For, said he, who serves his fellows, is, of all his fellows, greatest!

-- Chingachgook, from the Legend of our Order
The Role of the Nimat

*The Nimat serves as the bridge between Ordeal membership and Brotherhood membership.*

As a Nimat in Tamagonit Lodge and in the Order of the Arrow, you are tasked with the job of ensuring that all brotherhood candidates are fully prepared to seal their membership in our order. You will be leading a hike from a designated start location (almost always the chapel) to the head of the trail to Whippoorwill council ring. Along the way you will ask the candidates to reflect on their journey through Scouting and test them on their knowledge of your customs and traditions.

*A Nimat is considered a shining example of the Order of the Arrow, and as such, he should set the example for new Arrowmen.*

As a Nimat, you are required to:

- a Nimat must be a Brotherhood or Vigil member
- He must be very knowledgeable about the Order and our history and traditions and should be able to immediately answer any question about the Order that a brotherhood candidate might have.
- You are the first, and most crucial, link between the brotherhood candidate and the lodge; so be sure to set a good and proper example.

*He who follows such a pathway in unwavering cheerful service will be seen by many others and, by inspiration, lead them.*

Some suggestions for Nimat’s:

- Try to be in proper regalia, if possible, as this will serve as an example for the new Brotherhood member and will help set the tone for the hike.
- A Nimat should be very familiar with the materials covered at each stop on the hike and should commit time to preparation in advance.
- A Nimat should choose his words carefully as the hike is truly a time of reflection and testing for the Brotherhood candidate.
- Nimat’s should expect that the Brotherhood candidate will respect the serious nature of the Brotherhood hike and state the following expectations in advance:
  - Brotherhood candidates are to follow your instructions
  - Brotherhood candidates must adhere to silence when instructed
  - Brotherhood candidates don't have to talk if they really don't want to.
  - Brotherhood candidates should let one person speak at a time without interruption.
  - Brotherhood candidates should avoid criticizing or analyzing another's comments.
- The Nimat should assure that each person's contribution is positively acknowledged; for example, "Thank you, Bill. That's great. Who'd like to talk next?"

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<td>The Nimat tests the Brotherhood Candidates on:</td>
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<td>• The OA Song</td>
<td>• More knowledgeable Arrowmen</td>
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Tamegonit Lodge  Nimat Handbook  Revised on March 29th, 2012
Obligation

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.

Song

Firm bound in brotherhood, gather the clan that cheerful service brings to fellow man. Circle our council fire, weld tightly every link that binds us in brotherhood, Wimachtendienk.

True name of OA: The Brotherhood of Cheerful Service

Wimachtendienk  Brotherhood  Wee-mok’-ten-dee-enk
Wingolauchsik  Cheerful  Win’-go-lau’-sik
Witahemui  Service  Wi’-tah-hem’-oo-ee

Four Principles of the Ordeal:

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Purpose of the Arrow in the Ceremony-
The Arrow is a symbol of leadership. Arrowmen wear an arrow pointed high over their right shoulder as an outward symbol that they possess the qualities of leadership.

(Good to know, but you don’t need to memorize)

Other things to memorize

- The Admonition (ask the C-Team if you forget)
- The OA handshake-left hand with lower two fingers interlocked
- The OA Hailing sign-drawing an arrow from a quiver

Write a letter to the Lodge Secretary including the following:

- Explaining what you think the obligation means.
- Describing how you have been fulfilling this obligation in your unit and in your daily life.
- Describing your specific plans for continuing this service in the future.
- Telling what the Order of the Arrow means to you, and why you are seeking Brotherhood membership.

Bring the letter on the campout complete and in an envelope (you don’t need a stamp).
ORDER OF THE ARROW BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

THE BROTHERHOOD HIKE

As a Nimat in Tamagonit lodge and in the Order of the Arrow, you are tasked with the job of ensuring that all brotherhood candidates are fully prepared to seal their membership in our order. You will be leading a hike from a designated start location (almost always the chapel) to the head of the trail to Whippoorwill council ring. Along the way you will ask the candidates to reflect on their journey through scouting and test them on their knowledge of your customs and traditions.

You will be making four stops before the trail head, and it is your responsibility to allot your time so that you can make all of the stops and be at trail head on time.

Stop 1

At the starting location you will be given a group of candidates and, possible, another Nimat or two to assist you.

