



## Octoraro Lodge 22 Order of the Arrow

PARC  
1 Scouting Way  
Exton, PA. 19341

Dear Friend,

Congratulations on your election into the Order of the Arrow, Scouting's National Honor Society. You have been chosen by your fellow Scouts to become a part of our Brotherhood. Through your dedication to the ideals of Scouting, and your exemplification of the Scout Oath and Law in your daily life, you have the opportunity to join this prestigious organization and earn the title of Arrowman.

The Order of the Arrow was founded in 1915 in the nearby Philadelphia Council; its purpose was to honor and recognize Scouts and Scouters for their steadfast dedication to the principles of Scouting. In order to be inducted into the Order, you must undertake an Ordeal, to prove your willingness to serve others, just as all Brothers have done before you.

Octoraro Lodge hosts three (3) Ordeal and Service weekends each year, April, June and September. You will have one year from the time of your election to complete your Ordeal. While you are free to choose any of the three Ordeal weekends, we strongly encourage you to complete your Ordeal in April or June, as these weekends are crucial in preparing the Reservation for the Summer Camp season.

After completing your Ordeal, and earning the distinctive pocket flap and sash which identify our members, you are not only a member of the Brotherhood, but you are now easily identified as a model Scout and Leader within the Scouting program. We encourage new Arrowmen to **supplement** their activity in their home unit by becoming active in the Lodge and its programs.

On behalf of the Brothers of Octoraro Lodge, we would like to congratulate you on your election as a candidate of the Order of the Arrow. We hope that you will join us to complete your Ordeal at the next possible opportunity. We have enclosed a Frequently Asked Questions sheet, as well as a short letter to the parents of youth candidates. Should you (or your parents) have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [questions@octoraro22.org](mailto:questions@octoraro22.org).

In Brotherhood,

*Collin Wheeler*

2026 Octoraro Lodge Chief

*Tom Savoy*

Lodge Adviser

*Ryan Teat*

Staff Adviser

*Jake Segal*

Scout Executive



## *Octoraro Lodge 22* *Order of the Arrow*

PARC  
1 Scouting Way  
Exton, PA 19341

Ordeal Candidate,

Congratulations on your election into the Order of the Arrow, Scouting's National Honor Society. You were chosen as someone who exemplifies the Scout Oath and Law in your everyday life.

Octoraro Lodge 22 is the Order of the Arrow Lodge that serves the Chester County Council. The Lodge is comprised of over 800 active arrowmen that donate thousands of service hours each year to help maintain the Horseshoe Scout Reservation and encourage camping in Chester County Council.

You will have three weekends to choose from to complete your Ordeal: September, April or June. Remember from the date you are elected, you will have one year to complete your ordeal. While you are free to choose any of the three dates, please consider taking your Ordeal in either April or June if your schedule allows; these weekends are the most busy for preparing for summer camp.

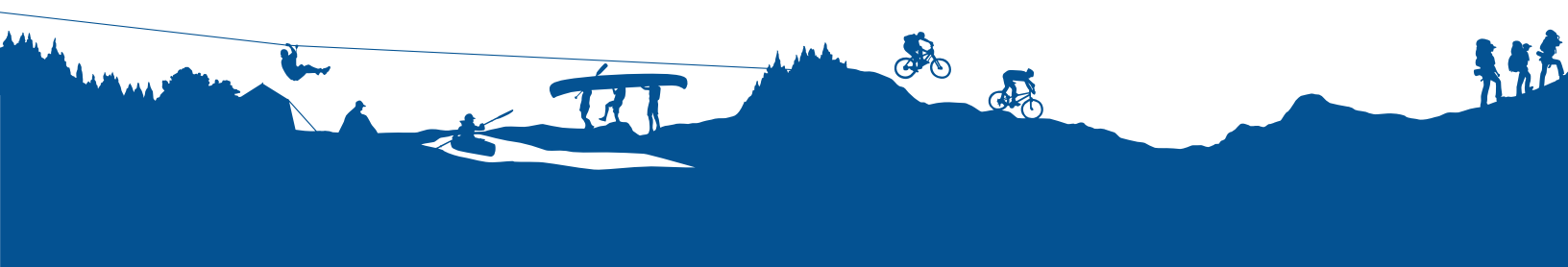
Once you have completed your ordeal there are many ways for you to get involved in the Lodge. As a youth, you are able to join a Committee based on your interests and skills. For a complete list of Committees you can visit the Lodge website and look under the Lodge Committee tab. As a youth, you also have the option of running for an elected position such as Treasurer, Vice Chief, Recording or Corresponding Secretary, and Chief. As an adult, your role in the Lodge is an advisory one. You may advise the youth when they are making decisions and serve in an advisory role for any of the Lodge Committees.

