

# Ohlone Lodge Pacific Skyline Council



# 2022 Unit Support Pak



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®  
ORDER OF THE ARROW

SCOUTING'S NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY



## ORDER OF THE ARROW, B.S.A. OHLONE Lodge

### My Fellow Scoutmaster:

I am the Scoutmaster of Troop 28 in the Redwood District of the Pacific Skyline Council. I want to share with you some of my experiences and observations as to **how participating in the OA has benefitted my troop**. The Order of the Arrow is the national honor society of the Boy Scouts of America and recognizes those Scouts who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives.

Unit leaders sometimes question the value of OA involvement or why troops should encourage their members to participate in OA activities. Speaking as one Scoutmaster to another, I can give you many examples of how life in the OA enriches a Scout's experience and makes him a better leader. The mission of our council's local OA group, the Ohlone Lodge, is to "Make Scouting better in the Pacific Skyline Council." How does that happen?

First, **OA offers senior Scouts a new challenge in Scouting**, keeping them interested, active, and excited in the program. At an age when young people might otherwise lose interest, Scouts in OA are staying involved at a larger, council-wide scale. I have heard countless Scouts (and Scouters) tell me that they would have dropped out of the program if they hadn't become involved in OA. OA members also meet many new Scouting friends from around the council and enjoy new mentorship from many talented adult Advisers. I see many OA members becoming active in the Lodge because of their new friendships. Participation in the OA promotes retaining membership in your unit.

Second, **OA promotes Scout spirit and energizes them for the purpose of serving their troops**. While Scouts are busy and can't do everything, an OA member's first priority is to serve his unit. OA members apply leadership lessons learned at the Lodge level when leading at the troop level. In fact, OA programs frequently include leadership training on how members can become better leaders at the troop level.

Third, **OA gives Scouts an opportunity to take their leadership skills to the next level**. OA gives them opportunities for organizing and leading larger events. Instead of organizing events for a few dozen Scouts in a troop, OA members have the opportunity to organize events involving hundreds of Scouts. The experiences they have in leading and organizing are invaluable when they join the workforce.

Having been an OA leader while a Scout many decades ago, and having seen the value of OA leadership to my son and his friends in the Lodge, I can say as a Scoutmaster that supporting the OA program has been a huge positive for my troop and others. **OA participation can do the same for your troop**.

I hope you will find the Lodge and its mission worthy of your troop's attention and participation. In the enclosed packet you will find a checklist of items that the Lodge is asking each unit to perform. Please take the time to review them and put them into action.

If you want to talk to me or one of the Lodge leaders more about the Order of the Arrow program, troop elections, or Ohlone Lodge, please visit the Lodge website at [www.ohlone63.org](http://www.ohlone63.org), or email me at the email address below. You can also email the youth leadership of the Lodge at [LodgeChief@ohlone63.org](mailto:LodgeChief@ohlone63.org). The Lodge hopes to hear from you soon, and we thank you for your consideration.

Yours in Scouting,  
Daryl Thomas  
Scoutmaster, Troop 28



# 2022 Unit Leader OA Checklist

- Review this packet**

Familiarize yourself with the content and send any questions you may have to [LodgeAdviser@ohlone63.org](mailto:LodgeAdviser@ohlone63.org).
- Mark your calendars!**

Please update your unit calendars with the enclosed program dates for 2022.
- Schedule your unit election**
  - Submit your request through the **LodgeMaster** Portal (Link provided in email)
    - If you did not receive an email through **Lodgemaster** to schedule, please contact [Elections@ohlone63.org](mailto:Elections@ohlone63.org)
  - Fill out the Unit Election report (On **Lodgemaster**). This can be filled out prior to the unit election. A backup form is enclosed in case you are unable to use the portal provided entry system. Clear/legible forms will ensure we have accurate contact information!
  - Consider an adult nomination (enclosed). You must have at least one youth elected to nominate an adult.
- Confirm your Troop Representative and Adviser**

