

ORDER OF THE ARROW BROTHERHOOD REQUIREMENTS



Ever since the inception of the Order of the Arrow in 1915, it was intended that all members should be equal in rank. Brotherhood membership does not provide a specific degree of rank, status, or special honor like that of the Vigil Honor.

Instead, the Brotherhood is an opportunity for members to reaffirm their belief in the high purposes of the Order. The ceremony is intended as a source of inspiration that motivates brothers to give even greater service to Scouting.

An Ordeal member may become a Brotherhood member when he has completed the five **Challenges of Brotherhood Membership** below:

1) Memorize the signs of OA Membership:

A) Obligation

I, (your name), do hereby promise on my honor as a Scout, that I will always and faithfully observe and preserve the traditions of the Order of the Arrow, Wimachtendienk, Wingolauchsik, Witahemui. I will always regard the ties of Brotherhood in the Order of the Arrow as lasting, and will seek to preserve a cheerful spirit even in the midst of irksome tasks and weighty responsibilities, and will endeavor, so far as in my power lies, to be unselfish in service and devotion to the welfare of others.

B) OA Song

“Firm bound in brotherhood, gather the clan that cheerful service brings to fellow man. Circle our council fire, weld tightly every link that binds us in brotherhood, Wimachtendienk.”

C) Admonition

Never said above a whisper. If you need your memory refreshed, check with a lodge officer or ceremonial team.

D) Sign of Ordeal Membership

Drawing an arrow from a quiver over the left shoulder with right arm.

E) OA Handclasp

Done with the left hand, lower two fingers interlocked.

2) Advance in your understanding of the Ordeal:

A) The four principal characters of the Ordeal Ceremony:

- **Kichkinet** (Guide) – represents helpfulness & friendliness.
- **Nutiket** (Guard) – represents cheerfulness.
- **Meteu** (Medicine Man) – represents brotherhood & reminds us to love one another.
- **Allowat Sakima** (Mighty Chief) – represents service.

B) The four tests of the Ordeal:

- **Night Alone** – to teach you self-reliance and to show that you are set apart from your fellow Scouts for something higher.
- **24 Hours of Silence** – to turn your thoughts inward to the things of the spirit.
- **Scant Food** – to teach you the virtues of self-denial.
- **Arduous Toil for a Day** – to indicate your willingness to serve others all through your life.

C) The Arrow (as used in the Ordeal)

- It is a **symbol of leadership**
- Worn pointed high over the right shoulder as an outward symbol indicating that he possesses the qualities of leadership that the Arrow represents.

D) The True Name of the Order of the Arrow

- **“Wimachtendienk”, Wingolauchsik, Witahemui**”, which means **“The Brotherhood of Cheerful Service”**.

3) Serve Your Unit

Retain your registration in Scouting.

- During a period of at least 6 months, strive to fulfill your obligation by continuing and expanding your service to your own Troop or Post.

4) Plan for Service in your Lodge

Retain your registration in Saklan Lodge and keep your dues paid.

- Be aware that acceptance of Brotherhood Membership involves a pledge of service to the Lodge.
- Develop a concrete idea of how you plan to fulfill this pledge.

5) Review Your Progress

When you earnestly feel that you have met the four challenges above, **write a letter** to the Lodge Secretary (or Chief). In this letter:

- Explain what you think the obligation means.
- Describe how you have been fulfilling this Obligation in your unit and in your daily life, and how you have used your understanding of the Ordeal to aid in this service.
- Describe your specific plans for continuing this service in the future.
- Tell what the Order of the Arrow means to you, and why you are seeking Brotherhood Membership.

When the five challenges have been completed, the Ordeal Member should present himself at the requested time, as a candidate for Brotherhood Membership. This may be done at any lodge fellowship or activity offering Brotherhood conversion.

At this time, the Brotherhood Candidate will be given the opportunity to rededicate himself to the lodge and the OA by performing cheerful service during the fellowship or activity. He will also be told the time and place of his Brotherhood interview.

The Brotherhood Candidate should arrive at the Brotherhood interview in appropriate attire. This is usually a Scout Field uniform but may be an Indian outfit if you have one. At this time, he should bring his letter to the Lodge Secretary as described in Challenge #5. The interview is a review of the Arrowmen's progress, and a time to ask any questions about the Brotherhood Ceremony.

Following the interview, the Brotherhood Ceremony will take place. All Ordeal Members who have successfully fulfilled the five challenges will be inducted as Brotherhood Members of the Order of the Arrow.



