

NOAC 2024

CU Boulder



SEEK NEW HEIGHTS

Brotherhood

The Legend Continues

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Learning Objectives

1. Understand the different ways to structure the Brotherhood weekend
2. Understand the importance and meaning of the Brotherhood hike.
3. Explain the connections between the Ordeal Legend and the Brotherhood ceremony's Tale of Uncas.
4. Demonstrate how the Brotherhood ceremony continues the symbolic progression begun in the Ordeal experience.
5. Analyze how the Ordeal and Brotherhood ceremonies relate to each other through effect of the text on members.





1. Structuring the weekend



Anticipation Activity

- Quick Brain Storm
 - Make a list of everything that comes to mind about concept of a BROTHERHOOD WEEKEND.



Structuring the weekend

- Full Weekend Event
 - Friday
 - Pre-Ordeal Ceremony – refreshing our memories
 - Fellowship
 - Saturday
 - Brotherhood service project
 - Brotherhood Training Session
 - Brotherhood Hike
 - Brotherhood Ceremony
 - Ordeal Ceremony
 - Fellowship
 - Sunday
 - Brotherhood Ceremony Recap



Structuring the weekend

- One Day Event
 - Saturday
 - Brotherhood Service Projects
 - Brotherhood Training Session – Proving your understanding
 - Brotherhood Hike – Time to reflect on the OA and its meaning
 - Brotherhood Ceremony
 - Fellowship





2. Service Projects



Brotherhood Service Projects

- Providing service is the primary purpose of our order so it is only right that service be part of the brotherhood process
- Allows to show they are willing to live up to their obligation
- Gives the brothers more time to for the brothers to bond with one another which will make them feel more willing to participate in the order.



Brotherhood Service Projects

- Possible Service Projects that would be appropriate?





3. Training Sessions



Brotherhood Training Sessions

- Gives an opportunity for the new brothers to meet the officers of the lodge (especially the lodge secretary)
- Gives an opportunity for the soon to be Brotherhood members insight into the inner workings of the lodge and its leadership
- Provides a formalized way for brothers to prove their knowledge required to obtain Brotherhood membership
- Gives the brothers an overview of events that will lead up to their ceremony
- If at all possible this should be done on an individual or small group basis to make the brothers feel special and appreciated





4.

Nimat and the Hike



Nimat and the Brotherhood Hike

- Involvement of Nimats should be encouraged to show that their commitment to the brothers is unending.
- This hike allows time for the Arrowman to reflect on their time in order and what they hope to accomplish in the future.
- It is also a helpful reminder of their time as an ordeal candidate.
- It also allows the lodge to set up for the degree without distractions.
- “Hours spent in thoughtful silence are worth days and days of talking”



Brotherhood Hike – The Three Stops

- **Stop 1:** Nimat can share water and snacks to further show their willingness to give unselfishly. After discussion, the obligation should be repeated together.
- **Stop 2:** After discussion, the group should recite the three principles together, and topic of the next reflection topic should be given as well to allow the brothers to ponder it during the next part of the hike.
- **Stop 3:** At the end of the reflection topic at the third stop the Nimat should encourage the brother to listen closely to the words and actions in the upcoming ceremony.



Brotherhood Hike – Reflection

- At each stop the Nimat should allow the candidates to talk about what came to mind as they were walking and why.
- After the third stop the candidate should be placed about 10 yards apart and told to reflect on their journey before the ceremony begins.
- The Nimat should ask for the admonition and its meaning and encourage the candidate to reflect on it.
- When the ceremony is ready, the candidates should be assembled and taken in silence to meet Kichkinet.