Please send the name, email address, and phone number of your OA Troop Representative and OA Troop Representative Adviser to [TroopRep@ohlone63.org](mailto:TroopRep@ohlone63.org)
- 2022 Membership Renewal Drive**

Please remind all Arrowmen to pay their 2022 dues. Annual dues are just \$15. Visit <https://scoutingevent.com/031-OADues2022> to pay online. Members do not have to pay delinquent dues, just pay for 2022 to get current! Wear the Sash - Pay the Dues.
- 2022 Otter Pass**

The \$63 Otter Pass is a better deal (worth more than \$100!) for those Arrowmen who plan to be more active, as it includes \$15 annual dues in addition to the main 2022 Lodge events: two Ordeals, three Fellowships, and the Annual Banquet. This is also found at <https://scoutingevent.com/031-OADues2022>.

# Save the Dates!

Ohlone Lodge 2022 Program

## Lodge Fellowship Weekends @ Boulder Creek Scout Reservation

A fun weekend of food, friends, and fellowship.

Spring: March 18-20  
Fall: November 11-13

## Lodge Ordeal Weekends @ Boulder Creek Scout Reservation

Calling All Arrowmen! We always need Elngomats, Ceremonies Team members, and Staff.

Spring: April 8-10  
Fall: October 14-16

## Section W-3S Conclave @ Camp High Sierra

Ohlone Lodge will be going to the annual Section W-3S conclave this year. Please join us for a fun weekend of competition, training, and fellowship with all seven OA Lodges in our section.

April 22-24

## Northern California Trade-O-Ree @ Palo Alto Service Center

A swap meet of Scouting memorabilia collectors and dealers who buy, sell, and trade historical Scouting patches and other memorabilia. Trading and silent and live auctions.

November 11-12

## Annual Lodge Banquet @ Palo Alto Service Center

In addition to setting the tone for the upcoming year, we'll recognize the past year's leaders and accomplishments. We will be making barbecued food for all in attendance while we look back on the fun we had in 2021.

January 29th (10AM)

## Arrowman Service Opportunities: Wear Your Sash!

The Lodge provides service to the Pacific Skyline Council at events throughout the year.

Camporee	May 1-3	Trail to First Class	November 4-6
Memorial Day Flags	May 30	STEM Merit Badge	December 3

# Unit Elections

Elections are held at a unit's meeting place in order to elect new Order of the Arrow candidates. To request an election, the OA Representative, youth leader, or adult leader should submit a request on the Lodgemaster portal provided through email at the beginning of 2022. **If you have any troubles with Lodgemaster please reach out to Elections@ohlone63.org.** Our general election seasons are from **January through March** and **August through September**. It is suggested that your troop schedule an election within this period. This will provide those elected at least two opportunities to attend (our Spring and Fall Ordeals).

Units should have a list of their eligible Scouts on pre-printed ballots for each Scout to use in casting their vote.

## Youth Membership Qualifications

Unit elections will be permitted in Scouts BSA, Venturing, and Sea Scout units. The Order of the Arrow membership requirements are as follows:

1. Be a registered member of the Boy Scouts of America.
2. Have experienced 15 nights of camping while registered with a troop, crew, or ship within the two years immediately prior to the election. The 15 nights must include one, but no more than one, long-term camp consisting of at least five consecutive nights of overnight camping, approved and under the auspices and standards of the Boy Scouts of America. Only five nights of the long-term camp may be credited toward the 15-night camping requirement; the balance of the camping (10 nights) 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. (Virtual camping nights do qualify as short term nights)
3. At the time of their election, youth must be under the age of 21, and hold one of the following ranks corresponding to the type unit in which they are being considered for election: Scouts BSA First Class rank, the Venturing Discovery Award, or the Sea Scout Ordinary rank or higher, and following approval by the Scoutmaster, Crew Adviser or Sea Scout Skipper, be elected by the youth members of their unit.
4. Adults (age 21 or older) who meet the camping requirements may be selected following nomination to and approval by the Lodge adult selection committee.

