

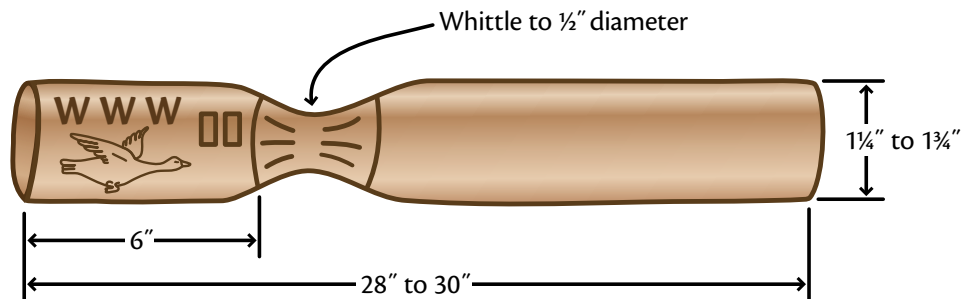
Octoraro Lodge 22, W. W. W.

Brotherhood Totem



Since the late 1960s, it has been the custom of Octoraro Lodge 22 to have each Brotherhood candidate carve a *Brotherhood totem* that is used during the Brotherhood ceremony. The effort involved in carving this totem demonstrates his dedication to the traditions of the Order of the Arrow, while the totem itself is the physical manifestation of that dedication.

The *Brotherhood totem* — shown below — is a wooden stick 28 to 30 inches long and 1¼ to 1¾ inches in diameter. A notch is whittled into the stick reducing its diameter to approximately ½ inches, leaving a 6-inch long segment at one end, into which all “carvings” will be placed. **Every effort should be made to create a totem within the above dimensions**; that said, a Brotherhood candidate’s totem will not be measured.



Although a round wooden dowel is acceptable, it is **preferable** that the totem be made from a non-milled (*i.e.*, natural) stick. The stick does not need to be absolutely straight nor of uniform diameter.

The Brotherhood candidate will “carve” the following items into the 6-inch segment of the totem:

- ♦ The letters “W. W. W.”;
- ♦ The lodge totem — a flying Canada goose; *and*
- ♦ The two (2) Brotherhood bars.

The “carvings” do not need to be very artistic — it is understood by the lodge that not everyone is good at drawing. Neither do the “carvings” need to be positioned on the 6-inch segment as shown in the illustration above. Each Arrowman may place the “carvings” around the 6-inch segment in any way he chooses. Nonetheless, all “carvings” **must** be within the 6-inch segment.

Similarly, the lodge understands that not everyone is an expert woodcarver. Therefore, anyone who is uncomfortable using a knife or gouges to actually carve the items into the wood, may illustrate the “carvings” by painting them or drawing them with a permanent (Sharpie®) marker. Nevertheless, actually carving the items is **preferred**.

After the Brotherhood ceremony, the new Brotherhood member will still have the 6-inch segment with his “carvings,” which he can retain as a memento. Consequently, the Brotherhood candidate may — if he so chooses, it is **not** required — decorated the 6-inch segment by painting, staining, and/or finishing. However, it is **STRONGLY REQUESTED** that the totem notch and the longer end (without the “carvings”) **not** be painted, stained, nor treated in any way.

Finally, if an Arrowman chooses to actually carve the items, he does not need to carve them into the wood. If he has the time and skill, he may carve the wood from around the items, leaving those items raised. This has been done by several Brotherhood candidates leading to a superb looking *Brotherhood totem*.