PRONUNCIATIONS

Wimachtendienk (Brotherhood) Wee-mok-ten-dee-enk

Wingolauchsik (Cheerfulness) Win-go-lough-sik

Witahemui (Service) Wi-tah-hem-oo-ee

Delaware Indians Lenni Lenape Len-nee Len-ah-pee

The Chieftain Chingachgook Ching-gatch-gook

Chieftain's son Uncas Un-cuss

Mighty Chief Allowat Sakima Al-lo-wot Sa-kee-ma

Medicine Man Meteu Mee-tay-o

The Guard □utiket □u-te-ket

The Guide Kichkinet Kitch-kin-et

ORDER OF THE ARROW BROTHERHOOD QUESTIONARE
THIS MATERIAL IS TO BE KNOWN BEFORE THE CEREMONY.

1. What is the name of initial membership in the Order of the Arrow?
(Ordeal membership)
2. Why is it so called?
(Because it is preceded by a fourfold ordeal)
3. What are the four parts of this ordeal and their respective purposes?
 - A night of camping alone under the heavens, to prove my self-reliance
 - A day of arduous toil, to indicate my willingness to serve others
 - 24 hours of scant food, to demonstrate my power of self-denial
 - A like period of silence, to turn my thoughts inward
4. How were you prepared for the ordeal?
(I was led by Kichkinet to the North end of the camp, where the significance of the Arrow was first revealed as I tested the bow.)
5. When you had completed the Ordeal, how were you dealt with?
(I was placed on the trail which leads to the circle of the Lodge.)
6. By whom were you stopped first as you approached the circle?
(By Nutiket, the guard, who asked if I had passed the Ordeal without flinching)
7. Who next barred your further progress?
(Meteu, the Medicine Man, who inquired if I had been given the Admonition)
8. Had you been given the Admonition?
(I had not, but Kichkinet, my guide, had and gave it for me)
9. Before whom did you then at last arrive?
(Before Allowat Sakima, the chief of the fire, who asked if I had been completely prepared to receive the obligation)
10. What was Kichkinet's reply to this inquiry?
(Only in binding them together)
11. How did Kichkinet call the attention of each of these officers to your presence?
(By three taps of the hand on the right shoulder)
12. What did these taps represent?
(The three parts of the Scout Oath)
13. How did each of the officers respond to Kichkinet's taps
(By one tap, followed by two taps, on the right shoulder)
14. What did these taps represent?
(The 12 points of the Scout Law)
15. How were you and your companions bound together?
(By a rope, which until we took the Obligation, represented our tie to the Brotherhood)
16. How was your preparation for the Obligation completed?

(Nutiket directed me to hold my right hand at the Scout Sign and repeat the Obligation after Allowat Sakima)

17. Repeat the Obligation:

“I, (your name), do hereby promise on my honor as a Scout, that I will always and faithfully observe and preserve the traditions of the Order of the Arrow, Wimachtendienk, Wingolauchsik, Witahemui. I will always regard the ties of Brotherhood in the Order of the Arrow as lasting, and will seek to preserve a cheerful spirit even in the midst of irksome tasks and weighty responsibilities, and will endeavor, so far as in my power lies, to be unselfish in service and devotion to the welfare of others.”)

18. In what did Meteu then instruct you?

(In the legend on which our Order was founded)

19. Who are the central figures of that legend?

(The aged Chieftain, Chingachgook, and his son, Uncas, who by their cheerful and selfsacrificing service are said to have saved the Delaware lodges from annihilation.)

20. What did Allowat Sakima then impart to you?

(The symbol of the Order, the Admonition, and the sign of Ordeal membership)

21. What is the symbol of the Order?

(The arrow, whose undeviating course when aimed high is a token of leadership)

22. How is it worn?

(Pointing over the right shoulder)

23. Give the handclasp of the Order.

24. How must the Admonition always be given?

(Whispered in the ear)

25. Give the Admonition.

26. What does it mean?

(To love one another)

27. Give the sign of the Ordeal.

28. What is the full name of the Ordeal?

(Wimachtendienk, Wingolauchsik, Witahemui)

29. In what language is it given?

(In the language of the Delaware Indians, the Lenni Lenape)

30. What is the meaning in English?

(The Brotherhood of Cheerful Service)

31. Give the words, or sing, the song of the Order.

“Firm bound in brotherhood, gather the clan that cheerful service brings to fellow man. Circle our council fire, weld tightly every link that binds us in brotherhood, Wimachtendienk.”)