## Adult Membership Qualifications

Each year, upon holding a troop or team 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:

1. 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.
2. The individual will be an asset to the Order because of demonstrated abilities that fulfill the purpose of the Order.
3. The camping requirements set forth for youth members are fulfilled.
4. The adult leader's membership will provide a positive example for the growth and development of the youth members of the Lodge.

On the night of your unit's scheduled election, a representative from the Ohlone Lodge will come to your meeting place. Please ensure that at least 50% of your active troop is present for the election. The representative will explain to the unit what the OA is and what we do, as well as promote council and national camps to the troop. They will then explain the voting process, and pass out the ballots. Please ensure a troop representative prepares the ballots prior to the election via the instructions in the Lodgemaster portal. After the ballots are collected, the representative will count the ballots and inform the youth and adult leaders of the election result. The results may be announced to the unit at the end of the meeting if desired by the unit leader. The Ohlone Lodge representative will then meet with the newly elected candidates, as well as any current OA members, to discuss the next steps.

The process of election uses ballots, that are printed by a member of the troop prior to the election. We have created a template that can be downloaded and edited here: <http://bit.ly/OhloneElectionForm>, it will provide a ballot for 9 individual scouts.

Finally, please be aware that if a Scout is unable to attend both induction weekends within 12 months, they or she will have to be re-elected by his unit the following year.



# Troop, Crew, or Ship Representative



An OA Troop/Crew/Ship Representative is a leadership position for a Scout in your unit who is in the OA. Unit OA Representatives attend Lodge meetings regularly to keep up to date with what is happening in the Lodge. They will also relay information to your unit about upcoming Lodge events. The Lodge's Unit Representative Chairman will provide the OA Unit Representatives with materials to share with their troop members so they won't need to figure out what to say on their own. It is simple enough that even a brand new Lodge member can be their unit's OA Representative. They also relay information from your unit to the Lodge, help Ordeal candidates with information about the induction process (e.g., the time and place of the Ordeal), and set a good example by wearing their uniform correctly, and live by the Scout Law, Oath, and OA Obligation.

Serving as a Unit Representative fulfills the leadership requirement for Star, Life, or Eagle. This is great for Scouts who are looking for a new leadership position: no experience is required.

Having an OA Representative in each unit is very important for the Lodge, and also benefits each unit. The Unit Representatives will be instructed how to contact the Lodge, and will be able to get questions answered. For example, OA Troop/Crew/Ship Representatives can help their units find out which of their Scouts are in the OA, which Scouts have paid their Lodge dues, and when an OA election can be scheduled. They will also be given background materials to explain to the unit what the OA is and what we do. Because communication between units and the Lodge is very important, the Unit Representative is an important role.

To become a Unit Representative, a Scout must be appointed by his senior patrol leader with approval of the Unit leader, be under 18, and be an OA member in good standing.

# Troop, Crew, or Ship Representative Adviser



The Adviser to the Unit Representative assists the youth Representative to be successful in the role as the communication and programmatic link between the unit and the Lodge or Chapter. The Adviser helps to include the Order of the Arrow ideals and activities in the program of the troop throughout the year. By setting a good example, the Adviser enhances the image of the Order as a service arm to the unit.

Qualifications:

- A unit assistant leader or committee member at least 21 years old
- Appointed by the Scoutmaster/Adviser/Skipper with the approval of the unit Committee Chairman
- OA Member

## Order of the Arrow Unit Election Report

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_  
 Troop, Crew, or Ship Number Election Date

Number of registered active youth: \_\_\_\_\_. Number of youth present: \_\_\_\_\_.

(NOTE: At least half of the active, registered unit members must be present to hold an election.)

Number of eligible Scouts: \_\_\_\_\_. Number of ballots received: \_\_\_\_\_. Number of votes needed to be elected: \_\_\_\_\_. (Must be at least 50% of ballots received.)

List names of all eligible youth Scouts. Add contact information for all newly elected Candidates. Please print clearly!

