

**Wahunsenakah Lodge #333  
11721 Jefferson Avenue  
Newport News, Virginia**

**Wahunsenakah Lodge #333 Unit (Youth) Election Procedures**

**July 1, 2003**

The Order of the Arrow is an honor ca per Brotherhood chartered by the Boy Scouts of America. It recognizes those campers who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives and by such recognition cause other campers to conduct themselves in such a manner as to warrant similar recognition, to promote camping, and to crystallize the habit of helpfulness as a life purpose.

Each Troop must hold an election if members of that Troop are to be selected for an Ordeal. The election date is selected by the Scoutmaster in coordination with the OA. **Elections cannot be held at Summer Camp. Only one election in a calendar year (January 1 through December 31) is permitted.** After the election, each Scout who is elected will have to undergo an Ordeal to become a member of the OA. The ordeals will be held at Camp Chickahominy. To be eligible for a particular Ordeal, the election must be held at least 30 days prior to the Ordeal.

**All YOUTH (below the age of 21) Order of the Arrow elections shall be conducted by the duly appointed Wahunsenakah Lodge Chapter Unit Elections Team.** In order to schedule an election, the Scoutmaster (or designated Assistant Scoutmaster) should contact the Chapter Chief or the Chapter Adviser at least four (4) weeks in advance of the desired election date. The election will be conducted in accordance with the latest OA election procedure. The election results are to be documented on the latest Wahunsenakah Youth Election form (REV 2001). Some key points to remember are:

1. The Scoutmaster must certify that all youths who are nominated for election are First Class Rank or above and have had 15 days and nights of camping within the last two years including a long term (6 consecutive day and 5 consecutive nights) camping experience. Only one long term camping experience can be used to accumulate the 15 days and nights of camping. The Scoutmaster must also certify the candidates Scouting spirit, his adherence to the Scout Oath and Law, and his participation in Troop activities.
2. Once the Scoutmaster has certified that a Scout is eligible to be elected and he has been elected, the Scoutmaster cannot prevent him from attending the Ordeal.
3. At least 50% of the registered active Scouts in the Troop must be present for the election to be held.
4. Wahunsenakah Lodge strongly recommends that the Scoutmaster provide printed ballots listing all eligible Scouts for use in the election.
5. The maximum number of names that may be marked or written on the ballots is defined by National OA policy. Each Scout may vote for as many of the candidates as he wishes.
6. A ballot that is turned in with no name listed or marked counts as one of the total ballots.

7. A candidate must receive at least 50 percent of the ballots to be declared elected. If an even number of ballots is cast, this is one-half of the total ballots. If an odd number of ballots are cast, this is on-half of the total ballots cast rounded up to the next whole number. For example, if 13 votes are cast, 7 votes are required for election. If no Scout receives 50 percent of the ballots cast, a second vote is held immediately and the results of this vote are final. If no Scout is elected on the second ballot, the Troop cannot hold another election until the next calendar year.
8. The election team shall record the votes cast for each candidate and shall forward this information to the Newport News Scout Service Center along with the election form.
9. The number of active Scouts, the number present, the number of youth eligible, the maximum number of names permitted on each ballot, the number of ballots received, and the number of youth elected must be shown on the election report.
10. For an election to be valid, adults (defined in the Order of the Arrow as anyone 21 years of age and older) cannot vote for youth candidates.
11. **The Scoutmaster shall fill in all requested information for each Scout who is elected.** Several times in the past, some addresses were incomplete and this resulted in a delay in the candidate receiving an invitation to the Ordeal. If the addresses are incomplete, the election report will be returned to the Chapter Adviser who will be responsible for obtaining the correct addresses.
12. The OA Unit Election Team is to complete two copies of the Wahunsenakah Lodge Election Report. One copy is to be left with the Scoutmaster. The other copy is to be forwarded to Wahunsenakah Lodge #333, 11721 Jefferson Avenue, Newport News, Va. 23606 within three days after the election.
13. Both copies of the election report shall be signed by the Scoutmaster. This certifies that each elected candidate met the criteria defined in Item #1.
14. The election team who conducted the election shall sign the election report. The OA Adult Adviser who was present is to sign the form to signify that he/she observed the election.
15. The Wahunsenakah Lodge Membership Chairman will delay sending candidate letters to the elected Scouts (to permit the elected Scouts to be called out) provided the Scoutmaster writes a note on the election form and requests this action. The delay will not exceed two months or one Ordeal.

If the Advisers and Officers listed on the attached sheet are unable to answer your questions call the Lodge chief, Michael Stearn, Jr., Lodge Adviser James 'Mac' Mullins, or associate Lodge Adviser Carl Horne.

*Orig signed by*  
H. Michael Stearn Jr.  
Wahunsenakah Lodge Chief

*Orig signed by*  
James M. (Mac) Mullins, III  
Wahunsenakah Lodge Adviser