



# Eternal Flame Program



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®  
ORDER OF THE ARROW



Scouts and their parents expect all Boy Scouts of America activities to be conducted safely. To ensure the safety of participants, the Boy Scouts of America expects leaders to use the four points of **SAFE** when delivering the Scouting program.

## SUPERVISION

Youth are supervised by qualified and trustworthy adults who set the example for safety.

- Accepting responsibility for the well-being and safety of youth under their care.
- Ensuring that adults are adequately trained, experienced, and skilled to lead the activity, including the ability to prevent and respond to likely problems and potential emergencies.
- Knowing and delivering the program of the Boy Scouts of America with integrity.
- Using qualified instructors, guides, or safety personnel as needed to provide additional guidance.
- Maintaining engagement with participants during activities to ensure compliance with established rules and procedures.

## ASSESSMENT

Activities are assessed for risks during planning. Leaders have reviewed applicable program guidance or standards and have verified the activity is not prohibited. Risk avoidance or mitigation is incorporated into the activity.

- Predetermining what guidance and standards are typically applied to the activity, including those specific to the Boy Scouts of America program.
- Planning for safe travel to and from the activity site.
- Validating the activity is age-appropriate for the Boy Scouts of America program level.
- Determining whether the unit has sufficient training, resources, and experience to meet the identified standards and, if not, modifying the activity accordingly.
- Developing contingency plans for changes in weather and environment and arranging for communication with participants, parents, and emergency services.

## FITNESS AND SKILL

Participants' Annual Health and Medical Records are reviewed, and leaders have confirmed that prerequisite fitness and skill levels exist for participants to take part safely.

- Confirming the activity is right for the age, maturity, and physical abilities of participants.
- Considering as risk factors temporary or chronic health conditions of participants.
- Validating minimum skill requirements identified during planning and ensuring participants stay within the limits of their abilities.
- Providing training to participants with limited skills and assessing their skills before they attempt more advanced skills.

## EQUIPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT

Safe and appropriately sized equipment, courses, camps, campsites, trails, or playing fields are used properly. Leaders periodically check gear use and the environment for changing conditions that could affect safety.

- Confirming participants' clothing is appropriate for expected temperatures, sun exposure, weather events, and terrain.
- Providing equipment that is appropriately sized for participants, is in good repair, and is used properly.
- Ensuring personal and group safety equipment is available, properly fitted, and used consistently and in accordance with training.
- Reviewing the activity area for suitability during planning and immediately before use, and monitoring the area during the activity through supervision.
- Adjusting the activity for changing conditions or ending it if safety cannot be maintained.

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# Eternal Flame Program

## Introduction

Scouts and Scouters promise in the *Scout Oath* to do our duty to God. The *Scout Law* ends by reminding us that a Scout is Reverent. The following program has been designed to offer Arrowmen the opportunity to practice reverence in the remembering of Arrowmen who have passed away.

This program is not intended to replace a memorial service or funeral that may be held by the deceased Arrowman's religious community. Rather, it is intended to take place at a Scouting event as a way to celebrate the life of the deceased and remember him or her in the context of his or her service to Scouting and the Order of the Arrow. The program should also not replace a general chapel, or Scout's own, worship service during a Scouting event. However, it could be incorporated into the service, if appropriate.

The intent of this program is to be reverent and solemn. It will be best to conduct this program in an appropriate location, free from distractions. Those leading the program should wear

an official BSA field uniform with Order of the Arrow sash.

The program has been designed to be adaptable to a variety of situations, whether one Arrowman is being honored at a single event or a group of Arrowmen are being honored at an annual event. Throughout the program, one will find *italicized* text to be customized based on the deceased individual's gender, single individual versus group and more. Both the Welcome and Invocation and Celebration of Life sections should be reviewed for adaptations before the program is conducted.

Additionally, the program can be led by a single individual or a group of individuals. If led by a group, speaking roles should be assigned beforehand, and a printed program or digital presentation should note those who will be speaking for each section.

This Eternal Flame Program is an official Order of the Arrow program and should be used in lieu of any previous ceremonies or programs to honor the departed.

