

Ni-Sanak-Tani Lodge #381

Gateway Area Council
2600 Quarry Rd.
La Crosse, WI 54601



To: Scoutmasters and Crew Advisers

12/18/2018

Subject: Annual OA Elections

The Order of the Arrow is Scouting's national honor society. It recognizes those campers who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives and, by such recognition, cause campers to conduct themselves in such a manner as to warrant similar recognition, to promote camping, and to crystallize the habit of helpfulness as a life purpose.

Each Scouts BSA Troop or Crew with qualified Scouts is urged to hold an election **no later than May 3rd, 2019**. The date and place of the election are influenced and selected by you, as the unit leader.

*Summer camp OA Elections **require advance approval** of two of the OA "Key-3" (Lodge Chief, Adviser or Staff Adviser).*

Elections should be held at a regularly scheduled meeting or even a camping experience if that's a strong attendance event for your troop. Every effort should be made to have all active troop members under the age of 21 at this meeting. *The election **cannot** be held if less than 50% of the active troop is in attendance.* The Order of the Arrow will dispatch a lodge Election Team to conduct your election. The team will tailor the explanation, voting, and camp promotion talk to 10 to 30 minutes, depending on what you allow when initially setting up the event.

The optional Call Out ceremony will be performed at May District Camporees or Decorah Summer Camp. Elected candidates will promptly be notified of our 2019 Ordeals: June 14-15 or August 16-18.

Youth Membership Qualifications

- 1) A Scout who holds the First-Class rank or a Venturer who has earned the Discoverer award, is under the age of 21, and is registered, active member of a troop or crew may, with the approval of his unit leader, be nominated for election. Prior to the annual election, the unit leader must certify the nominee's Scout spirit and youth membership qualifications.
- 2) Each Troop or Crew candidate must also have experienced 15 nights and days of tent 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 summer camp consisting of six consecutive days and five nights of resident camping, approved and under the auspices and standards of the BSA. 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 always give unselfish and wholehearted service to others.

Per OA Operations Update 12-07: Troops can nominate multiple **adults** up to 1/3 of the youth elected, AND the current unit leader, after electing at least one youth. The adult leader's membership will provide a positive role model for the growth and development of youth members of the lodge.

To set up an election date and time, AT LEAST 2 WEEKS prior to the date, please contact:

Harvey Geary (608)792-4144 or hgearyjr@gmail.com

Respectfully yours,

Isaac Bachmann *Glenn Walinski*

Lodge Chief

Lodge Adviser

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