

NOAC 2024

CU Boulder



# Inside the Ordeal Ceremony

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# Learning Objectives

Understand the importance in finding meaning in the ceremonies and how it benefits the ceremonialist.

Practice expounding meaning through provided strategies and discussion.



# Learning Objectives

Explain how they reach their understanding of the Ordeal ceremony.

Identify insights and techniques to share with ceremonial teams in their local areas.



# The Tools in our Box

- Try and come up with what kinds of things we can recognize in the text or the ceremony ring or its related diagrams from which we can draw meaning.



# The Tools in our Box

- Things that change (fire lay)
- Things that stay the same (15 blazes)
- Things in common (3 principles who stand for Scout Oath/Law)
- Things unique (Kichkinet leaves the circle)
- Numbers or Groupings (15 blazes as 6-3-6)
- Repetition (AS and “if you”)
- Single mentions
- Words that seem superfluous or redundant
- Anything else that allows you to draw an inference





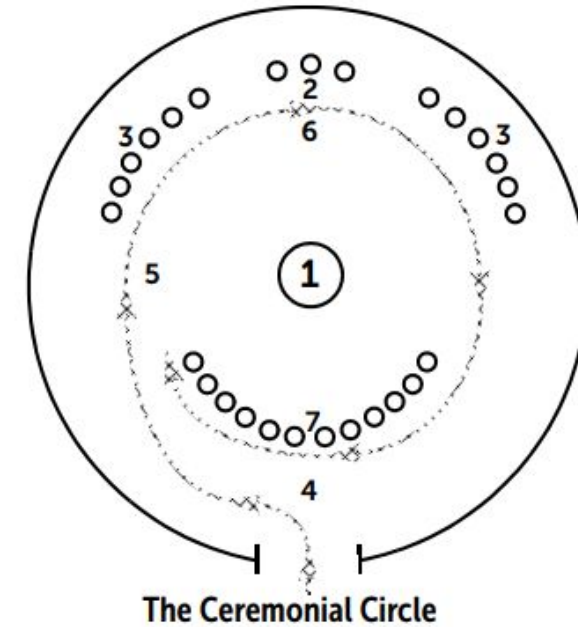
# Ceremonial Grounds



# The Grounds

- Why is the arrow pointing the way it is?
- Why do the candidates enter the ring from the south and not any other direction?
- Why do they then travel counterclockwise?

Diagram 11



1. The fire
2. Three candles for the Scout Oath
3. Twelve candles for the Scout Law
4. Nutiket and Kichkinet
5. Meteu and Kichkinet
6. Allowat Sakima and Kichkinet
7. Line of candidates and elangomats after challenges