Candidate's Name		Birthdate	Candidate's Email	Candidate's Phone
Home Address		City	Parent/Guardian 1 Email	Parent/Guardian 1 Phone
Zip	BSA ID	Elected?	Parent/Guardian 2 Email	Parent/Guardian 2 Phone
		/ /		( )
				( )
		Y/N		( )
		/ /		( )
				( )
		Y/N		( )
		/ /		( )
				( )
		Y/N		( )
		/ /		( )
				( )
		Y/N		( )

Unit Leader Certification: \_\_\_\_\_ OA Election Team Lead: \_\_\_\_\_



# Ohlone Lodge

## Pacific Skyline Council

# Order of the Arrow Unit Election Report

[Continued from previous page]

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Troop, Crew, or Ship Number

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Election Date

Candidate's Name		Birthdate	Candidate's Email	Candidate's Phone
Street Address		City	Parent/Guardian 1 Email	Parent/Guardian 1 Phone
Zip	BSA ID	Elected?	Parent/Guardian 2 Email	Parent/Guardian 2 Phone
		/ /		( )
				( )
		Y/N		( )
		/ /		( )
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		Y/N		( )
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				( )
		Y/N		( )



# Adult Candidate Nomination Form Ohlone Lodge

Each year, upon holding a troop or team election for youth candidates that results in at least one youth candidate being elected, the unit committee may nominate registered unit adults (age 21 or over) 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. 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, serving as Supreme Chief of the Fire, will be candidates for induction, provided all conditions are fulfilled.

**Please print clearly and complete all of the information requested**

BSA ID: \_\_\_\_\_ YPT Expiration: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

District: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit Type: Troop / Crew / Ship Unit Number: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_ Years as Adult: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: ( \_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Training Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Positions Held: \_\_\_\_\_

Scout as Youth / Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

Community Activities: \_\_\_\_\_

Employment / Trade: \_\_\_\_\_

Camping Requirement: \_\_\_\_\_

The camping requirement set forth for youth candidates must be fulfilled by adults for them to be considered. To be eligible, the adult must have completed 15 nights of BSA camping during the two year period immediately prior to nomination. The 15 must include one, but no more than one, long term camp consisting of 5 consecutive nights of resident camping, approved and under the auspices and standards of the BSA. The balance must be overnight, weekend, or other short term camps. Include the dates and location of the long term camping experiences above.

*Please also make a brief statement regarding the individual for each item on the back of this page.*

**Unit Recommendation:** The adult leader, who fulfills the above requirements, is recommended for membership consideration in the Order of the Arrow. Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_.

Unit Leader: \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name Signature

Committee Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name Signature



# Adult Candidate Nomination Form

1. Selection of the adult is based upon the ability to perform the necessary functions and not for recognition of service, including current or prior achievement and position. The individual's abilities include:

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2. As Scouting's National Honor Society, our purpose is to:

- Recognize those who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives and through that recognition cause others to conduct themselves in a way that warrants similar recognition.
- Promote camping, responsible outdoor adventure, and environmental stewardship as essential components of every Scout's experience, in the unit, year-round, and in summer camp.
- Develop leaders with the willingness, character, spirit and ability to advance the activities of their units, our Brotherhood, Scouting, and ultimately our nation.
- Crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.

This adult will be an asset to the Order of the Arrow due to demonstrated skills and abilities, which fulfill the purpose of the Order of the Arrow, in the following manner:

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3. This adult leader's membership will provide a positive role model for the growth and development of the youth members of the Lodge because:

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the Order of the Arrow?

The Order of the Arrow was created in 1915 by Dr. E. Urner Goodman as a way to recognize those scouts who best exemplified the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives. Goodman was a summer camp director, and had read about another camp which formed a society to help perpetuate its ideals and traditions from season to season.

Goodman's assistant director, Carroll A. Edson, had spoken with the Chief Scout of the Boy Scouts of America, who said that an earlier youth movement had used American Indian traditions and ceremonies with much success. Goodman and Edson both agreed that Indian Lore would be a unique attribute in their Order, and included customs and ideals of the Delaware Indians in their ceremonies.

Once Goodman and Edson were prepared, they instructed the troops at their summer camp to elect those youth who were satisfactory candidates for the Order, which began the tradition of non-members electing the members into the society.

