



Ceremonies for the Induction



SCOUTING AMERICA™
ORDER OF THE ARROW

The Order of the Arrow, recognizing the allure of the unknown, uses mystery to enhance the induction adventure experience. All ceremonial concepts and materials should therefore be safeguarded. However, legitimately interested adults are welcome to any information regarding the OA's nature, purpose and methods.

If candidates are apprehensive, they should be informed about what will occur during the ceremonies and assured that they may withdraw at any time. The policy of the national Order of the Arrow committee is that actions that might frighten, degrade, embarrass, or injure a candidate in any way have no place in Scouting and are forbidden. Any interaction with candidates, physical or otherwise, must be respectful.

Lodges are not authorized to deviate from the ceremonies as written.

Nothing in the OA shall be interpreted as interfering with any member's religious obligations.

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Two-deep leadership for all Order of the Arrow activities must meet the requirements of Scouting's Barriers to Abuse; a link to the Barriers to Abuse, which is part of the [Guide to Safe Scouting](#), can be found at www.scouting.org/YouthProtection.

The relevant portion of this policy is quoted below:

Two registered adult leaders 21 years of age or over are required at all Scouting activities, including all meetings. There must be a registered female adult leader 21 years of age or over in every unit serving females. A registered female adult leader 21 years of age or over must be present for any activity involving female youth or female adult program participants.

Notwithstanding the minimum leader requirements, age- and program-appropriate supervision must always be provided.

All adults staying overnight in connection with a Scouting activity must be currently registered as an adult volunteer or an adult program participant. Adult volunteers must register in the position(s) they are serving in. Registration as a merit badge counselor position does not meet this requirement.

A Note on Fire Bans

A problem that may arise during an induction weekend is dealing with dry weather and a fire ban. In such cases, lodges are encouraged to use creative solutions for alternatives to fire while still preserving the spirit of the ceremony. Possible solutions include creating a substitute fire such as a lantern or candle. Always be sure to have enough water available and practice good fire safety. The use of accelerants, chemicals, or pyrotechnics to start fires or in ceremonies is prohibited (see the [Guide to Safe Scouting](#)). All aspects of the Induction have been carefully designed to create an inspirational adventure experience for each new member. When environmental conditions require adaptive methods, it is important to preserve the intended effect as closely as possible.



Introduction

When Dr. E. Urner Goodman and his camp staff at Treasure Island Scout Camp started the Order of the Arrow in 1915, they realized that the Scouts setting the example in their troops would benefit from further encouragement and inspiration. The founders devised the induction process to give them this inspiration in the form of an experience involving the ideals they were to follow.

The Order of the Arrow's induction experience has a different meaning to each member. This process is not just a formality to obtain a patch and sash. The induction teaches significant universal lessons essential to personal growth.

The induction is an adventure of the spirit—a time of deep searching and high resolve—a unique opportunity to experience the richness and warmth of brotherhood. Each member needs this experience, not only for their own benefit, but also because the Obligation will require unusual devotion to the work of bringing this spirit to others in Scouting and in their daily lives.

Membership in the Order of the Arrow is not only an honor for past service, but also a preparation. The induction is a member's first step in the *Quest for the Arrow*.

Thank you! Serving as a ceremonialist or adviser is a real honor and an important service. Good ceremonies are essential to the continued success of the Order of the Arrow. *You are key to that success.*

Begin by reading through the full ceremony, not just your part. Pay attention to the notes as well as the spoken words. When you begin practicing with your team, read aloud to one another, and talk about the meaning of words, sentences, and symbols. Get to know your principal and the

gifts they bring to the new members through specific words and images. It is much easier to commit your part to memory when you have become thoroughly familiar with the text through discussion and thoughtful study.

Once again, thank you! Don't delay; begin your preparations now. If you are prepared and do your best, service with a ceremonial team is one of the most fun and fulfilling experiences for everyone involved in the Order of the Arrow.

Induction Administration

Planning for an induction should continue year-round, but begin in earnest at least three or four months in advance. This will allow time to train ceremonial teams, luminaries, and all others involved, and give all members ample notice so they can plan to attend. The date should be established far in advance so it can be advertised on council, district, and unit calendars. Each year the lodge should review the strengths and weaknesses of prior inductions in order to implement improvements to eliminate past problems.

This publication, *Ceremonies for the Induction*, contains the text of the Ceremony of the Arrow and the Ceremony of the Fire. It should be used in conjunction with the *Induction Administration Handbook*.

All members involved in the induction should remain focused on elevating the experience for new members. Those who lead patrol-sized groups of new members called "crews," from arrival in camp through the Ceremony of the Fire, accept a particular responsibility to lead by example. We call those members ***luminaries***.

Luminaries guide their crew through the induction process. They sleep near their crews, work alongside them, eat the same food, and keep silence during times of reflection. Luminaries serve as examples of our principles and inspire new members during their induction.

Luminaries should be properly trained and involved in planning and organization. If done properly, their in-depth involvement will result in a much more meaningful experience for both the new members and those who choose to serve in this special role.



Ceremony of the Arrow

*"Infinity, dear Brothers, extends not only outwards...
but also inwards to the very heart of every human being."*

E. Urner Goodman

Officers of the Ceremony

Chief Luminary – This principal is a bridge between two worlds: the everyday world that the participants live in and the world of the ceremony. They are associated with the luminaries and speak from a lectern (or music stand) that is consistent with the look and feel of the ceremony grounds. They act as "Master of Ceremonies" and keep the ceremony moving. If a ceremonialist does not recall their lines, the Chief Luminary may prompt a line or say the line in its entirety. They should know the ceremony text well, but memorization is not required. They speak from the ceremony book; the book has been decorated to have a consistent look and feel of the ceremony grounds. They wear an official Scouting field uniform and a luminary neckerchief which aligns them with the luminaries. They are surrounded by ornamental and functional lights which provide enough light to read from. The luminaries place the lights near the Chief Luminary in the ceremony grounds.

Chief of the Fire – This principal is an echo from the origins of the Order of the Arrow. Like the leaders of the first ceremony of the Order, the Chief of the Fire is dressed in a black robe resembling an academic graduation ceremony or judicial robe. They also wear a black and white sash. This principal resonates with the persona of the founders of the Order of the Arrow but is not a historical recreation of them.

Any youth member may portray this role, as they evoke and emulate the role of the leaders of the first ceremonies. This principal shares some of the oldest words and themes from past ceremonies in the Order of the Arrow.

The Voice of Brotherhood – Cloaked in a cape that resembles a patch blanket of the history of Scouting and the lodge conducting the ceremony. Black clothes and an Order of the Arrow sash are worn underneath the cape. This principal represents the value of Brotherhood. The Voice of Brotherhood holds a bowstring.

The Voice of Cheerfulness – Cloaked in a cape that resembles a patch blanket of the history of Scouting and the lodge conducting the ceremony. Black clothes and an Order of the Arrow sash are worn underneath the cape. This principal represents the value of Cheerfulness. The Voice of Cheerfulness holds an unstrung bow.

The Voice of Service – Cloaked in a cape that resembles a patch blanket of the history of Scouting and the lodge conducting the ceremony. Black clothes and an Order of the Arrow sash are worn underneath the cape. This principal represents the value of Service. The Voice of Service has a quiver containing arrows.

Voices of the Order – The Voices of the Order refers to the Voice of Brotherhood, the Voice of Cheerfulness, and the Voice of Service.

Ceremony are the five main principals: the Chief Luminary, the Chief of the Fire, and the three Voices of the Order.

Additional Details

Ceremony Guides – Additional members of a ceremony team can help support the flow of the ceremony. These individuals have non-speaking roles and are assigned to usher new members to their places throughout the ceremony as necessary. Ceremony guides are not required but are very useful. The need for movement throughout the ceremony can also be filled by luminaries if ceremony guides are not present.

Capes (“Patch Blankets of Scouting’s History”)

– This element is worn by the Voices of the Order. The Order of the Arrow invites councils to customize the three capes with patches from their lodge and council as they would a legacy blanket. Patches may be affixed to approved areas of the cape front and back of the cape in a way that honors Scouting in the local area.

Patches must be approved under the following standards by the lodge staff adviser prior to display or use in the induction.

Approved patches or emblems:

- Official lodge and council issues approved through the Scouting Licensing process.
- Official event patches on a national, region, section, council, or district level (NOAC, Jamboree, section conclave, camporee, etc.).
- Official lodge and council issues that were created prior to Licensing and would be conservatively approved under current standards (e.g., historic member flaps or council strips with FDL and appropriate elements).
- Patches generally sold or issued to program participants by a national high adventure base.

- Unofficial or spoof patches of any kind, including Legends, fake flaps, or private-issue items.
- Officially issued items (national, region, section, etc.) where the focus of the patch is an obsolete logo of the Order of the Arrow.
- Tokens or items recovered from past ceremony regalia or non-patch items given as a memento from a Scouting or non-Scouting event.
- Any item that is not a cloth-based patch and was not a freely available issue to lodge members.
- Patches or emblems made specifically for the cape or related inductions that would cause or create a new lodge issue that is restricted or otherwise difficult to obtain.

Lodges may be asked to submit designs to the director of the Order of the Arrow at any time for review and approval. For questions please contact national.director@oa-scouting.org.

Setting

The ceremony grounds should create a sense of serenity and mystery. This ceremony can, but does not need be, conducted in the lodge’s traditional ceremonial grounds. It can also be conducted in a council campfire ring, in an open field, or place of assembly.

Fifteen blazes (lanterns, lamps, or torches) are set at prearranged locations to form a semicircle between the Officers of the Ceremony and the participants. There is a fire lay with wood prepared for a fire, but the fire is not lit.

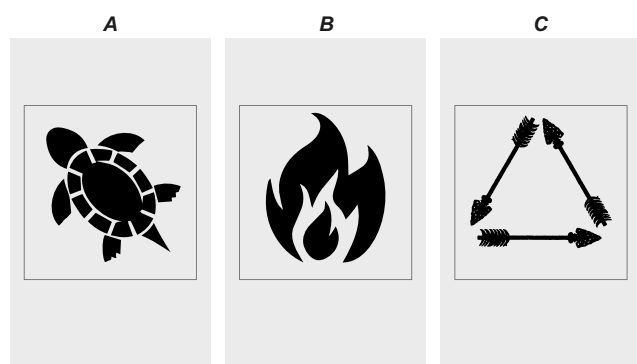
The Ceremony of the Arrow should be conducted in a place of significance and close to nature, but there is intentionality to keep this flexible. Lodges may face circumstances where a camp is closed or unusable, so the ceremony may need to be in a state park or park district. Weather may cause the ceremony to be moved indoors or under a shelter. The Ceremony of the

when extenuating circumstances arise.

