



NISQUALLY LODGE #155

# ORDER OF THE ARROW

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## ANNUAL UNIT ELECTIONS

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Troop Scoutmasters and Varsity Scout Coaches,

The Order of the Arrow is Scouting's National Honor Society. It recognizes those who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives and, through that recognition, inspires others to conduct themselves in such a way that warrants similar recognition. The Order of the Arrow's purpose is to promote camping, to develop leaders, and to crystallize the scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.

Each Boy Scout troop and Varsity Scout team with qualified scouts is urged to hold an election, no later than April 15, 2017, to select candidates for Ordeal. Two Ordeals will be held in 2017 at Camp Thunderbird (June 2-4 and August 18-20). Elected candidates must attend one of these Ordeals. As unit leader, you select the date and place of your troop or team's election.

### Youth Membership Qualifications

Prior to an election, the unit leader must approve a scout to be nominated for election by certifying the nomination's Scout spirit and youth membership qualifications:

- A Boy Scout or Varsity Scout who holds the First Class rank, is under the age of 21, and is registered as an active member of the troop or team.
- After registration with a troop or team, the youth must have experienced 15 days and nights of Boy Scout camping during the two-year period prior to the election. The 15 days and nights must include one, but no more than one, long-term camp consisting of six consecutive days and five nights of resident camping, approved and under the auspices and standards of the Boy Scouts of America. The balance of the camping must be overnight, weekend, or other short-term camps.

Voting for youth candidates will be based on their spirit of brotherhood, cheerfulness (no matter how tiresome their duties), and a willingness to give unselfish and wholehearted service to others at all times.

### Adult Membership Qualifications

Each year, upon holding an election for youth candidates that results in at least one youth candidate being elected, the unit committee may nominate registered unit adults, 21 years of age or older, to the lodge adult selection committee. The number of adults nominated can be no more than one-third of the number of youth candidates elected, rounded up where the number of youth candidates is not a multiple of three. In addition to the one-third limit, the unit committee may nominate the currently-serving unit leader (but not assistant leaders), as long as he or she has served as unit leader for at least the previous 12 months. Recommendations of the adult selection committee, with the approval of the Scout executive, will be candidates for induction, provided the following conditions are fulfilled:

- Selection of the adult is based on the ability to perform the necessary functions to help the Order fulfill its purpose and is not for recognition of service, including current and prior achievements and positions.
- The individual will be an asset to the Order because of demonstrated abilities that fulfill the purpose of the Order.
- The camping requirements set forth for youth members are fulfilled.
- The adult leader's membership will provide a positive example for the growth and development of the youth members of the lodge.

The date and place set aside for the election of candidates should be held at a regularly scheduled unit meeting or camping experience. Every effort should be made to have 100% attendance of both youths and adults at this meeting. An election team from the Order of the Arrow Nisqually Lodge will be on hand to conduct the election.

Respectfully yours,

Michael Forbes  
Lodge Chief

Sam Taylor  
Lodge Vice-Chief for Ceremonies

Eugene Victor  
Lodge Adviser



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## HOW TO PREPARE FOR YOUR UNIT ELECTION

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Following is a step-by-step process to help troops and teams prepare for their unit's election. This preparation can be done by the Troop Scoutmaster or Varsity Scout Coach, Committee Chair, Advancement Chair, Troop or Team OA Advisor, or any adult leader who has access to troop or team records.

1. Compile a list of all scouts, under the age of 21, who hold the First Class rank and who are registered as active members of your troop or team.
2. Confirm that each scout has met the camping days and nights requirements (*see requirements on previous page*).
3. If you are not the unit leader, arrange a meeting with the unit leader and certify each nominee's Scout spirit and youth membership qualifications.
4. Contact Nisqually Lodge #155 or your local Chapter (see table of Districts and Chapters below) and arrange for an election team to come to a meeting and conduct an election.
5. Once you have set a date for your unit's election, send out an announcement (*a sample letter is included in this packet*) to your unit along with the final list of eligible scouts and the eligibility requirements. This will allow scouts an opportunity to opt-out, if they choose to, and will allow scouts who are not on the list, and believe they should be, to challenge. Scouts wishing to challenge should request a conference with the unit leader to discuss their eligibility.
6. Send to the election team the *final* list of scouts along with any other paperwork provided to you by the election team so they may prepare for your election.
7. A meeting or two prior to the election, instruct your unit that voting for youth candidates will be based on their spirit of brotherhood, cheerfulness (no matter how tiresome their duties), and a willingness to give unselfish and wholehearted service to others at all times. The election team will do this also on the night of the election, but it never hurts for scouts to hear it more than once. This also allows them to study the list of eligible scouts and give thoughtful consideration of how they will vote.

### Districts and Corresponding Chapters

<b>District</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Chapter</b>
Capital Area	Squaxin	Mount Tahoma	Wapiti
Coastal Waters	Kcum Kum	Puget Sound	Tsaw
Glacier View	Sahaptin	Timberline	Chehalis
Hylebos	Ahotasu Mbi		



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## SAMPLE ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT

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Following is a sample announcement that units may use as a guide for when they announce their upcoming election to their unit.

Greetings!

Day, Date, Time, we will hold elections for the Order of the Arrow. (Arrowmen, please plan on wearing your sash to the meeting.)

The Order of the Arrow is Scouting's National Honor Society. It recognizes those who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives and, through that recognition, inspires others to conduct themselves in such a way that warrants similar recognition. The Order of the Arrow's purpose is to promote camping, to develop leaders, and to crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.

To be eligible for election a scout must be First Class rank or higher and have experienced 15 days and nights of Boy Scout camping during the two-year period prior to the election. The 15 days and nights must include one, but no more than one, long-term camp consisting of six consecutive days and five nights. The balance of their camping must be overnight, weekend, or other short-term camps (short-term camping is anything less than 72 hours).

The following scouts have met the eligibility requirements and have received a recommendation from [insert unit leader title and name, e.g., Scoutmaster Murray]:

List Scout Names Here

If your name is NOT on this list and you feel you have met the eligibility requirements, please contact me immediately so that we can resolve this. If you do not wish to be considered for the Order of the Arrow, please contact me prior to [insert date] so that I can have your name removed from the voting ballot.

Signature