



Order of the Arrow Mowogo Lodge 243



Unit Election Procedures

The induction process for the Order of the Arrow involves several steps. The first part of the induction process is to hold an OA unit election. To be a member of the Order of the Arrow, each youth candidate must be elected by their fellow scouts in a unit election that is conducted by members of the local OA chapter. Unit elections may be held in all Boy Scout Troops and Varsity Teams. Unit elections may not be conducted Venture Crews. Each unit may conduct one unit election each year. The Order is unique in that its members are elected by non-members and members alike. 50% of a unit's active youth membership (defined by BSA Standards) must be present to hold an election and a candidate is elected by 50% plus one of the votes of the unit's youth members in attendance. Each unit is responsible for contacting their local OA chapter to schedule their unit election and should do so anytime they have an eligible candidate. The following page has detailed instructions for scheduling a unit election

The second, optional, part of the induction process is for the unit to participate in an OA Call Out Ceremony. This ceremony is conducted by each OA Chapter and is used to formally recognize the OA candidate. This ceremony may be conducted at Camporees or District Events. Contact your OA chapter for time and location of the Call-Out Ceremony. Although it is preferable, it is not mandatory for any candidate to participate in a callout ceremony to be eligible to attend an Ordeal weekend, so don't let a candidate's inability to attend the callout prevent them from attending an Ordeal weekend.

The third part of the induction process is for each candidate that has been called out to participate in a Lodge Induction Weekend that is commonly called an "Ordeal". The entire experience is designed to teach significant values. All candidates for membership must complete the Ordeal within one year of their election to become an Ordeal member of the Order of the Arrow. Mowogo Lodge conducts two induction weekends each year. The two weekends are typically scheduled for the 3rd weekends of March and May. Please check the Mowogo Lodge Calendar for exact dates.

Youth Candidate Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a registered member of the Boy Scouts of America and approved by the unit leader as eligible.
- Complete 15 days and nights of Boy Scout camping during the two-year period prior to the election
- Camping requirement must include one, but no more than one, long-term camp consisting of six consecutive days and five nights of resident camping. The balance of the camping must be overnight, weekend, or other short-term camps.
- Youth must be under the age of 21, hold the BSA First Class rank or higher, and following approval by the Scoutmaster or Varsity team Coach, be elected by the youth members of their troop or team.

Adult Candidate Eligibility Requirements

- Be a registered BSA adult leader age 21 or older
- Meet the same camping requirements as those for youth candidates.
- Be an asset to the Order and be a positive role model for youth.
- Have a nomination form submitted and approved by Lodge selection committee and council camping committee.

After 10 months of service as an Ordeal member and fulfilling certain requirements, a member may take part in the Brotherhood ceremony, which places further emphasis on the ideals of Scouting and the Order. Completion of this ceremony signifies sealing one's membership in the Order.

Note: *Nominated adults must be approved by Mowogo Lodge before they can be considered a candidate for a callout ceremony and Lodge Induction weekend. Unit leaders will be notified if a nomination has been approved or rejected.*

Mowogo Lodge Unit Election Scheduling Process

Anytime a unit has an eligible member, that unit is encouraged to schedule their annual unit election in the fall or winter of each year. By doing this, it provides the necessary time to conduct the unit election prior to callout ceremonies and the Lodge Induction weekends. Please consider the dates of the chapter callouts when selecting a date for a unit election. Election requests should also be submitted several weeks prior to the scheduled election date to insure the OA Chapter has a unit election team ready for your election.

Request A Unit Election

To request a unit election, go to the "Membership & Elections" page on the Mowogo Lodge website: www.mowogo.org. On this page there is a section for "Requesting An OA Election" and click on the link to request an election. This will take you to page for Unit Election Request.

- Step 1 Using the links on the webpage, download the MS/Excel spreadsheet form. This form is used to enter the complete name and address information for all eligible candidates that will be on the unit election ballot. All fields on this form are required including an email address and BSA ID number.
- Step 2 From the "Request An OA Election" webpage, click on the link for your district to get the Unit Election Request form. Please complete all fields and attached the completed spreadsheet from Step 1. Click the "Submit Request" button at the bottom of the form to submit your election request. This form will be sent to your OA Chapter leadership and they will contact the unit to verify the election date. Don't hesitate to follow up with a phone call or email to the chapter adviser to ensure they know you have submitted a request you haven't received a response in a reasonable amount of time.

Unit Election Night

When the Chapter Unit Election team arrives at your meeting, the team will already have a copy of the eligible candidates for the election. The following are a few things the unit can do to help facilitate the unit election

- Provide a monitor or television set with a DVD player. Unit election teams should bring a DVD with a unit election video that explains the election process and some history about the OA and its purpose. Unit election team may also have a video about Mowogo Lodge history and activities.
- Provide printed ballots with the names of all candidates. Remember that by placing a name on a ballot signifies approval by the unit leader. A unit leader should disapprove prior to and not following an election.
- Have extra pens and pencils available.

Adult Nomination Form

If the unit has elected at least one youth candidate, the unit has the opportunity to nominate an adult for membership in the OA. A second adult nomination may be submitted if the unit has more than 50 active members. Please remember that adult nominations are not for any special recognition, but are being nominated because they will be an asset to Mowogo Lodge and the Order of the Arrow.

On the "Membership & Elections" webpage on the Mowogo Lodge website, there is a link to download the adult nomination form. When this form is completed, please forward it to the Chapter Adviser for approval. The Chapter Adviser will forward it to the Lodge Adviser, Ed Lacey lodge.adviser@mowogo.org who will present it to the Council Camping Committee for consideration. Adults are not candidates until the nomination has been approved. The process of approving an adult nomination could take several weeks, so each unit should plan accordingly. Chapters will only callout adults that have an approved nomination form

When completing the adult nomination please include the BSA ID and email address. Also provide information to explain how this adult met the camping requirements and how the nominee will be an asset to the Lodge.

Unit Election Questions

If you have any questions concerning the unit election process, Please contact your OA Chapter Adviser for your district. You may also send any questions via email to elections@mowogo.org.