BLACK EAGLE LODGE
ORDER OF THE ARROW

TO Parent of Ordeal Candidate, Mayflower District

FROM Frank Sotrines, Chapter Adviser, Namassakett Chapter

DATE 2-4 October 2026

SUBJECT **2026 Order of the Arrow Ordeal Candidate**

The purpose of the Ordeal in the Order of the Arrow is to teach the individual that man cannot be alone in this world. Man must realize that there are those who are in need, more than he is himself, and that he must serve his fellow man. With the Order of the Arrow, we put these statements into practice both in our troops and in the world at large.

The Ordeal will start at 9:00pm on Friday and will last for approximately 24 hours. Silence will be maintained by candidates during this time. Should an emergency arise candidates will be permitted to speak. Candidates should also not smoke or eat snacks during this period. Throughout the weekend water will be readily available.

Physical labour will consist of tasks which will be assigned on Saturday morning. Any medical problems that could affect a candidate's health over the weekend should be detailed on the attached pre-registration form. Rest periods during the physical labour will be regular.

On the first night of the weekend candidates will sleep under the stars using their horseshoe rolls, unless weather conditions are sufficiently poor enough to move candidates into buildings or under shelter. Candidates should make sure that they bring a tent with them, as they will be sleeping in tents for the second night of the weekend.

At no time will a candidate be coerced into breaking their pledges of silence or self-denial, nor will hazing or any similar activity be condoned. Any instance of this type of behaviour should be immediately reported to the Chapter Adviser.

Please note that the Order of the Arrow is a division of the Boy Scouts of America and as such operates under the same regulations as any scout troop. The Order of the Arrow is not a secret society; should any parent or candidate have any queries they may contact the Chapter Adviser. It is my responsibility, as the adult Adviser, to ensure that the Ordeal is regulated in the manner required by the Boy Scouts of America and is conducted according to its principles.

I look forward to meeting both the parents and candidates at the Ordeal.

Yours in Scouting,

Frank Sotrines

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Namassakett Chapter Adviser

1. Order of the Arrow Overview

1.1 What is the Order of the Arrow?

The Order of the Arrow (OA) is a national brotherhood of Scout honor campers that originated in 1915 to strengthen troops and encourage outdoor experiences. It is based on brotherhood and cheerful service to fellow man. The Order of the Arrow provides broad-based leadership opportunities that strengthen personal development for individual Scouts and maintain interest in the Scouting program.

1.2 What is the Purpose of the Order of the Arrow?

To recognize those campers who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives and by such recognition cause other campers to conduct themselves in such manner as to warrant recognition.

To develop and maintain camping traditions and spirit.

To promote Scout camping, which reaches its greatest effectiveness as a part of the unit's camping program, both year-round and in the summer camp.

To crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.

1.3 What is the Ordeal?

The ordeal consists of a series of four tests which begin at 9:00pm on the Friday evening and should continue until 9:00pm on Saturday. There are four tests involved: separation, sleeping alone on Friday night under the stars, silence, not talking for a 24-hour period, arduous labor during Saturday, and only scant food throughout.

Candidates will not be permitted to snack or smoke during the ordeal period (9:00pm Friday to 9:00pm Saturday) and talking will be prohibited except in an emergency. Every precaution will be taken by the Order of the Arrow to ensure that a Candidate does not over exert themselves.

For the sleeping alone on Friday night candidates will need a Horseshoe Roll (see diagram in this package). Candidates will be permitted to sleep in tents on the Saturday night.

1.4 Once I Have Started the Ordeal Can I Stop?

If at any time you do not wish to continue with the Ordeal, please ask to speak to the Chapter Adviser who will make the necessary arrangements.

2. General Fellowship Information

2.1 What If I Can't Make the Fall Fellowship Ordeal Weekend?

If you can't make it to our Fall Fellowship Ordeal Weekend then if this means you have not been able to complete your Ordeal within year of being elected then your status as an Order of the Arrow Candidate lapses and you will have to be re-elected as a candidate by your unit in the annual OA elections usually scheduled for early Spring 2026. In some cases, you may apply for an extension of your candidate status. An example of such a case would be a loss in the family. For further information, please contact the Chapter Adviser, Frank Sotrines.

2.2 I Am Leaving the Country Before the Ordeal, What Do I Do?

If you are leaving Britain permanently before the Fall Fellowship Weekend, please contact Frank Sotrines (email given below) and you will be given a letter to take with you. The letter should then be handed to your new Scoutmaster when you join your new troop. The letter will confirm that you have been elected and called out as a candidate for the Order of the Arrow. Though in some Lodges (Councils) you may have to be re-elected before you can complete your Ordeal.