The Order grew slowly from 1915 to 1920 because of World War I, but in 1921 a national convention was held in Philadelphia, which spurred interest and a growth of new Lodges and members.

Over the next 75 years new Lodges were formed, the national conventions helped adopt a constitution and a statement of policies, and finally in 1934 the National Council Annual Meeting approved the Order of the Arrow. Over 1 million Boy Scouts and Scouters have been inducted into the Order of the Arrow during the past 87 years. There are now more than 183,000 active members in over 400 Lodges.

- Adopted from "The Order of the Arrow Handbook"

### Why is the Order of the Arrow important?

The Order of the Arrow is, first and foremost, a service organization. We provide service to councils, troops, summer camps, and National high adventure bases. There are not many places that are devoid of arrowmen.

### Once my youth are in the Order, will I ever see them again?

Yes. As a matter of fact, it is more likely that Ohlone Lodge will never see them again. Most youth who go through the Ordeal never come back to Lodge events, meetings, or national conventions. It is our hope that this guide will help us retain more youth by helping you understand OA.

### But when there are conflicts between Troop and OA events, will my youth be obligated to miss our troop outing?

Members in the Order are never obligated to do anything but pay dues. In that scenario, we encourage youth to do what they want to do, but we do not want to take participation away from the troops.

### Ah ha! I have to pay to be in the Order?

Yes, that is the only catch. When you complete your Ordeal, your dues are automatically paid for one year. However dues are collected annually. We use these funds to send out newsletters to all dues-paying members, maintain our website, cover costs charged by National, and pay for other benefits that go to dues-paying members.

### What do you need my help for?

Currently, participation in the Lodge is at an all time low. We are asking you to help us by encouraging youth to go to Village meetings, attend Lodge functions, and attain Brotherhood status. All of these things are important to us, and are essential in maintaining a functioning **Lodge**.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **I'm already pretty busy. Can't I get a youth to do that for me?**

Yes! A position was created specifically for that purpose. It is called the Troop Representative, and filling this role can make your life much easier. There is more to this position than meets the eye, however, as is explained in greater detail later in this guide.

### **I hear that Ordeal and other ceremonies are "secret"?**

Many of the details of the induction Ordeal are not shared with candidates or others outside of the OA not because they are secret but because this knowledge has always been reserved for members only. Any adult or parent may inquire about and observe the Ordeal ceremony to ensure the safety and appropriateness of our activities, however, we ask all non-members to respect our tradition and trust our members to maintain the highest ideals of Scouting.

### **Why would my youth want to be in OA?**

There are many reasons why Scouts aspire to be in OA. Because it is an honor society with Scouting, membership in OA is an honor. Only the best Scouts who exemplify the Scout Oath and Law can become members. OA provides youth with opportunities not available to non-OA members, including leadership opportunities, participation in OA-only events like conclave, National Leadership Seminar, and the annual National OA Conference. Members are eligible to attend Philmont, or Northern Tier for a very nominal cost any year, independent of whether or not your unit attends (though they do have to spend time doing service at camp). As anyone under the age of 21 is still considered a youth, so they can remain active well past their 18th birthday.

### **Is OA just for youth?**

Definitely not. Although OA is a Scout-led organization, adults are needed to support the activities. Adult OA members can serve as Advisers or participants.

### **So how can an adult become an OA member?**

Adults are not elected by their peers, rather they are nominated for membership by their Troop committee. To be nominated as an Ordeal candidate, an adult must satisfy the same camping requirements as a youth. If the council approves their nomination, an adult leader must then complete the exact same Ordeal as a youth.

### **Do adult candidates have to be uniformed leaders?**

No. Any adult registered with BSA can be nominated.

### **Can I nominate an adult as a "reward" for Troop service?**

No. Adults should be nominated not for what they have done in the past, but for what they will do for the Order in the future. Of course, past accomplishments are good indicators of future participation.

### **How many adults can my Troop nominate?**

Upon a successful unit election resulting 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. 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.