Backdrop Panels

The backdrop panels prescribed for the ceremony provide a common mechanism to create a solemn setting no matter the circumstance. They also serve several practical purposes. They become a backdrop to mask the entrance and exits of the Voice of Brotherhood, the Voice of Cheerfulness, and the Voice of Service. They create a backstage for materials that need to be hidden from view. Finally, they set up the silhouette that is created in the last moments in the Ceremony of the Arrow when we evoke in the participants' imagination the sense that the arrow has launched and is taking flight, as is their journey.

To achieve this effect, the following diagram shows the layout of the ceremony panels. Three panels are attached to a horizontal bar. The middle panel (B) is white and the image of the fire is secured using the embedded magnets which attach to one another through the cloth. The magnets allow for the quick removal of panel B at the appropriate time in the Ceremony of the Arrow, revealing the white panel and the silhouette of an archer (one of the Voices of the Order) shooting the arrow.



The ceremony grounds should create a sense of serenity and mystery.

The member sashes can be displayed in various ways in the ceremony grounds. Regardless of whether sashes are displayed, enough sashes should be easily available for distribution.

Music

If the approved background music is used in the ceremony, the appropriate equipment to play the music should be placed prior to beginning the ceremony. Background music is optional and should never draw undue focus. If this cannot be done in a fluid manner or it causes additional distraction, it should be eliminated from use.

Legend for Diagrams

CL	Chief Luminary
CF	Chief of the Fire
B	Voice of Brotherhood
C	Voice of Cheerfulness
S	Voice of Service
L	Luminary
M	New Member
•	Lantern
▲	Fire Lay
—	Banner

Chief to the Ceremony

The Chief Luminary and Chief of the Fire are in their positions as the lodge assembles for the ceremony. All present should remain silent before the ceremony begins.

The new members, having recently met with their luminary and their luminary crew, enter the ceremony grounds in silence, in a single file line, and proceed to their place in the ceremony, where they can have a clear view.

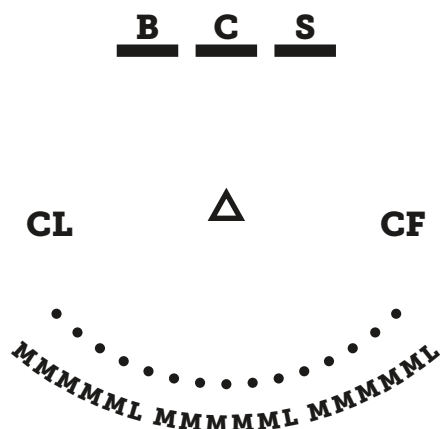
Each luminary enters carrying a lantern/lamp/torch that will be placed near or next to the Chief Luminary's lectern when instructed by the Chief Luminary. The addition of the light they bear adds to the serenity of the ceremony grounds.

When the lodge is fully assembled and new members are in place, Luminary #1 (an experienced luminary who takes the lead) gives simple directions which are adapted to the circumstances as necessary.

The Officers of the Ceremony are positioned to begin the Ceremony of the Arrow.

The luminaries lead the new members into the ceremony ring.

DIAGRAM 1



Luminary #1 addresses the new members from their place at the head of the line.

Please silently place your bags and any personal gear on the ground behind you.

Opening

CHIEF LUMINARY:

The Order is a thing of the Spirit.

I hereby commence the Ceremony of the Arrow,

Let silence fall upon this place.

For here is where the story of our past is told and the story of our future shall unfold.

The fire lay has been prepared.

Our circle has been formed.

We are ready.

Remind us, Chief of the Fire, of your role within this ceremony and the responsibilities for which we have gathered.

CHIEF OF THE FIRE:

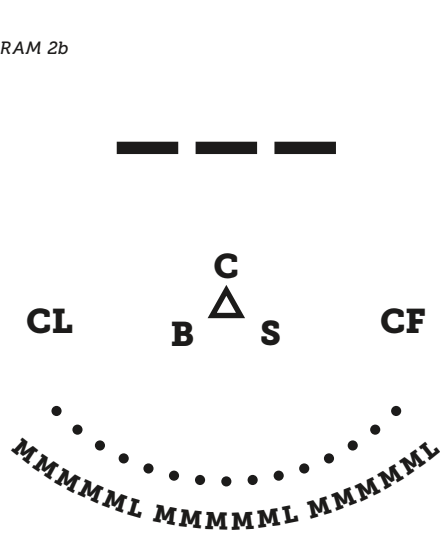
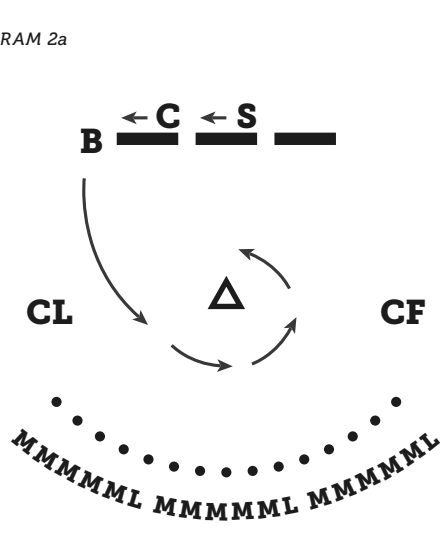
I am the Chief of the Fire, honored to wear the robes of our founders at the first ceremony of the Order.

I carry the memory of this place, of those who stood here, spoke here, and chose the path that we have followed.

We gather to relight the fire laid before us, which now is but a spark, glowing in the new members

CHIEF LUMINARY:

The three Voices enter the ceremony grounds. They circle the fire lay in a counterclockwise direction and take their place around the fire lay.



In this, they will provide the fuel that feeds our council fire.

VOICE OF CHEERFULNESS.

It is my responsibility to ensure that all

I will challenge each one who comes before

VOICE OF SERVICE.

It is my responsibility to ensure that all

I will challenge each one who comes before

The luminaries place their lantern/lamp/torch near or next to the Chief Luminary's lectern.

Diagram illustrating a 3D structure with labels **CL**, **C**, **B**, **S**, and **CF**. A curved line of dots is labeled **MMMMML MMMMML MMMMML**. A label **Lanterns Placed** points to a cluster of dots near **CL**.

Order of the Arrow, Scouting America

Do you believe they are ready
to meet the challenges
that will reveal to them
the meaning of the Arrow?

LUMINARIES AND ALL MEMBERS PRESENT:

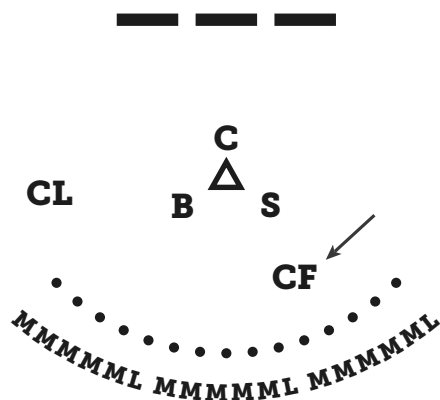
They are.

CHIEF LUMINARY:

Then I call on the Chief of the Fire
to prepare them to receive the challenges
through which they will come to understand
the responsibilities of the honor
for which they have been recognized.

The Chief of the Fire moves to the front, positioned slightly off-center to avoid blocking the Voices of the Order.

DIAGRAM 4



CHIEF OF THE FIRE:

From the darkness, from the forest
we have come with words of warning.
We bring tokens of a challenge:

to aid you, guide you, as you start.

Voices of the Order displays their tokens (the bow, the string, and the arrow) when the word "talismans" is spoken.

Yours is not an easy journey.

Sometimes even friends will mock you,
tempt you to betray your promise,
test your resolution often.

All the world may seem against you
and the path seem dark and lonely
when you face the isolation
that a leader often faces.
Fear not this journey as it goes
for in your wander, wonder grows.

You who love the haunts of nature,
love the moonlight on the water,
love the sunshine on the meadow,
love the shadow of the forest,
love the wind among the branches
ever murmuring, ever sighing,
love the rushing of great rivers
through their palisades of pine trees,
love the thunder in the mountains
whose innumerable echoes
leap and bound from crag to cliffside:
listen to these admonitions
for your guidance on your journey.

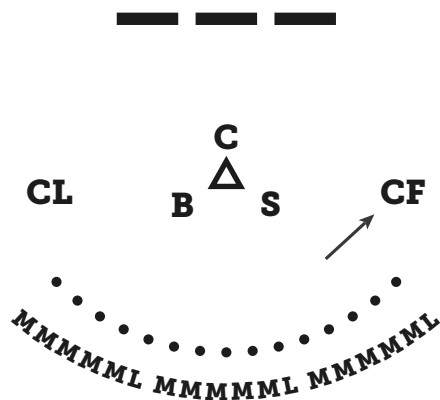
You were sent to seek a vision
of yourselves and of your purpose.

Our council fire lies before you
with fuel prepared, not yet ablaze.
Witness how the spark within you
may be nurtured and yield a flame.

will launch the arrow on its flight.
But you alone must choose the challenge
and ponder purpose through the night.

[The Chief of the Fire returns to their original location.]

DIAGRAM 5

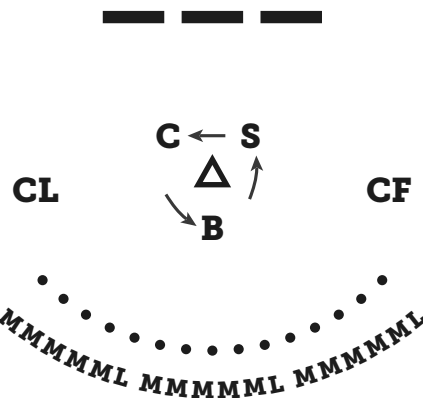


The Challenges of the Induction

CHIEF LUMINARY:

Voice of Brotherhood, I call on you to speak
the challenge you offer.

[The three Voices of the Order rotate counterclockwise so
that two are positioned behind the fire lay and the Voice
of Brotherhood is standing in front of the fire lay facing
the assembly.]



VOICE OF BROTHERHOOD:

Listen as I speak, for I am the Voice of
Brotherhood.

I speak to remedy the scars of isolation and
loneliness.

I speak to those who, seeking a better path,
acknowledge that their best self is found in
the warmth of friendship.

I speak to affirm a mystery, that by knowing
you I come to see the good I find in me.

