

Brotherhood Study Guide

Everything you need to know

You must meet five challenges before you can enter the Circle of the Brotherhood:

- 1. Memorize the signs of Arrow membership.** Memorize the Obligation of the Order of the Arrow, which you received from Allowat Sakima. Also, memorize the Order of the Arrow Official Song, the Admonition, the sign of Ordeal membership, and the Order of the Arrow handclasp.
- 2. Advance in your understanding of the Ordeal.** Gain a thorough understanding of the Ordeal through which you have passed.
- 3. Serve your unit.** Maintain your registration in Scouting. During a period of at least 6 months, strive to fulfill your Obligation by continuing and expanding your service to your own unit.
- 4. Plan for service in your lodge.** Pay your dues in your Order of the Arrow lodge. Be aware that acceptance of Brotherhood membership involves a pledge of future service to the lodge. Develop a concrete idea of how you plan to fulfill this pledge.
- 5. Review your progress.** When you earnestly feel that you have met the four challenges above, write a letter to your lodge secretary. In this letter:
 - Explain what you think the Obligation means,
 - Describe how you have been fulfilling this Obligation in your unit and in your daily life, and how you have used your understanding of the Ordeal to aid in your service, and
 - Describe your specific plans for giving future service in the lodge program.

Include with this letter your advance registration application and fees for the next Brotherhood ceremony according to the instructions given by the lodge. Bring a copy of your letter when you check-in for the ceremony. Brotherhood membership can be conferred only by an Arrowman's home lodge—the lodge that serves the council in which the Arrowman's unit is chartered.

Obligation of the Order of the Arrow

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,

Wimachtendienk, Wingolauchsik, Witahemui.

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.

Pronunciation and Meaning

The original name of the Order of the Arrow was Wimachtendienk Wingolauchsik Witahemui. This comes from the Lenni Lenape language and translates to “Brotherhood of Cheerful Service”.

Wimachtendienk (wee-MOK-TEN-dee-enk) – Brotherhood

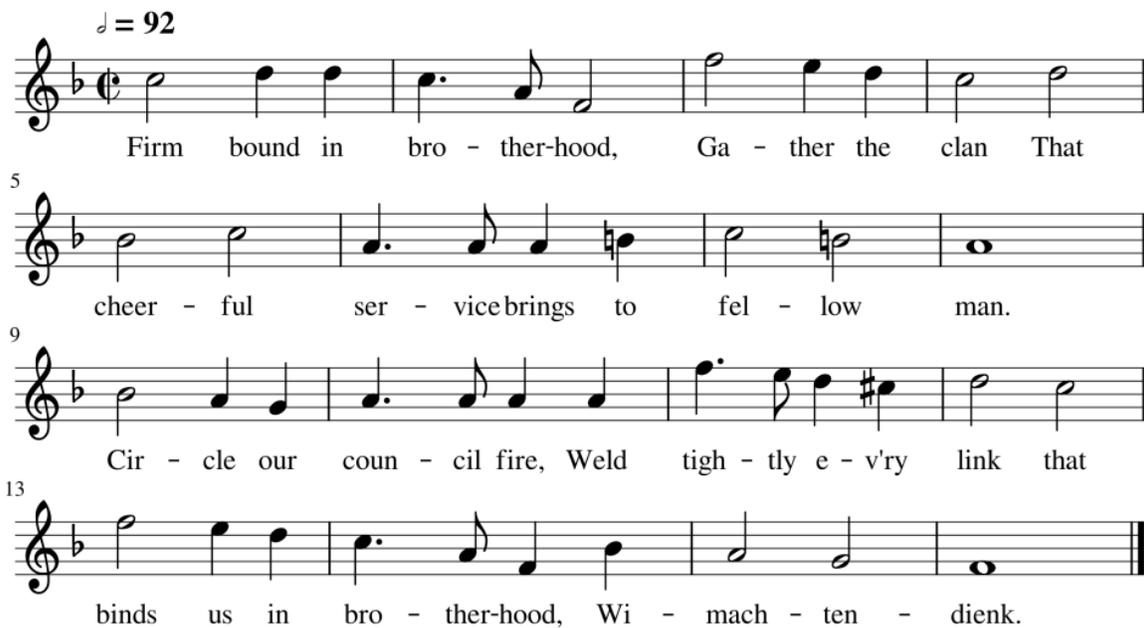
Wingolauchsik (WIN-go-louch-sik) – Cheerfulness