5. The Legend



The Legend in the Ordeal Ceremony

Years ago, in the dim ages, in the valley of the Delaware, lived a peaceful tribe of Indians—Lenni Lenape their name was. Deer and bear, wildcat and panther through the forest oft they hunted. On the bosom of the river peacefully they fished and paddled. Round their busy village wigwams, still the chase they nimbly followed. In this state of bliss so happy many moons they lived contented. Springtime blossomed into summer, summer into autumn ripened, autumn died on winter's bosom. Thus the seasons in succession never ending seemed to pass on. But, behold, a cloud arising changed how soon this peaceful aspect. Neighboring tribes and distant enemies suddenly disturbed their hunting. Then Chingachgook, aged chieftain of the tribe, made quick inquiry: "Who will go and carry warning of this dire and dreadful danger to all Delawares, our brothers?" But none wished to make the journey. Then spoke up the noble Uncas, worthy son of the old chieftain: "O my father, I am ready; send me on this gracious errand. If we would remain a nation, we must stand by one another. Let us both urge on our kindred firm devotion to our brethren and our cause. Ourselves forgetting, let us catch the higher vision. Let us find the greater beauty in the life of cheerful service." Off upon the trail they started, old Chingachgook and young Uncas; and in every tribal village some were found who were quite willing to spend themselves in others' service. When at last the fierce marauders were forced back to their own country and peace was declared between them, they who first themselves had offered for the service of their Brethren, to the places most respected by the chieftain were promoted. He said, "They who serve their fellows are, of all their fellows, greatest!" As a seed dropped by the sower on good soil bears quick fulfillment: so this saying of their chieftain in their hearts found glad acceptance and they asked that in some manner he should make its memory lasting. So together, fast and firmly, Chief Chingachgook bound these warriors in a great and honored order, into which could be admitted only those who their own interests can forget in serving others. And so firm must be their purpose so to live, that their companions, taking note of their devotion, shall propose them to the order. We, therefore, to them succeeding to the present day perpetuate the names and token of this Brotherhood of Cheerful Service called by the Delawares: Wimahtendienk, Wingolauchsik, Witahemui!



The Legend Reviewed

- Peaceful beginning
- Conflict ensues
- Request for service
- Nobody offers
- Uncas answers
- Others are found
- Promotion of Servants
- People want it perpetuated
- Order is formed
- We perpetuate it today





6. The Legend Continues



The Tale of Uncas Reviewed

- Uncas collects firewood on a dark and rainy night
- He sees a failing fire nearby where he knows only the enemy would be
- He knew they would be cold and suffer greatly in this darkness
- He then sent off to help and offered his assistance
- Uncas was met with an arrow pointing towards him
- Uncas offered his firewood to build a single fire so both stay warm
- Mehukwa shoots arrow away and offers his bow to add to the fire
- The two converse and find out that they are on the same mission
- The two agreed the only way to stop the bloodshed was to lead in brotherhood
- The two mingled their blood to seal this commitment
- The two talk and agree to take on the heavy burden of showing all the villages





7. Challenges and Seals



Challenges of the Ordeal

- Ordeal Challenges
- Night Alone
- Face the isolation which a leader often faces
- Silence
- Hours spent in thoughtful silence is worth days and days of talking
- Scant Food
- Subordinate desires for a higher purpose
- Arduous Labor
- Show your willingness to serve others cheerfully



Seals of Brotherhood

- Brotherhood Seals
 - Foreshadowed by Allowat Sakima during Ordeal Ceremony
- Fire of Cheerfulness
- Give cheerfully to other regardless of their station
- Add to the cheerfulness of others
- Bond of Brotherhood
- Show that your heart is unites with all of your brothers in the OA
- The Burden
- Take on the burden of being an example in selfless service to others





8. Brotherhood Ceremony



Brotherhood Ceremony

- Provides further context for the OA legend – “every tribal village some were found who were quite willing to spend themselves in others’ service.”
- The Ordeal membership was you being chosen in becoming a member. The Brotherhood ceremony is you saying that you are choosing to be a member
- Each challenge shows your willingness to give yourself to the principles of the OA
 - Adding to the fire – Cheerfully serve even at cost to yourself
 - Bearing the burden – to help your fellow brothers at all times even when help is not asked for
 - “Blood seal” – shows that you are willing to bind yourself equally to each and every brother of the order



Brotherhood Ceremony

- Further thoughts on the mechanics of the ceremony or the seals of Brotherhood membership...





9. Divesting



Divesting

- We fully understand the message of the four principals and recognize that they were merely reflections of ourselves.
- We therefore no longer need their physical representation which, as were the four principals, is the spirit of the arrow.
- The primary objective of our ceremonies is not to teach a lesson, but to unlock that which is inside of us already.
- The spark is there already glowing!



Takeaway Challenge



Conclusion & Takeaway Challenge

- Please take out your notebook and pen. For the final three minutes, think about your current and future roles in the OA, in Scouting, and in life. Write down three key takeaways from this session that will enable you to Seek New Heights in those current and/or future roles. Later today, feel free to share these key ideas with others in your chapter or lodge.