May my words be represented by this
bowstring,

which though made of many fibers, draws
closer when held taught.

So may you, under the toils you face,
draw encouragement from each other
and unite what would otherwise pull apart.

I challenge you to **discover brotherhood**.

Listen to your guides

who will endeavor to show

the many ways we commemorate

brotherhood

in our words, symbols, and actions.

come before me again to take the Obligation
and receive the Admonition,
which both unite us in our common purpose.

The Voice of Brotherhood, who displays the bowstring while speaking, remains at the front.

CHIEF LUMINARY:

The Voice of Brotherhood has challenged you: spend the day discovering the meaning of “brotherhood” as the signs and manners of our Order are explained to you. If you are prepared to face this challenge,

I invite you now to respond, “I am prepared.”

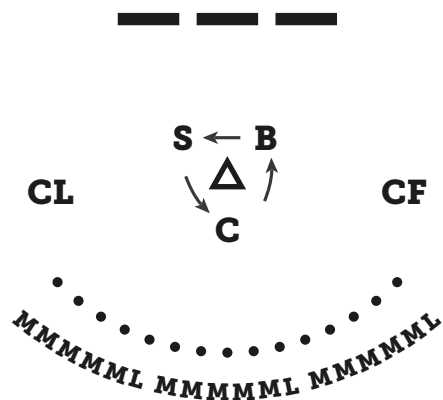
NEW MEMBERS:

I am prepared.

CHIEF LUMINARY:

Voice of Cheerfulness, I call on you to speak the challenge you offer.

The three Voices of the Order rotate counterclockwise so that two are positioned behind the fire lay and the Voice of Cheerfulness is standing in front of the fire lay facing the assembly.



VOICE OF CHEERFULNESS:

Listen as I speak, for I am the Voice of
Cheerfulness.

I speak to remedy the scars of despair and
sorrow.

I speak to those who, desiring hope,
are driven by the possibility of possibility.

I speak to those who are willing to discover
that by encouraging others, they are also
encouraged.

May my words be represented by this
bow-wood,

which when strained by hardship,
becomes more lively and springs anew with
vitality.

So may you, under the toils you face,
find the resilience that will propel you
onward.

I challenge you to **reflect on cheerfulness**.
Listen to your guides
who will help you to focus your thoughts
and cultivate joy from within.

Upon completing this challenge,

and receive the Admonition,
which both unite us in our common purpose.

The Voice of Cheerfulness, who displays the bow while speaking, remains at the front.

CHIEF LUMINARY:

The Voice of Cheerfulness challenges you:
spend time reflecting on “cheerfulness.”
Tonight, sleep apart from others so as to
foster inner resilience. Tomorrow, you will be
asked to take only what you need and to
affirm the good you see in others. If you are
prepared to face this challenge,

I invite you now to respond, “I am prepared.”

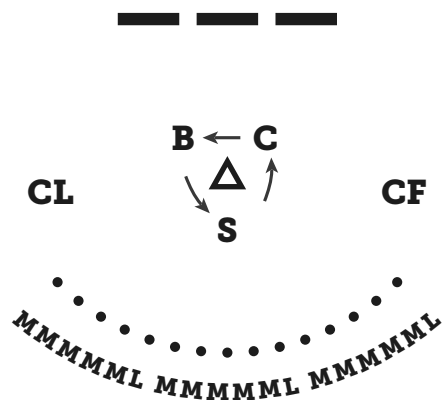
NEW MEMBERS:

I am prepared.

CHIEF LUMINARY:

Voice of Service, I call on you to speak the
challenge you offer.

The three Voices of the Order rotate counterclockwise so
that two are positioned behind the fire lay and the Voice
of Service is standing in front of the fire lay facing the
assembly.



VOICE OF SERVICE:

Listen as I speak, for I am the Voice of
Service,

I speak to remedy the scars of selfishness
and greed.

I speak to those who, aspiring a life of
purpose,

are willing to discover the path of the
servant-leader.

May my words be represented by this arrow,
which points us onward, to the other,
and then again to one another.

So may you, under the toils you face,
awake to find the joy
that comes in serving others.

I challenge you to **provide service**.

Listen to your guides who will join with you
in selfless-aim

for the good of others.

Upon completing this challenge,
come before me again to take the Obligation
and receive the Admonition,
which both unite to our common purpose.

The Voice of Service, who displays the arrow while speaking, remains at the front.

CHIEF LUMINARY:

The Voice of Service challenges you: spend the day in service to others. This will require you to be selfless and to give freely for the good of all. If you are prepared to face this challenge, I invite you now to respond, "I am prepared."

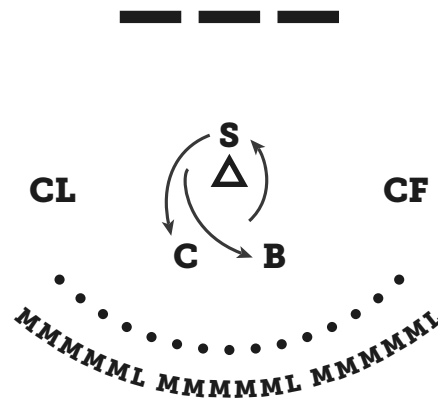
NEW MEMBERS:

I am prepared.

CHIEF LUMINARY:

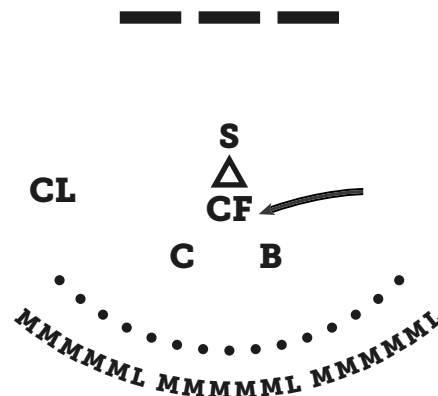
The newly elected members have confirmed that they are prepared to face the challenges placed before them. It is time to unite the tokens of this ceremony and offer the new members the choice to proceed.

The Voices of the Order rotate counterclockwise so that the Voice of Service is centered behind the fire lay and the Voice of Brotherhood and the Voice of Cheerfulness are standing at points in front of the fire lay holding the bow and the bowstring, leaving room for the Chief of the Fire to stand.



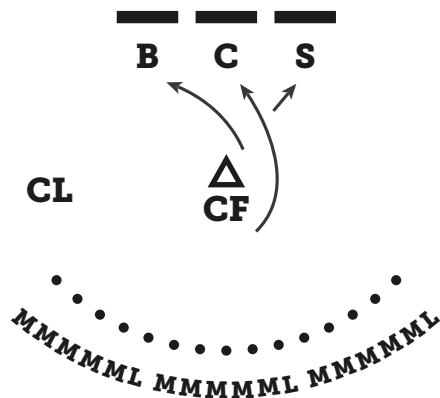
The Chief of the Fire then moves in front of the fire lay between the Voice of Brotherhood and the Voice of Cheerfulness while continuing to face the new members.

DIAGRAM 9b



After the Chief of the Fire is positioned, the Voice of Brotherhood and the Voice of Cheerfulness turn inward and face each other. The Voice of Brotherhood then presents the bowstring to the Voice of Cheerfulness who takes it and assembles the bow. The Voice of Cheerfulness then presents the assembled bow to the Chief of the Fire, who accepts it.

The Voice of Brotherhood leads the Voice of Cheerfulness counterclockwise around the fire lay to their places in front of the turtle and fire backdrops. After they pass, and the Voice of Service takes their place in front of the triangle backdrop. The Chief of the Fire remains in place.



CHIEF OF THE FIRE:

Pause, and look you back on Scouting
whose sign and motto you accepted.
Long ago you gave your promise,
said you firmly: "On my honor
I'll do my best—I'll do my duty."
It is plain to all who watch you.
We know this, for your companions,
taking note of your devotion
to the high ideals of Scouting,
have proposed you to the Order.

My friends, those who chose you need you.
They have sent you on this journey
and you were guided by these lights.

Fifteen flames led you to us.
But the trail that you have followed
becomes rougher, steeper, fainter.
You will need to light the fire.

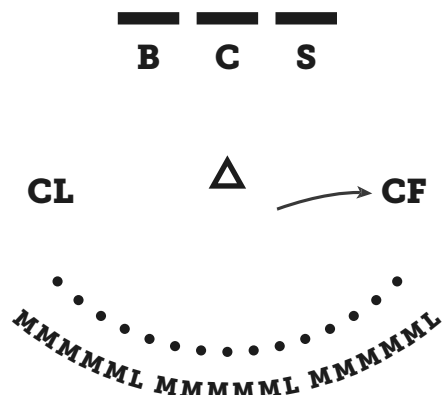
So foolishly I once did seek
to make this journey on my own.
I scaled from peak and then to peak
to hear a mystery unknown.

these high places are within you."

All the natural world around you
shows you clearly your reflection.
The direction that you must follow
are the whispers, urgings, promptings
deep within your hearts and spirits.
Who among you now is ready?
Who will go upon this journey?
You must choose.

The Chief of the Fire gestures to the fifteen flames while speaking. After speaking, the Chief of the Fire retreats to their place.

DIAGRAM 10b



CHIEF LUMINARY:

The Chief of the Fire seeks a sign of your
commitment. If you decide to stop and go
no further now, you may withdraw without
discredit. If you accept the three challenges
presented to you, take one step forward
now.

New members take one step forward.

Luminaries or ceremony guides quietly ask any who do not step forward if they understand and wish to withdraw. Those who decide to withdraw are led away.

Accepting the Challenge

CHIEF LUMINARY:

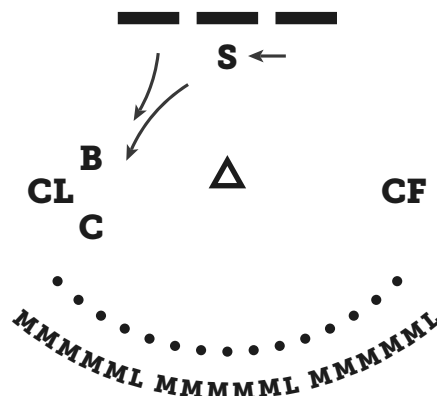
You have each chosen to step forward. When prompted by your luminary, advance to the Chief of the Fire, who will invite you to draw the bow as a sign of your commitment. Then proceed to the Voice of Service, who will enjoin you to the arrow and its flight. Finally, you will proceed to this location, where you will receive the sash that will accompany you through the challenges placed before you. When completed, return to your place in our circle. In reverence to these solemn actions, please remain silent now and until your luminary releases you from the pledge of silence.

