



## Lodge 102: Officer Elections

### Session Length: 45 Minutes

Through this session, you will:

- Explain** the basics of electing lodge officers
- Demonstrate** best practices on engaging youth to serve as officers
- Guide** participants to evaluate how their lodge elects their officers
- Enable** learners to challenge tradition, take home new ideas and implement them

### Learning Outcomes:

- Learners will be able to successfully plan and run an lodge officer elections
- Engage young people to run for lodge office
- Utilizing new ideas, attendees will be able to challenge the usual traditions of “we’ve always done it this way,” and take these home for implementation

### Theme Connection:

The theme of NOAC 2018 is “Decide Your Destiny,” emphasizing the message that today’s decisions shape tomorrow’s reality. This session will relay this theme in the following ways:

- Through presenting new ideas, attendees will be able to bring ideas from throughout the country on how to best recruit and elect lodge officers.
- By challenging the traditions of doing things a certain way, attendees will be charged to evaluate how their lodge does their officer elections and look at these new ideas to bring home.

This session will help the Lodge with the Journey to Excellence Requirement(s): 1, 2, 5, 10

### Required Materials:

- Computer with Projector and Screen
- Whiteboard with Markers and Eraser
- Handouts of Sample Lodge Officer Applications
- Handouts of Sample Lodge Officer Petitions



## TRAINER PREPARATION

1. Review Syllabus and Powerpoint
2. Develop or find examples of chapter, lodge and section officer applications and petitions to utilize in discussion of these topics..

## Session Narrative

### Introduction

5 minutes

**The Order of the Arrow remains a youth led program that is guided by qualified, capable adult advisers. As a youth led organization, our organization is run by some of the most engaged and outstanding young people, selected solely by their peers.**

Today, we have the opportunity to discuss how we select these outstanding young people to lead our organization. While each lodge throughout the country has its own ways of selecting youth officers, this is guided by the Guide for Officers and Advisers.

In part, it says:

“The elected officers of the lodge are the lodge chief, lodge vice chief, lodge secretary, and lodge treasurer. Some lodges find it desirable to elect more than one vice chief. Arrowmen desiring to serve as a lodge (or chapter) officer or committee chairman must meet the following eligibility requirements: 1. Be currently registered in Scouting, in the council that charters the lodge. 2. Be a member in good standing in the lodge. 3. Be younger than 21 for the entire term of office.”

Let us take a few minutes to see what this actually means. While the GOA has a large section for the election of the National Chief and National Vice Chief, the Field Operations Guide has an election procedure for Section Officers, but there is nothing in writing for the election of Ledge and Chapter Officers.



Why would we do this?

**Trainer Instructions:** Write down participant ideas on why we do not have a formal national procedure for electing youth officers at the Lodge and Chapter levels

### Finding the Best Talent

**15 minutes**

One of the most dangerous things that an organization can do is rest on its laurels and say “we’ve always done it this way.” Part of any evolving organization, especially one that has youth leadership should be continually looking at the best practices available to make itself competitive in the race for the time of our young people.

In researching for this session, I’ve found lodges throughout the country that do a number of different things to find candidates for their lodge officer elections.

- Petitions
- Applications with Essays
- Nominations from the Floor
- Lodge Officer “Slates”
- Nominations from Chapter Officers

While none of these methods will work everywhere, it is important to take a look at what works best in your own lodge. If your lodge is struggling to find talent for its officers, pay close attention.

I’ve given you all copies of a number of petitions and documents taken from Lodges across the country that have found success in using these in recruiting and electing qualified and motivated young people as their lodge officers.

Let’s break up into small groups of 4-5 people and discuss why these petitions could be a positive. What do they outline? Will it help us get the best possible candidates? Why?

**Trainer Instructions:** Write down participant ideas related to officer agreements and petitions. When they are finished, summarize and tie into the thematic

### How to elect our officers

**15 minutes**

Deciding on the best way to select our youth officers is always an interesting topic. The GOA reminds us that everyone under the age of 21 is allowed to vote in officer elections. Yet, without a defined aspect of what procedure we can use, we’re left to our own devices to figure out what works.



Some ideas:

Regular Secret Ballots  
Voting by Chapter/Clan  
Straw Polls

Either way that we manage to elect our officers, we must ensure to the best of our abilities that we are able to allow our youth to elect the leadership that they want. Many moons ago, we had adults involved in the process, some going as far to propose a slate of officers that they wanted, and only those youth preselected were able to be on the ballot.

Have any of you experienced this in your Lodge? How did you deal with it?

### Sharing Best Practices

**10 minutes**

One of the greatest things that we can share with each other are the ideas that we have from our home lodges. This makes any Order of the Arrow gathering a real transaction of knowledge and best practices. I'd like to open the floor to everyone to share any experiences or ideas about their elections and officer nominations that we haven't already discussed.

These don't have to be just positives. Feel free to share the uh-oh moments that we can all learn from.

If any of these ideas sound great to you, please write them down and share them with your Lodge Leadership during your free time today.

### Takeaway Challenge

**3 minutes**

Please take out your notebook and pen. For the final three minutes, think about the role that you will be playing next year in the OA, or the role you hope to play. Write down three key ideas related to this session that you could help improve the way your chapter or lodge plans and implements their lodge officer elections. During your break time later today, share these with others in your chapter or lodge.

## Appendix: Resources and Source Material

- Guide for Officers and Advisers
- Field Operations Guide
- Officer Petitions (attached)



-  Adobe Acrobat Document Coosa Lodge Officer Nomination Form
-  Adobe Acrobat Document Wa-Hi-Nasa Officer Candidate Form (and OA Best Practices)
-  Adobe Acrobat Document Nischa Chuppecat Lodge Chief Candidacy Agreement