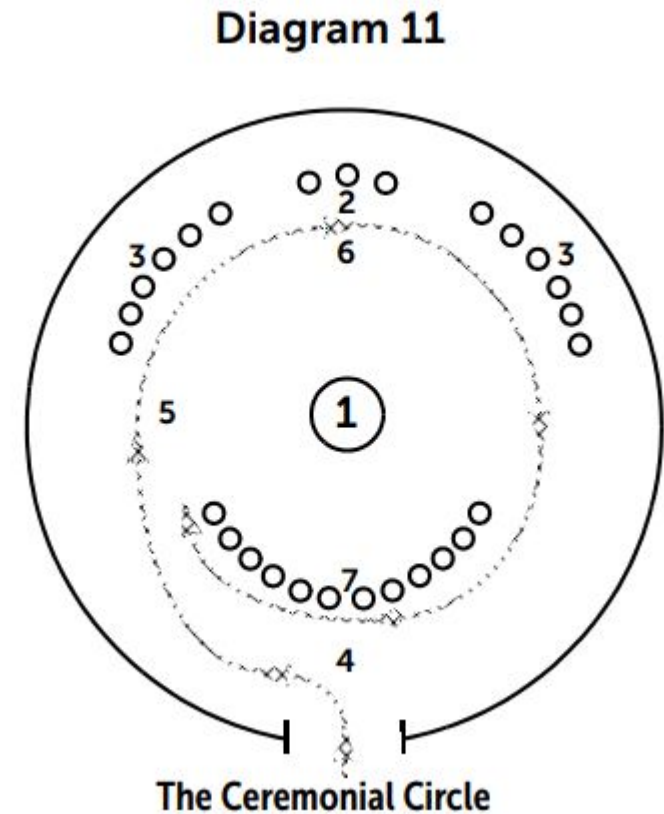
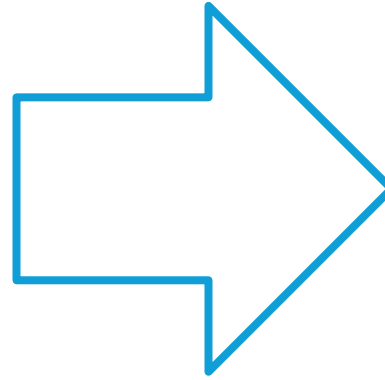
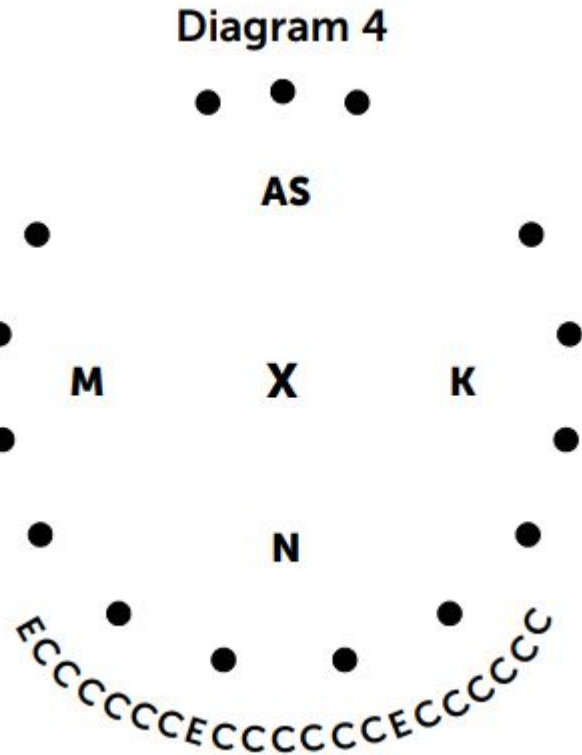
# Transitioning Ceremony Rings

- Why is the fire lay not lit in the pre-Ordeal ceremony and lit in the Ordeal ceremony?
- Why do the 12 lights around the ring move from surrounding the sides to a more concentrated setup at the north?
- Why does the motion change from the counterclockwise movement of the principals to a clockwise motion of the candidates?
- Why is there no investment before the Ordeal ceremony?





# Transitioning Ceremony Rings





# The Prayers



# Opening Prayer

- What's the purpose of this prayer?
- Who is the audience?
- Why did we choose this moment in the ceremony to do so?

“We are gathered here together in the midst of this great forest; underneath the stars above us. Gathered now to help and serve, cheerfully in all our actions, lovingly in our reflections. As the smoke curls, winding upward, may our thoughts and actions rising fill us all with acts of goodness; and direct and rule and guide us in our work and thoughts this evening.”



# Second Prayer

- What's the purpose of this prayer?
- Who is the audience?
- Why did we choose this moment in the ceremony to do so?
- Why is there no prayer in the pre-Ordeal ceremony?

“There should fall a solemn silence  
O'er the brothers in our circle,  
For their thoughts should now be centered  
On the noble goal and purpose  
That has called us all together.  
We who love the woods and camping,  
We who strive in cheerful service,  
Stand beside and urge them forward  
On the next step of their journey,  
On their long and toilsome journey,  
Each one ready now to help them  
Through their toils and tribulations.  
This our purpose and intent,  
Mark with silence reverent.”