(Optional) Fade up instrumental music "For the Ceremony".

As the Chief Luminary is speaking, the Chief of the Fire tests the bow as a demonstration for the members, and the Voice of Service displays the arrow.

The Voice of Brotherhood and the Voice of Cheerfulness move next to the Chief Luminary. Simultaneously, the Voice of Service moves in front of the fire lay, leaving space between their location and the fire lay.

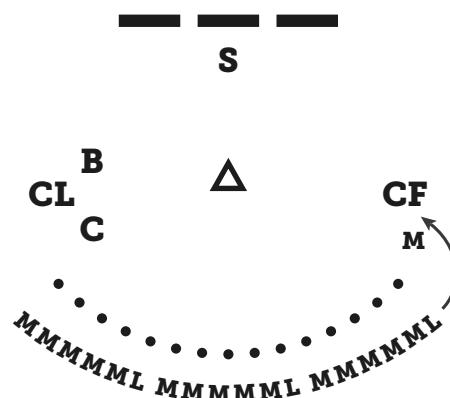
DIAGRAM 11a



The luminaries and ceremony guides instruct the new members to move through three unique stations, one at a time: testing the bow with the Chief of the Fire, the arrow with the Voice of Service, and the sash with the Chief Luminary, the Voice of Brotherhood, and the Voice of Cheerfulness.

The new members advance to the Chief of the Fire's station.

DIAGRAM 11b

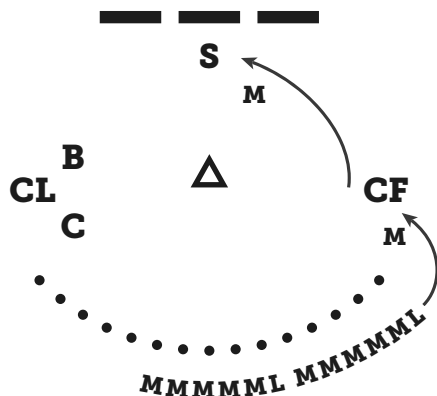


The Officers of the Ceremony speak to each new member as they arrive at their station.

Draw this bow and unite your effort to those who came before you.

The new member is given the bow, tests the bow and after testing is prompted to move toward the Voice of Service.

DIAGRAM 11c

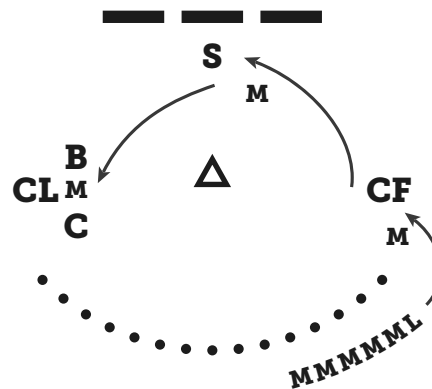


VOICE OF SERVICE:

Hold this arrow in your hands.
As it launches, so will your journey.

The voice of Service holds the arrow horizontally with two hands and presents it to the new member as they speak. The arrow is taken back before instructing the new member to the next station where the remaining Chief Luminary, the Voice of Brotherhood, and the Voice of Cheerfulness prepare to place the sash on the new member.

DIAGRAM 11d



CHIEF LUMINARY:

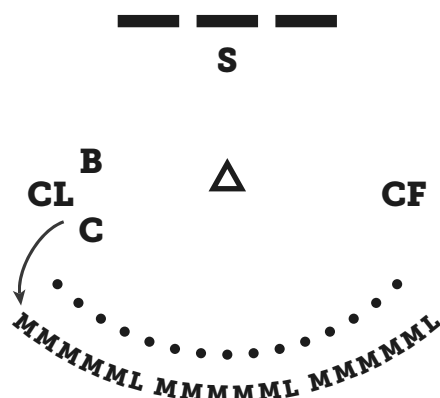
You must seek to learn what the arrow means and how it will guide you in a life of cheerful service.

The Chief Luminary speaks while the Voice of Brotherhood and the Voice of Cheerfulness place the sash on the new member.

In larger ceremonies, ceremony guides can set up additional stations to deliver the challenges and place the sash on the new members. Ceremony guides can also conduct these special tasks with the new members at their location beyond the fifteen blazes.

Following the instruction of luminaries or ceremony guides, the new member returns to their place within the ceremony ring.

DIAGRAM 11e



When all have returned to their place, fade out music. The Voices of the Order return to their locations in front of the backdrops.

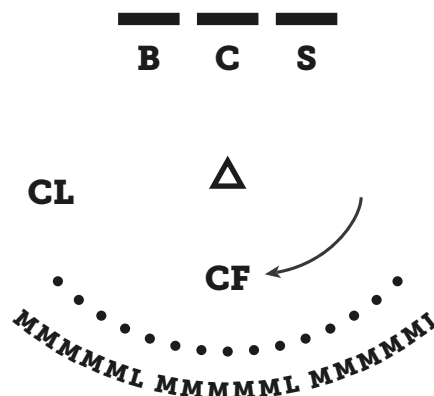
The Voice of Service gives the arrow to the Chief of the Fire.

CHIEF LUMINARY:

Congratulations. You have taken your first step. You have tested the bow and held the arrow. You now wear the sign that designates the members of our Order. This honor is afforded to you during the three challenges that you have been given — to discover brotherhood, to reflect on cheerfulness, and to provide service. Embed upon your sash the memories and experiences you will face as you seek to find the Arrow. Chief of the Fire, please do us the honor of bringing the arrow to flight.

Chief of the Fire moves in front of the fire lay.

DIAGRAM 13



CHIEF OF THE FIRE:

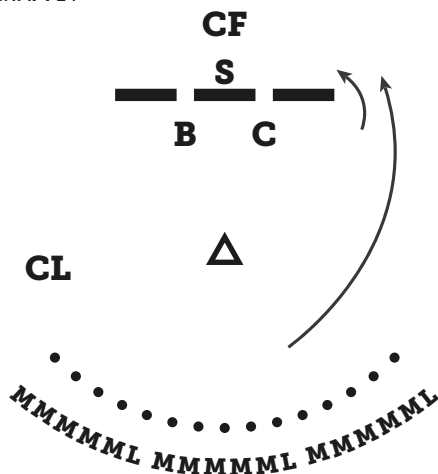
Friends, your silence kept speaks aloud.
You are ready for this journey!
Trust the quiet as you pass, for
hours spent in thoughtful silence
help us make the right decisions
more than days and days of talking.
Observe you now in quiet thought,
how swift your path will now unfold.
As the archer draws the arrow
most trustworthy from the quiver,
you were drawn from many others:
for the arrows that are chosen
must be straightest, must be surest.
If through many moons unflinching
you hold fast to Scouting pledges,
swift and true you each will travel
—as an arrow driven skyward,
as an eagle soaring sunward.
Find in this your true direction

you will be seen by all others
and by inspiration, lead them.

(Optional) fade in music "Shooting the Arrow".

The Chief of the Fire carries the bow and together with the Voice of Service, retreats behind the backdrops. The Voice of Brotherhood and the Voice of Cheerfulness then position themselves to the sides of the fire backdrop.

DIAGRAM 14



The Voice of Service takes the bow and arrow from the Chief of the Fire and stands behind the fire backdrop.

Note: This process can be modified to allow the Voice of Brotherhood or the Voice of Cheerfulness to create the silhouette of an archer if they create a better silhouette.

CHIEF LUMINARY:

The Chief Luminary delivers these lines during the music's opening scoring.

When you have found the Arrow, you yourself will be a light which guides the way for others. Until that time, you will be led by the spark within you and in your fellow members. Our time together is concluding, and so we pause to ponder what lies before

election to this order.

The Chief Luminary delivers these lines on the downbeat of the music's shift in tempo. The first word is said for each downbeat.

To be patient when tested.
Generous when called upon.
Contrite when in error.
Steadfast when shaken.
Thoughtful when questioned.
Gracious when scorned.
Selfless when serving.
Sincere in friendship.
Honest when vulnerable.
Resilient in adversity.
Disciplined when tempted.
Persistent through setbacks.
Focused amidst distractions.

The Chief Luminary delivers these lines in the final moments of the instrumental music.

Wherever challenges befall us and whatever may seem to pull us back, we must learn to view them as we do the tension of the bow, which soon springs back and loosens the arrow on its skyward flight.

The Chief Luminary delivers the final lines as the Chief of the Fire turns a flashlight on and directs the light towards the Voice of Service. The Voice of Brotherhood and the Voice of Cheerfulness remove the fire panel to reveal the white panel and silhouette of the Voice of Service holding the bow and arrow.

The Voice of Service begins to create the silhouette of an archer by slowly nocking the arrow, aiming slightly upward, pulling the arrow back, and holding the pose. The Voice of Service simulates shooting the arrow, but does not shoot the arrow!

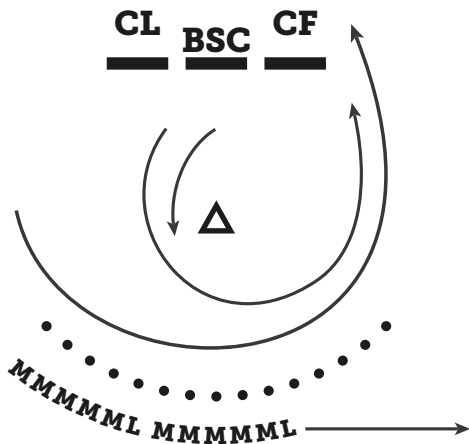
United in this path of cheerful service,
and with courage on these first steps,
let us try to find the Arrow!

As the “whoosh” of the arrow is heard from the musical underscore, the Chief of the Fire extinguishes the flashlight ending the archer’s shadow on the white panel.

After a brief pause, the Chief Luminary, the Voice of Brotherhood, and the Voice of Cheerfulness retreat behind the backdrops. The luminaries retrieve their personal lanterns/lamps/torches previously placed around the Chief Luminary.

The luminaries quietly instruct their crews to follow them from the ceremony grounds to find their space for the Night Without Shelter. As the crews arrive at their prearranged locations, the luminary should set down their own gear before finding places for each new member to sleep for the night. The luminaries should also tell their crew that the lantern/lamp/torch will be lit throughout the night to indicate the location of the luminary in case someone needs assistance. The luminary should also make sure the new members know the location of the nearest latrine.

