



JAPEECHEN LODGE

ORDER OF THE ARROW

To _____ Date: _____

Congratulations! You are a candidate for the Order of the Arrow. The OA, as it is called, is the National Honor Society of the Boy Scouts of America. It was organized in 1915 to recognize honor campers. The purposes of the OA are to recognize those campers who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives, to develop and maintain camping traditions and spirit, to promote Scout camping, and to crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.

On **May 3-5, 2019** at Citta Scout Reservation, you may become a member of Japeechen Lodge, during our induction weekend which we call Ordeal.

The Ordeal

Now that you have been nominated by your troop, you must attend the Ordeal of the Order. A list of things to bring to the Ordeal will be sent to you. The responsibilities of the candidate at the Ordeal are:

- The Candidate spends a night alone as a sign of courage and self-reliance. It is also a time for self-reflection and to consider the events taking place.
- The Candidate keeps complete silence. This gives him the opportunity to pay stricter attention to unspoken thoughts, searching out past deficiencies and resolving on a life of fuller service in the future.
- The Candidate spends the daylight hours of the Ordeal in meaningful labor. This proves the candidates willingness to serve others cheerfully.
- The Candidate also eats sparingly, thus proving the ability to subordinate the appetites of the body to the high purpose of the spirit.

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Taken together, the four elements of the Ordeal are a meaningful and inspiring experience for the candidate. They provide a total participation of the mind and spirit. The Ordeal is not soon forgotten by the new member.

Induction in the Order of the Arrow will open many new doors for you. Our lodge participates in many events every year such as Conclave (a gathering of all the section lodges with many fun activities), Fall Fellowship Weekend etc. In addition, the OA provides some of the most valuable youth leadership training and opportunities available. These opportunities will build upon the knowledge you have already received during your Scouting experience. This is truly an exciting time for you.

Registration for the Ordeal weekend is online at the Jersey Shore Council Website (<https://www.jerseyshorescouts.org/oa>). Cost for registration is \$50 which includes food, your OA Sash, and your OA Handbook.

Ordeal induction registration is from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Please be prompt and **be sure you have a copy of his completed medical forms A & B or you will not be allowed to participate in the induction ceremony.**

Please feel free to email Mr. Rich D'Allassandro if you have any questions concerning the Order of the Arrow. Thank you for the support of your scout and of Scouting.

Sincerely,
Michal Lemanski
Ordeal Master

Rich D'Allassandro
Japeechen Lodge Adviser
richd@msrc.org



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Welcome to the Ordeal

Congratulations! You have been nominated by your troop's committee and leaders to become a member of the Order of the Arrow (OA), Scouting's National Honor Society. Membership in the OA not only marks you as one of the best in Scouting, but opens up additional Scouting opportunities for you including National Conferences, Training and additional leadership opportunities.

Your nomination was the first step of your induction into the OA. Your next step is to complete the Ordeal. The Ordeal is a 24-hour test of your strength and will. The Ordeal is not a test to see if you are worthy for membership in the Order, you've passed that test already by being nominated by your fellow leaders. It is a test of your desire to do this.

Medical Forms – Per a new national requirement for Ordeal weekends, you must bring a current Annual Health and Medical form (Parts A and B).

If you do not bring your both medical forms part A and B, you will not be allowed to participate in the ordeal and you will not be able to complete your Ordeal. There will be no exceptions.

Friday Night – plan to arrive Friday night between 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. There will be a pasta dinner served on Friday night for candidates and their parents in the dining hall after check in.

Come prepared to spend the first night of your Ordeal under the stars. You will not be allowed to have a fire Friday night, so don't bring matches or lighters with you. You will need a sleeping bag, ground cloth (plastic tarp), and your raincoat or poncho. Please remember this is New Jersey in May or September. The weather can vary greatly from very cold to very warm. Check the weather forecast and bring enough clothing. Wear Layers!

During the ordeal you will be expected to do physical labor, this may involve lifting, walking, reaching and other strenuous activity. If you are physically incapable or concerned about performing these activities, please contact the Health Officer upon your check-in Friday night and we'll make adjustments as needed. Please also let the Health Officer know at check-in if you brought any medications with you.

You may need a tent for Saturday night. You may also setup another structure like you did so for the first night.

You will want to wear old Class B uniform for Saturday, but you will need your Class A for Saturday evening and Sunday. A pair of work gloves and boots for Saturday are strongly suggested.

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Here is a **list of items you must bring and should not bring**, and may want to bring with you on your Ordeal. Your equipment will be checked on Friday to ensure you are prepared.

Things you must bring

- Class A uniform
- Class B uniform that can get dirty
- Medical forms A and B
- Tent for Saturday night (Your own or to share with a buddy from your troop)
- Sleeping bag
- Ground cloth/plastic tarp
- Cold weather gear
- Shower kit.
- Work boots/gloves
- Water bottle
- Flashlight
- Prescription medicine (in original container)

Things you might want to bring

- Thin Air or Foam pad
- Day pack or regular backpack (may be easier to carry your sleeping bag and ground cloth on Friday night)
- Notebook, pencil/pen

Things you must NOT bring

- Food or snacks
- Matches or lighters (you will not be allowed to have a fire Friday night)
- Hatchets, axes, tools



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Ponder my words carefully
Upon a lofty journey

My friend, I congratulate you on your election to the Order of the Arrow. You may not realize it now, but you will look back on today as a day of beginnings.

The honor you have received is truly a great one, for it is bestowed upon you by your peers, the members of your unit.

But, such an honor is not without its price. Those who chose you are *watching*. *They have faith in you.*

Will you be able to live to their expectations? They have challenged you to do so.

By accepting their challenge, you embark upon a journey that many before you have taken. Along its path lies true brotherhood.

However, this destination is many months, maybe even years away.

I am here to help you find your way as you travel – as an arrow driven skyward – along this lofty journey. I am here to help you prove to yourself your worthiness for the honor your unit has bestowed upon you.

Who am I?

For the moment, that is less important than what I represent.

It is enough to say that I am a friend you have probably known for a longtime.

Right now, what is important is that you commit yourself to taking the first step.

In a short time, you will be given the opportunity to undergo an *Ordeal* – your induction into the Order of the Arrow.

This will test not only your physical strength, but your inner strength.

But, by taking full advantage of this opportunity, you will find yourself better able to serve Scouting and your unit ...*the ones who chose you.*

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