

January 1st, 2025

To the Parent/Guardian of an Order of the Arrow Candidate,

Congratulations! Your child is a Candidate for the Order of the Arrow, "Scouting's National Honor Society". The OA, as it is called, is the National Honor Society of Scouting America. It was organized in 1915 to recognize honor campers. The purposes of the OA are to recognize those 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, and to crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.

Candidates for the Order of the Arrow are chosen not only for what they have done, but also for what they are expected to do in the future. Because your child was selected for candidacy by the unique method of being elected by their peers, the majority of which are not members of the Order of the Arrow, we are sure that they are worthy of this great honor. Your child can become a member of our OA lodge; Pennacook Lodge, during one of our induction weekends in 2025:

- Ordeal 1: Friday-Sunday, May 16 - 18, 2025 at Wah-Tut-Ca Scout Reservation, Northwood NH
- Ordeal 2: Friday-Sunday, June 6 - 8, 2025 at New England Base Camp, Milton MA
- Ordeal 3: Friday-Sunday, September 12 - 14, 2025 at New England Base Camp, Milton MA

This weekend will offer a unique opportunity for them to reflect on their personal commitment to the principles and purposes of the Order of the Arrow. The weekend is undertaken by every new candidate and is a meaningful and inspiring experience that will not soon be forgotten.

In order for your child to be fully prepared for the weekend, we will be holding a Candidate and Parent Information Session about a week before each Ordeal and all candidates and parents are highly encouraged to attend. You can find more information, as well as registration forms and costs on our website at www.oapennacook.org/candidate.

Induction in the Order of the Arrow will open many new doors for your child. We not only conduct many events for the youth of the council, but also participate in many as well. In addition, the OA provides some of the most valuable youth leadership training and opportunities available. These opportunities will build upon the knowledge they already have received during their Scouting experience. This is truly an exciting time for you and your child. Your encouragement will be appreciated.

Candidacy for the Order of the Arrow is only good for one year from the date in which your child was elected. If your child does not attend one of the three induction weekends, they will no longer be a candidate, and must be reelected next year in order to attend an induction weekend in 2026. Please feel free to contact us at unitelections@oapennacook.org if you have any questions concerning the Order of the Arrow. Thank you for your support of your child and of Scouting.

Yours in Scouting,

Lucas Crispo
Lodge Vice Chief

Tom Markham
Lodge Adviser