DIAGRAM 15





Ceremony of the Fire

Officers of the Ceremony

Chief Luminary – This principal wears an official Scouting field uniform and a luminary neckerchief which aligns them with the luminaries. The Chief Luminary stands at and reads their parts of the ceremony from a lectern (or music stand) that is surrounded by ornamental and functional lights that provides enough light to read.

The Chief of the Fire – The Chief of the Fire is dressed in a black robe resembling an academic graduation ceremony or judicial robe. They also wear a black and white sash.

The Voice of Brotherhood / The Voice of Scouting's Past – Cloaked in a cape that resembles a patch blanket of the history of Scouting and the lodge conducting the ceremony. The cape now masks the garments worn underneath — a recreation of a Scout uniform from an earlier period of history with an Order of the Arrow sash from an earlier period. A Scout hat from an earlier period is also worn.

The Voice of Cheerfulness / The Voice of Scouting's Present – Cloaked in a cape that resembles a patch blanket of the history of Scouting and the lodge conducting the ceremony. The cape now masks the garments worn underneath — a current Scout field uniform with a current Order of the Arrow sash of any honor.

The Voice of Service / The Voice of Scouting's Future – Cloaked in a cape that resembles a patch blanket of the history of Scouting and the lodge conducting the ceremony. The cape now masks the garments worn underneath — ordinary civilian clothes of someone when they are

not at a Scouting event, just a few days from now.

Voices of the Order – The Voices of the Order refers to the Voice of Brotherhood, the Voice of Cheerfulness, and the Voice of Service.

Officers of the Ceremony – The Officers of the Ceremony are the five main principals: the Chief Luminary, the Chief of the Fire, and the three Voices of the Order.

Additional Details

Ceremony Guides – Additional members of a ceremony team can help support the flow of the ceremony. These individuals have non-speaking roles and are assigned to usher new members to their places throughout the ceremony as necessary. Ceremony guides are not required but are very useful. The need for movement throughout the ceremony can also be filled by luminaries if ceremony guides are not present.

Capes ("Patch Blanket of Scouting's History") – This element is worn by the Voices of the Order. The Order of the Arrow invites lodges to customize the three capes with patches from their lodge and council as they would a legacy blanket. Please see the standards for these capes in the previous section under the Ceremony of the Arrow.

Setting

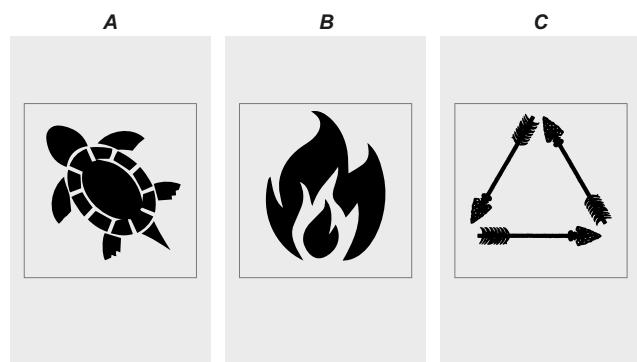
The ceremony ring is prepared in similar fashion to the Ceremony of the Arrow with fifteen blazes (lanterns, lamps, or torches) illuminating the space.

Luminary to read from. These elements may be varied depending on the established site for the ceremony where various elements may also exist.

The essential element for this ceremony is the fire, which now burns cheerfully at the center of the ceremony ring. Enough space should be reserved for new members to be lined up on one side of the ceremony ring facing the fire and the Officers of the Ceremony.

Backdrop Panels

The backdrop panels used in the Ceremony of the Arrow are also present without the white panel. The middle panel (fire) is attached without the intention of removal.



Music

If the approved background music is used in the ceremony, the appropriate equipment to play the music should be placed prior to beginning the ceremony. Background music is optional and should never draw undue focus. If this cannot be done in a fluid manner or it causes additional distraction, it should be eliminated from use.

CL	Chief Luminary
CF	Chief of the Fire
B	Voice of Brotherhood
C	Voice of Cheerfulness
S	Voice of Service
L	Luminary
M	New Member
*	Ceremony Guides

•	Lantern
▲	Fire Lay
—	Banner

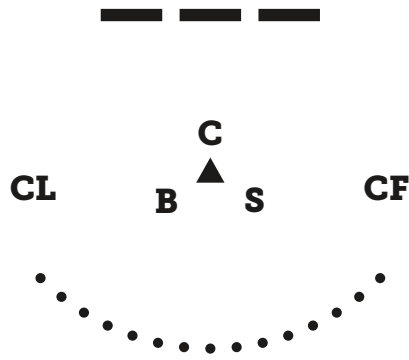
Prior to the Ceremony

The luminary crews, each led by their luminary, are lined along the trail leading to the ceremony ring. The new members walk together, in silence, toward the ceremony ring. The luminaries lead the crew with a lantern/lamp/or torch. The new members should be instructed to carry their sash in their hand or in an easily accessible place in their day bag/sling pack.

When the new members arrive at the ceremony ring, they wait outside until welcomed by the Chief Luminary. Ceremony guides ensure that a group of new members are near the entrance of the ceremony ring to avoid long delays when asked to enter by the Chief Luminary.

The Chief of the Fire stands to the right of the fire. The three Voices of the Order are positioned around the fire facing the members of the Lodge. The Chief Luminary speaks from the lectern to the left of the fire.

DIAGRAM 1



CHIEF LUMINARY:

The Order is a thing of the Spirit.
Let silence now fall upon this place.
We gather tonight beneath the stars,
not as strangers, but as stewards,
of a tradition greater than any one of us.
With each gathering, our circle has grown,
widened by every hand that serves—
every voice that upholds the Scout Oath and
Law.
Let those who safeguard the spirit and ideals
of our Order
speak and be known.

VOICE OF BROTHERHOOD:

As the Voice of Brotherhood, I will recall the
ties that bind us to each other and to all who
came before.

As the Voice of Cheerfulness, I will remind us
that hope is needed most in the face of
adversity.

VOICE OF SERVICE:

As the Voice of Service, I will recount the
weighty responsibility that we all hold - to
lead by serving others.

CHIEF OF THE FIRE:

As the Chief of the Fire, I will retrace the
memories of this circle and the foundation of
our Order.

CHIEF LUMINARY:

Voices of the Order, are you satisfied that all
present are members?

VOICES OF THE ORDER:

We are satisfied.

CHIEF LUMINARY:

Then I hereby declare our lodge open for the
Ceremony of the Fire.

Pause.

Before we welcome our new members to
our circle, let us pause and be reminded of
our purpose here this evening.

VOICE OF BROTHERHOOD:

We are gathered here together
in the midst of this great forest;
underneath the stars above us.

Gathered now to help and serve,
cheerfully in all our actions,
lovingly in our reflections.

VOICE OF SERVICE:

As the smoke curls, winding upward,
may our thoughts and actions
rising fill us all with acts of goodness;
and direct and rule and guide us
in our work and thoughts this evening.

Pause.

Encounter by the Fire

Encounter by the Fire is intended to be conducted for smaller groups of 8-20 new members at a time so that each new member has a more personal experience.

If this process is conducted more than once, the Chief Luminary should deliver the Replacement Greeting instead of the Initial Greeting. If Encounter by the Fire must be completed multiple times to welcome all the new members, begin again and deliver the Replacement Greeting rather than the Initial Greeting which is only spoken the first time:

CHIEF LUMINARY: (INITIAL GREETING)

[MEMORIZED]

I will go and greet those who wait patiently
at the entrance to our circle. I will bring them
near to the council fire which—already
burning—will glow even brighter with their
presence.

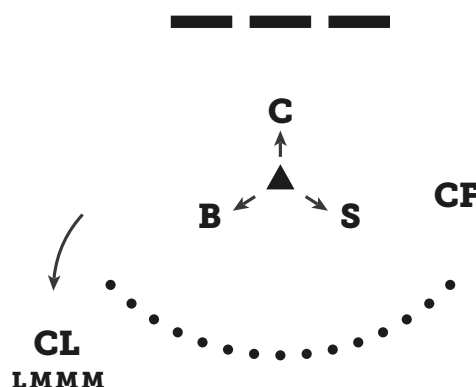
[MEMORIZED]

Friends, other new members remain who
seek admission. I will bring them near to the
council fire which—already burning—will
glow even brighter with their presence.

The Voices of the Order move to stand in triangular positions around the fire, facing it. Their capes and the darkness of night cover their underlying costumes while they address the new members in the initial moments of the ceremony.

The Chief Luminary greets a group of 8-20 new members who are waiting outside the ceremony ring.

DIAGRAM 2



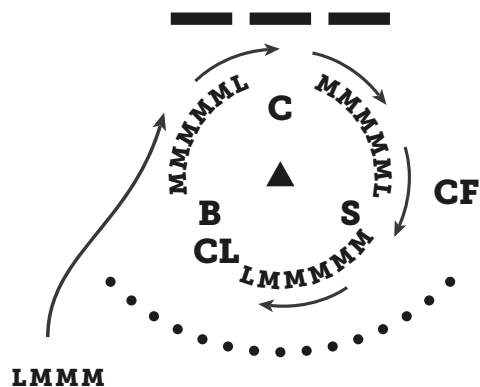
CHIEF LUMINARY: [MEMORIZED]

Welcome, friends. Your presence here
brightens this circle, already glowing. It is
time now for you to approach the fire and be
given final instructions, so you may take the
Obligation and receive the Admonition.

Please follow in silence.

The group of 8-20 new members follows the Chief Luminary into the ceremony ring. The luminaries and other ceremony guides can assist in the placement of new members around the council fire.

DIAGRAM 3a



VOICE OF BROTHERHOOD:

What began as a spark has now become a fire that brightens this, our circle.

VOICE OF CHEERFULNESS:

As the fire burns, know that its brightness comes from the honor you have brought to Scouting.

VOICE OF SERVICE:

The fire belongs to you, and you belong to the fire.

VOICE OF BROTHERHOOD:

The fuel that feeds the fire is that of the brotherhood you have fostered with your fellow Scouts.

The air that feeds the fire is the joy of cheerfulness you have shared with one another.

VOICE OF SERVICE:

The heat that radiates from the fire is the work of service that you so selflessly give to others.

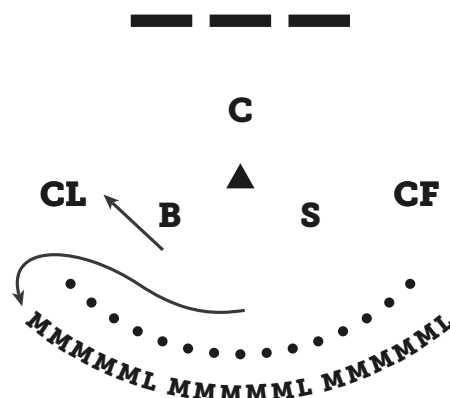
CHIEF LUMINARY:

At the direction of your luminary, please take your place within our circle.

