National Order of the Arrow Requirements for Eligibility - Youth

1. Must be a registered member of the Boy Scouts of America.

2. 15 days and nights of camping under the auspices of the Boy Scouts of America, including one (and only one) long term camp out consisting of 6 consecutive nights within the last two years.

3. Must hold the rank of First Class or higher at the time of the election.

4. The Scoutmaster must approve all candidates. (This is done prior to presenting the slate to the troop)

5. Any troop member under the age of 21 is considered a Youth in the election. Order of the Arrow members are considered youth until they turn 21, similar to the Venturing program. A troop may consider a scout a youth for election until he is 21 years of age.

Rules for Electing Scouts into the Order of the Arrow

1. 50% of the ACTIVE youth troop members MUST be present at the election. An active member is to be determined by the Scoutmaster. He must be at least a currently registered member of the Boy Scouts of America.

2. All youth troop members may vote, including current Order of the Arrow members.

3. All eligible youth who receive votes from at least 50% of those who turned in ballots are elected.

4. Each voting youth is allotted one vote per candidate. They may use all their votes, some of their votes, or none. No voting youth may give more than one vote to any candidate.

5. Yes, an eligible youth can vote for himself.

6. Guidelines should be given to the troop by the election team considering how the Scouts can use their vote. The team is there to answer any questions.

7. After the ballots have been collected, the election team will check to make sure they have the correct number. They will then determine how many votes were needed for election. If 10 ballots were returned, then five votes are needed to be elected. If 11 ballots are returned, 6 votes are needed. Always round up. Blank ballots must also be returned.

8. The election team will count the votes in private and determine the Scouts elected. They will fill out the unit election form and it must be signed by them and the Scoutmaster. If no one was elected, the Troop is given the option to have another election. If, on the second election, no one is elected, a form must be returned indicating that no one was elected.

9. Whether or not youth were elected, the Scoutmaster should sign the election form, indicating that an election was held or at least offered. If no election was held, write “No Election” across the form, and sign it. If no one was elected, write “No Scouts Elected” across the form and sign it. We need one form per troop in the Council to account for Unit Election Team results.
9. The Scoutmaster will receive a pink carbon copy of the election form and has the right to announce the results of the election. If he chooses to wait, then the youth will discover the results at their Chapter Tap-outs, usually held at that district’s Spring Camporee.

NOTE: If a Scout or Scouter was elected, and does not attend the Tap-Out, simply inform him that he was elected. A Tap-out is just a public recognition ceremony. It is NOT a necessary part of the Ordeal progression.

Rules for Recommending Adults into the Order of the Arrow.

1. The adult must meet the same camping requirement as the youth and must be a registered member of the BSA.

2. One youth must be elected by the troop, or else no adult can be nominated.

3. The unit committee must fill out the Adult Recommendation Form. This form, when completed entirely, must be given to the adult member of the chapter election team. It will then be sent to the Associate Lodge Adviser of Chapters to be approved for consideration by the adult selection committee. This committee consists of the Lodge Adviser, Professional Adviser, and the Council Outdoor Program Chairman.

4. Be sure to keep the pink copy of the form.

5. The adult is not to be told of his/her recommendation. The results of the Adult Selection Committee will be given to the Vice Chief of Chapters, and a list of approved adults will be sent to each chapter in time for Tap-Outs.

6. The only reason to recommend an adult is that, by having them as a member, the youth of the lodge will benefit. It is not intended as an honor for an adult. We are here for the boys. Therefore, if an adult will serve as an adviser, work to promote the order, provide transportation for the youth, attend events with them and encourage them to attend, and provide resources to the youth, or support them in other ways, he/she is a good candidate for the Order. If not, do not recommend him or her, no matter how much experience they may have.

7. Adult forms must be received by the Lodge no later than March 1.

Candidate Status:

After election, a youth or adult remains a candidate until completion of the Ordeal or one year from date of election. If, after one year from the election, the Ordeal has not been completed, the candidate is dropped from the roster and is no longer considered to be a candidate. To become a candidate again, they must be re-elected. If the candidate was ill or for other unusual circumstances could not complete the Ordeal, they must send a personal letter to the lodge executive committee explaining their reasons. The Executive Committee may then extend the candidate status for another year, with a majority vote.

Tecumseh Lodge No. 65 follows all election procedures as outlined by the National Order of the Arrow Committee, as received by us as of October 1, 2009. Any questions may be addressed to the Lodge Vice Chief of Chapters, his Adviser, or the Lodge Chief or his Adviser.