Witahemui (WIT-ah-HEM-oo-ee) – Service

Order of the Arrow Official Song

Words by E. Uner Goodman

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Firm bound in bro - ther-hood, Ga - ther the clan That
5 cheer - ful ser - vice brings to fel - low man.
9 Cir - cle our coun - cil fire, Weld tigh - tly e - v'ry link that
13 binds us in bro - ther-hood, Wi - mach - ten - dienk.

This is the same song we sing at every lodge meeting. It doesn't really matter how good of a singer you are, just make sure you're not the one person not singing!

The Admonition

This one may have been hard to understand when you first heard it as it was whispered in your ear during your induction ceremony. The Admonition is the Lenni Lenape word meaning “*To love one another*”. If you do not remember it, you should contact your Brotherhood chairperson or another member, who will gladly remind you. You can use the Admonition to identify other Arrowmen. It's sort of like a password, and you will need to know it for Brotherhood.

The Admonition is only to be WHISPERED, never written or spoken aloud.

The Sign of the Ordeal

The hailing sign of the Ordeal is meant to be another way of determining whether someone is truly a member of the Order. It begins with the right hand over the left shoulder. The arm sweeps up and out as if drawing an arrow from a quiver, and ends to the side in the Scout sign. The hailing sign of the Ordeal reminds us that we were drawn from many others and sent upon a journey.

The Order of the Arrow Handclasp

The Order of the Arrow handclasp is given with the left hand, like the Scout handclasp, intertwining the third and fourth fingers, representing the bond of brotherhood. The handclasp is not a handshake. A handshake is “offhand,” informal: a greeting (or a seal of agreement). The handclasp is an acknowledgment. The handclasp is given with the hand nearest the heart; through it we recognize a life equal to our own, and confirm that though we seem to be two, in our essence we are the same. This recognition is the inspiration for the Admonition. This is the same handclasp the four ceremony principals would have greeted you with after inducting you into the lodge. This is the proper way to greet a fellow Arrowman, so it’s important that you remember it.

The Sash

The sash is to be worn around your body with the arrow facing up and to the right. The sash is only meant to be worn when representing the Lodge or at OA events, never to show off your membership. It is not a rank like Star, Life, or Eagle. It is only meant to be worn out of respect for the Order.

The Ordeal

Who is Kichkinet? Nutiket? Meteu? Allowat Sakima?

Kichkinet is your Guide in the ceremonies, who symbolizes leadership, by combining the principles of brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service with the individual candidate by the arrow.

Nutiket is the Guard of the circle, who personifies the principle of Cheerfulness.

Meteu is the Healer and personifies the principle of Brotherhood, and reminds us “to love one another”.

Allowat Sakima, the Mighty Chief, personifies the principle of service. From the Chief you accepted the Obligation of the OA.

What tokens did the four ceremonial principals reveal to you in the pre-Ordeal, and what did they represent?

Nutiket gave the bow to Allowat Sakima as a token of liveliness and flexibility under stress, the principle of Cheerfulness.

Meteu gave the bowstring to Allowat Sakima as a token of the ties of Brotherhood, also symbolized by

the rope used to symbiotically bind the candidates together in the Ordeal ceremony.