The Chief Luminary returns to the lectern and allows the luminaries and ceremony guides to lead the group of new members to form a semi-circle facing the council fire at a distance that allows all new members to stand before the council fire and the Officers of the Ceremony.

The luminary whispers instructions to each member in their crew requesting that they remain silent and to place any heavy bags or gear on the ground behind them. The new member's sash should remain easily accessible.

DIAGRAM 3b



If additional new members are waiting to enter the ceremony ring, the Chief Luminary returns to the entrance of the circle to greet the next group of new members and delivers the Replacement Greeting.

When all new members have completed the Encounter by the Fire, the Chief Luminary returns to the lectern and continues the ceremony.

Welcome to New Members

CHIEF LUMINARY:

Having come before us near the council fire, it is our observation that you are prepared to affirm your dedication to the high ideals and purpose of the Order of the Arrow. Let us enter our final discernment by remembering the encouragement we owe to one another.

VOICE OF BROTHERHOOD:

There should fall a solemn silence
o'er the members of our circle,

VOICE OF CHEERFULNESS:

For their thoughts should now be centered
on the noble goal and purpose
that has called us all together.

VOICE OF SERVICE:

We who love the woods and camping,
we who strive in cheerful service,
stand beside and urge them forward,

VOICE OF BROTHERHOOD:

On the next step of their journey,
on their long and toilsome journey,

Each one ready now to help them
through their toils and tribulations.

VOICE OF SERVICE:

This our purpose and intent,
mark with silence reverent.

Significant pause.

Affirmation of New Members

CHIEF LUMINARY:

My friends, you soon will take upon yourself
the Obligation of the Order of the Arrow and
receive the Admonition.

But first *you* must affirm that you are ready.
Last night, you were given three challenges:
to discover brotherhood,
to reflect on cheerfulness,
and to provide service.

The challenges you have undergone were
given to strengthen your resolve and ready
your spirit for the Obligation you are about
to take.

Your conscience is the first witness to your
readiness. If you are satisfied that, having
risen to meet these challenges, you are ready
to accept the Obligation of the Order of the
Arrow, state now, out loud, "I am prepared."

ALL:

I am prepared.

Friends, as Officers of the Ceremony, we receive your affirmation gladly. *It is only right* that we accompany your affirmation with the observations of those who have journeyed with you today. I now call forward the luminaries of this ceremony to speak on your behalf.

Declaration of Affirmation.

Luminary [Luminary #1's name], please raise your voice in affirmation of those whose way you have illuminated through your service.

LUMINARY #1:

The luminary individually introduces the members of their crew and says their name followed by one word of affirmation that stood out about the new member. The one word of affirmation must be from the Scout Law: trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, or reverent. Only one word is chosen for each new member.

Chief Luminary, I have come to know my crew members and am pleased to offer the following affirmations:

This is [Crew member's name, e.g., Emily] ... [Crew member's name] is [a point of the Scout Law, e.g., Friendly].

The luminary moves to the next crew member.

This is [Crew member's name, e.g., Bill] ... [Crew member's name] is [a point of the Scout Law, e.g., Trustworthy].

The luminary repeats the affirmation for all crew members.

The Chief Luminary repeats the Declaration of Affirmation with Luminary #2, #3, etc.

When all new members have been named and affirmed, the Chief Luminary continues to the Foundation Story.

The Foundation Story

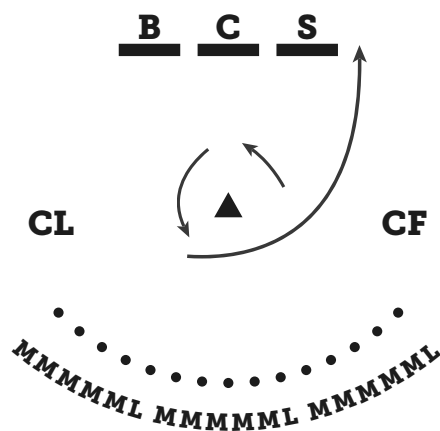
CHIEF LUMINARY:

Upon the affirmation of your luminaries, it is even more certain to us that your election to the Order of the Arrow was deserving. As Officers of the Ceremony, we deem it prudent that you should hear for yourself how our Order was founded so that its legacy can now be entrusted to you.

Chief of the Fire, please account for us the foundation of the Order and the fire before us.

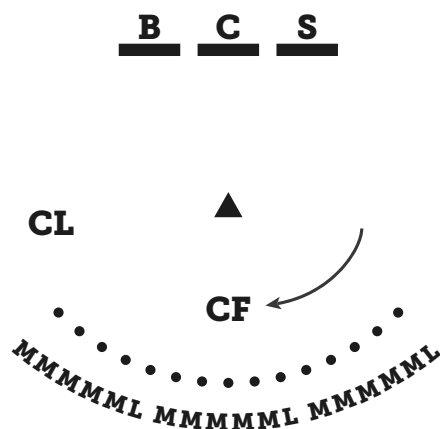
(optional) Fade in music "Foundation Story".

The Voice of Brotherhood leads the Voice of Cheerfulness and the Voice of Service counterclockwise around the fire and they retreat behind the backdrop.



After they pass, the Chief of the Fire moves to the front of the fire lay.

DIAGRAM 4b



After the Voices of the Order are behind the backdrops, they remove their capes and change into their new roles: the Voice of Scouting's Past, the Voice of Scouting's Present, and the Voice of Scouting's Future. Any apparel that was not previously worn under their capes are acquired from behind the backdrop, e.g., the Scout hat worn by the Voice of Scouting's Past.

CHIEF OF THE FIRE:

My friends, be attentive—
and hear the story of the wonder
that fills this passing moment.
The fire before you is but an heir

at this circle's center
countless times before.

The Order of the Arrow,
to which you have been elected,
is not just an honor.

The Order is a thing of the spirit.

This spirit is like the wind.

No voice can say where the wind comes
from,

nor where the wind goes.

But if you listen with patience,
you may be fortunate enough to glide
along its ever-hidden whispers.

So it was, many seasons ago,
that an island rose from the waters
of the Delaware River—
Treasure Island, it was called.

Upon the island's ephemeral clay,
from the wet-water's tide,
a Scout camp was born.

For many summers, its wilderness rang with
voices—

echoing with the sounds of Scouts
reveling in the rendezvous of adventure.

The camp's leaders, filled with pride for
Scouting,

gathered one evening to ponder the fleeting
pause

of time's unceasing tide.

Among them, an inquiry was quietly intoned,

[Including the luminaries and ceremony guides.]

"How, friends, can we make Scouting better?"

CHIEF OF THE FIRE:

In that question, the spirit's spark caught
flame
and the forerunner of the fire before us was
set ablaze.
For they acclaimed with united voice that ...

OFFICERS OF THE CEREMONY:

[Including the luminaries and ceremony guides.]

The one who serves their fellows,
is of all their fellows, greatest.

CHIEF OF THE FIRE:

Donning robes of distinction,
such as those I wear tonight,
they enshrined this moment
by forming a society to recognize those who,
by their actions,
would bring honor to their fellow Scouts
through cheerful service.

From the island's soft sand, the fire spread.
Carried by Scouts to forest and field,
mountain and plain,
until it reached this place,
and now it blazes bright for you.

This fire blazes again because you were
recognized
as one who will carry on the best in Scouting.

This is not a reward rendered
from your prior merit.

This distinction is a call.

Upon you lies the responsibility to
perpetuate
the great traditions of the Order of the
Arrow.

Do so with urgency and resolve.
For even as I pay it tribute,
the Scout camp known as Treasure Island
served well its moment, and was closed.

Footsteps once trodden into softened silt
Have lapped away into the river's timeless
flow.

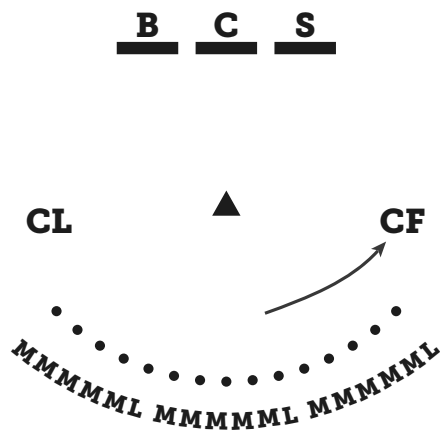
But the fire kindled there lives on—
in every heart that asks:

How can we make Scouting better?

Like the Scout camp once at Treasure Island,
Each of us has but this one moment.
How will you use yours?

Now before the fire,
where time stands still
and all time comes together.
Listen. So you may hear.

[Fade out music.
The Chief of the Fire returns to their position to the right
of the council fire.]

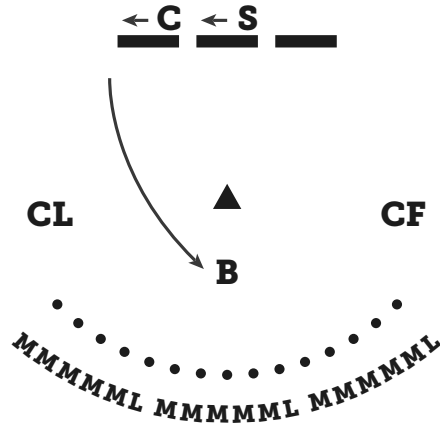


CHIEF LUMINARY:

In this timeless space before the fire, I invite the Voice of Scouting's Past to witness and appraise the Obligation which you will soon receive.

The Voice of Brotherhood enters from behind the backdrops, and without their cape, appears wearing a Scout uniform from an earlier period of history with an Order of the Arrow sash from an earlier period.

DIAGRAM 6



PAST):

I represent to you, before the council fire, the voice of Scouts who came before. Like you, they were given the Scout Oath and Law, and while separated by time and technology, their enduring values have never changed. Pause for a moment and ponder. The moon you see, they also saw. The stars that danced across the sky, fill your sky too.

Your participation in Scouting is attention offered

to a timeless challenge.

May my presence serve as a reminder that brotherhood transcends the ages, for it now includes you.

In a few moments, you will be given the chance to take the Obligation of the Order of the Arrow.

I entreat you to be steadfast and sincere in your promise.

If you do so, with the reassurance of connection

that is found in brotherhood, the fire will never leave your heart, and the arrow will always lead you on.

