



Boy Scouts of America Order of the Arrow



Mikanakawa Lodge 101
Circle Ten Council

Official
Call Out Ceremony

Adopted by the LEC
April 29, 2003

Ordeal Candidate Call-Out Ceremony

Conducting a Call-Out Ceremony

The main objective of the call-out ceremony is to officially recognize those Scouts who have been elected as candidates for membership in the Order of the Arrow. The Call-out also provides a form of public recognition used to communicate the honor of being selected for membership into our Order, and an introduction into the mystique and traditions of the O.A. to younger Scouts, parents, and the public. Whether held at Summer Camp, Lodge Call-Out, Winter Camp, or at the District level, it is imperative that call-out ceremonies be conducted with dignity to impress upon all the high ideals and standards of the Order. Because every ceremonial site is physically different, and because every ceremonial team has different resources, some interpretation of this ceremony may need to be made. However, every effort should be made to adhere to these guidelines and to the policies and traditions of Mikanakawa Lodge.

Chapter Preparations Before the Ceremony

At least 30 days prior to the ceremony, the Chapter Adviser should send written notification, using the form that has been included in this manual, to the Lodge Ordeal Registration Adviser. This written notification will initiate a series of actions in preparation for the call-out. The Ordeal Registration Adviser will generate a listing of eligible candidates that will be sent to the Chapter Adviser. Only candidates whose names are on the list can be called out during the ceremony. If a unit arrives with a valid election form, you can collect that form to be delivered to the Ordeal Registration Adviser, but under no circumstances are you allowed to include names from that election form in your callout ceremony unless those names appear on the List of Eligible Candidates sent to the Chapter Adviser.

The Ordeal Registration Adviser will forward the notification to the Ordeal Warrior Adviser, Ceremonies Adviser, and Trading Post Adviser. They will take appropriate action to satisfy additional Chapter needs, such as providing owl claws and ceremonial regalia.

Preparing for the Ceremony

Fire - The Ceremony Fire is the centerpiece of any O.A. ceremony. A log cabin type fire is normally the best to use. It should be large enough to last for the entire ceremony, but small enough that it won't be difficult to put out. If additional fires are needed to provide light or dramatic effect, they should be smaller than the main fire.

TIP 1 - If fires are built before the day of the ceremony, cover them with tarps to keep your flames from fizzling.

TIP 2 - O.A. fires have a nasty habit of spreading. Keep your fire buckets full and handy.

TIP 3 - Crumpled sheets of newspaper stuffed in the fires can make lighting them easier. ***Remember - it is against OA policy to use any liquid fuel (e.g. kerosene) in OA ceremonies!***

NOTE: Studies have shown that in 97% of all OA ceremonies, someone forgets the matches. ***DON'T LET IT HAPPEN TO YOU!***

Smudge pots - Smudge pots are an important part of any OA Ceremony. In a call-out, they are used to mark the trail to the Ceremony Ring and to designate the four directions. Smudge pots can be made by cutting a 1½" strip of corrugated cardboard (cut ACROSS the grain), rolling it up, placing it in a cat food or tuna fish can, and filling the can with melted paraffin (use a double boiler to melt the paraffin).

Torch - No O.A. ceremony would be complete without a blazing torch. For a long-lasting torch, make a large smudge pot from a 1-lb. coffee can, using the method described above. Hang the can from two arms mounted on the end of a pole. For a more authentic-looking torch, cut burlap into strips 2 - 3" wide, dip the strips in melted paraffin, and wrap the strips around the end of a stick. Secure the material with nails or wire. **REMEMBER: IT IS AGAINST OA POLICY TO USE LIQUID FUELS. THIS INCLUDES SOAKING A TORCH IN KEROSENE.**

Drum - A drum, if available, adds a lot to the ceremony. If the drummer is in costume, the drum may be placed within the Ceremony Ring. If he is not, it might be better for the drum to be out of sight. The drummer should maintain a steady 8-count beat (BOOM-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-BOOM-2-3...8) before the ceremony, switching to a 4-count beat during the passes. Speeches and the pulling of candidates out of line may be accented by 5 quick beats. The drum should also beat one time with Chiefs tap, so it must be placed so that the drummer can see the call-out team at all times.

