

Lodge Adviser's Minute

...Ed Sexton, Lodge Adviser



"I will always regard the ties of brotherhood in the Order of the Arrow as lasting..." This phrase is one that is used in our Obligation and is recited at almost every gathering of Arrowmen. In addition, if you have been around the Boy Scouts for any length of time you have heard the word "brotherhood" used quite often when referring the entire Boy Scouting movement. But what exactly does that mean?

Obviously almost everyone knows what a "brother" is and that it refers to a male relative having the same parent as another. But if you look the word up in the Merriam-Webster dictionary you will also find that it means, "One related to another by common ties or interests". This definition is not gender specific and it is in that definition that we begin to see how the Order of the Arrow is considered a "Brotherhood".

It used to be that in order to be part of a "brotherhood", an organization would require its members to show their commitment through the mixing of blood. Although we do not draw blood, our ceremonies still use that symbolism to show a commitment to a common ideal. It is through this symbolism (among others) that we show how the OA is "A thing of the Spirit". Do you remember how you did that or was that a part of the ceremony that you just did because everyone else was doing it?

Just as in other organizations, there is a learning process to becoming a Brotherhood member. We refer to this as the induction sequence which starts when you are elected or nominated for a membership in the Order. You are then recognized as being a worthy candidate when you are called out for membership in front of your peers. If you wish to continue, you go through the Ordeal and become a full member of the Lodge. The next step is to use at least 10 months to learn more about the Order of the Arrow and how it functions within the Boy Scouts

and in our units. It is then that you go through the ceremony which recognizes you as a Brotherhood member of the Order.

At the Spring Event, all of those members who went through their Ordeal in 2004 will get their first opportunity to continue their commitment to the Order of the Arrow's Purposes, Mission and the Principles by becoming Brotherhood Members. (If you need a refresher on what those are, they are all listed in your Order of the Arrow Handbook.) Our Lodge has always had a very high conversion rate of Ordeal members becoming Brotherhood members and I hope that you will use this opportunity to do the same. If you are one of our members who have yet to achieve your Brotherhood membership, (whether you did your Ordeal last year or if you did it previously) there isn't a better place to be than Camp Cornhusker on May 20th.

Come; show your commitment to Wimachtendienk, Wingolauchsik, and Witahemui by joining in the Brotherhood of our Order!

The Chief Speaks...

...by Seth Bingham, Lodge Chief

The winter months in the lodge have a tendency to be duller than the other months of the year. Well, this past winter was certainly an exception! We had two great events! For those of you who were there, you know what I am talking about! To those of you who weren't able to attend those events, come on down to camp for the spring event, and find out what you are missing! If you can't make it for the spring event, come down at least once on one of the Boy Scout weeks to help with the call out ceremonies. When I think about my first contact with the order, I recall the Order of the Arrow being at my crossover ceremony, and the Order of the Arrow callout at Camp Cornhusker later that summer. These are such important events, either for the boys joining scouting or for the boys being invited to join our organization that we need to show our support and we need to be there for them.

The Order of the Arrow is an organization that cannot survive without your participation. The Golden Sun Lodge, with your support was once again able to achieve the illustrious status of quality lodge again this year. You, our members make this all happen! I look forward to talking to each and everyone of you sometime this summer! In the meantime, keep up the cheerful spirit, despite all of the "irksome tasks and weighty responsibilities" you might encounter!