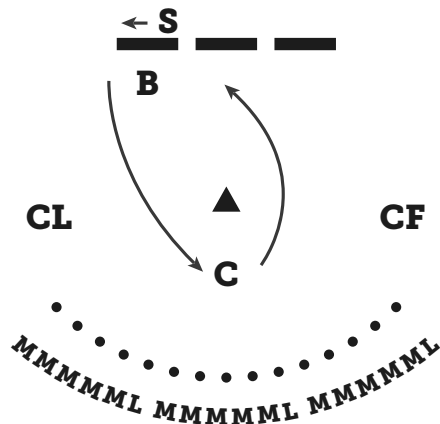
CHIEF LUMINARY:

The Voice of Scouting's Past challenges you to receive the Obligation in the spirit of brotherhood. In this timeless space before the fire, I invite the Voice of Scouting's

Obligation which you will soon receive.

The Voice of Cheerfulness enters from behind the backdrops, and without their cape, appears wearing a current Scout field uniform with a current Order of the Arrow sash of any honor.

DIAGRAM 7



VOICE OF CHEERFULNESS (VOICE OF SCOUTING'S PRESENT):

I represent to you, before the council fire,
who you are in this moment.

A fellow Scout—accomplished, deserving,
yet not without unease.

For this is the eternal instant
where our actions take place—here in the
present.

Sure as the fire burns,
you are the master of this snapshot of fragile
courage

where your choices and your decisions
will determine who you become.

Fear not, and let cheerfulness smile upon
your possibilities.

In a few moments, you will be given the

to take the Obligation of the Order of the
Arrow.

I entreat you to be steadfast and sincere in
your promise.

If you do so, with the gladness of
cheerfulness,

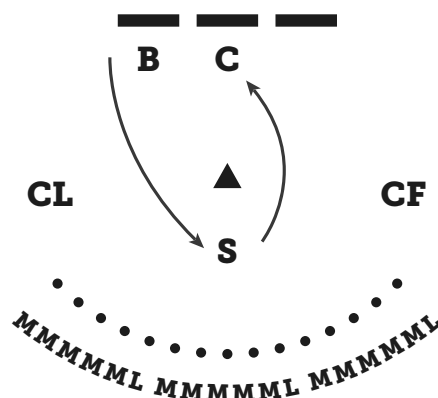
the fire will never leave your heart,
and the arrow will always lead you on.

CHIEF LUMINARY:

The Voice of Scouting's Present has
challenged you to receive the Obligation in
the spirit of cheerfulness. In this timeless
space before the fire, I invite the Voice of
Scouting's Future to witness and appraise the
Obligation which you will soon receive.

The Voice of Service enters from behind the backdrops,
and without their cape, appears as someone wearing
ordinary civilian clothes like they would when they are
not at a Scouting event, just a few days from now. Their
sash should be kept in their pants pocket.

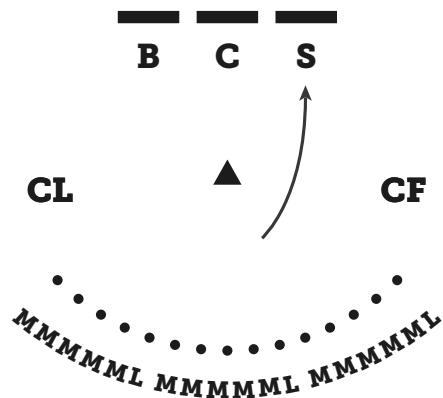
DIAGRAM 8



FUTURE):

I represent to you, before the council fire,
who you will be tomorrow.
When everyone has gone home and
uniforms are put away;
when service and ceremony are resigned to
memory,
and Scouting's signs no longer shown.
Who will you be then?
Will this fire still burn inside your heart?
Will you still take up the mantle of the
servant leader?
In school? At home?
With friends who have no knowledge of this
circle
nor share the story here unfolding?
What will happen then?
In a few moments, you will be given the
chance
to take the Obligation of the Order of the
Arrow.
I entreat you to be steadfast and sincere in
your promise.
If you do so, with the desire of continued
service,
the fire will never leave your heart,
and the arrow will always lead you on.

[The Voice of Service takes their place in front of the triangle backdrop.]



CHIEF LUMINARY:

The Voice of Scouting's Future has challenged you to receive the Obligation in the spirit of service. Together the Officers of the Ceremony will enjoin this moment to us through their reflection.

[(optional) Play music "Foundation Story".]

CHIEF OF THE FIRE:

The fire before us came from a flame that time cannot dim—a legacy kindled anew in each generation.

VOICE OF BROTHERHOOD (VOICE OF SCOUTING'S PAST):

I am joined to this fire from the past,
where Scouting once made its mark.

PRESENT):

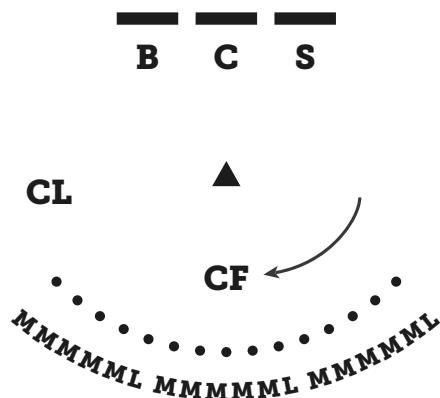
I am joined to this fire in this present,
where Scouting is lived here and now.

**VOICE OF SERVICE (VOICE OF SCOUTING'S
FUTURE):**

I am joined to this fire from the future,
where your Scouting journey is yet to be
known.

The Chief of the Fire moves to an area in front of the
council fire.

DIAGRAM 10



CHIEF OF THE FIRE:

Together, with these voices, with the
memory of the Scout camp once held at
Treasure Island and the memory of our
Order's foundation, with the friendships
forged today and ones yet to be made, we
pause to ponder the possibility of this
moment.

Brief pause.

Brief pause.

This is the hush that holds the hour.

Pause.

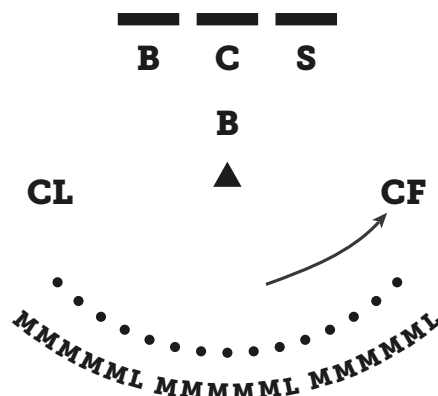
This moment embraces us and asks:
How will you make Scouting better?
This our purpose and intent,
mark with silence reverent.

Fade out music.

Significant pause.

The Chief of the Fire retreats to their place.

DIAGRAM 11



The Obligation

CHIEF LUMINARY:

Friends, you have just heard the foundation
story of the Order of the Arrow. As Officers
of the Ceremony, we deem it prudent that
you should take the Obligation before the
council fire. The Obligation is our collective

cheerfully serve others as servant-leaders.
Listen now to the Obligation as it is recited
for you to hear.

The Chief of the Fire and Voices of the Order recite the
Obligation together while holding the Scout sign.

CHIEF OF THE FIRE AND OTHER OFFICERS OF THE CEREMONY:

I do hereby promise,
on my honor as a Scout,
that I will always and faithfully
observe and preserve the traditions
of the Order of the Arrow:
Brotherhood, Cheerfulness, Service.
I will always regard the ties of brotherhood
in the Order of the Arrow as lasting,
and will seek to preserve a cheerful spirit,
even in the midst of irksome tasks
and weighty responsibilities,
and will endeavor, so far as in my power lies,
to be unselfish in service
and devotion to the welfare of others.

CHIEF LUMINARY:

If you accept the Obligation, raise your right
hand in the Scout sign and repeat the
Obligation after the Chief of the Fire.

The Chief of the Fire recites the Obligation line by line,
allowing the new members, luminaries, remaining Offi-
cers of the Ceremony, and members to say each phrase.
When finished, the Chief Luminary continues.

You may now lower your hand.

Let our circle bear witness to your promise,
now spoken and received.

The Admonition

CHIEF LUMINARY:

Voices of the Order, do you believe our new
members are ready to receive the
Admonition?

VOICES OF THE ORDER:

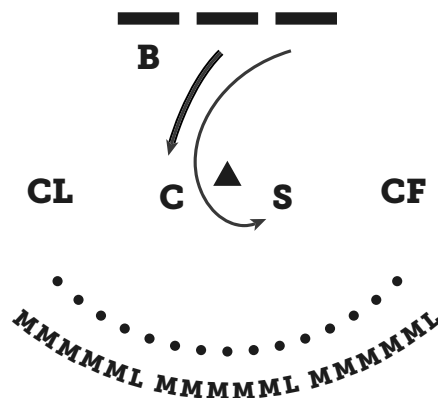
They are.

CHIEF LUMINARY:

Then let us widen our circle by its sharing.

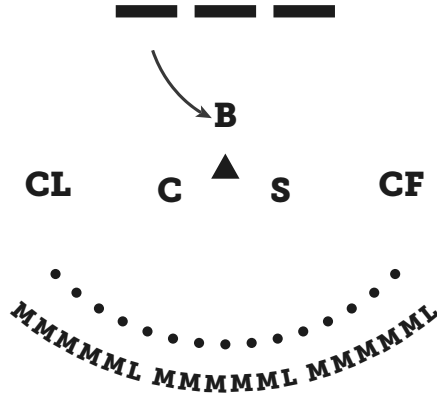
The Voice of Service leads the Voice of Cheerfulness to
the front of the council fire The Voice of Service puts
their sash on while walking.

DIAGRAM 12a



After the Voice of Service and Voice of Cheerfulness pass, the Voice of Brotherhood moves to an area between the backdrops and the council fire.

DIAGRAM 12b



VOICE OF BROTHERHOOD:

We have often spoken of the Admonition and its importance to our members. The Admonition is spoken reverently to fellow members as a heartfelt reminder of our solemn purpose.

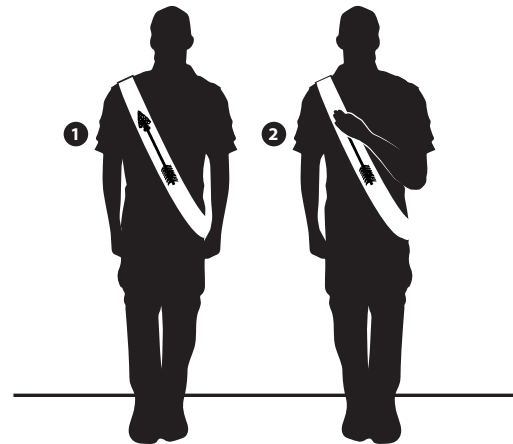
VOICE OF BROTHERHOOD:

One member comes before another member—face to face—and places their left hand over their sash as a reminder of their own promise to uphold the Obligation and live out the Admonition.

