

Brotherhood Challenge

The following are requirements for brotherhood membership in Muscogee lodge:

1. Have a current Boy Scout, Venturer or Scouter registration and actively participate in your unit's program.

To be an active Arrowman, you must be registered in some official capacity with Indian Waters Council 553 or a member Scouting unit of the Council.

2. Have paid your lodge dues through the current year.

Lodge dues are \$12 per year. Dues may be paid online from the Lodge website – www.muscogeelodge.org.

Note: that in order to receive lodge mailings, attend lodge events or wear the Muscogee Lodge Flap on your uniform, you must be dues paid.

3. Have a minimum of 10 months active service since the completion of your Ordeal.

Not less than 10 months must have passed since your Ordeal ceremony before you are eligible for Brotherhood.

4. Possess a thorough understanding of the customs and traditions of the Ordeal including memorization of the following:

- a. The OA Song

Firm bound in Brotherhood; gather the clan that cheerful service brings to fellowman. Circle our council fire, weld tightly every link. That binds us in brotherhood. Wimachtendienk.

- b. The Obligation of the Order of the Arrow

I do hereby promise on my honor as a Scout, that I will always and faithfully observe and preserve the tradition of the Order of the Arrow, Wimachtendienk, Wingolauchsik, Witahemui.

I will always regard the ties of Brotherhood in the Order of the Arrow as lasting, and will seek to preserve a cheerful spirit, even in the midst of irksome tasks and weighty responsibilities, and will endeavor, so far as in my power lies, to be unselfish in service and devotion to the welfare of others.

- c. The Admonition

“AHOALTON” which means to love one another

- d. The Sign

Done with your right arm moving away from your left shoulder as if drawing an arrow from a quiver.

- e. The Handclasps of the Ordeal Membership

Done with the left hand interlocking two fingers like this:

To help in your understanding of the customs and traditions of the Ordeal, it is suggested that you attend at least one Pre-Ordeal and Ordeal ceremony (other than your own).

5. Carve an arrow a minimum of six (6) inches and a maximum of twelve (12) inches in lengths of NATURAL MATERIAL. The arrow must have a carved head and fletchings of which you are proud.

Questions about the carved arrow should be directed to the Brotherhood Chairman of the lodge.

6. Write a letter to the Brotherhood Board explaining the following:

- a. Explain what you think the obligation means to you.
- b. Describe how you have used your understanding of the Obligation in your troop or post, and in your daily life, and how you have used your understanding of the Ordeal to aid in this service.

- c. Describe your plan for giving service in the Lodge program.

When you earnestly feel that you have met the four challenges above, write a letter to the Brotherhood Board.

The points this letter needs to address:

Writing the letter to your lodge secretary is a chance for you to reflect on some important aspects of the Order of the Arrow. It is intended to help you clearly think about the ideals of the OA, and how you've put them to use in your life – whether you ever realized it before, or not. You should think about the following things and convey them in your letter

Explain what you think the Obligation means – This at first can be an intimidating request, but it's not as hard as you may think. First realize that you're being asked what you 'think', in other words, for your opinion. There is no single correct answer, so you shouldn't worry about being wrong. What has proven helpful to many Arrowmen in your position is to have the Obligation right in front of them when fulfilling this requirement. Read a few lines at a time, and ponder what exactly it is you've obligated yourself to. Once you've written down your thoughts, you're done with this part of the letter.

Describe how you have been fulfilling this Obligation in your troop or team and in your daily life, and how you have used your understanding of the Ordeal to aid in this service

Now that you know what the Obligation means to you, it's time to ask yourself how you've been fulfilling it in your daily interactions with Scouts and non-Scouts alike. Also, how has the Ordeal experience helped you fulfill the Obligation? Remember that the Ordeal's aim was to teach you the importance of brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service. One question you might ask yourself is 'what did the challenges of the Ordeal teach, that has helped me to better serve my unit?'

A description of your specific plans for giving service in the lodge program – When you were inducted into the OA, the only commitment you made was to return in service to your unit. Now that you've chosen to become a Brotherhood member, it is time to make a commitment to the Order of the Arrow. Your plan for service doesn't have to be anything overwhelming, in fact it's not expected to be. If you don't already know where your help is needed, ask the youth leaders of your lodge or chapter where they could use your help.

Additional Brotherhood Helps

Question: Who is Kichkinet? Nutiket? Meteu? Allowat Sakima?

Answer: Kichkinet is your guide in the ceremonies. He symbolizes helpfulness and friendliness. Nutiket is the guard of the Circle. He upholds the tradition of Cheerfulness. Meteu is the medicine man and representative of Brotherhood. He reminds us of our need to love one another. Allowat Sakima, the mighty chief, symbolizes Service. From him you accepted the Obligation of the Order.