Do's and Don'ts

- DO** notify the Lodge of Chapter call-outs at least 30 days in advance.
- DO** follow the script and recommendations as closely as possible, so that all candidates may enjoy the same experience.
- DO** keep the ceremony as short as possible and maintain an even flow of event.
- DO** **ORGANIZE!!! ORGANIZE!!!! ORGANIZE!!!**
- DO** be sure the ceremonial site is in good condition.
- DO** pre-plan with different crews to set up site, build fires, put out fires, etc.
- DO** remember the matches, owl claws, cedar branches, and forms!

- DO** allow any and all interested spectators to witness the call-out ceremony.
- DO** briefly explain the Order of the Arrow to visitors before the ceremony.
- DO** politely ask spectators to remain quiet for the duration of the ceremony.
- DO** REHEARSE!!! MEMORIZE LINES AND THEIR MEANINGS!!!
- DO** USE APPROPRIATE INDIAN GESTURES DURING THE CEREMONY!!!

- DON'T** be rough with the candidates. This includes hitting instead of tapping, jerking people out of line, picking people up, and pushing people around. Such actions detract from the ceremony and have no place in Scouting.
- DON'T** shoot flaming arrows or any arrows of any kind.
- DON'T** physically mark the candidates in any manner (e.g. lipstick, face paint).
- DON'T** speak in a pseudo-Indian dialect or make exaggerated grunts or noises when handling candidates.
- DON'T** require the Scouts to remove their shirts for the call-out.
- DON'T** allow non-OA members to conduct a call-out. All members of any Mikanakawa Lodge callout team MUST be members of Mikanakawa Lodge.
- DON'T** allow any type of flash photography!
- DON'T** use any type of liquid fuel.
- DON'T** forget the fire buckets.
- DON'T** wear "aprons" (breechcloths without middle panels that go between the legs) without taking precautions against indecent exposure.

Shortly before dark, the Camp Chief or O.A. member in charge of the call-out assembles the Scouts in numerical order by Troop. He should be in full dress uniform, including O.A. sash. His job is to prepare the Scouts and visitors for the ceremony. When he is done, the ceremony will begin.

Example Speech for Opening

Good evening; I'm (Say Your Name). You are about to experience what over 1 million Boy Scouts and Scouters have participated in for the past 70 years.

We are here tonight to honor those Scouts elected as candidates for membership in the Order of the Arrow. The Order of the Arrow is Scouting's "National Honor Society".

Scouts and Scouters are selected for exemplifying the Spirit of the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives. Other qualifying factors are Cheerful service to their fellow Scouts, a minimum of 15 days and nights of Boy Scout Camping, and at least the rank of 1st Class Scout.

From this point to the end of the ceremony, I ask you to be **QUIET**. You may take pictures, **BUT please do not use a FLASH.**

This Call Out is just the beginning. Listen to the words and think of their meaning.

The Ceremony begins:

[Guide, carrying a lit torch, comes out from the darkness and addresses the assembled Scouts.]

GUIDE:

My scouting brothers, I am your guide. I come to lead you through the darkness and into the forest where we will seek out those Scouts who have been found worthy to be called to join our National Society of honor campers. Now in reverent anticipation **gather your courage and follow me!**

[Guide approaches the ceremony site to the South with the candidates. A large fire should be burning in the center of the ring and four smudge pots should mark the four points of the compass. Additional smudge pots may be used to mark the trail and the entrance to the ceremony site. Additional fires may be lit if desired for illumination; however, they should be smaller than the center fire.]

[Chief is at the North, Medicine Man is at the West and Guard stands at the South. All three face South towards Guide as he approaches, leading the candidates.]

[Guide circles clockwise all non-OA members in an inner circle and OA members in an outside circle. He then takes his place at the East. All four principles turn and face the fire.]

GUARD:

[To Guide] My brother, who are these Scouts who follow you?

GUIDE:

I have brought these Scouts to our circle so that our esteemed Chief may seek out those who have been selected by their fellow Scouts as honor campers.

GUARD: Do we have candidates who have achieved first class rank, camped for a minimum of 15 days and nights, attended one long term camp, and participated in an election by their fellow Scouts?

GUIDE: We do.

GUARD: You have done well.