~After you are given your group, tell the candidates that they should follow you in a single file line with their arms crossed and they are on silence. Move a little way down the path and circle up the candidates and tell them they are off silence. Welcome them to their Brotherhood Hike and explain that this hike will prepare them for the brotherhood ceremony.

~All Nimats should introduce themselves and then ask the candidates to introduce themselves.

~Tell the candidates that on this leg of the hike you want them to reflect on someone who had helped them in scouting when things were not so good or their path became rough; perhaps a leader or a friend who encouraged them when they felt like quitting the program.

~Inform the candidates that they are on silence, their arms should be crossed, and they should follow you in a single file line. Continue the hike, allowing sufficient time for the candidates to reflect on the topic posed.

Stop 2

~Circle up your candidates and inform them that they are off silence.

~Remind the candidates that they were thinking about a person who had helped them through a difficult time in scouting. Invite the candidates to share what they who they were thinking about and how that person helped. If no one starts to speak, break the ice by answering the question for yourself.

~Once everyone who wanted to share has shared, go down the line of candidates and check that they know the handshake of the order, the admonition, and its meaning. If you have two Nimats, have each one start form both ends of the line and work their way in.

~Next, tell the candidates that on this next leg of the hike, you want them to reflect on who in their troop needs help. Ask them which scouts are struggling and in what way do they need help.

~Tell the candidates they are back on silence and to follow you with arms crossed in a single file line. Move down the trail a ways.
Stop 3

~Circle up the candidates and tell them they are off silence.

~Remind them that they were thinking about people in their troop who need help and in what way. Ask the candidates to share what they thought about. Once again if nobody shares, break the ice by sharing your own example.

~After everyone has shared ask the candidates as a group what WWW means (both in Lenni Lenopie and in English), the hailing sign of the Ordeal, and to recite the Obligation.

~Next, tell the candidates that you want them to reflect on how they can help the scouts in their troop that they just reflected on before the last stop. In other words, how can they be the person they described in the first topic to the people they described in the second.

~Tell the candidates they are on silence, to cross their arms and follow you. Move down the trail.

Stop 4

~Circle up the candidates a short way from the trail head. Tell them they are off silence.

~Remind them that they were thinking about how they could help the people in their troop that they previously described. Ask them to share their thoughts, and if none do break the ice by sharing a thought of your own.

~Ask them to join hands with their right hand over their left hand to sing the song of the Order.

~After you have completed this, tell the candidates that you will now be leading them to the head of the trail that leads to whippoorwill. They are to remain on silence with until told other wise. Tell them to cross their arms and follow you

~Lead them up to the trail head and wait to be dismissed by either the Nimat Chair, the Nimat Advisor, or a designated representative.

Notes

Content you must test that the candidates know during the hike are: The admonition and its meaning, the hand shake, WWW and its meaning and translation, the hailing sign of the Ordeal, the Obligation, and the Song.

Should you find yourself ahead of schedule, you may dig deeper into the reflection questions or talk about these other customs and traditions: The four characters and their meanings, the four tests of the ordeal and their meanings, the responsibility as Arrowmen, etc.

BE AT THE TRAIL HEAD ON TIME! Try to not be to early, and never be late. Try to be at the trail head with less then five minutes left.
Ponder my words carefully.

Do you know the “Admonition” words?

Do you fully understand the “Obligation” and try to live by it?

Do you strive to understand the Oath?

Have you accepted this challenge?

Have you continued your service to your unit?

Do you strive to understand the tests of the Ordeal?

Do you fully understand the “Obligation,” and try to live by its words?

I have faith in your ability to meet the challenge put to you by Allowat Sakima, for I have seen you meet many others along this journey.

Yet, only you can decide if you have lived up to its demands.

Will you take the next step along this journey that leads to true Brotherhood? Will you participate in the Brotherhood ceremony?

Those who have gone before you await your answer in the circle.

Save this booklet for future reference.
What is the Admonition, my Brother?

Many years ago there was a man with a vision.

I am that vision.

This man — Dr. E. Urner Goodman — believed that Scouting had many fine points, and that it could be even better as a program if it had a special way to emphasize its ideals to the young men participating.

He saw me.

He knew that no amount of talking would bring Scouts to know me. But he realized that they would take notice when someone they knew and respected set the example by giving unselfish service.

So the Wimachtendienk of the Lenni Lenape was reborn to fill the needs of Scouting. You were chosen by your fellow Scouts to bring me to them.