Allowat Sakima strung the bow, uniting Brotherhood and Cheerfulness for Service. The process of drawing an arrow from a quiver represents the unit election. The new Ordeal member is expected to return to their unit (the quiver) and serve as an example to their fellow Scouts (the other arrows in the quiver that were not drawn out). Allowat Sakima asked you to test the bow as a sign of willingness to test the dedication to Scout ideals that led to your election.

Lastly, Kichkinet shot the arrow upward, symbolizing the pathway you will follow if your dedication is unwavering.

What are the challenges of the Ordeal, and what do they illustrate?

The night alone focuses attention on your need for courage and self-reliance on the trail ahead. You must be willing to accept individual responsibility for your thoughts and actions. You will find that your course will set you apart from your friends to the extent of isolation, but you must act according to your resolution regardless of what others do or fail to do.

Your pledge of silence emphasizes the continuing need for you to spend time in thoughtful silence. Difficult decisions will face you now and in the future, and you will need to search your heart and spirit deeply to find the resolution that will guide you onward successfully.

The scant food test illustrates self-denial. Often you will find it necessary to abandon mere personal comfort or desires if you are to fulfill your Obligation.

The day of work indicates your willingness to give service, even when this service involves hardship and toil. In the Ordeal, you worked with the help and cooperation of other candidates and members, but now you must be ready to serve without the help and cooperation of others.

What are the three symbolic preparations for the Obligation?

Kichkinet explained that the rope represents the ties of Brotherhood, and asked you to grasp it.

Later during the ceremony, you placed your hand on the shoulder of the candidate in front of you to indicate your intention to continue in service to your own Scouting unit.

Finally, upon Allowat Sakima's direction, Kichkinet asked you to turn and advance before facing the fire of cheerfulness.

What is the tradition given us by Uncas as described in The Legend?

The Legend tells how the peaceful lives of the Lenni Lenape Indians were threatened by neighboring tribes and distant enemies. Chief Chingachgook's call for volunteers to go and alert other villages of the tribe was met with apathy and indifference from tribal members. Uncas cheerfully offered to help despite the negative attitudes of everyone around. Uncas cared enough for others to face hardship and danger to protect them from harm. Uncas clearly saw a higher vision, and desired that others in the tribe could see it too. The self-sacrificing service given by Uncas and Chingachgook is said to have saved the tribe from annihilation.

What is the significance of Allowat Sakima’s description of the Arrow in the Ordeal ceremony?

Allowat Sakima stated that the various qualities attributed to the Arrow are ingredients of leadership. This is a continuation of the comments about the Arrow in the pre-Ordeal. The Ordeal asks individuals to act according to their highest sense of right, regardless of the attitudes or actions of others. The four challenges and the Obligation point the way, and Allowat Sakima reveals this way as one of real leadership. Any member who understands their Obligation and is striving to fulfill it becomes a center of strength in their unit.

Their example sets the pace in cheerful service, and their dedication has a rich effect on those who know them. Although wearing the sash identifies a Scout or Scouter as a member of the OA, it is their efforts to fulfill their Obligation that truly distinguishes them and provides others with glimpses of the Arrow.

What is Ordeal membership?

Like the Ordeal, it is a time of trial, during which your understanding of the traditions of the Arrow will be put to the test. In the Ordeal ceremony, each advancement you made into the circle was challenged, but your resolution and faithfulness in time of testing enabled you to go forward. You will find this to be true also in the experiences ahead. By striving to fulfill your Obligation, you will provide the higher vision of Brotherhood, Cheerfulness, and Service to your fellow Scouts, even as Uncas did for the tribe.

When are you ready to accept Brotherhood membership in the OA?

Successfully meeting the demands of the Obligation is usually rather hard for the first several months. Gradually, however, your dedication to it will bring about changes that will make it easier for you. Eventually, the “Spirit of Cheerful Service” will become almost second nature to you, and you will be fulfilling the Obligation and hardly even thinking about it. As this experience develops, you are beginning to see the Arrow, and you are ready for the Brotherhood.