[Raises his arms]

Oh Great Leader, Chief of this fire, *[Guard and Chief exchange a visual greeting]* whose courage stands taller than the highest mountains, whose wisdom shines clear as the stars above, **guide us as we search for new members!**

GUIDE: *[Raises his arms]*

Oh Great Medicine Man of this fire, *[Guide and Medicine Man exchange a visual greeting and then together acknowledge Chief]* whose spirit soars upon the wings of eagles, whose mind is as pure as the trickling brook, **guide us with your wisdom!**

CHIEF: Brothers, are all things prepared for us to find the candidates worthy of joining us as honor campers?

GUIDE: I have brought our Scouting brothers to this, our meeting place, and circled them around our cheerful fire.

GUARD: I, Guard of this fire, have secured our meeting place and will remain watchful, as our brothers have done since our order was founded at Treasure Island on July 16, 1915, by Dr. E. Urner Goodman and Col. Carroll A. Edson.

CHIEF: It is well, my brothers.

Before we begin our search—
For those who are the honor campers
For those who will help us maintain camping traditions and spirit
For those who aspire to our ideals of cheerfulness
And those willing to commit to a life of helpfulness and service,

I ask the Medicine Man of our Order to remind us of our traditions and history.

MEDICINE MAN:

Long ago when the Buffalo roamed free, the Thunderbird and the Owl were apart. The Thunderbird to the North and the Owl to the South. Each was a separate Lodge and each had a proud history of service and distinction. Then they became one Lodge, known by the name Mikanakawa. This Lodge is dedicated to cheerful service and bears the totems of the **Thunderbird** and the **Owl** as a tribute to our past and a commitment to our future.

Tonight as we call out candidates for membership in our lodge, we strive to honor those campers who best exemplify the **Scout Oath** and **Law** in their daily lives. They will help us uphold the history and traditions of our Order and Lodge.

CHIEF:

Let us seek out, mark, and set apart the candidates for our Order.

[Guide, Chief, Medicine Man, and Guard begin the first pass by starting at one end of the line. Designated O.A. members will place a call-out card with the Candidates (1) name, (2) Unit number, and (3) City over the candidate's head. Chief walks just past the candidate, turns sharply, points at the candidate, says "YOU!" very loudly, and leads (in an appropriate manner) the candidate out of line.

- (1) Chief lightly taps the candidate on both shoulders simultaneously (with both hands in the Scout Sign and passes him on). As the candidate is passed to the Medicine Man and the Guard he gets the card from the O.A. member.*
- (2) Medicine Man places a symbol of the lodge totem(s) (e.g. an owl claw) around the neck of the candidate, gives him the Scout Handclasp only, and passes him on.*
- (3) Guard places a cedar branch (or some other greenery) in Candidate's Right hand and passes him on.*
- (4) Guide then leads the candidate to the holding area near the fire and seats him. {Seat Candidates a safe distance from the fire so they will not be affected by the smoke and heat,}*

CHIEF:

[the Call Out card has been passed to the CHIEF and he says very loudly] John Doe of Troop 9999 in Your City is called to the Order [As the Guide takes the candidate to the holding area]

[Make 1 to 4 passes, but in the interest of time, attempt to limit the number of passes. Do not make passes where no candidates are selected.]

[When all candidates have been called out, announced and seated, Chief, Medicine Man, Guard, and Guide return to their positions in the circle.]

GUARD:

[Gesturing towards the candidates] You have been selected and marked with an owl claw and cedar branch to separate you until the time of your Ordeal. The owl claw symbolizes your future membership in our Lodge and the cedar branch symbolizes your upcoming life as an Arrowman. As an arrow can be formed from a branch, so may you be refined and transformed as you develop in our Order.

GUIDE:

[Gesturing towards the candidates] Remember, first that you were approved by your Scoutmaster and elected by your peers. So honor them with your future deeds.

At the completion of your Ordeal you will be eligible to wear the white sash with the red arrow, which is the symbol of our order. Wear this symbol proudly as you live according to our ideals.

CHIEF:

[Gestures towards Medicine Man] My brother, as we finish the business of this Call Out Fire tonight, help us to focus our minds and hearts on our higher calling.

MEDICINE MAN:

Tonight we sought out and found Those elected to join our Lodge.