Question: What tokens did the four ceremonial principals reveal to you in the pre-Ordeal. and what did they represent?

Answer: Nutiket gave the bow to Allowat Sakima as a token of liveliness and flexibility under stress, the principle of cheerfulness. Meteu gave the bowstring to Allowat Sakima as a token of the ties of Brotherhood also symbolized by rope in the Ordeal ceremony. Allowat Sakima strung the bow uniting brotherhood and cheerfulness for service, and drew an arrow from a quiver as a token that your election separated you from your fellows for something higher. Allowat Sakima asked you to test the bow as a sign of willingness to test the dedication to the Scout ideals, which led to your election. Lastly, Kichkinet shot the arrow upward, symbolizing the pathway you will follow if your dedication is unwavering.

Question: What are the tests of the Ordeal and what do they illustrate?

Answer: The night alone focuses attention on your need for courage and self-reliance on the trail ahead. You must be willing to accept individual responsibility for your thoughts and actions. You will find that your course will set you apart from your friends to the extent of isolation, but you must act according to your resolution regardless of what others do or fail to do. Your pledge of silence emphasizes the continuing need for you to spend time in thoughtful silence. Difficult decisions will face you now and in the future, and you will need to search your heart and spirit deeply to find the resolution that will guide you onward successfully. The scant food test illustrates self-denial. Often you will find it necessary to abandon mere personal comfort or desires if you are to fulfill your Obligation. The day of work indicates your willingness to give service, even when this service involves hardship and toil. In the Ordeal, you worked with the help and cooperation of other candidates and members, but now you must be ready to serve without the help and cooperation of others.

Question: What are the three symbolic preparations for the Obligation?

Answer: Before you entered the circle, you placed your hand on the shoulder of the candidate ahead of you to indicate your intention to continue in service to your own Scout unit. Kichkinet, seeing that all of you had the same purpose, symbolized this bond of brotherhood by binding you all together with the rope. Finally, upon Allowat Sakima's direction, Kichkinet asked you to advance before the fire of cheerfulness.

Question: What is the tradition given us by Uncas as described in the legend?

Answer: The legend tells how the neighboring tribes and distant enemies threatened the peaceful lives of the Lenni-Lenape Indians. Chief Chingachgook's call for volunteers to go and alert other villages of the tribe was met with apathy and indifference from the tribal members. Uncas cheerfully offered his help despite the negative attitudes of everyone around him. He cared enough for others that he was willing to face hardship and danger to protect them from harm. Uncas clearly saw a higher vision, and his desire for his brothers was that they could see it, too. The selfsacrificing service given by Uncas and Chingachgook is said to have saved the tribe from annihilation.

Question: What is the significance of Allowat Sakima's description of the Arrow in the Ordeal ceremony?

Answer: The chief stated that the various qualities attributed to the Arrow are ingredients of leadership. His discussion is a continuation of Meteu's comments about the Arrow in the pre-Ordeal. The Ordeal asks individuals to act according to their sense of right, regardless of the attitudes or actions of others. The four tests and the Obligation point the way, and Allowat Sakima reveals this way as one of real leadership. Any member who understands his or her Obligation and is striving to fulfill it inevitably becomes a center of strength in his or her troop. His or her example sets the pace in cheerful service, and his or her dedication has a rich effect on those who know him or her. Although wearing the sash identifies a Scout or Scouter as a member of the Order, it is his or her efforts to fulfill his or her Obligation that truly distinguishes them and provides others with a glimpse of the Arrow.

Question: What do the three W's stand for? What do they mean?

Answer: The three W's stand for "Wimachtendienk, Wingolauchsik, Witahemui." This was the original name for the Order of the Arrow. When translated from Lenni Lenape, this is "Brotherhood, Cheerfulness, and Service."

Question: What is Ordeal membership?

Answer: Like the Ordeal, it is a time of trial, during which your understanding of the traditions of the Arrow will be put to the test. In the Ordeal Ceremony, each advancement you made into the circle was challenged, but your resolution and faithfulness in time of testing enabled you to go forward. You will find this true also in the experiences ahead. By striving to fulfill your Obligation, you will provide the higher vision of the Brotherhood, Cheerfulness, and Service to your fellow Scouts, even as Uncas did for his tribe.

Question: When are you ready to accept Brotherhood membership in the Order?

Answer: Successfully meeting the demands of the Obligation is usually rather hard for the first several months. Gradually, however, your dedication to it will bring about changes that will make it easier for you. Eventually, the Spirit of Cheerful Service will become almost second nature to you, and you will be fulfilling the Obligation and hardly even thinking about it. As this experience develops, you are beginning to see the Arrow, and you are ready for the Brotherhood.