



Dear Parent(s),

Hello and congratulations! Your scout has been elected as a candidate for membership in the Order of the Arrow, Scouting's National Honor Society. As a candidate, your scout has earned the opportunity to join the program by attending an Ordeal. We ask that you do not tell them about their election until they are "called-out" to preserve the element of surprise. Since the date of the "call-out" varies among each unit, please ask an adult leader from your unit to provide you with this information if you are not sure.

Understandably, you may have questions regarding the Order of the Arrow and the purpose and traditions of the Ordeal. For that reason, we have created this letter to clarify and explain what each candidate will experience at the Ordeal, the opportunities the Order of the Arrow will provide your scout, as well as some background about the Order of the Arrow and responses to some frequently asked questions (**FAQs**).

We look forward to welcoming your scout into our program. To find the most up to date information about the Ordeals, please go to www.nentico.org and click on the "**Upcoming Events**" tab at the top of the page. Next, select the "**Ordeal Weekend Registrations**" from the dropdown. There you will also find an up-to-date packing list, drop-off time, and pick-up time. Please email Inductions@nentico.org if you encounter problems or have questions.

Once again, we congratulate you and your scout on their election as a candidate for membership into the Order of the Arrow. Our goal is to give your scout the opportunity to continue developing as a leader and to live a life of unselfish service and in devotion to the welfare of others.

Yours in Scouting,

Sean O'Toole

Sean O'Toole
2022 Lodge Chief
Nentico Lodge 12





Nentico Lodge 2022 - Ordeal Schedule

(You must register for the Ordeal online beforehand – Absolutely NO Walk-Ins!)

<u>April</u>	29-1	Nentico Lodge Ordeal 1	Camp Saffran
<u>August</u>	19-21	Nentico Lodge Ordeal 2	Camp Saffran
<u>September</u>	9-11	Nentico Lodge Ordeal 3	Camp Saffran
	23-25	Nentico Lodge Ordeal 4	Camp Saffran
	30-2	Nentico Lodge Ordeal 5	Camp Saffran

- It is their choice to attend any of the Ordeals offered above.
- Your scout must attend an ordeal within two years from the date of their election
- If they do not complete the Ordeal in that time, they must be re-elected.
- Please begin the process of choosing a date since your scout may not be “called-out” until a few weeks before an Ordeal. This is to ensure that future conflicts can be avoided

Where do I go? - Broad Creek Memorial Scout Reservation

Camp Saffran - 1929 Susquehanna Hall Rd, Whiteford, MD 21160

When is check-in? Friday evening at 7:00 PM

When is checkout? Sunday morning at approximately 10:00 AM

(It is vital that your son/daughter stays the entire weekend. New member and parent orientations occur Sunday morning. These are essential in ensuring that your son/daughter is fully aware of upcoming events and opportunities in the OA. Exceptions will be made on a case by case basis.)

How much is it?

Ordeal registration is **\$65.00** - includes insurance, all meals, current lodge dues, an OA Handbook, an Ordeal sash, a lodge flap, and our Fall Fellowship weekend (Please register online at www.nentico.org).

***** A \$5.00 late fee will be charged if you register within two weeks of the event *****

***** If your scout has special medical conditions, dietary needs, or religious concerns, please contact the Lodge at least 2-weeks prior to the Ordeal. We want to be sure we are prepared to give your scout, regardless of medical, dietary, or religious concerns, the most comfortable experience possible. *****

Contact Information (Have any Questions/Concerns?)

Lodge Vice Chief of Inductions – Mats Te Plate Email: Inductions@nentico.org

Lodge Associate Adviser of Inductions – Eric Stupar Email: Inductions@nentico.org

Frequently Asked Questions

Question: What happens during the Ordeal?

Answer: The Ordeal starts with an inspiring ceremony, where the candidate is presented with four activities to help them understand the obligations of a member of the Order: brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service. Once the four activities are completed, the member takes an obligation of service, and becomes an Ordeal member in the OA. Note that nothing in the Ordeal is considered hazing; the Ordeal activities are intended to promote self-discovery and inspiration while providing service to our Scout camps. All ceremonies are reviewed regularly by Scouting and religious leaders. The experience of the Ordeal is to challenge the candidate to understand an obligation of life-long cheerful service. More details about these activities will be shared with you at the parent orientation.

Question: Will there be separate Ordeals for youth and adults and/or boys and girls?

Answer: No. Guidelines have been created by the National Order of the Arrow Committee that allow co-ed groups at Ordeals. Youth Protection Guidelines are followed strictly at all scouting functions including the Ordeal. The Lodge follows these seriously and takes every effort to ensure that these guidelines are followed. For example, youth and adult members sleep in separate areas and use different bathrooms. Although, youth and adult members will work together in groups on Saturday it is only done to ensure that youth will remain supervised. However, there will *never* be an instance in which a youth will be alone with an adult member. The Lodge will ensure that there is always proper adult supervision. With these guidelines in place, it means that any scout, regardless of gender or age, can attend any Ordeal.

