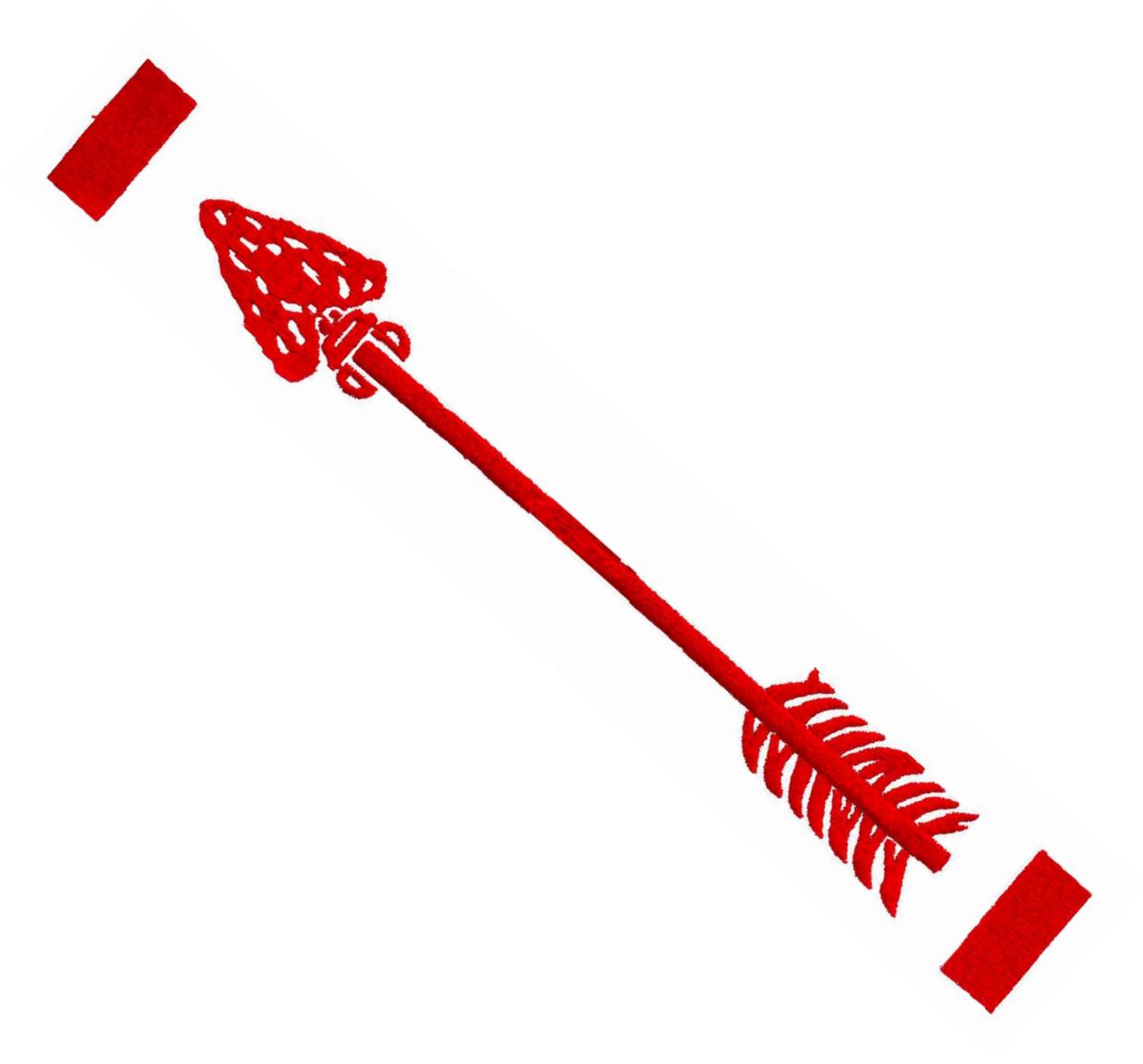


Tamegonit Lodge

Nimat Handbook



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, they should set the example for new Arrowmen.

As a Nimat, you are required to:

- a Nimat must be a Brotherhood or Vigil member
- They 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 or Class A uniform, 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?"

On the Trail to Brotherhood

The Nimat tests the Brotherhood Candidates on:

- The OA Song
- The Obligation
- The Admonition
- The Handshake
- The meaning of the Ordeal

Expected Results

- Higher retention
- More knowledgeable Arrowmen
- Greater buy-in from new members into lodge & chapter activities
- More Elangomats and Nimats in future years

Brotherhood Study Guide

Tamegonit Lodge, Heart of America, BSA Council Publication



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:

<u>Character</u>	<u>Role</u>	<u>Principle</u>
Kichkinet	The Guide	Helpfulness and Friendliness
Nutiket	The Guard	Cheerfulness
Meteu	The Medicine Man	Brotherhood
Allowat Sakima	The Mighty Chief	Service

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

Four Tests of the Ordeal:

The Night Alone- To teach you self-reliance

24 Hours of Silence- To turn your thoughts inward

Scant Food- to teach you the virtues of self-denial

Day of Service- To indicate your willingness to serve others

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).

Brotherhood Conversion Requirements



Resources for New Arrowmen to Continue Their Journey!

Brotherhood Membership Requirements:

The process of the preparing yourself for Brotherhood Membership is explained in the Order of the Arrow Handbook, which you should obtain to learn more about the OA. An Ordeal member becomes eligible for Brotherhood membership ten months after completing his Ordeal. You must meet the five challenges before you can enter the Circle of Brotherhood:

1. Memorize the signs of Arrow Membership - this includes the Obligation, the Order of the Arrow Official song, the Admonition, the sign of ordeal membership, and the Arrow Handclasp.
2. Advance in your understanding of the Ordeal.
3. Serve your unit, retain registration in Scouting, and expand your service.
4. Plan for service in the Lodge, retain registration in the lodge, and keep your dues paid. Brotherhood membership involves a pledge to serve the lodge, and you should develop a specific idea on how to do this service.
5. Review your progress. When you earnestly feel that you have met the first four (4) challenges, write a letter to the Lodge Secretary, covering the topics described in the Order of the Arrow handbook.

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 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 from 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 Lenapie 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, ect.

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.

Additional Items to Study and Learn as a Nimat

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 you 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 shows 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 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.

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 you 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.

8.) 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”.

9.) 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.





Nimat Coup Application

The Nimat Coup is awarded to Arrowmen who serve as part of the Nimat Program within Tamegonit Lodge, assisting Brotherhood candidates as they seal their membership in the lodge.

Before being eligible to receive this coup, a member must have paid their current dues to Tamegonit Lodge.

All requirements must be completed fully and may not be used to complete another coup. Please complete all fields fully before turning in coup at Trading Post for recognition.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

TROOP NUMBER _____ DISTRICT _____

Ordeal Date _____ Brotherhood Date _____ Vigil Honor Date _____

1. Attend Nimat Training held annually at Fall Fellowship and at Inductions.

Date _____ Trainer Signature _____

2. Participate as a Nimat four (4) times over a 2 year period.

Date	Approval
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

By signing here, you certify that you have completed all requirements for the Nimat Coup.

Signature _____ Date _____