2.3 How Much Is the Ordeal Weekend?

The cost for candidates is $75.00. This includes simple snacks before start on Friday as well as food for all of Saturday and breakfast on Sunday, Order of the Arrow Dues for the rest of 2026, Order of the Arrow Handbook, and Order of the Arrow Sash.

You can pay using the registration link on the Councils scouting event website for the event. If you have any issues regarding paying please contact the Chapter Adviser (telephone number given at bottom of this page).

Parents and Scouts should note that this is the actual cost of the Ordeal, and we have budgeted to "break even." The cost for the weekend is high due to the camp food cost, campsite rental charges, and Order of the Arrow items. If the cost is prohibitive, please contact your Scoutmaster or Troop Committee to discuss the issue.

2.4 How Do I Register?

To register for the weekend please go through the link for the event on the scouting event website in addition to contacting the Chapter Adviser via the e-mail address below by September 27th.

2.5 What Do I Need to Bring?

You need to bring all of your normal personal camping gear and a tent, work clothes, work gloves, hand axe/hatchet if you have one, scout uniform, a horseshoe roll, and your Scout Spirit. Make sure you bring your pocket knife and money. Possibly there may be an OA Trading Post available selling a limited range of OA souvenirs, as well as example products that you can buy of the OA Trading Post online.

2.6 What Time Will the Weekend Start and Finish?

As the Fellowship is running in unison with the Camporee, the arrival and departure times are in conjunction with this so as such arrival from 18h00 on Friday, 2nd October 2026 and departing after the closing on Sunday, about 10h30.

2.7 Where will it be held?

Lees Wood Scout & Guide Activity Centre

Site Address: Lees Wood Scout & Guide Activity Centre, Fir Tree Hill, Chandler's Cross, Rickmansworth WD3 4LY

Closest Train Stations: Watford Junction Station (served by West Midlands Railway from London Euston) or Rickmansworth Station (via Metropolitan Underground Line) – both are approx. 3.5-4 miles of the campsite.

If you plan on travelling by train, please contact Frank Sotrines on 07540-984358 by September 27th so that arrangements can be made if require to be picked up from the train station.

2.8 Who Do I Contact If I Have Further Questions?

If you have further questions, please contact your Scoutmaster or:

Chapter Adviser: **Frank Sotrines**

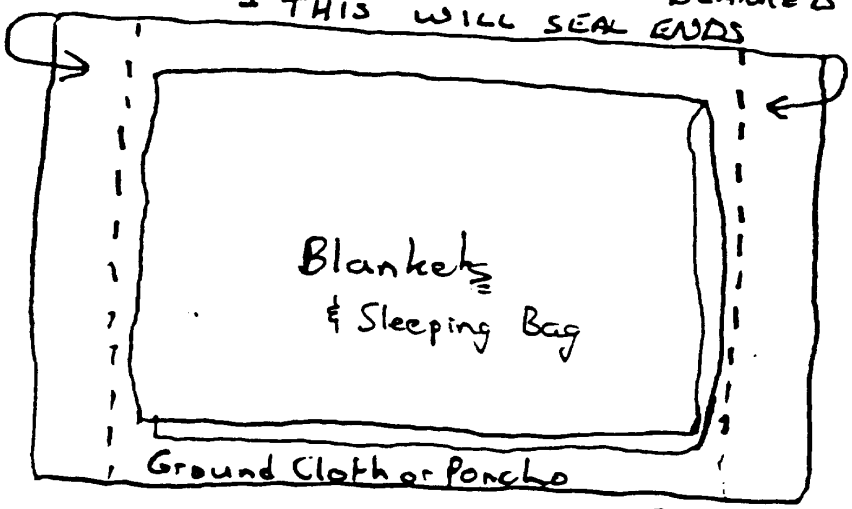
Tel: 07540-984358 (Cell)

e-mail:namassakettadvisor@gmail.com

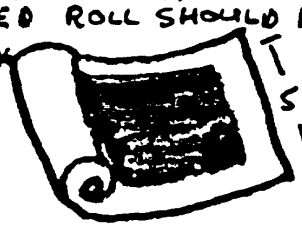
We look forward to seeing you at the weekend.

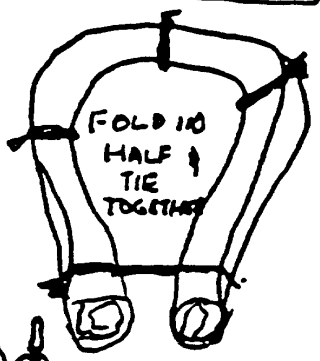
HORSESHOE ROLL

FOLD SIDES OF PONCHO OVER BLANKETS
+ THIS WILL SEAL ENDS



WHEN SIDES HAVE BEEN FOLDED
START ROLLING AT ONE END.
FINISHED ROLL SHOULD BE
5 FEET LONG





WEAR OVER
RIGHT
SHOULDER.