## Planning

When a fellow Arrowman has passed away, the membership can utilize this program to honor their legacy. Here are few suggestions for proper planning:

- **Set a date and time** – in conjunction with the family and local leaders, set a time and date for this program to be held. The

program could be held during an upcoming Scouting event (e.g., lodge event, section conclave) or could be a separate stand-alone event. Some groups may elect to conduct this program annually to recognize all Arrowmen who have passed away in the last year. Examples

include an annual banquet, section conclave, or special recognition event.

- **Secure a location** – seek a reverent location, free from distractions that will have plenty of seating for guests who attend. Ensure the location has the needed resources for audio/video (if applicable) and parking for guests.
- **Announcement** – share the event details with the local membership to ensure they are aware of the program and can make plans to attend. This can be done via direct mail, electronic communication, social

media, and more. If the event is held in conjunction with a previously schedule event, ensure the program is listed on the event schedule.

- **Family of the deceased** – at least one member of the planning team should be in contact with the family of the deceased to include them in the planning process. The desire to honor the Arrowman among fellow Scouters should be conveyed. Lastly, a personal invitation should be extended for the family to attend the program.

## Program Notes

The following program notes are provided to ensure the best experience for those being honored and those in attendance.

- **Venue setup** – the venue should have a table setup in the front of the room, or on the stage, visible to all attendees. A framed portrait of the individual(s) to be honored can be placed on this table, along with an unlit candle per person. A podium should be placed nearby the table for the program speaker(s) to use. If audio amplification is available, it may be helpful for larger groups.
- **Printed program** – a printed program can be distributed to those who attend to provide them with the order of program, responsive readings, and speakers. It also serves as a great memento or keepsake for attendees. A model is in the appendix.

*Note: This program can be adapted to accommodate the needs of the local membership or event. Examples include editing names of the speaker(s), special music, additional program elements, guest speaker(s), and more.*

- **Digital presentation** – a digital presentation can be utilized in conjunction with or in lieu of a printed program. This is dependent upon the audio/visual equipment available at the selected venue.

*Note: This program can be adapted to accommodate the needs of the local membership or event.*

- **Length of program** – the length of the program depends on several factors, such as: desires of the program leaders, number of guests, and number of family/friends who speak on the honoree's behalf during the program. It is recommended the program be planned for 30 to 60 minutes in length. Each guest speaker (non-scripted leader) should only take 3-5 minutes each; this can help keep the program within the time recommendation.
- **Guest book (Optional)** – a guest book could be obtained and made available at the entrance of the venue for all guests to note their attendance. This could be given to the family, if desired.

## Order for the Program

### Welcome and Invocation

[Leader]

The Order of the Arrow has a story and a history, a legacy as a brotherhood of cheerful service. The Order's story is also the collective story of each of us. Every individual has their own story and history. Just as a thread in the bowstring woven together, we strengthen the legacy of our Order.

We gather now to set aside time to remember our common purpose and the gifts given to us by those who have gone before us. Especially, we remember *[full name(s) of the deceased]* and the legacy of servant leadership that *[he/she/they]* have left to us.

As they fanned the flame in their heart, we light this candle in remembrance of their first spark.

*[Leader lights a candle for each individual.]*

As we enter into this time, let us pray together in unison.

[All]

Eternal God, we acknowledge the uncertainty of our life on earth. We are given only a handful of days, and our span of life seems nothing in your sight. You alone can turn the shadow of death into the brightness of the morning light. Help us to trust you when we do not understand

and enable us to continue our shared legacy of service and love. Amen.

### Statement of Purpose

[Leader]

For over a century, our Order has been a brotherhood of those Scouts and Scouters committed to living out the Scout Oath and Law in every aspect of life. Thus, it is appropriate that we pause to remember those who have served alongside us and have now passed on. We reverently celebrate the *[life/lives]* of our brother(s) and *[his/her/their]* service to Scouting and to our Order.

Let us remember the words of Meteu in the Pre-Ordeal ceremony:

"We who love the haunts of nature, love the moonlight on the water, love the sunshine on the meadow, love the shadow of the forest, love the wind among the branches ever murmuring, ever sighing, love the rushing of great rivers through their palisades of pine trees, love the thunder in the mountains whose innumerable echoes leap and bound from crag to cliffside heard these admonitions as guidance on our journey through life."