# The Obligation



# Before the Obligation

- Why do Kichkinet and Nutiket give such basic, and sometimes seemingly superfluous, instructions?
- Is it important to include every principal in the administering of the Obligation?
- What is the significance of the new locations of the principals?



# After the Obligation

- After the Obligation, what immediately follows?
  - Allowat Sakima addresses them as “my brothers”
- Is it important that we refer to them as brothers so quickly?
- They haven’t heard the Legend, they don’t understand what they’ve gone through because it hasn’t been explained to them yet, is this okay?
- Is this the moment they truly become brothers?





# The Legend





# The Legend

- Unusual poetic style
- Very long
- It feels like there's a piece missing



# The Legend

- Peaceful beginning (17)
- Coming of conflict (6)
- Request for service (3)
- Nobody offers (1)
- Uncas answers (12)
- Others are found (5)
- Promotion of servants (9)
- People want it perpetuated (6)
- Order is formed (10)
- We perpetuate it today (7)



# Legend in Prose

- In the 2019 Ordeal ceremony revision, removed for the 2022 ceremony



# Legend in Prose

- Your groups should go through each major event one at a time, and identify all the symbols, metaphors, and anything else you think conveys some meaning.





# The Explanation



# The Explanation

- Why do we explain to the new members what they went through to become a member of the Order?
- Why is Nutiket the one who reminds the new members of this?



# The Explanation

- Unit Election
- Candidate
- Showing up to the Ordeal
- Pre-Ordeal Ceremony
- 4 Challenges
- Step Forward
- Testing of the Bow
- Completing the Ordeal
- Principal's challenges
- Rope
- Hand on shoulder
- Obligation
- Three drumbeats; Two drumbeats





# The Recognition

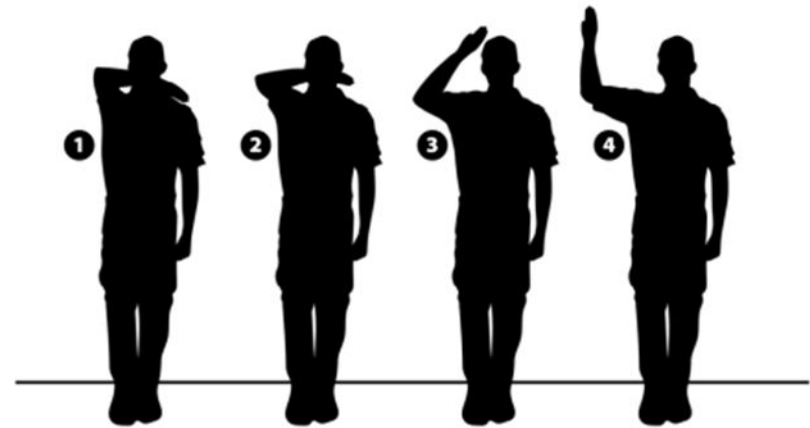




# Recognition – The Hailing Sign

“The hailing sign of the Ordeal reminds us that we were drawn from many others and sent upon a journey. It begins with the right hand over the left shoulder. The arm sweeps up and out as if drawing an arrow from a quiver, and ends to the side in the Scout sign.”

Diagram 14



When making the hailing sign the arm does not extend beyond a right angle (see Diagram 14). Allowat Sakima demonstrates the hailing sign, waiting till all have touched their shoulders before moving the arm. Meteu, Nutiket, and Kichkinet also make the sign.



# Recognition

- The handclasp
- The sash
- Is there any significance to this order of events?
- What other questions or insights can we find here?





# The Journey Continues



# Recognition

- Why is it important to separate this from the rest of Allowat Sakima's explanation?





# Conclusion



# Questions?

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# Takeaway Challenge

What can you implement back in your home lodge?