There are also many other opportunities and events for you to enjoy as a member of the Lodge. Every year there are Conclaves where all the Lodges get together for fun and fellowship. There are National Order of the Arrow Conferences (NOACs) held at Universities, along with our Lodge service and fellowship weekends and this is only the beginning! After your Ordeal ask about more opportunities for you to enjoy.

Once again, on behalf of the Lodge, we would like to congratulate you on being elected into Octoraro Lodge. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at [questions@octoraro22.org](mailto:questions@octoraro22.org). You can also check out our website at [www.Octoraro22.org](http://www.Octoraro22.org).

In Brotherhood,

Octoraro Lodge #22



# Youth-Adult-Parent

## Ordeal Candidate General Information

### Congratulations!

You or your Scout has recently been elected as a candidate for the National Honor Society of Scouting America, the Order of the Arrow. The OA as it is called, is a national brotherhood of honored Scouts that originated in 1915. We've compiled some basic information to help you understand more about the OA, the Ordeal Weekend and our Lodge, Octoraro Lodge 22.

### Purpose

The purpose of the Order of the Arrow is fourfold: 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.

### Induction (Ordeal Weekend)

The induction ceremony, called the Ordeal, is the first step toward full membership. During the experience, candidates maintain silence, receive small amounts of food, work on camp improvement projects, and are required to sleep alone, apart from other campers. The entire experience is designed to teach significant values.

This weekend will offer a unique opportunity for one to reflect on their personal commitment to the principles of the Scout Oath & Law as well as become acquainted with the principles & 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.

### Mystery

The Order of the Arrow, recognizing the attractiveness of the unknown, utilizes the form of mystery. To ensure that Scouts who are inducted into the Order of the Arrow do not have their experience lessened or spoiled, we try to reveal modest amounts of information about the Ordeal weekend and ceremonies to the Scouts. Mystery is meant to make the program exciting and challenging to the youth, not unapproachable to their parents. More details of all our ceremonies are open to any parent who would like to know them.

### Brotherhood Membership

After 6 months of service, a member may take part in the Brotherhood ceremony, which places further emphasis on the ideals of Scouting and the Order. Completion of this ceremony signifies full membership in the Order of the Arrow.

### Leadership

In addition to our Lodge Activities, the OA provides some of the most valuable youth leadership training and opportunities available. The Order of the Arrow is a youth run organization with all officers being under the age of 21. Scouts have the opportunity to be trained and become leaders at the Lodge (entire council), Section (in our case, 6 lodges make up E11), Region (the whole East), or National level. All decisions are made by the youth and their elected youth leaders. They plan and carry out the programs as the Lodge Officers and committee members. At every step of the way, they have adult advisers. In the OA, adults are not leaders, they're advisers. They help the Scouts make good decisions and respect their wishes unless there are safety or legal concerns with their planned activities.

### Octoraro Lodge 22

Our lodge name "Octoraro", in the original Lenni Lenape Indian language, means "Muddy River." Our lodge totem is the Canada goose. Our lodge participates in many events every year. Some of the events include: Fall Fellowship in September, the Lodge Banquet in March, the Section E11 Conclave in June and many more.

Induction in the Order of the Arrow will open many new doors for you or your child. These opportunities will build upon the knowledge one has already received during their Scouting experiences. This is truly an exciting time for you and your child. Your encouragement will be appreciated.

Please visit our lodge website, [www.octoraro22.org](http://www.octoraro22.org), for committee contact information, current lodge calendar, monthly & annual lodge events, annual dues information, forms, lodge newsletter, OA history, sectional, regional and national links. If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact us and we'll do our best to help.

Visit our website at [www.octoraro22.org](http://www.octoraro22.org)

"We, as Arrowmen, have the great privilege of pointing the way to other people . . . it's the way to happiness in life. It's the way of cheerful service."

— Dr. E. Urner Goodman, founder of the Order of the Arrow

# Ordeal Candidate Registration

**Octoraro Lodge 22 Ordeal Weekends are scheduled for the following dates:**

☐ **April 24 - 26, 2026**

☐ **September 25 - 27, 2026**

☐ **June 5 - June 7, 2026**

☐ **April 23 - 25, 2027**

## Cost

The cost for the Ordeal weekend is \$145.00\* which includes the following: Order of the Arrow sash, OA Handbook, all meals, Membership Card and Lodge Dues through the year after your Ordeal\*\*. This also includes the costs for Brotherhood Conversion.

If you sign up for the Ordeal weekend 2 weeks prior to your chosen weekend, your fees will be discounted by \$10.00

\* The cost is \$135.00 with the same \$10.00 discount if paid 2 weeks in advance.