But Dr. Goodman understood that you would need help, knowledge, experience, and encouragement. So he planned that you would learn more about me before you were called on to set the example:

First you spent the night alone, and gained strength to act as an individual. Then you spent the day in arduous labor, and discovered the joys of service. You ate only the scant, simple food given to you, and learned to give up personal comfort to represent me.

And all the while you were silent, so you might concentrate on your innermost thoughts.

As your Ordeal came to an end, you promised to put into practice what you had learned, pledging to make me part of your life, and, by doing this, bring me to your fellow Scouts.

What is the Admonition, my Brother? By now, I trust you know the answer both in your mind and your heart.

As you take the last steps leading to the circle of the lodge, you are about to end a journey that your unit had great confidence you would make...

A journey, you have learned, that can only be made by giving leadership in service.

As you await, in silence, the coming ceremony, I hope that the end of this journey will also mark for you a new beginning. In keeping with this spirit, spend a few moments to privately complete the following page, which outlines your intent for the future.

In the interest of continuing to serve by fellow man, I personally commit myself to the following:

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

SIGNATURE

Ponder my words carefully.

Save this booklet for future reference.
The Brotherhood Honor

The Brotherhood Honor is the only honor in the Order of the Arrow that a member can pursue on his own. An Arrowman is nominated as an Ordeal Candidate by his peers in his Troop, and he is nominated as a Vigil Candidate by his peers in the Order, but he must seek the Brotherhood Honor of his own volition.

There are five challenges that an Arrowman must meet before he is accepted into the Circle of Brotherhood. The first is simple, and takes minimal effort on the part of the Arrowman:

**REQUIREMENT #1:** Memorize the signs of OA membership:

- » The Obligation of the Order of the Arrow
- » The Song of the Order of the Arrow
- » The Admonition of the Order of the Arrow
- » The Sign of Ordeal Membership
- » The Arrow Handclasp

The next 3 requirements are more intense, and require a steady effort over a longer period of time. The purpose of these requirements is to have the Arrowman reflect on his Ordeal experience and the traditions of the Order of the Arrow. He must understand why the OA exists and why its cause is so important if he wishes to advance in the Order:

**REQUIREMENT #2:** Advance in your understanding of the Ordeal. Gain a thorough understanding of the Ordeal through which you have passed.

**REQUIREMENT #3:** Serve your unit. Be active in the OA for at least 10 months, during which time you strive to fulfill your Obligation by continuing and expanding your service to your own Troop or Team.

**REQUIREMENT #4:** Plan for service in your Lodge. Retain your registration in your Lodge and keep your dues paid. Be aware that acceptance of Brotherhood membership involves a pledge of service to the Lodge. Develop a solid idea of how you plan to fulfill this pledge.
The final challenge ensures that an Arrowman has both reviewed his progress in the Order of the Arrow and has looked to his future in the program. You should meet the first 4 challenges before fulfilling this final requirement:

**REQUIREMENT #5:** Review your progress. When you feel that you have met the 4 challenges above, write a letter addressed to your Lodge Secretary. In this letter:

- Explain what the Obligations means to you
- Describe how you have been fulfilling this Obligation in your Troop or Team and in your daily life
- Describe in some detail your plans for giving service back to the Lodge

Bring this letter with you to your Induction Weekend.

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**Obligation of the Order of the Arrow**

I do hereby promise, on my honor as a Scout, to 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 Guide:**
- Wimachtendienk (wee-mak-ten-dink)
- Wingolauchsik (win-go-lau-sick)
- Witahemui (wit-uh-hem-uh-way)

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**OA Song**

Firm bound in Brotherhood, gather the clan that Cheerful Service brings to fellow man.
Circle our Council fire, weld tightly every link That binds us in Brotherhood, Wimachtendienk
OA Admonition

The Admonition of the Order of the Arrow is only spoken, never written. It was given to you by Chief Allowat Sakima during your Ordeal ceremony, and its English translation is “To love one another”. If you do not remember the admonition, the Brotherhood Chairman will gladly remind you during your screening.

Sign of Ordeal Membership

The Sign of Ordeal Membership is supposed to be used as a way to determine whether or not someone is a member of the Order of the Arrow. The sign consists of putting your right hand over your left shoulder and then drawing it straight up, as in drawing an arrow from a quiver.