## Ideals of the Order

Leader: Let us remind ourselves of the ideals of the Order of the Arrow using this litany of the Obligation of Our Order.

*[Lift right hand and give the Scout sign.]*

All: I do hereby promise on my honor as a Scout, that I will always and faithfully observe and preserve the traditions of the Order of the Arrow, Wimachtendienk, Wingo-lauchsik, Witahemui.

Leader: Our traditions are founded upon brotherhood, cheerfulness and service. When we strive to live up to these principles, we live out the Scout Oath and Law.

All: I will always regard the ties of brotherhood in the Order of the Arrow, as lasting.

Leader: We are stronger together than we are apart. Brotherhood teaches us to love one another.

All: And will seek to preserve a cheerful spirit even in the midst of irksome tasks and weighty responsibilities.

Leader: Cheerfulness reveals where our hearts are. If we begrudge others or the work we are given to do, our experience becomes darkened. Cheerfulness brings light to the gloomiest of situations.

All: And will endeavor, so far as in my power lies, to be unselfish in service and devotion to the welfare of others.

Leader: It is service that directs us towards our fellows. Only in service do we see true leadership and find strength to face our difficulties.

## Celebration of Life

[Leader]

*Note: See recommendations in the planning section of this document for guidance on developing this section.*

## Silent Reflection

[Leader]

Let us now, in reverent silence, center our thoughts.

*[Pause for at least a minute of silent reflection.]*



## Rededication

[Leader]

Let us stand and rededicate ourselves to our common purpose:

Here we stand in God's cathedral  
Surrounded by its majesty.  
We who love great vaulting arches,  
Love the prairies ever rolling,  
Love the tundra and the swampland,  
Love the cricket's nighttime chatter,  
And the chilling eagle's cry,  
Love the peace that flows within us,  
Just as sunshine flows through  
    branches,  
Love the beauty of the desert,  
Love the redwoods, living relics,  
And the sound of utter silence  
That can stir one's inward thoughts  
To waken dreams mankind can share.  
Help us in our present mission  
As we strive for greater vision  
In a life of cheerful service.

## Song of the Order

[Leader]

Let us join hands and sing the Song of Our Order.

*Note: Participants may join hands in a circle if conducted in a small group or be instructed to join hands with one's neighbor if conducted in larger groups.*

## The Order Of The Arrow Song

Tune: Lvov 1833    Words & Arr.: E. Uner Goodman

The musical score is written on four staves of music. The lyrics are: Firm bound in bro-ther-hood, Ga-ther the clan That cheer-ful serv-ice brings To fel-low man. Cir-cle our council fire, Weld tight-ly ev-ry link That binds us in bro-ther-hood, Wi-mach-ten-dienk.

## Extinguishing of the Candle & Closing

[Leader]

May it be our steadfast purpose, although we extinguish *[this/these]* candle(s) as we leave this gathering, may the legacy *[it/they]* represent(s) glow brighter in our hearts, minds and actions.

*[Leader extinguishes the candle(s)]*

There should fall a solemn silence o'er the brothers in our circle, for our thoughts should now be centered on the noble goal and purpose that has called us all together. We who love the woods and camping, we who strive in cheerful service, stand together and support each other on our long and toilsome journey.

# Appendix: Model Program

## For a letter-size piece of paper, folded in half

### Front Cover

Eternal Bond Ceremony

[Location]

[Date: Month, Day, Year]

### Inside Front Cover

Eternal Bond Ceremony

Welcome

Invocation

Statement of Purpose

Ideals of the Order

Celebration of Life

Time for Sharing

Silent Reflection

Rededication

Song of the Order

Closing Prayer

Closing

Taps

### Facing Page (Inside Back Cover)

In Memoriam

[Names of those being remembered]

### Back Cover

Scout Oath

On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

Scout Law

A Scout is

trustworthy	obedient
loyal	cheerful
helpful	thrifty
friendly	brave
courteous	clean
kind	reverent.

OA Obligation

I do hereby promise on my honor as a Scout, that I will 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.

# Notes



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