Their left hand mirrors the direction of the arrowhead going over the right shoulder. With earnestness and sincerity, the first member speaks the words of the Admonition.

“To love one another.”

The Voice of Cheerfulness places their left hand over the arrowhead on their sash while saying the Admonition.



VOICE OF BROTHERHOOD:

The other member responds in kind, with the same words.

VOICE OF SERVICE:

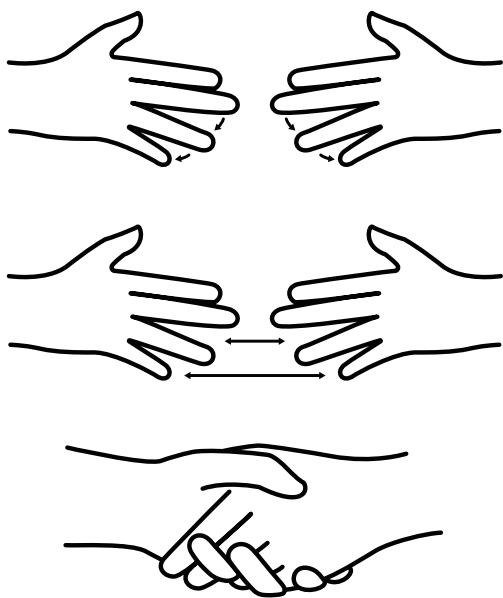
“To love one another.”

The Voice of Service places their left hand over the arrowhead on their sash and says the Admonition.

VOICE OF BROTHERHOOD:

The exchange is completed by the handclasp of the Order of the Arrow, made with the left hand interlacing the third and fourth fingers.

The Voice of Cheerfulness and the Voice of Service reach their left hands out and exchange the Order of the Arrow Handclasp.



The Voices of the Order resume their place in front of the backdrops.

DIAGRAM 13

At the direction of your luminary, you will come forward—one by one—to stand before an Officer of the Ceremony.

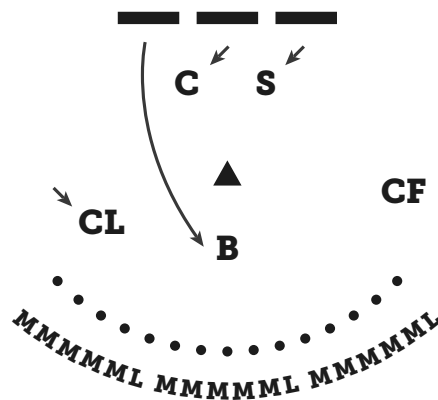
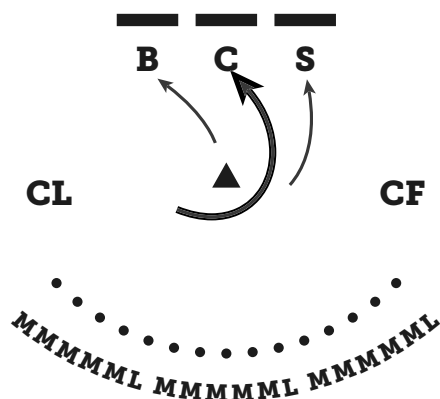
Bring with you the sash you were given last night and follow their instructions with silence and reverence.

The Commitment of Membership

(Optional) Fade in instrumental music "For the Ceremony"

The Voice of Brotherhood moves in front of the council fire. The Voice of Cheerfulness and the Voice of Service move forward and position themselves to the sides of the fire backdrop, leaving space between their location and the council fire. The Chief Luminary steps away from the lectern.

DIAGRAM 14

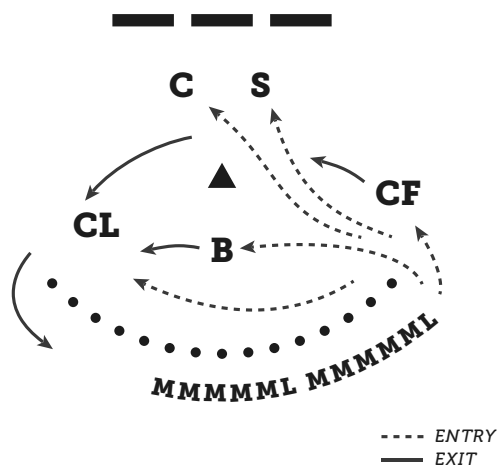


CHIEF LUMINARY:

The Admonition is a bright, guiding light for our Order. To know and greet one another with the Admonition is to be welcomed without reservation.

Luminaries or ceremony guides quietly instruct the new members to retrieve their sash and hold it in their hand. At the head of the line, Luminary #1 (or a ceremony guide) instructs each new member to advance to an available Officer of the Ceremony, who will conduct the Commitment of Membership. When other luminaries reach Luminary #1's location, they should move to the opposite side to receive their crew members after they meet with an Officer of the Ceremony. After they complete their commitment, the member returns to their place. For larger ceremonies this exchange may be expanded to include luminaries, lodge officers, parents, scoutmasters, or other honorees.

DIAGRAM 15



OFFICER OF THE CEREMONY:

Are you ready to continue your journey—to seek the arrow within this brotherhood by cheerfully serving others?

NEW MEMBER:

I am.

OFFICER OF THE CEREMONY:

May I please have your sash.

New member gives sash to Officer of the Ceremony.

OFFICER OF THE CEREMONY:

Last night, this sash was placed upon your shoulder
in recognition that you were chosen by others.

Tonight, you choose for yourself.

This sash is now yours to wear,
not as a symbol of honor received,
but as a commitment accepted.

It will no longer be placed upon you,
for you must choose to take it upon yourself.
Every time you wear it, you affirm your
commitment to carry out its meaning:
to uphold your Obligation, live out the
Admonition.

If you affirm your membership, then place it
upon yourself now.

New member puts on sash.

The Officer of the Ceremony places their left hand over the arrowhead of their own sash and gives the Admonition.

OFFICER OF THE CEREMONY:

To love one another.

The new member should mirror this response with their left hand over the arrowhead of their newly donned sash. If the new member needs assistance or a reminder on how to complete the Admonition, the Officer of the Ceremony provides kind instruction.

NEW MEMBER:

To love one another.

The Officer of the Ceremony exchanges the Order of the Arrow Handclasp with the new member.

The voices of the Order then return to their positions in front of the backdrops.

OFFICER OF THE CEREMONY:

Congratulations. Please return in silence to your place within the circle.

After all new members have donned their sashes, the Voices of the Order retreat behind the backdrops where ceremony guides (luminaries or others) help the Voices of the Order put their capes back on.

DIAGRAM 16a

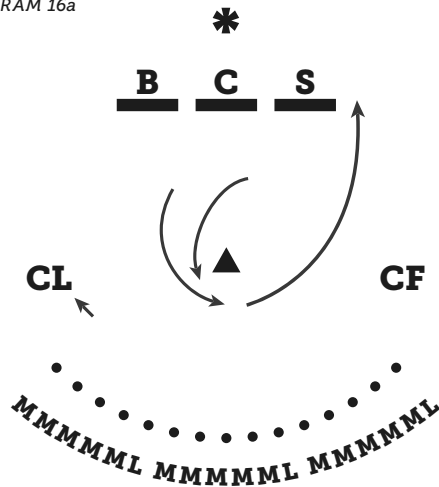
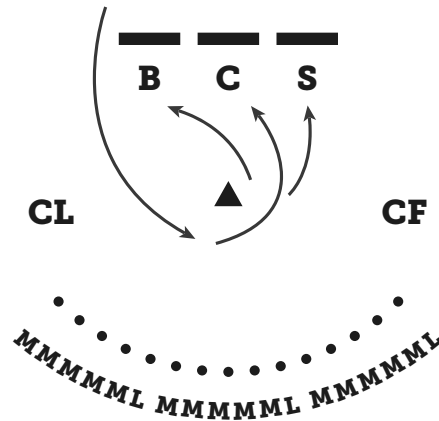


DIAGRAM 16b



Fade out music.

Conclusion

CHIEF LUMINARY:

I congratulate you, my Brothers and Sisters.
I am pleased to greet you as such, for that is
what you are.

VOICE OF BROTHERHOOD:

Membership in the Order of the Arrow is
given, not only for what you have done, but
for what you are expected to do in the
future.

VOICE OF CHEERFULNESS:

Strive to fulfill the Obligation you have taken
and to live the Admonition. This is your
Quest for the Arrow and it will lead you to
this fire once again at the Brotherhood
Ceremony.

Pause.

Sing the Order of the Arrow Song

The Order of the Arrow Song

Words & Arr.: E. Urner Goodman

Firm bound in bro - ther - hood, Ga - ther the

clan That cheer - ful serv - ice brings To fel - low man.

Cir - cle our coun - cil fire, Weld tight - ly ev - 'ry link That

binds us in bro-ther-hood, Wi-mach-ten-dienk.

This concludes the Ceremony of the Fire.

DIAGRAM 17





Glossary and Pronunciation Guide

The following are commonly used terms and their phonetic spellings. Syllables to be accented are capitalized.

Enjoin (en-JOYN) – to direct or impose by authoritative order or with urgent admonition.

Entreat (uhn-TREAT) – to plead with especially in order to persuade: ask urgently.

Ephemeral (uh-FER-mr-uhl) – lasting a very short time.

Luminary (LOO-muh-neh-ree) – one who lights the way for others.

Palisade (pa-luh-SAYD) – a bold line, a long row. The word originally referred to a series of stakes set in a row used for defense.

Prudent (PROO-dent) – having or showing good judgment.

Rendezvous (RAAN-day-voo) – a meeting or coming together.

Sojourn (SOW-jurn) – a temporary stay.

Talisman (TA-luh-smuhn) – an object believed to bring good luck or to keep its owner safe from harm. An object or person who exercises a remarkable or powerful influence on human feelings or actions.

Transcend (tran-SEND) – to rise above or go beyond the limits of.

Wimachtendienk (wee-MOK-TEN-dee-enk) – the Lenni Lenape word for Brotherhood. The original name of the Order of the Arrow was Wimachtendienk Wingolauchsik Witahemui or WWW and was known as “The Wimachtendienk.”



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