



# Letter to Parents

Dear Parent(s):

Hello and congratulations! Your Scout has been elected as a Candidate for membership in the Order of the Arrow, the Boy Scouts of America's National Honor Society. This means your Scout has earned the incredible opportunity to join our brotherhood through attending an Ordeal.

The Ordeal is a unique Scouting experience. It challenges a Candidate mentally, spiritually, and physically. It provides a Candidate the time to reflect on how brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service plays a role in their lives and the potential impact it has on our communities. It does so in many symbolic ways. Many of these ways are difficult to understand by those who have not participated in the Ordeal before. Understandably, sometimes the parents of a Candidate have questions regarding what the Order of the Arrow is and what the Ordeal is all about. For that reason, I have created this letter to provide information to all the parents of new youth Ordeal Candidates. It sheds a little bit of light on the experience the Candidate will endure, even if the Candidate themselves does not yet understand the meaning behind the symbolism. It also clarifies some background about the Order of the Arrow and some frequently asked questions and answers.

Our purpose is to:

- Recognize those who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives and through that recognition cause others to conduct themselves in a way that warrants similar recognition.
- Promote camping, responsible outdoor adventure, and environmental stewardship as essential components of every Scout's experience, in their unit and in their communities.
- Develop leaders with the willingness, character, spirit, and ability to advance the activities of their units, our brotherhood, Scouting, and ultimately our nation.
- Crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.

We look forward to welcoming your Scout into our brotherhood of cheerful service. All questions and logistics can be found at [Tantamous.org](http://Tantamous.org). If your Scout has special medical conditions, dietary needs, or religious concerns, please contact me prior to the Ordeal. I want to be sure we are prepared to give your Scout the most powerful experience possible. Once again, I congratulate you and your Scout on their election as a Candidate.

August 21-23, 2020	Camp Resolute
September 11-13, 2020	Camp Squanto

You may register online at [Tantamous.org](http://Tantamous.org), by clicking on the appropriate link on the homepage. Please select the Ordeal date that is most convenient for you. Your Scout has ONE YEAR from the DATE OF YOUR ELECTION to attend an Ordeal. If they do not attend during that time, they must be re-elected by their unit. The cost covers an Order of the Arrow Handbook, sash, Lodge flap, food and administrative fees.

Please plan to have your Scout arrive to the Ordeal location between 5:00PM and no later than 7:00PM on Friday. They should present themselves at registration wearing the full Field Uniform (Class A) and bring a copy of their BSA Annual Health and Medical Record (parts A and B). We also encourage them to bring spending money (\$15-\$20), as the Lodge trading post will be open on Saturday night and/or Sunday morning. The Ordeal will conclude on Sunday morning at approximately 10:00AM.

Thanks,

Owen O'Brien, Chief – Tantamous Lodge | [chief@tantamous.org](mailto:chief@tantamous.org)