

CARVING THE ARROW

THE SYMBOL OF AN ORDEAL CANDIDATE

The Tradition

For over fifty years, ordeal candidates of our lodge have been presented a block of wood by their chapter as they publicly identify those candidates worthy of the Order during the call out ceremony. There are Scouts in our lodge who are third generation Arrowmen that have continued this tradition. And now you, too, have the opportunity to preserve this long standing tradition.

What do I do with the Block of Wood?

The block of wood contains an upward-pointing arrow within. The lodge asks that you remove the wood from the block that is not part of the arrow. Each ordeal candidate should carve the arrow on a solitary basis without the use of power tools. You are encouraged to complete this process prior to attending an ordeal; however, your arrow can be finished, but not started, during the ordeal weekend. We hope you will personalize your arrow and to make it a unique symbol of your pride in being selected from among your fellow Scouts as an ordeal candidate to Scouting's National Honor Society. If you are having difficulty with this process please seek the assistance of an experienced Scout or Scouter, preferably an OA member, to obtain guidance or to improve your wood-carving skills. After such skills instruction or guidance, we ask that you continue to carve out the arrow from your block without assistance from others.

What is the Purpose of this Tradition?

While carving the block of wood to produce your arrow, reflect on the honor that has been bestowed upon you by the members of your unit. These questions are a good starting point for your reflection:

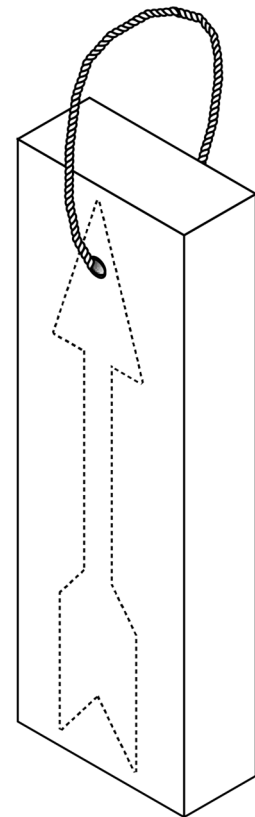
- Why were you chosen from among your peers?
- What can you do to help other Scouts to follow your example?
- What can you contribute to your unit, your chapter, the Netopalis Sipo Schipinachk lodge and the Order of the Arrow when your ordeal is completed?

Wearing your wooden arrow with the Class A Scout uniform serves to remind you, as well as other Scouts and Scouters, of your selection for this honor.

Whose Arrow Is This?

The arrow that you produce is yours and yours alone. No other Scout or Scouter, OA member or not, should touch the block of wood or mark the arrow in any fashion. You are asked to wear your arrow suspended from your neck at chest level and pointing upwards as a part of your Class A uniform until you complete the ordeal. The sooner you begin the process of removing the arrow from your block, the better your symbol of ordeal candidacy will appear to those around you in the Scouting program. After the ordeal is completed, the arrow will be yours to keep with your other Scouting memories.

GOOD LUCK!



Your arrow is hidden within the grain of your block of wood.