## History and Information About The Lodge

With the merger of the San Mateo County and Stanford Area Councils to become the Pacific Skyline Council, Pomponio and Stanford-Oljato Lodges came together on January 1, 1995 to form Ohlone Lodge #63. As its totem, or symbol, the Lodge selected the California Sea Otter, a creature indigenous to our coastline. We affectionately call our mascot "Otto" and is reflected in our publications **The OtterSide** and **In Otter News**.

Ohlone Lodge has carried on the proud tradition of its predecessors by winning both the Honor Lodge and E. Umer Goodman Camping Awards for 1999.

We are very active in Section W3S activities as we hosted the 1999 Conclave at our Cutter Scout Reservation where we earned "Most Indian Lodge." Ohlone has also sent a contingent of Arrowmen to each of the National Order of the Arrow Conferences (NOAC) in 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2009, 2012, 2015, and 2018. We also participated in NEXT in 2016 and have had active Arrowmen at all National and International Jamborees.

Arrowmen from our Lodge work as Counselors at our Council's summer camp, Camp Oljato, located on beautiful Huntington Lake, offering instruction and guidance to younger Scouts from units from throughout the Western United States. We also assist in the staffing of many of the Pacific Skyline Council's events at Cutter Scout Reservation and Boulder Creek Scout Reservation (e.g., Camporee, Trail to First Class, and Merit Badge Midways).

Service is very important to Ohlone Lodge with one of our primary projects being coordination of the annual Memorial Day observance at Golden Gate National Cemetery where this past year over 1700 Scouts and families from four different Councils participated in placing 145,000 American flags on the graves of those who have died after having served our country.

Ohlone Lodge has also been very supportive of Pacific Skyline Council, having donated money to both the James E. West Fund and the Friends of Scouting campaign.

### The Chapter System

Recently, Ohlone Lodge broke its large area into three smaller sections with the hope that they would be easier to run and make communicating easier. One Chapter was assigned to each district in the council, and each was authorized to elect a Chapter Chief, Vice-Chief, and have a Chapter Adviser appointed to them.

While the Chapter system makes some aspects of the Lodge operation much easier, participation on the Lodge level has dropped greatly. We are always in dire need of Chapter Chiefs, but most youth do not understand that the job is not a time consuming one. Two meetings a month are the most that are required, and recently we have passed a policy to make being Chapter Chief more enticing.

Two new Lodge flaps have been created to recognize the both youth and adult leaders at the Chapter and Lodge levels. Based on our current standard issue Lodge flap, a new flap with a silver Mylar border is given to each Chapter Chief, while a flap with a gold Mylar border is presented to members of the Lodge executive council.

- **Muwekma Chapter** encompasses the Redwood District covering Atherton, Belmont, Burlingame, East Palo Alto, Foster City, Hillsborough, Menlo Park, Millbrae, Portola Valley, Redwood City, San Carlos, San Mateo, Woodside, La Honda, and Pescadero.
- **Puyson Chapter** encompasses the Stanford District covering Palo Alto, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, and Mountain View.
- **Sipliskin Chapter** represents the Discovery District, and cover Moss Beach, El Granada, Pacifica, Half Moon Bay, Daly City, Brisbane, San Bruno, Colma, South San Francisco.



## How to Schedule an Unit Visitation

Elections must be conducted according to the National OA policies, which is why trained members of Ohlone Lodge must carry out all elections.

The Ohlone Lodge reaches out to every registered Troop, Crew, and Ship in the Council to conduct unit visitations at their convenience. These events typically include both elections for newly eligible Scouts and a brief camp promotion. Each unit should receive an election packet from the Vice Chief of Inductions. This packet will contain specific instructions on how your unit can schedule a visitation. Visitations are best completed at least 3 weeks prior to the next Ordeal, typically held in April and October. An officially supervised election conducted by a designated Lodge representative is the route for youth (less than 21 years old) to be elected into the OA as no unit-led elections are permitted.