(More information: <https://oa-bsa.org/about/membership/youth-protection-policies>)

Why Be a Part of the Order of the Arrow?

For 100 years, the Order of the Arrow (OA) has recognized Scouts and Scouters who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives. This recognition provides encouragement for others to live these ideals as well. Arrowmen are known for maintaining camping traditions and spirit, promoting year-round and long-term resident camping, and providing cheerful service to others. OA service, activities, adventures, and training for youth and adults are models of quality leadership development and programming that enrich and help to extend Scouting to America's youth.

MISSION

The mission of the Order of the Arrow is to fulfill its purpose as an integral part of the Boy Scouts of America through positive youth leadership under the guidance of selected capable adults.

PURPOSE

As Scouting's National Honor Society, our purpose is to:

- Recognize those who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives and through that recognition cause others to conduct themselves in a way that warrants similar recognition.
- Promote camping, responsible outdoor adventure, and environmental stewardship as essential components of every Scout's experience, in the unit, year-round, and in summer camp.
- Develop leaders with the willingness, character, spirit, and ability to advance the activities of their units, our Brotherhood, Scouting, and ultimately our nation.
- Crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.

***"He who Serves his fellows is, of all his fellows, greatest."
~E. Urner Goodman, Order of the Arrow Founder***

Question: How do Scouts benefit from the OA?

Answer: In 2015, nearly 2000 Arrowmen in Nentico Lodge gave thousands of hours of service to their units, districts, council, and communities. The Order of the Arrow program provides additional opportunities for a Scout to develop leadership talents and motivational skills; improve speaking, planning, and motivational skills; fellowship with older Scouts; and achieve a deeper understanding about cheerfully and unselfishly giving of themselves in the service of their fellow Scouts.

Question: Can parents or non-OA Members attend Ceremonies?

Answer: Parents and non-OA siblings are allowed to attend OA Ceremonies. However, we do not encourage it. Our concern is that the future experiences of guests who may one day have an opportunity to join the Lodge will be spoiled.

Question: How do new OA members get involved?

Answer: Besides the personal experience of being part of an Honor Society, Arrowman can sharpen their leadership skills, work with others to solve problems, and brainstorm with others to help make the organization as strong as it can be. Getting involved is easy. OA programs provide a variety of innovative leadership opportunities and fun events not found anywhere else in Scouting. New Arrowmen can begin by attending a chapter meeting or Lodge Fellowship.



NENTICO LODGE

ORDER OF THE ARROW

Question: What is a Chapter, Lodge, Section or Region?

Answer: There are nine chapters in Nentico, one for each district in the Baltimore Area Council, except for Baltimore City, which is unified into the McHenry Chapter. A chapter is a smaller component of Nentico Lodge with monthly meetings to keep members active and having fun. A Lodge is the most important unit of the Order of the Arrow; it helps run the program within the Boy Scouts of America. Nentico is chartered within Baltimore Area Council, BSA. A Section is a smaller component of the Region and assists in executing a Conclave. Nentico is part of Section NE-6A. Four Regions are partitioned in the United States. Nentico is in the Northeast Region.

Question: Why all the secrecy around the OA activities?

Answer: The Order of the Arrow recognizes that an aura of mystery not only stimulates interest in the OA, but also helps new members feel proud of an accomplishment that is not achieved by every Scout. Most candidates receive fewer benefits if they know about the induction in advance. Knowledge of the Ordeal events lowers expectancy and dulls the edge of experience. In other words, you hurt candidates by telling them about the "Ordeal." Parents should feel free to discuss the experiences their children had at the Ordeal, after its completion. The Order of the Arrow is happy to share any pertinent information about our activities with parents who are not members.

The OA is not a secret society and does not support hazing in any form. BSA has officially stated:

"The induction is not a hazing or an initiation ceremony. The Order is not a secret Scout organization, and its ceremonies are open to any parent, Scout leader, or religious leader. There is an element of mystery in the ceremonies for the sake of its effect on the candidates. For this reason, ceremonies are not put on in public. The ceremonies...are not objectionable to any religious group."

Question: Will the OA remain a "Brotherhood" after the induction of youth females?

Answer: Regarding the use of gender-neutral terminology, **The Order of the Arrow has officially stated:**

"In general, OA publications and ceremonies are being updated to incorporate broader use of gender-neutral terminology so that all members feel equally welcome. The use of "Arrowmen," "Brother," and "Brotherhood" will continue as focus group discussions we have held with female Scouters and youth recommend we do not change the use of those terms."