

Ni-Sanak-Tani Lodge # 381  
Gateway Area Council  
2600 Quarry Road  
La Crosse, WI 54601



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To: Scoutmasters and Crew Advisers  
**SUBJECT: 2020 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 Scout's BSA Troop or Crew with qualified Scouts is urged to hold an election **no later than May 1, 2020**. The date and place of the election are influenced and selected by you, as the leader. Summer camp OA elections require advance approval of two of the OA "Key 3" (Lodge Chief, Lodge Adviser, and Staff Adviser)

Elections should be held at a regularly scheduled meeting or even a camping experience if that's a strong attendance event for the unit. Every effort should be made to have all active unit members under the age of 21 at this meeting. **The election cannot be held if less than 50% of the active unit members are in attendance.** Our Lodge will dispatch an Election Team to help conduct the election. The team will explain what the OA is, conduct the voting, talk about camp promotion, answer questions, and give the results to the unit leader. The process should take 20 to 30 minutes, depending on what time you allow when scheduling the meeting.

The optional **Call Out Ceremony** will be performed at the May District/Council Camporees or at Camp Decorah summer camp. For call outs at out-of-council summer camps, unit leaders are required to obtain a letter from the home lodge chief and lodge adviser requesting the call-out and identifying the members to be called out.

Elected candidates will promptly be notified of our 2020 Induction Weekends:  
June 12-13 or August 14-16.

#### **YOUTH MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS**

- 1) A **Scout** who holds the **First Class rank** or a **Venturer** who has earned the **Discovery award** or a **Sea Scout** with the **Ordinary rank**, is under the age of 21, and is a registered, active member of the troop/crew/ship, with the approval of their unit leader, can be nominated for election. Prior to the election, the unit leader must certify the nominee's Scout Spirit and youth membership qualifications.
- 2) Each Troop/Crew candidate must have experienced 15 nights and days of Scout camping within two years prior to the election. The 15 nights must include one, but no more than one, long term camp consisting of at least six days with five consecutive nights of overnight camping, approved under the auspices and standards of the BSA. Only five nights of the long-term camp may be credited towards the 15-night camping requirement; the balance of the camping must be overnight, weekend or other short -term camps of, at most, three nights each. Ship nights may be counted as camping for Sea Scouts.

Any adults (21 or older) who meet the camping requirements may be selected following nomination to and approved by the Lodge Adult selection committee. The adult leader's membership will provide a positive role model for the growth and development of youth membership in the lodge.

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

Todd Nelson	608-769-2659	<a href="mailto:tspc215@yahoo.com">tspc215@yahoo.com</a>
Harvey Geary	608-792-4144	<a href="mailto:hgearyjr@gmail.com">hgearyjr@gmail.com</a>
Kelly Wilde	608-790-2864	<a href="mailto:wilde_54650@yahoo.com">wilde_54650@yahoo.com</a>

Respectfully yours,

*Jaden Schindler*  
Lodge Chief

*Glenn Walinski*  
Lodge Adviser