

Brotherhood 101 Study Guide

Everything you need to know

INTRODUCTION

When Dr. Goodman and his camp staff at Treasure Island started the Order of the Arrow in 1915, they realized the Scouts who were chosen to set the example in their troops would need further encouragement and support if they were to fulfill the ideals of the Order. The founders devised the Ordeal to give them the inspiration in a form of an experience . . . a series of tests . . . they were to follow:

Nutiket – "Eat you nothing but the scant food you will be given. Learn by fasting, sacrifice, and self-denial to subordinate the desires to the spirit's high purpose."

Meteu – "Your directions are the whispers, urgings, prompting, deep within your hear and spirit, . Therefore, until you take the Obligation, strictly keep a pledge of silence."

Allowat Sakima – "Spend the day in arduous labor, working gladly, not begrudging. Seek to serve, and thus be faithful to the high ideas and purposes of the Order of the Arrow."

Kitchkinet – "All your strength will be required when you face the isolation which leader often faces. So tonight, beneath the heavens, sleep alone upon your ground sheet."

The Ordeal is an adventure of the spirit, a time of deep searching. But, the Ordeal is only the beginning. Brotherhood Membership is the sealing of your resolve, the completion of becoming a true member of the Order. Brotherhood Membership is not a rank or an advancement such as First Class Scout is to Star. Brotherhood Membership seals your commitment to the Order – your troop, your chapter, your lodge.

An Ordeal member may become a Brotherhood member when he has completed the five Challenges of Brotherhood Membership.

5 Brotherhood Challenges

- 1) Memorize the signs of OA Membership:
 - A) Obligation
 - B) OA Song
 - C) Admonition
 - D) Sign of Ordeal Membership
 - E) OA Handclasp
- 2) Advance in your understanding of the Ordeal:
 - A) The four principal characters of the Ordeal Ceremony:
 - B) The four tests of the Ordeal:
 - C) The Arrow (as used in the Ordeal)
 - D) *The True Name of the Order of the Arrow*
- 3) Serve Your Unit
- 4) Plan for Service in your Lodge: See next pages
- 5) Review Your Progress – Write a Letter

ORDER OF THE ARROW OFFICIAL SONG
WORDS BY E. URNER GOODMAN

Firm bound in brother-hood, Ga - ther the
 clan That cheer-ful serv-ice brings To fel-low man.
 Cir-cle our coun-cil fire, Weld tight-ly ev-'ry link That
 binds us in brother-hood, Wi-mach - ten - dienk.

This is the same song we sing at every lodge meeting. It doesn't really matter how good of a singer you are, just make sure you're not the one person not singing!

The Handclasp:

The handclasp is basically a left-handed hand shake, the only difference is that you need to keep your pinky finger open to interlock with the one you are shaking hands with, this is the same handshake the 4 principles would have greeted you with after inducting you into the lodge. This is the proper way to greet a fellow Arrowman so it's important that you remember it.

The Admonition:

This one may have been hard to understand when you first heard it as it was whispered in your ear during your induction ceremony. This is a Native American word meaning "To love one another". If you do not remember it you should contact your brotherhood chairman who will gladly remind you, or ask another member. You can use this to identify other Arrowmen, its sort of like a password, but you will need to know it for Brotherhood 101. **This is only to be SPOKEN. Never WRITTEN!!!!**

The Obligation:

*I do hereby promise, on my honor as a scout, to always and faithfully observe, and preserve the traditions 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.

Pronunciation:

Wimachtendienk (Wee-mak-ten-dink)
Wingolauchsik (Wing-Oh-Low-Sick)
Witahemui (Whit-Tah-Hem-Away)

The Sign of the Ordeal

The sign of the ordeal is meant to be another way of determining whether someone is truly a member of the order. The sign can be made by putting your right hand over your left shoulder, and then drawing it straight up as if drawing an arrow from a quiver

The Signs and Symbols of the OA

Who are the four Principles?

