



# Membership Policy Transition

## Scenario Discussions

1. At your lodge's fall induction weekend, the new lodge officers are elected. A youth female is elected, and the lodge adviser declares that she cannot be a "chief", and that must be the "lodge president".
2. A scoutmaster contacts your lodge saying that it is ridiculous that unit elections are being offered to Sea Scout Ships, and Venturing Crews. This scoutmaster says his troop isn't holding an election this year because of the new policy change.
3. Your local lodge leadership hasn't contacted their local Native American tribe and, thus, has no information on the tribe's official stance on female ceremonialists. Should a female Arrowman proceed to participate in the ceremony, and what should the lodge leadership do now and moving forward?
4. The parent of a youth female Arrowman who was just inducted calls and complains that her daughter wasn't separated from the youth males that were going through the induction. She felt very uncomfortable that her daughter was sleeping right next to a male youth.
5. Following the Ordeal ceremony, some lodges serve a meal and host a committee midway, or a presentation of all of the different committees that the lodge has, so that interested parties can know more about opportunities in the lodge, as well as find committee contact information if they might be interested in joining in the future. While passing by one of the committee chairs at a local lodge conclave, you hear an interaction. Though the newly-inducted female Arrowman seems really interested in the various AIA/ICE programs that are offered, you overhear the chairperson say that those committees have plenty of volunteers. The chairperson suggests that the new Arrowman may find a way to help if she checks out some of the emptier committees that could use her skills, like the service committee.
6. A female section chief plans her first COC, and the section adviser and associate have failed to recruit a woman associate adviser. The section chief is the only female that is in attendance at the COC.





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7. A local tribe has reached out to your council's Scout Executive and mentioned that they were upset with the lodge's use of regalia. They are uncomfortable with female youth using the regalia the lodge has. The Scout Executive hasn't decided whether or not to ban the use of regalia. What should you as a lodge leader do?
8. A parent calls you, the lodge chief, and asks what do in his situation. His daughter wasn't elected at the troop's unit election last week and was elected in her crew this week. She meets all the membership requirements. What do you say?
9. The lodge's induction adviser is in charge of deciding where the candidates spend their overnight at the ordeal weekend. He doesn't care about the new membership policy change and puts all the male and female candidates in the same campsite on the other side of the lake. When the lodge chief asks him if there are adults doing walk-throughs, he looks confused and says he doesn't know what that means.
10. A young woman was just elected to be lodge chief. She loves the Order of the Arrow, and has aspirations to run for a section position, and hopefully a national position. At the section conclave that fall the section adviser tells this lodge chief she cannot run for chief because she is a girl. The girl goes to her lodge adviser and tells him the situation. As the lodge adviser, what do you do?





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### FACILITATOR ANSWER KEY

1. The term “chief” is not going away and is not gendered. Girls are allowed to be lodge chiefs (Syllabus Page 4).
2. You should work to defuse the situation. The new membership change is going to allow even more youth the opportunity to become Arrowmen. Try your best to work with the individual to see if they will allow an election. Bring in the appropriate help (Lodge Adviser, Council Executives, etc.).
3. The lodge may allow the female youth to participate, as no one should be excluded, but should work diligently to acquire the local tribe’s input in a timely manner.
4. Apologize to the parent and explain that that is not the proper procedure. Male and female candidates should be separated when doing the overnight portion of their Ordeal.
5. If you witness this, you should immediately notify the lodge leadership so that it may be corrected. No youth should be excluded from an opportunity in the lodge. Every youth should be allowed to join the AIA/ICE committee.
6. There has to be an adult in attendance in order to hold an official OA function with female youth present. The section should make arrangements, and plan accordingly to avoid these circumstances (Syllabus Page 4).
7. The lodge should quickly work with the local tribe to establish approved attire for female ceremonialists. There is an opportunity to avoid cutting regalia altogether if it can be worn correctly, with the blessing of the local tribe.
8. Once someone is elected in a unit, they are a candidate for induction. Since the youth meets the membership requirements, they are eligible to be called out.
9. The new membership policy change requirements should be explained to the inductions adviser. Male and female candidates need to be separated when completing the overnight portion of the ordeal. There also must be random walk-throughs of overnight camping areas by two adults 21 or over, one of which must be female when female youth are participating. (Syllabus Page 3).
10. The lodge adviser should speak with the section adviser, and make sure he is aware of the new membership policy change. Any youth in the Order of the Arrow is allowed to run for section chief (if they meet the general requirements per the Field Operations Guide). It is not permitted to not allow someone to run because they are female (Syllabus Page 5).

