

## QUESTIONS ABOUT ELECTIONS AND ORDEALS

**How many Unit Elections can be held in one calendar year?** One.

**When can a troop have a unit election?** A troop or team can schedule a unit election with a chapter unit election team anytime between November 1 and April 30, this approximates the school year which works out well for the lodge and for the maximum participation of the new candidate.

**Can a troop or team wait and hold an election at summer camp?** Yes, elections may be held at summer camps and some of the camps provide for attendance at an Ordeal. Check with your camp director to determine the amount of the ordeal fee and the availability of the election. Elections held at camp count as though they were held in the November to April period following camp.

**What is the procedure to schedule an election?** A Scoutmaster should be contacted by the Chapter Unit Election Team in their district. If the Scoutmaster has not been contacted, he/she may contact the Chapter Chief and/or the Chapter Adviser for their district or they may sign up on the lodge web page for a unit election.

**How can a Scoutmaster find out who is the Chapter Chief or Adviser in their District?** Go the chapter page of the Lodge website for a list of names OR contact their District Executive OR ask at a roundtable (most Chapters have their monthly meetings at the roundtables) OR call the Service Center and ask and ask the camp desk who the current officers and advisers are for your particular district.

**When should a Scoutmaster or Team Coach schedule an election?** The Scoutmaster could schedule a unit election at a court of honor or other event that will insure the maximum number of unit members are present. If parents are present at the election it insures an added measure of support and participation in the unit program.

**How many Scouts need to be present for an election?** Per National O/A Policy, at least 50% of the registered youth must be present at the election. If less than 50% are present, the election must be postponed.

**How does a Scoutmaster determine the number of REGISTERED YOUTH?** The number of registered youth is comprised of those scouts on the troop charter who are under the age of 18 and those adult male scouts who are 18, 19 or 20 who meet the following conditions: 1) They are on the troop charter as adults. 2) They may be away at college or serving in the military AND are active when they are home. Adult male Scouters who are 18, 19 or 20 are considered YOUTH in the Order of the Arrow. They must also meet the requirements for eligibility for youth. In varsity teams the number of registered youth is determined the same way. Elections are not held in Venturer groups pursuant to national policy.

**Does a youth who is already a member of the Order of the Arrow count in the number of**

**registered youth?** Yes.

**What happens at the Unit Election?** The local Chapter Unit Election Team meets with the Scoutmaster prior to the election to obtain a list of scouts who meet the eligibility requirements. The Team then presents the Order of the Arrow to the group of youth (and parents, if at a court of honor). This often includes a short video presentation. The Team explains the requirements for eligibility. The Team explains the election procedure. The youth in the troop vote on ballots. The ballots are collected and counted by the Unit Election Team. The Team presents the results of the election to the Scoutmaster. The Scoutmaster decides if the results are to be announced to the youth at that time or wait until a callout ceremony at a later date. The Scoutmaster signs the reporting form. The form is forwarded to the Great Salt Lake Council office for processing and a copy is left for the Unit Leader.

**What are the requirements for eligibility?** Per National O/A Policy, there are four requirements for eligibility: 1) A youth must be an active registered youth in the troop or team. 2) A youth must have obtained the rank of first class prior to the election. 3) A youth must have completed at least 15 days and nights of camping within 2 years prior to the election. The 15 days/nights MUST include one and only one long term scout camping experience of 6 days/nights within the two year period prior to the election. A second or more long term camping experience may not be included in the 15 days/nights requirement. A scout camping experience may include summer camp, Philmont, other high adventure base camping program, OR a troop long term camping trip. 4) The approval of the Scoutmaster as an active youth member of the troop.

**Can the Scoutmaster hold the election or count the ballots?** No - that is the responsibility of the Unit Election Team unless the Scoutmaster is a member of the OA and has received unit election team training in which case he can hold the unit election.

**Can a Scoutmaster disqualify, void or change the results of an election?** No. The Scoutmaster qualified the candidates prior to the election.

**What if the Scoutmaster won't sign the reporting form?** The Unit Election Team should immediately inform their Chapter Adviser of this.

