

GUIDE TO THE OA Unit Election

So, you've been tasked with administering a Boy Scout unit's Order of the Arrow election. This is no easy task; you will be the first interaction many members of this unit have with the Order of the Arrow, but don't fret! Those who elected you believe in you, and helping others take their first step is a rewarding experience.

Preparation

- **Take at least one other youth Arrowman with you**, and an adult adviser, if possible.
- **Obtain a list of eligible candidates** from the unit committee chair or unit leader prior to the unit election.
- **Prepare the OA Unit Election Presentation powerpoint**, and come ready to conduct the election with or without the powerpoint.
- **Come with a supply of writing utensils and ballots.**
- **Bring plenty of adult applications**, so that the unit committee chair and unit leader may nominate other adults in the unit.
- **Bring plenty of OA brochures**, ready to distribute to the youth and adults present.

Before the Presentation

- **Speak to the unit leader** or committee chair.
 - Make sure they know the process for electing youth, and approve of all the candidates.
 - If the adult adviser is not present, walk them through how the adult nominating process works, otherwise ask the adult adviser to do this.
- **Introduce yourself to the Senior Patrol Leader or Varsity Team Captain**, and ask them if they have any questions about the process.

Presentation - Tips & Tricks

- **Start by introducing the Order of the Arrow** and distributing the brochures.
 - Remember that for many of these Scouts and Scouters, this is the first time they're hearing about the OA.
- **Utilize the powerpoint if possible**, but be rehearsed enough to proceed without it.
- **Reiterate prior to the election** that voters should consider candidates that best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives. This is NOT a popularity contest!
- **Reiterate that voters can vote for as many or as few candidates as they'd like**, there is no limit!

After the Election

- **Tally the ballots in private**, and announce the results per the instructions given by the unit leader. In most cases, they will want you to keep the results secret until the callout ceremony, but units are allowed to know the results immediately after the election.
- **Dispose of the ballots off-site**, especially if the unit leader has asked you to keep them private.
- **Fill out the youth applications** and turn them into the proper person ASAP.



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