Home-Fire Ceremony

“The spark is within us.”

Introduction

The Home-Fire Ceremony has been authorized by the national committee for limited-time use by OA lodges. Its purpose is to bring the Centennial Fire message and experience of the 100th anniversary conference to a wider audience of Arrowmen. For the purpose of this ceremony, the term “lodge” may be taken to include “chapter” or “section.”

The ceremony may be conducted as many times as desired during the approved period. All lodges will receive a bottle of ashes from the Centennial Fire and are invited to welcome them into their home fire, even if a lodge was unable to make a contribution from their home camp.

A single “Host” or multiple “Hosts” may be utilized. The ceremony may be either read or memorized. In all cases, priority must be given to a well-prepared, easily-heard, and clearly-understood presentation. The Host will be an Arrowman (youth) wearing a field uniform with sash. Ceremonial attire will NOT be worn. Tokens used in the Induction Ceremonies will not be utilized.

While clearly reinforcing the central tenets of the Obligation, the text and procedures carefully respect and safeguard the Order’s Induction Ceremonies and the 10 Induction Principles. They may not be altered or embellished. However, lodges are granted the use of good judgment and discretion on matters not specified herein.

Candles/torches representing the points of the Scout Oath and Law are not required but are permitted, provided that they are lighted before the Brothers arrive and extinguished after the Brothers depart.

Environment

A sturdy firelay is lit in the amphitheater, ceremonial ring, or other appropriate location at the lodge’s camp BEFORE the Brothers arrive. As they arrive, the Host is waiting by the cheerful fire in full Scout uniform with sash. Members may be seated or stand as appropriate to the location. As part of the ceremony, the Brothers will be invited to each feed the fire. Thoughtfully planning how each member becomes equipped to do so is a lodge responsibility. Assistants (youth and/or adult) who welcome arriving Brothers with the Handclasp are encouraged.
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Opening

Host: Good evening, Brothers! Tonight we gather to commit ourselves to the next century of the Wimachtendienk by welcoming ashes from the Centennial Fire into our home-fire at [Camp/Scout Reservation]. The Centennial Fire burned in August 2015 at the 100th anniversary conference in East Lansing, Michigan. These fires represent the spirit of the Order in action, fueled by the cheerful service of every member since it first ignited one hundred years ago.

The Centennial Fire was tended by the National Chief, Vice Chief and Chairman, who kindled it with tokens gathered from three locations significant to our history: First, from Treasure Island, home of our founding, located on the Delaware River with its “palisades of pine trees;” Second, from the “Brotherhood Barn,” nestled among the maple and hemlock forests of Dr. Goodman’s Vermont home; Third, from the Summit Circle, surrounded by the sturdy oak of the OA’s national ceremonial grounds in West Virginia. Finally, just as the Order’s work is sustained by each of us, the Centennial Fire was fed by lodges from across the country with wood from home camps (like/including) ours.

[Host takes a step towards the fire]

Host: Ancient man moved his home fire by carrying a glowing ember insulated by ashes.

[Host holds up bottle of ashes from NOAC]

Host: The ashes in this bottle were carried home from the Centennial Fire. They remind us not only of the lasting contributions made by today’s Arrowmen, but also of those made by every Arrowman since the Order’s founding. Tonight we welcome these ashes into our home fire, though they needed no ember…because the spark is within us!

[Host then sprinkles a few, some, or all ashes into the fire.]

Host: This fire is a symbol of the service we give to others, and of the warmth and light radiating from our example. It illuminates the same Brotherhood of Cheerful Service that has burned brightly for more than one hundred years. Today, it starts – again – with us!
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Adding to the Fire

**Host:** I now ask each Brother to step forward to feed the flame. As you do, please say your name and troop number aloud to remind you of those who chose you, and...who **need** you! Then, please join me in forming a single circle around the fire.

[The Host gestures to the fire then demonstrates by placing a stick on the fire, while saying his name and troop number. The Host then moves to an appropriate distance facing the fire where the Brothers will join him to encircle the fire. Assistants may help guide the Brothers, as needed. If used, the assistants will be the last to feed the fire and join the circle.]

**Brothers:** “Johnny Arrowman, Troop 100.” Etc.

[After the circle is formed, the Host steps forward.]

**Closing**

**Host:** Thanks to you, Brothers – to your **energy**, your **dedication**, your **contribution** -- our fire burns more brightly tonight. But it is up to us – up to **each** of us – to carry this fire into the future. It is up to us to **accept** life’s daily ordeals, to **reach out** to those who need us, to **be examples** to those around us...to be **lights in the darkness** for the next hundred years and beyond!

[The Host steps forward and raises his right hand to the Scout sign.]

**Host:** Let us rededicate ourselves in the Obligation.

**Brothers:** [All say the Obligation.]

**Host:** Let us now join hands and sing the song of Brotherhood then depart this fire carrying its spark within. The next century of the Wimachtendienk starts...with **us**!

[The Host steps back to rejoin the circle, crosses right arm over left, and leads the song.]

**Brothers:** [All sing the OA Song.]

[End]