**What if a scout has passed his first class requirements but has not received his badge or card ?** A scout has earned the rank when he has successfully completed the requirements and had a troop board of review. The scout does not have to have the badge or the card to be eligible for membership in the Order of the Arrow.

**What happens to the reporting form?** The Unit Election Team gives the bottom copy of the form to the Scoutmaster. The middle form goes to the Chapter leadership for their records. The top copy is sent to the council service center for processing.

**Who may vote?** Again - two groups. Group 1: All active youth members of the troop may vote, including those who are already members of O/A. Group 2: Those active adult male scouters

registered in the troop that are 18, 19 or 20 years of age may vote.

**How many candidates can a scout vote for on their ballot?** Each scout may vote for as many or as few of the eligible scouts as they think are worthy. If a scout thinks none of the candidates are worthy, the scout may turn in a blank ballot. If a scout thinks only one candidate is eligible, the scout may write that name on the ballot. If a scout thinks all the candidates are worthy, the scout may write all the names on the ballot.

**How many votes must a candidate receive to be elected into the Order?** A candidate must receive at least 50% of the votes of the number of ballots turned in. Note: There may be fewer ballots turned in than there are scouts at the election. A scout is NOT required to vote. Example: If there are 15 Scouts present and only 12 ballots turned, a candidate would need to receive  $(12 \text{ ballots} / 2 = 6)$  or 6 votes. If there are 16 scouts present and 13 ballots are turned in, a candidate would need to receive  $(13 / 2 = 6.5, \text{ Round up to } 7)$  seven votes. If the result of the number of ballots turned in divided by two is a fraction, the National O/A Policy is to round up to the next whole number.

**How does a troop or team recommend an adult for membership in the Order of the Arrow?**

Per National O/A Policy - The troop committee is responsible to recommend an adult for membership. It is NOT the responsibility of the Scoutmaster. The troop committee may recommend an adult if and only if the unit has held a youth election and at least one youth was elected in the current calendar year. The committee may recommend one adult per every 50 youth members of the troop. If a troop has 20 members and has elected at least one youth, the committee may recommend up to one adult. If a troop has 75 members and has elected at least one youth, the committee may recommend up to 2 adults.

**What are the eligibility requirements for adults?** The adult must be registered in the unit and meet the same camping requirement as the youth. The adult obviously does not have to have obtained the rank of first class. The adult does not have to have the approval of the Scoutmaster.

**How does the troop committee recommend an adult?** The troop committee should obtain the official adult recommendation form either the Unit Election Team or download it from the Lodge Website. The committee should make their selection based on the ability of the adult to support the youth program of the Order of the Arrow. The committee should keep in mind that adult membership in the Order of the Arrow is not based on recognition of service to the unit but for the ability and willingness of that adult to directly support the youth of the Order. The committee chair may give the form to the Unit Election Team OR may mail it to the Council Service Center to the attention of the Lodge Unit Election Committee.

**Why is it that youth are "elected" and adults are "recommended"?** Once a youth is elected, he will automatically be invited to Lodge Ordeals. Adults are recommended for membership. Per National O/A Policy, the Lodge Adviser and the Scout Executive must approve the "recommended" adult before the adult will be invited to join the lodge. Please keep in mind that adult membership is based on the ability and willingness of that adult to support the Order of the Arrow youth based program.

**When are these Ordeals?** The El-Ku-Ta Lodge holds 2-3 ordeals in the spring and 1 in the fall. In addition some of the summer camps offer the Ordeal each week for those attending camp. Registration is online, mail in at the Service Center, or sometimes at the door of the event. A complete listing of the dates and equipment can be obtained from the lodge web page.

**How do those who are elected find out about these Ordeals?** They are mailed a personal invitation with all of the information necessary to register as soon as the election form comes into the council office. Mailing is handled through the Ordeal Committee of the lodge. Similar information is posted on the lodge web page.

**What if a scout who is elected can not make it to any of the Ordeals?** We understand that many youth lead very busy lives. However, membership in the Order of the Arrow is based on a willingness to serve fellow scouts. If a scout can not make the time to attend an Ordeal, how will they make to time to serve their fellow scouts as a member of the Order? Candidates have 1 year from the date of their election to complete an Ordeal. After that time, they must be reelected.