1. Kichkinet: Kichkinet was the first principle you met on the night of your ordeal, he served as your guide, leading you to the circle to meet the others, Kichkinet represents helpfulness and friendliness. He is the youngest of the principles and is fairly new to his position as the guide.
2. Nutiket: When you approached the circle, you met Nutiket, the Guard. He symbolizes bravery and cheerfulness. He Guards the circle and only opens it to those who are ready.
3. Meteu: The third principle you met was Meteu, the wise old medicine man (Native Americans of Michigan would prefer us to not refer to the "medicine man" and rather use "wise elder", he reminds us of our need to love one another and to remain reverent by representing brotherhood.
4. Allowat Sakima: The final principle you met was Allowat Sakima, the Mighty Chief. He represents leadership, and reminds us of our duty service to God and Country.

The Tokens:

1. The Bow: Given by Nutiket, the bow represents liveliness and cheerfulness under pressure
2. The Bowstring: Given by Meteu, it represents the ties of brotherhood
3. The Arrow: Given by Allowat, it represents that you were set apart from your fellow scouts for something higher. And that your path should remain straight and true. He asked you to test the bow as a symbol of your strength and will power.
4. Not so much a token as much as an action, was when Kichkinet shot the arrow from the bow as a symbol of the beginning of your journey in the right direction.

The four tests:

1. The pledge of silence: This was meant to be a time of thoughtful reflection for you. Not being able to speak encouraged you to be alone with your thoughts so that you could truly contemplate what you were experiencing.
2. The night alone: This was to symbolize that you were set apart from your fellows for a reason. It also helped you understand that you were meant to contemplate on yourself during that time.
3. The day of labor: The labor was meant as a challenge to see that you were willing to work cheerfully for the good of others, even if it meant you had to work hard at a cost to yourself.
4. The scant food: this was meant to test your will power. It was a test of self-denial, as well as dedication to the ordeal.

The Three W's

The original name of the Order of the Arrow was Wimachtendienk, Wingolauchsik, Witahemui. These come from the Lenne Lenapi language and the translate to "Brotherhood of Cheerful Service"

The Legend:

The Legend describes how the peaceful lives of the Lenne Lenapi tribe were threatened by neighboring tribes and distant enemies. It is told to you by Meteu. He describes Chingachgooks call for volunteers to alert the nearby villages of the danger, but Chingachgooks call was met with indifference from tribal members.

Uncus, the son of the Chief bravely offered help despite the negative reaction from those around him. He selflessly worked to protect his tribe even though they would not do the same for him. He had a higher purpose and saw that he could make a difference. He saved his tribe from total destruction.

The Sash

The sash is to be worn around your body with the arrow facing up and to the right. The sash is only meant to be worn at OA events, never to show off your membership. It is not an award like star, life or eagle, it is only meant to be worn out of respect for the order.

One final thing. Write a letter to the Lodge Secretary

In this letter, explain what you think the Obligation means; Describe how you have been fulfilling the Obligation in your troop or unit and in your daily life and how you have used your understanding of the Ordeal in your service; Describe how you plan to or will give future service in the Lodge/Area/Chapter program. Tell what the OA means to you and why you are seeking Brotherhood. There is no length requirement to this letter, but try to put a meaningful effort into this letter. (This letter will be turned in when you arrive at camp to go through the Brotherhood Ceremony)

THE BROTHERHOOD: MY PLAN FOR SERVICE

What can I do in my Unit?

- Promote monthly camping
- Promote Summer Camp / High Adventure
- Attend OA Chapter & Lodge Activities
- Be a ROLE MODEL for *Scouting's National Honor Society – the OA!*
- Attend and use the skills of NYLT
- Other

How can I support my Chapter?

- Serve as a chapter officer
- Assist with unit elections
- Help with unit camping promotions
- Attend chapter meetings
- Assist with Cub Scout Arrow of Light or Cross-Over Ceremonies
- Serve on a ceremony team

- Give district support (dinners, activities, etc.)
- Help with Service Project(s)
- Other

What can I do in my Lodge/Area?

- Serve as a lodge officer or chairman
- Work on an event committee
- Support Induction Weekends
- Serve as an Elangomat or on the Ceremonial Team
- Promote lodge events & functions in my troop and chapter
- Attend lodge events
- Support MSU Seat Backs
- Attend Section Conclave or other National events
- Other

Study this guide as you prepare for Brotherhood, you will meet with a Brotherhood guide who will help you with memorization and understanding when you arrive at camp.