They *[gesture towards the candidates]* love Mother Earth, But they are also committed to The service of others.

Now they embark upon a path That leads to joy and fulfillment. We pledge to help them for We are all brothers in Scouting.

Let us give thanks to the Great Spirit For these and all who hold fast to our way of life.

[Pause for at least 30 seconds]
It is well.

CHIEF:

[Address these comments to those in the circle that were not selected] Many came to our callout fire and these

[gesturing to the new candidates] have been selected for our Order. Others among you will some day be called out as members of Scouting's National Honor Society. Strive to be an honor camper and to live your life in a spirit of cheerfulness and service to others. Then some day it may be my pleasure to address you as my brother.

CHIEF: *[To the candidates]* Congratulations on your selection as a candidate for the Order of the Arrow, Scouting's National Honor Society. The Order of the Arrow is one of the only organizations in the world where non-members elect its members. Because of your attitude and willingness to help your fellow scouts, you were elected by the members of your unit as being worthy of this honor. You are not a member at this time, you are a candidate. When you complete your Ordeal you will be a part of our Order. We stand by you on this journey and as the word Mikanakawa imparts, "We go to prepare a trail for you."

[Commandingly to everyone] This concludes our Call Out Ceremony. Let us now depart.

The Ceremony ends:

[Guide, carrying his torch, leads Chief, Medicine Man, and Guard away from the ceremony site going towards the South. The candidates will be asked by an Arrow man in uniform and sash to stay seated and the spectators will be asked to leave. After the spectators leave, the Arrow man should hand out the following –

- *a letter of congratulations from the Lodge (or Chapter) Chief*
- *Spirit of the Arrow Booklet number 1*
- *an Ordeal Registration card with eligible ordeal dates.*

The Arrow man should verify names and addresses and answer concerns or questions from the candidates concerning the upcoming time before their ordeal.]

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Order of the Arrow



Mikanakawa Lodge 101
Circle Ten Council

Call Out Ceremony Addendum
Version 1.2

Ordeal Candidate Call-Out Ceremony Addendum

This ceremony is a legacy in the Mikanakawa Lodge. It is performed with the approval of the Lodge Executive Committee at Mikanakawa Lodge Call Out Ceremonies. This is an addendum to the Official Lodge Callout and it is not intended to foreshadow, preview, or reveal any aspect of the official Order of the Arrow Ceremonies.

Mikanakawa Lodge 101 Cedar Branch Ceremony

[Following the Call-Out Ceremony after the spectators leave and before the new candidates are dismissed the Camp Chief or some other OA member in uniform and sash joins the candidates (a Lodge or Chapter Officer is also a good choice). The Camp Chief has a cedar branch in his hand like the one the candidates have been given during the Call-Out ceremony. Ensure that the greenery handed out during the Call-Out is NOT one of the varieties with thorns or stickers.]

Camp Chief:

Please join me in a circle around our fire.

[Pause while the circle is formed and all movement stops]

Camp Chief:

Please separate the greenery from your branch. Keep the greenery in your left hand and your branch in your right hand.

[Camp Chief demonstrates]

Keep the branch and bring it to your Ordeal. From it you will fashion an arrow as you begin your journey in our brotherhood.

When I tell you please approach the fire slowly and throw your greenery onto the fire.

[Camp Chief approaches the fire and places his greenery into the flames, then returns to his place in the circle.]

Keep your branch in your right hand. Watch what the greenery does to the fire. Let this be an example to you of how you are to act when you leave this place tonight. The greenery helps the council fire to glow brighter and builds

on the enjoyment your fellow scouts will experience. When you leave this place and return to your units the members of your unit will look you at differently. More will be expected of you, because you will be seen as an Honor Scout, and as such will be expected to set the example.

Camp Chief:

Starting with the person on my right, one at a time please step forward and place your greenery on the fire. Then return to your place in the circle and ponder the words I have spoken to you.

[One at a time the candidates are to approach the fire, put the greenery in the flames and then return to their place in the circle].

[When all candidates are done]

Camp Chief:

Congratulations on your selection as a candidate for the Order of the Arrow. All of us in the Mikanakawa Lodge wish you the very best on your upcoming journey as an Arrowman.

You are now dismissed to _____ where we will conduct a brief orientation.