



Dear Ordeal Candidate,

Congratulations on your election as a Candidate for membership in the Order of the Arrow, Boy Scouts of America's National Honor Society! The purpose of the Order of the Arrow is:

- *Recognize those campers- who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives and through that recognition cause others to conduct themselves in a way that warrants similar recognition.*
- *Promote camping, responsible outdoor adventure, and environmental stewardship as essential components of every Scout's experience, in the unit, year-round, and in summer camp*
- *Develop leaders with the willingness, character, spirit and ability to advance the activities of their units, our Brotherhood, Scouting, and ultimately our nation.*
- *Crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others*

To become a full member of the Order of the Arrow, you must now undergo an Ordeal. The Ordeal is a series of tests of your devotion and dedication to the ideals of Scouting and the Order of the Arrow. These tests are meant to signify a great deal about Scouting and about life. None of these tests will be easy, and they will test your strength to the utmost. And yet, they will be well within your capabilities. We will not be testing you during your Ordeal; **YOU** will be testing yourself. When you complete the Ordeal, you may then take the solemn Obligation of the Order and become an Ordeal member. Look forward to your Ordeal with confidence. Do not be fooled by the words of others. The Ordeal holds nothing to be afraid of. It will be a rewarding and memorable experience.

You have twelve months from the date of your election to complete the Ordeal and become a member of the Order of the Arrow. Yah-Tah-Hey-Si-Kess Lodge, #66, offers two Ordeal opportunities each year: at our Spring Ordeal Weekend in mid-May, and at our Fall Ordeal Weekend at the end of September. Each of these conclaves is at Gorham Scout Ranch (formerly Camp Rand) near Chimayo, New Mexico. If you are not able to complete the Ordeal within one year of your election, you must be re-elected and begin the process over.

**Please note that there are no Ordeals at summer camp. Ordeals are a Lodge/Council-specific event. A Candidate cannot complete his Ordeal at another Council's summer camp.**

Please come to the Dining Hall at Gorham Scout Ranch on Friday evening, between the hours of 6:30 PM and 7:30 p.m. Please, let your local Chapter Adviser know of your planned attendance. The OA members of your Troop/Team should be able to help you with transportation arrangements. If your unit is unable to help, please contact your Chapter Advisor for transportation assistance. The Ordeal Weekend will conclude on Sunday morning, and you should be on your way home by 11:00 a.m. If you have religious obligations on Sunday, you may leave after 10:00 p.m. Saturday night, but will miss the recognition ceremonies and the business meeting on Sunday morning (We try to host both a non-denominational service and LDS Sacrament Meeting on Sunday)

You need to eat a hearty meal Friday evening **BEFORE** you arrive at the Ordeal. Friday Dinner is not provided. **You should not bring food unless it is part of a medically prescribed diet detailed on the medical form.**

The candidate fee indicated on the registration form covers current year dues, Lodge flap (patch), OA sash, OA handbook and meals. A candidate must attend the complete Ordeal process to become a member of the Order of the Arrow.

A complete Scout Field Uniform (Class A) is required for the Ordeal Ceremony and travel to/from camp. You will need to change into your work clothes when you arrive at camp. You will be given an opportunity to clean up and change back into your Field Uniform for the Ordeal Ceremony on Saturday evening.

You will need to separate your gear into 2 bags: One bag will be carried with you Friday night and Saturday, the second bag will contain items for Saturday evening and Sunday. The bag for Friday night will be carried approximately ¼ to ½ mile so pack accordingly. The contents of the bags are as follows:



**Bag 1 for Friday Night - Saturday**

Copy of your BSA Medical Form	Jacket
Work Cloths (long pants, shirt, boots, hat)	Work Gloves
Sleeping Bag	Flashlight
Ground Pad	A hand-carved 4" to 10" arrow on a string to wear around your neck
Ground Cloth	Any medications with written instructions for use
Poncho or Rain Gear	Backpack to carry the above gear
Water Bottle	
Sunscreen	

If you have any medical issue, upon your arrival at Camp, immediately identify yourself and your issue at check-in. **DO NOT BRING: electronics or snack food -- these items will be confiscated and returned after the event.**

**Bag 2 for Saturday Night – Sunday** (This bag should be left in a vehicle with adult from your unit)

Tent (may share with other candidates or unit members)	Toilet Articles (soap, towel, shampoo, toothbrush/paste)
Full Scout Field (Class A) Uniform	

We will have a short new member information seminar Saturday night after the evening meal. The seminar will help new members learn about the Order of the Arrow, Yah-Tah-Hey-Si-Kess Lodge and their Chapter.

There is an OA Trading Post that has items for purchase; we will have patches, belt buckles, T-shirts, hats and additional items, along with snacks and soda. The Trading Post is open to candidates on Saturday Evening.

After you complete your Ordeal, you are encouraged to attend Chapter meetings and to take full advantage of all that the OA has to offer. Yah-Tah-Hey-Si-Kess Lodge has many opportunities for service, leadership development, Native American dancing, drumming, and ceremonies. As a member of the Order, you will be able to participate in exclusive Lodge events (e.g., Conclaves, Spring Fellowship, Winter Banquet), Regional events (e.g., Section Conclave), and National events (e.g., National Order of the Arrow Conference). You can even serve a valuable role both to your Unit and Chapter at the same time by serving as OA Troop/Team Representative. This role counts as a “Position of Responsibility” toward the rank of Eagle. Your Chapter also holds various fun activities during the year. The OA has something for everyone!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your Chapter Chief, Chapter Adviser, or visit the Lodge Website ([www.lodge66.org](http://www.lodge66.org)).

- Lodge Adviser: Ty Till ([ty.ae5vr@gmail.com](mailto:ty.ae5vr@gmail.com))
- Lodge Staff Adviser: Robert Wright ([robert.wright@scouting.org](mailto:robert.wright@scouting.org))
- Cherokee Chapter (Rio Grande District): Terry Brown ([Tblazestar@aol.com](mailto:Tblazestar@aol.com))
- Cheyenne Chapter (EVM District): Phil Opella ([campincrazy@gmail.com](mailto:campincrazy@gmail.com))
- Comanche Chapter (Santa Fe District, Taos area): Kermit Johnson ([kermitljohnson@msn.com](mailto:kermitljohnson@msn.com))
- Crow Chapter (Anasazi District): Duane Burton ([burtonscouts@gmail.com](mailto:burtonscouts@gmail.com))
- Mescalero Chapter (Sandia District): Cynthia Howard ([cynhoward@msn.com](mailto:cynhoward@msn.com))
- Ponil Chapter (Encantado District): Currently unassigned
- Sioux Chapter (Los Alamos area): Rich Morley ([rmorley44@msn.com](mailto:rmorley44@msn.com))
- Ute Chapter (Mesa Verde District): Karen Zenger ([karenzenger@honnen.com](mailto:karenzenger@honnen.com))
- Zuni Chapter (Zuni Mountain District): Dan Peacock ([dtpeacock@yahoo.com](mailto:dtpeacock@yahoo.com))

Please go online to the Council website and register for the Ordeal Weekend that best fits your schedule. Select the “Calendar” tab from the top of the page. When the calendar is displayed, select “Order of the Arrow” from the “Show Activities” pull-down in the upper-left. Navigate to either May or September and select the “Lodge

Yah-Tah-Hey-Si-Kess Lodge, #66  
Order of the Arrow



Great Southwest Council  
Boy Scouts of America

Conclave and Ordeal Weekend” event and register as an “Ordeal Candidate”.