



“I congratulate you on your achievement of Ordeal membership. You are now entitled to all rights and privileges of the Order of the Arrow, but you must remember that this obligates you to a life of cheerful service, and that membership in our Order is given, not only for what you have done, but for what you are expected to do in the future, for your journey is just beginning.”

ALLOWAT SAKIMA

from the ORDEAL CEREMONY

Welcome to

Black Eagle Lodge

Transatlantic Council - Lodge 482

www.tac-bsa.org

OA 482 - BLACK EAGLE LODGE

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Hey, that sash looks good on you! In wearing it, you are identified among the ranks of honored Scouters dating back to 1915, when Dr. E. Umer Goodman and Colonel Carroll Edson founded the Order of the Arrow (OA). You'll find plenty of information out there about the OA. This is a more practical guide, including specific information about being a member of the Black Eagle Lodge.



THE SASH 'N DASH

No, this is not the name of a tribal dance. **Your election into the OA is the very beginning of your journey.** Statistically, 70% of you will get your sash, sew on your lodge flap, and disappear (sash 'n dash). *From the bottom of our hearts, we hope to see you soon and often!*

Your OA sash and pocket flap are not merit badges. They are not rank patches, nor are they a recognition of any achievement. By wearing your flap, you are calling yourself a servant—someone with a giving heart who enjoys helping others with no thought of payment or recognition. Your peers saw enough of this spirit in your daily life to grant you the honor of calling yourself an Arrowman. Wear your sash and lodge flap with honor, pride, and humility.

WE WORK HARD

When you ask members what the OA is, the most common answer is, "We're a service organization." So what does that mean? Whom do we serve?

To put it briefly, we serve wherever help is needed. We may serve individually but prefer to serve anywhere two or more of us gather in Brotherhood. We also facilitate and participate in annual Scouting events across Transatlantic Council.

- We serve Cub Scout Packs by teaching Indian Lore and hosting Arrow of Light and Crossover ceremonies
- We help Life Scouts with their Eagle Scout projects in the community
- We serve Boy Scout Troops with OA Unit Elections and Outdoor Camping Promotions
- We host District Camporee campfires and teach outdoors skills
- We serve as District and Council Trainers at the Scouter's Annual Conference, IOLS, NYLT, and Wood Badge
- We serve the Council with projects like the Normandy Camporee, Summer Camp set-up/tear-down, and through local Scouting partnerships in Germany, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom
- We serve on Council Camp Staff at the Klondike, Cub Scout Camp, Camp Kenya, Camp Alpine, and Camp Aventura.

WE PLAY HARD

Despite your first impression of the Ordeal, we are not all about labor. You will hear the term "fellowship" thrown around. Generally, that translates to "party." Remember Saturday night after your Ordeal? Big-time fellowship.

Black Eagle Lodge and your Chapter host many fun-centric events throughout the year. We also try to participate in Section Conclave and the National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC) – the OA version of the National Jamboree.

Like most things in life, what you get out of OA depends on what you put into it. You'll find that simply joining in OA activities fosters a sense of camaraderie and usually ends up being a lot of fun.

WHAT'S WITH ALL THE INDIAN STUFF?

The fundamentals of OA are based on the lesson taken from the legend of the Lenni Lenape tribe that you heard during your Ordeal ceremony. To reinforce and perpetuate these ideals, we wear Indian regalia and perform traditional ceremonies.

Wimachtendienk – pronounced we-MOCK-ten-dink. The Lenni Lenape word for “Brotherhood.”

Wingolauchsik – pronounced wing-o-LAO-sick. The Lenni Lenape word for “Cheerfulness.”

Witahemui – pronounced wit-a-HEM-a-way. The Lenni Lenape word for “Service.”

Translation: “Brotherhood of Cheerful Service.”

Allowat Sakima, the Chief in the Ordeal Ceremony, also pointed out the symbolism of the bow and arrow—being tested under pressure, having a keen point, following the straight and true path of the arrow. These provide the context for our primary goal: To promote Scout camping and crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of cheerful service to others.

Regarding Indian craft, you will find Lodge members who are quite skilled and knowledgeable, and have adopted various aspects of Native American craftwork as their personal hobbies. Always feel free to ask them about it.



The OA conducts Pow Wows involving traditional Native American dance and drum circles. Our Pow Wows are a rare opportunity for us to gather from across Europe and the Middle East for fellowship so we typically spend them competing in Indian games and outdoorsmen skills.

Where do I get ceremony regalia?

You just head over the Indian section at Lidl or Decathlon. NOT! We have to make it all by hand. We strongly encourage members to get involved in ceremonies throughout the year. To get you started, many Chapters have regalia sets and ceremony scripts you may borrow. Please ask your Chapter Chief or Chapter Adviser and they will be happy to help.

ORDEAL. BROTHERHOOD. VIGIL.

All Lodge members are considered equals. There is no “rank advancement” within the OA. When you completed your Ordeal, you became a full member with all the rights, privileges and expectations of any other member.

That being said, however, there is a membership sequence. As an **Ordeal Member**, you are given time to develop an understanding of the true nature of servant leadership so that it may become a natural part of your daily living. After 10 months, you are

eligible to become a **Brotherhood Member**—one who has completed their induction into the OA. There is a simple questioning process and 5 challenges through which you attain Brotherhood status.



The **Vigil Honor** is just that, an honor. It cannot be earned by meeting a list of requirements, but rather is a recognition bestowed upon those who have given exceptional service to the Lodge. *It is important to note that Brotherhood is the only membership status that you can earn on your own.*

OA STRUCTURE



You'll notice that Black Eagle Lodge is in Section E17 of the Eastern Region in the National Service Territory 11. The Lodge is a council-level organization and the Chapters correspond to each District in Transatlantic Council.

WE NEED LEADERS. WE NEED FOLLOWERS.

So, you want to get involved, but you don't want to memorize a ceremony script. Or maybe you're already Senior Patrol Leader in your troop and really don't want another leadership title. Or maybe you do! Black Eagle Lodge wants you to use your talent. Here are specific ways you can get involved:

Elangomat. This is the Lenni Lenape word for "friend." These guides help newer members throughout the Ordeal experience. Youth and adults can be Elangomats.

Chapter Leadership. As a Scout-led organization, youth can run for Chapter Chief or Chapter Vice-Chief. Adults may serve as Chapter Advisers or Associate Chapter Advisers.

Lodge Committees. Again, these are all run by and comprised of youth. There are many committees that handle day-to-day operations of the Lodge. Some committees support only one event and some are year-round. They may include: Ceremonies, Camping Promotion, Service, High Adventure, and Vigil Honor.

Lodge Leadership. Youth who have served in other positions and have learned the ropes may run for Lodge Chief, Lodge Vice-Chief, Lodge Secretary, or Lodge Treasurer. The adult in charge is the Lodge Adviser and there are several Associate Lodge Advisers to support the youth leaders.