

ORDER OF THE ARROW 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.

ORDER OF THE ARROW SONG

Firm bound in Brotherhood,
Gather the clan that
Cheerful service brings to fellow man.

Circle our council fire
Weld tightly every link
That binds us in Brotherhood
Wimachtendienk.



Unali'Yi Lodge 236

Brotherhood Study Guide

Steps to Brotherhood

1. **Memorize the signs of OA membership:** The OA Obligation, the OA song, the Admonition (and its meaning), the Sign of the Ordeal, and the OA Handclasp.
2. **Understand Ordeal:** Be able to explain the names, meanings, and actions of the Principals as well as the meaning and purpose the conditions of your Ordeal.
3. **Serve your unit.**
4. **Be an active member of the Lodge for at least six months.**
5. **Write a letter:** Explain what the Obligation means to you, how you have started to live by that Obligation, and your plans for future service to the OA.
6. **Have your requirements verified by an OA officer.**

Reach Out

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THE HISTORY OF OA

In 1915, Camp Director **E. Urner Goodman** and Assistant Camp Director Carroll A. Edson searched for a way to recognize select campers for their cheerful sprits of service at **Treasure Island Scout Camp** in the Delaware River.

The original name for the Order of the Arrow was **Wimachtendienk Wingolauchsik Witahemui**, which means **The Brotherhood of Cheerful Service** in the **Lenni Lenape** language, which was used by the Native Americans from the Delaware River area.

The purpose of the Order is:

- 1) to recognize those Campers, Scouts, Explorers and Scouters who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives
- 2) to maintain and develop camping traditions and spirit
- 3) to promote Scout camping
- 4) to crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life of purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others

The symbol of the Order is the Arrow

whose undeviating course, when aimed high, is a token of leadership. **It is worn pointed over the right shoulder.**



UNALI'YI LODGE 236

ORDER OF THE ARROW

THE ORDEAL

The purpose of Ordeal is to have candidates reflect to gain a greater understanding of the Scout Oath and Law through a **fourfold Ordeal**. The challenges are:

- 1) **Sleeping alone** - to prove self-reliance
- 2) **Silence** - to turn thoughts inward
- 3) **Arduous toil** - to indicate willingness to serve others
- 4) **Scant food** - to demonstrate the power of self-denial

The Ordeal is revealed to candidates at the ceremonial grounds by the **four Principals**.

- 1) **Kichkinet**, in the east - the Guide and symbolizes leadership. He shoots the bow and shows the path.
- 2) **Nutiket**, in the south - the Guard who upholds cheerfulness. He flexes the bow.
- 3) **Meteu**, in the west - the Medicine Man who represents brotherhood. He provides the string that ties.
- 4) **Allowat Sakima**, in the north - the Mighty Chief and exemplifies service. He strings the bow, connecting cheerfulness and brotherhood through service.

As you enter the ceremonial grounds, you see 15 blazes of light symbolizing the 3 points of the Oath and the 12 points of the Law. Each Principal spoke to you, and shared a test you were to undertake.

After completing the trials, you return to the ceremonial grounds in a line with your hand on the candidate in front of you and bound by a rope representing Brotherhood. You advance to the fire of cheerfulness, and prepare to receive the Obligation.

Meteu gives you the legend of how the OA was founded and spoke of the peaceful Lenni Lenape, their Chief, **Chingachgook**, and his son, **Uncas**. When war was threatened, Uncas offered to warn other villages despite the negative attitudes and unwillingness of other tribe members. When peace returned, Chingachgook bound Uncas and those who joined him in brotherhood.

After completing Ordeal, candidates become **Ordeal** members. After, members can become **Brotherhood** or **Vigil** members.

PRONOUNCIATIONS

Brotherhood
Cheerfulness
Service

Wimachtendienk
Wingolauchsik
Witahemui

wee-MOK-TEN-dee-enk
WIN-go-louch-sik
WIT-ah-HEM-oo-ee

Delaware people

Lenni Lenape

leh-NEE lan-AH-pay

The Chieftain
The Chieftain's Son

The Mighty Chief
The Medicine Man
The Guard
The Guide

Chingachgook
Uncas

Allowat Sakima
Meteu
Nutiket
Kichkinet

CHING-GOTCH-gook
UN-cuss

AH-lo-wot sah-KEE-ma
meh-TAY-oh
noo-TEE-ket
KITCH-kin-et