

ORDER OF THE ARROW

The purpose of the Order of the Arrow is fourfold:

- To recognize those Scout 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
- To crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others

Eligibility (as stated in the Guide for Officers and Advisers handbook)

To become a member, a youth must be a registered member of a Boy Scout troop and hold First Class rank as a minimum.

The youth must have experienced 15 days AND nights of camping during the two-year period immediately prior to his election.

The 15 days AND nights must include one, but no more than one, long-term camp consisting of six consecutive days and five nights of resident camping, approved and under the auspices and standards of the Boy Scouts of America.

The balance of the camping must be overnight, weekend, or other short-term camps.

The unit leader provides a list of all registered active members of the unit who meet all eligibility requirements, including attitude and participation.

Scouts are elected to the Order by their fellow troop members, [by receiving more than 50% of the vote](#), following approval by the Scoutmaster.

Troop 90 addendum guidelines with guidance from NEIC OA advisers:

[Every effort will be made to hold the election in January \(or February, if inclement weather\).](#)

[The evaluation period for eligibility will begin two years prior to the year of the election. The two year period is defined as starting on January 1 and ending on December 31. For example, if the election were held on January 15, 2009. The eligibility period will begin on January 1, 2007 and end on December 31, 2008.](#)

[Troopmaster will be used to generate the eligibility report. The report will be generated to allow for cabin camping as well as non-cabin camping. Only those campouts that involve Troop 90 leaders and is a Troop 90 or council sanctioned event will count. Troop 90 sanctioned activities require a tour permit.](#)

[Only one long-term camp for the two-year eligibility period will count. Only 6 days and 5 nights of these will count. Any additional days and nights will NOT apply towards OA eligibility. Long-term camps include high-adventure and summer camp. Any extension campouts associated with the long-term campouts \(eg. OA tapout\) will NOT apply towards OA eligibility, but will count as long-term excess.](#)

[Short term campouts will include tent camping, lock-ins, Eagle cave, and cabin camping.](#)

References:

Q/A: Camping Requirement Interpretation

Q: Who decides what camping activities qualify for the camping requirement needed for election to the Order of the Arrow?

A: With the camping requirement, as with all other eligibility requirements, it is the Unit Leader's job to interpret whether a Scout has met the requirement.

As stated in the *Guide for Officers and Advisers* (#34997A, 1999 revision, page 20):

"Unit Leader Approval. To become eligible for election, a Boy Scout or Varsity Scout must be registered with the Boy Scouts of America and have the approval of his unit leader **prior** to the election. The unit leader must certify his Scout spirit (i.e. his adherence to the Scout Oath and Law and active participation in unit activities). The unit leader must also certify that the nominee meets all specified requirements at the time of this annual election."

Other than defining the length of time needed for a camping activity to be considered a long-term camp*, the National Order of the Arrow Committee leaves the interpretation of the camping requirement to the unit leader.

- A "long-term camp" is one consisting of at least six consecutive days and five nights of resident camping. A "short-term camp" is anything less than that.

<http://www.oa-bsa.org/qanda/qa-52.htm>.