\*\* Example: Once you complete your Ordeal, your dues are paid through the next September. For example, if you complete your Ordeal in April 2026, your dues are then paid through September 2027. Every year after, the dues will be collected in September for \$24.00. More information on dues can be found at [www.octoraro22.org/dues](http://www.octoraro22.org/dues)

## Registration

The weekend registration will **only** be accepted online.

**For more information and to signup, visit [www.octoraro22.org/ordeal](http://www.octoraro22.org/ordeal)**

In addition, please fill out the form below and bring a signed copy with you to registration (Friday night of the Ordeal).

## Cancellation

If you find that it is impossible to be present for the weekend that you have selected, you must notify the Lodge, in writing, at least one week before your scheduled weekend. You can contact us by emailing [oaweekend@cccbsa.org](mailto:oaweekend@cccbsa.org). However, when canceling for an Ordeal Weekend that you must complete your Ordeal within one year from the date of your call out (election). Under extenuating circumstances an extension may be granted with written approval from the Lodge Chief.

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## Candidate Information

\_\_\_\_\_  
First Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Middle Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Unit Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
BSA ID #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Registration Receipt Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address

## Physical Activity and Parental Acknowledgment Certificate

☐ I have no dietary problem or physical disabilities, to the best of my knowledge, which will restrict my activities during the Ordeal.

☐ I have a dietary problem or physical disability (e.g., must wear eyeglasses, leg brace, hearing aid, etc.) which will limit my activities during the Ordeal as follows: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ If my child is not properly prepared or presents a behavior problem during the weekend, they will be sent home. Transportation is the family's responsibility as only OA members can remain in camp on OA weekends.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Candidate Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature  
(Required if candidate is less than 18 yrs. old)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# Ordeal Weekend Schedule Equipment Checklist

You have been selected to become a member of the Order of the Arrow, also known as the Brotherhood of Cheerful Service. To fulfill your election into this Society, you will have to complete an Ordeal Weekend. We'd like you to get off to a good start, so we've gathered the information you'll need to safely participate in activities and carry out tasks to have a successful Ordeal Weekend experience.

Once you have selected your Ordeal Weekend, you will need to remember the following:

## Ordeal Weekend Schedule

### ***Friday Night***

Check-in & Horseshoe Roll Inspection

6 PM until 8 PM, *Kindness Center, Camp Horseshoe*

**Don't forget the candidate's COMPLETED medical form! It must be brought to check in.**

- ☒ You should ask another member of your unit or a friend to keep your Saturday Night gear and save you a place to sleep Saturday night.
- ☒ If no other members of your unit are attending, please notify the check-in area and they will look after your belongings until you need them Saturday afternoon and help make sleeping arrangements.\*

Pre-Ordeal Ceremony and the Ordeal

### ***Saturday Morning***

The Ordeal continues...

### ***Saturday Afternoon***

Clean-up for evening activities

Pick up Saturday Gear and join your unit or friends.

### ***Saturday Evening***

Ordeal Ceremony (Full Class "A" uniform)

Fellowship

### ***Sunday Morning***

New Member Orientation

Dismissal at 10:00 AM

## Ordeal Weekend Gear

**Friday Night** (these items will be used from Friday Night check-in through Saturday afternoon)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wear to Camp – Work clothes: long trousers (shorts not permitted) and hiking boots and seasonal jacket. |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Current BSA Membership & Tote'n Chip cards  | <input type="checkbox"/> A flashlight with good batteries             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> One blanket (no sleeping bag)   | <input type="checkbox"/> A sharpened hand axe with sheath             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> One poncho or ground cloth  | <input type="checkbox"/> A sharp pocket knife                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrush/ Toilet Paper  | <input type="checkbox"/> A length of clothesline to tie the Horseshoe |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A pen/pencil and a small note pad   | <input type="checkbox"/> Roll A water bottle to carry                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A pair of work gloves   | <input type="checkbox"/> BSA Medical                                  |

**Saturday Night** (these items will be used on Saturday Night and for the rest of the weekend)

Pack the following articles separate from your Horseshoe Roll:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scout shirt                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping bag and pad                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Official Scout pants (long or short) | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal hygiene kit                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scout belt                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Any other supplies you wish                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scout socks (knee socks/short pants) | <input type="checkbox"/> Spending money for the Trading Post                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neckerchief                          | <input type="checkbox"/> (Lodge Memorabilia, T-Shirts, Lodge Flaps, Candy, etc) |

\*Unaccompanied youth Ordeal candidates will stay in the following locations Saturday night:  
Male - Roberts Lodge; Female - Rothrock Lodge

We look forward to welcoming you into the Brotherhood of Cheerful Service!