Elections take approximately 15-20 minutes, based on the size of your troop, and require the participation of at least half the registered youth in the troop. The requirements for eligible youth are:

- Must be a registered member of a Boy Scout Troop, a Venturing Crew, or a Sea Scout Ship.
- Have earned at least First Class Rank, Discovery Award, or Ordinary Rank.
- Experienced 15 nights of BSA camping within the two years immediately prior to the election date
- The 15 nights must include one, long-term camp of at least 5 consecutive nights of overnight camping
- The 10 remaining nights 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.

An adult leader or the SPL should have a list of those youth that are eligible for election available for the election representative. This list should be pre-printed on simple ballots with a single check box for each Scout in sufficient quantities such that each youth member may have an opportunity to vote. Instructions for the ballot creation can be found through your **Lodgemaster** Portal.

The election is run by secret ballot by a representative of the Order of the Arrow who is not from the troop and is holding the election. Any youth may vote, including OA members, and chose as many eligible candidates as they view are worthy. Many voters select all youth because those who meet the requirements usually exemplify the Scout Oath and Law.

In order to be elected, a youth must receive votes in more than 50% of the ballots collected.

The representative running the election will gather the information from the elected youth and will turn it in to the Lodge, fliers for the upcoming Ordeal will be mailed to them and hopefully, with a bit of encouragement from their Scoutmaster, they will become Ordeal members of the Order of the Arrow.

The Lodge holds two Ordeals every year: one in the Fall and one in the Spring. If a youth cannot attend the first Ordeal after their election, they have one more chance to go to the next Ordeal ("elected" status lasts one year). Scouts who do not attend an Ordeal during their year of candidacy must be re-elected the following year before they may attend a subsequent Ordeal.



## Helping The Youth While Helping The Lodge

After youth complete the Ordeal ceremony, they are considered to be Ordeal members of the Order of the Arrow. Many youth, however, do not understand that their journey has only begun with this first step.

There are three levels in the Order that are based on service to the Lodge. **Ordeal** status is gained after an election and Ordeal; the Scout is selected by the members of the unit as being exemplary. **Brotherhood** is earned after participation in the Lodge and a personal commitment by the individual to continue on the path. The members of the Lodge identify candidates for the **Vigil** Honor as those members who give unselfish service to the Lodge and its members over an extended period of time.

While the Vigil Honor is given to the youth by the Lodge, Brotherhood is much like a rank advancement in Scouting. The only requirements are that the youth be active in the Lodge for 6 months (i.e., help at an Ordeal or other Lodge event), know the song of the Order, and be knowledgeable in the traditions of the OA. All of this information is provided in the book that is shared with each new member at the Ordeal.

We need your help in encouraging youth and adults to attain their Brotherhood status, whether they have been a member for 6 months or 10 years. We will hold Brotherhood ceremonies at many Lodge events and at both Ordeals, so all an Arrowman must do is participate.

Another way for youth to get involved is through the OA Troop/Crew/Ship Representative program. The Troop/Crew/Ship Representative is a leadership position inside the troop that qualifies for rank advancement. The position lasts 6 months, but can be renewed at the end of each term if the youth is willing.

The Representative is mainly responsible for communication between the Lodge and his troop, which means he or she should attend most Chapter meetings and at least half of all Lodge events (there are about 6 every year).

The Troop Representative position is ideal for a new Arrowman who is working toward Star, Life, and Eagle ranks. It provides them an excellent opportunity to learn new leadership skills, satisfy their advancement requirement, and get them more involved with Scouting and OA.

Our hope is that today's Troop Representatives will become tomorrow's Chapter Chiefs and Lodge Chiefs by actively participating in the OA. With your help, this transition is simple and painless.

**“Let it be remembered that the Order of the Arrow was created to help the unit - to help it present its membership a better ideal of the inner qualities of the good Scout camper. Qualities of character, like cheerfulness and service, are hard for a boy or a man to understand in the abstract. They come easier when seen in human life.**

**Let us realize the significance of the Order in the unit – for the unit is our best hope in Scouting.”**

**Dr. E. Urner Goodman  
Founder, Order of the Arrow**