Arrow Handclasp

The Arrow Handclasp is a slight modification of the Boy Scout handclasp, which is performed with the left hand and the pinky fingers interlocking. The Arrow Handclasp is performed similarly, but with both the pinky fingers and the ring fingers interlocking.

Customs & Traditions of the Order of the Arrow

Arrowmen are asked to advance in their understanding of the Ordeal before attaining the Brotherhood Honor. You should review the following material about the Ordeal that you passed through before contacting the Brotherhood Chairman for a screening.

1.) Who are Kichkinet, Nutiket, Meteu, and Allowat Sakima?

   a.) Kichkinet is your guide in the ceremonies. He symbolizes helpfulness and friendliness.
   b.) Nutiket is the guard of the Circle. He upholds the tradition of cheerfulness.
   c.) Meteu is the medicine man and representative of brotherhood. He reminds us of our need to love one another.
d.) Allowat Sakima, the mighty chief, symbolizes service. From him you accepted the Obligation of the Order of the Arrow.

2.) What tokens did the four ceremonial characters reveal to you in the pre-Ordeal ceremony, and what did these tokens represent?

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

b.) Meteu gave the bowstring to Allowat Sakima as a token of the ties of Brotherhood, also symbolized by the rope in the Ordeal Ceremony.

c.) Allowat Sakima strung the bow, uniting brotherhood and cheerfulness in service, then drew an arrow from a quiver as a token that your election separated your from your fellows for a higher purpose. He then asked you to test the bow as a sign of willingness to test the dedication to Scout ideals which led to your election.

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

3.) What are the four tests of the Ordeal, and what do they illustrate?

a.) 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 your 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.

b.) 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 to guide your onward successfully.

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

d.) The day of strenuous labor 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.

4.) What are the three symbolic preparations for the Obligation?
Before you entered the Circle, you placed your hand on the shoulder of the Candidate ahead of you to indicate your intention to continue in service to your own Scout Unit. Kichkinet, seeing that you all had the same purpose, symbolized the bond of brotherhood by binding you all together with rope. Finally, upon Allowat Sakima’s direction, Kichkinet asked you to advance before the fire of cheerfulness.

5.) What is the tradition given by Uncas as described in the legend?

The legend tells how the peaceful lives of the Lenni Lenape Native Americans 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, son of the Chief, cheerfully offered his help despite the negative attitudes of everyone around him. He cared enough for others that he was willing to face hardship and danger to protect them from harm. Uncas clearly saw a higher vision, and his desire for his brothers was that they could see it, too. The self-sacrificing service given by Uncas and Chingachgook is said to have saved the tribe from annihilation.

6.) Why is Allowat Sakima’s description of the Arrow in the Ordeal Ceremony significant?

Allowat Sakima stated that the various qualities attributed to the Arrow are ingredients of great leadership. This is a continuation of his comments about the Arrow in the pre-Ordeal Ceremony. The Ordeal asks individuals to act according to their highest sense of right, regardless of the attitudes or actions of others. The four tests and the Obligation point the way, and Allowat Sakima reveals this way as one of real leadership. Any member who understands his or her Obligation and is striving to fulfill it becomes a center of strength in his Troop. His example sets the pace in cheerful service, and his dedication had a rich effect on those who know him. Although wearing the sash identifies a Scout or Scouter as a member of the Order of the Arrow, it is his efforts to fulfill his Obligation that truly distinguishes him and provides others with glimpses of the Arrow.

7.) 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 your 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 his tribe.
9.) Wimachtendienk Wingolauchsik Witahemui was the original name of the Order of the Arrow. From what language was this name taken, and what does it mean in English?

Wimachtendienk Wingolauchsik Witahemui is from the Lenni Lenape language, and translates to “Brotherhood of Cheerful Service”.

10.) How and when in the sash, the symbol of our Order, worn?

The OA Sash is only worn when at an OA event or when representing the Order. It is never used to show off one’s membership in the OA, only out of respect to the Order, like how the Boy Scout uniform is worn out of respect to the Scouting program. The OA sash should only be worn while in uniform with the arrow starting at your left hip and facing towards your right shoulder.
Write a letter to the Lodge Secretary including the following:

- Explaining what you think the obligation means.
- Describing how you have been fulfilling this obligation in your unit and in your daily life.
- Describing your specific plans for continuing this service in the future.
- Telling what the Order of the Arrow means to you, and why you are seeking Brotherhood membership.