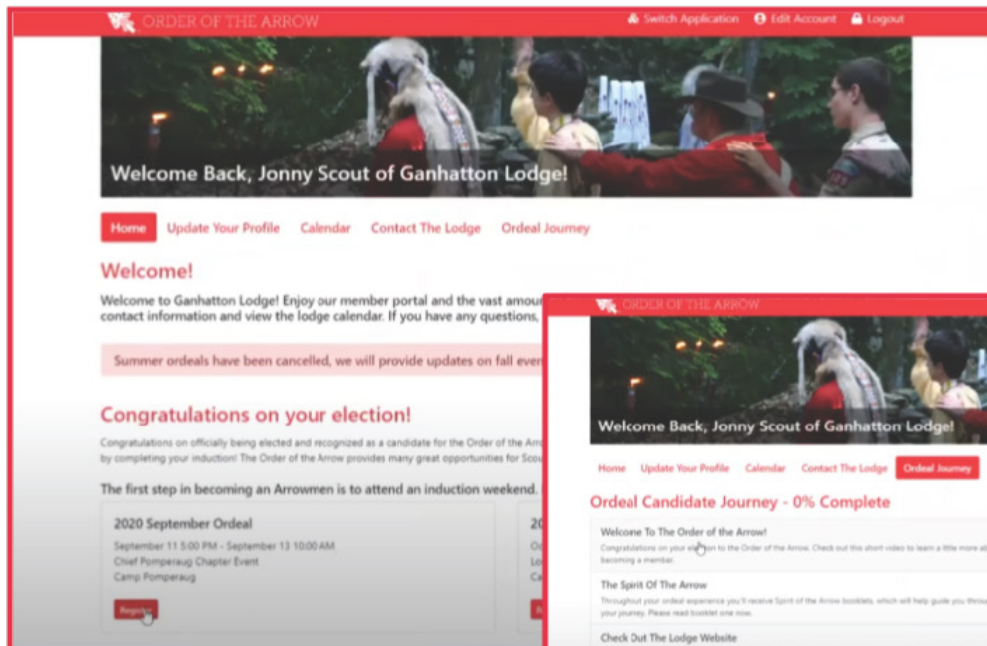
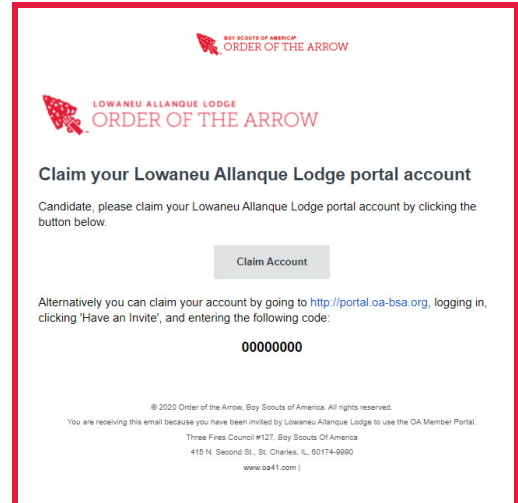
Member/Candidate Portal

Soon you will be invited to create a candidate portal account with the Lowaneu Allaque Lodge. This portal is designed to provide candidates with important information regarding our upcoming ordeals as well as provide you with a library of resources once you have been inducted into the Order of the Arrow.

This invitation will be sent from no-reply-127@lodgemaster.oa-bsa.org to the email provided to us by your unit leader shortly after your election, we will not contact you from any other email.

Upon receiving an account invitation, you will be instructed to create an "ArrowID" account. This account system is used to access the membership portal as well as register for any region & national events if you choose to attend any as an arrowman.

This is an optional system all ordeal candidates are invited to enroll in!



If you need any assistance or have any questions regarding the member portal, please reach out to the lodge secretary (sec@oa41.org).



Frequently Asked Questions

What is the OA?

- The Order of the Arrow is the National Honor Society of Scouting America. Founded on the principles of Brotherhood, Cheerfulness, and Service; we've been making Scouting better for over 100 years!

What is the cost to complete the Ordeal?

- The cost to complete the Ordeal is \$55. This includes your dues for the year, the Ordeal Sash, the OA Handbook, event patch, food, and our lodge's pocket flap – this will be sewed on your uniform by the lodge.

Once elected, am I a member?

- No, not yet! All those who are elected must first complete their Ordeal at one of our annually scheduled induction events.

What is the Ordeal?

- The Ordeal consists of a night sleeping outside, alone under the heavens, followed by a day of minimal food and silent labor.

What if I fail to take my Ordeal within the time period?

- Failure to complete the Ordeal within the established time period will require you to be re-elected the following year. In extreme cases, such as family emergencies or permanent relocation, the Lodge Executive Committee will consider granting an extension of the Ordeal eligibility period. However, each case is considered separately on its own merits and must be brought to the Lodge Executive Committee. For more information, contact the lodge adviser (chief@oa41.org).

Can I complete my Ordeal at Summer Camp?

- No, while summer programs will be occurring at Camp Big Timber, as well as our council's partner camps, the Lowaneu Allanque Lodge will not be coordinating Ordeal opportunities for the duration of the summer. Ordeal Candidates may not do their ordeal at any summer camp, regardless of whether the camp is offering the opportunity or not.

What if my question was not answered?

- Please send an email to chief@oa41.org, we will be happy to answer any question you have about the OA or the Ordeal Experience!

Camp Address

Camp Big Timber: Three Fires Council, BSA
37W955 Big Timber Rd, Elgin, IL
60124-7826

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