



Unami Lodge, One Unit Election Procedures

About the Order of the Arrow

The Order of the Arrow (OA) is Scouting's National Honor Society. The fourfold purpose of the OA is:

1. To recognize those campers — Scouts and Scouters — who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives, and by such recognition cause other campers to - conduct themselves in such manner as to warrant recognition.
2. To develop and maintain camping traditions and spirit.
3. To promote Scout camping, which reaches its greatest effectiveness as a part of the unit's camping program, both year-round and in the summer camp, as directed by the camping committee of the council.
4. To crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.

Order of the Arrow Elections

A chartered Scouts BSA troop, Venturing crew, or Sea Scout Ship may hold a unit election to elect youth members from their unit to become members of the Order of the Arrow once during a calendar year. Unami Lodge, One does not have a timeframe for election, but most are held between December 1st and September 30th. Youth and adult members can become members of the OA, but only youth members under the age of 21 are elected – adults over the age of 21 are nominated by the unit committee. New members are voted on by every youth member of the unit present at the election – not just the OA members (thereby insuring that Scouts are elected by all their peers). A unit election team from the lodge, trained in the latest OA election policies, will visit your unit to conduct the election. No OA member can hold an election within their own unit.

In order for an election to be held, at least 50% of your active youth members must be present. If less than 50% are present, the election must be rescheduled. The election should take no more than 30 minutes of your meeting.

From the time of the election, a Scout or Scouter has one year to complete their Ordeal no matter when the election is held. Unami Lodge, One offers multiple opportunities each year for an individual to complete their Ordeal. Following the election, those youth and adults selected will be notified by the lodge about these opportunities.

Once elected in any unit, a youth is no longer eligible for election in another unit. In the rare instance a youth was elected in a second unit because they were not yet notified of their election in another unit, the lodge will determine the unit of election based on the unit with the earliest date of election.



Unami Lodge, One Membership Requirements

Beginning February 1, 2019, unit elections will be permitted in Scouts BSA, Venturing, and Sea Scout units. The new Order of the Arrow membership requirements are as follows:

- Be a registered member of the Boy Scouts of America.
- 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 (nights spent on a ship) may be counted as camping for Sea Scouts.
- At the time of their election, youth must be under the age of 21, hold the Scouts BSA First Class rank, the Venturing Discovery Award, or the Sea Scout Ordinary rank or higher, and following approval by the Scoutmaster, Crew Advisor or Sea Scout Skipper, be elected by the youth members of their unit.
- Adults (age 21 or older) who meet the camping requirements may be selected following nomination to and approval by the lodge adult selection committee.



* A Scout with a disability who is classified as a youth member of the unit (regardless of age) may vote and be a candidate for election as long as all other qualifications are met.

“Camping Under the Auspices and Standards of the BSA”

What exactly does this mean? Ultimately, the decision on what specific camping meets the spirit and intent of the camping requirement rests with the unit leader of the unit in which the youth is being considered for election.

It is preferred that camping requirements be met as part of the unit in which the youth or adult is being considered for election (i.e., troop, crew, or ship); however, extenuating circumstances may exist (e.g., in cases where a youth did not have an opportunity to meet the requirement with the unit), that make it appropriate for unit leaders to consider other BSA camping experiences (e.g., a Venturer counting camping nights completed with a troop or camping nights completed while serving as a staff member at a council camp or national high adventure base). In each case, the unit leader must satisfy themselves the spirit and intent of the requirement was met (i.e., it was indeed qualifying outdoor camping).