

NOAC 2024

CU Boulder



SEEK NEW HEIGHTS

Introduction to Ceremonial Skills Workshop

ICE Email:
ice@oa-bsa.org

[Trainer Name] • [Trainer Email]

Learning Objectives

1. Foundations
 - Purpose, Principals, Symbolism
2. Symbolic Walkthrough
 - Pre-Ordeal Ceremony, Ordeal Ceremony
3. Learning the Ceremonies





1.

Introduction to Ceremonial Skills Workshop

The 10 Induction Principles



10 Induction Principles Overview

- Outline the basic philosophy and spirit of the inductions of the Order of the Arrow.
- They apply to the entire induction process: from the unit election through Brotherhood.
- These principles also help to ensure the impressive nature of the ceremonies.



10 Induction Principles

1. Purpose
2. Eligibility
3. Candidate's Compliance
4. Members' Compliance
5. Discretion
6. Importance of the Individual
7. Generosity
8. Focus
9. Symbolic Progression
10. Active Membership





2.

Introduction to Ceremonial Skills Workshop

Purpose of our Ceremonies



Purpose

- Why does the Order of the Arrow put so much emphasis on our ceremonies and inductions process?
 - Symbolism
 - Mystery
- Ceremonies have many layers (and interpretations)
 - Pre-Ordeal => Introduce
 - Ordeal => Teach
 - Watching the ceremonies => Reinforce





3.

Introduction to Ceremonial Skills Workshop

The Principals and the Lessons They
Teach



Principal & Principle

- Principal = Is the person
- Principle = Is the idea



Principal & Principle

- Principal = Nutiket, Meteu, Allowat Sakima, & Kichkinet
- Principle = Brotherhood, Cheerfulness, and Service



Principal: Nutiket

- Role?
 - Principle?
 - Token?
 - Test?
 - Quotes?
- Guard
 - Cheerfulness
 - Bow wood
 - Self-Denial



Principal: Nutiket

- “Eat you nothing by the scant food you’ll be given”
- “Learn by fasting, sacrifice, and self-denial to subordinate desires to the spirit’s higher purpose”



Principal: Meteu

- Role?
- Principle?
- Token?
- Test?
- Quote?
- Medicine Man
- Brotherhood
- Bowstring
- Silence



Principal: Meteu

- “Therefore, from this moment onward, till we meet within the circle or unless the ban is lifted, strictly keep a pledge of silence.”



Principal: Allowat Sakima

- Role?
- Principle?
- Token?
- Test?
- Quotes?
- Mighty Chief
- Service
- Quiver
- Arduous Labor



Principal: Allowat Sakima

- “Spend the day in arduous labor, working gladly, not begrudgingly.”
- "Seek to serve and this be faithful to the high ideals and purpose of the Order of the Arrow”



Principal: Kitchkinet

- Role?
 - Principle?
 - Token?
 - Test?
 - Quotes?
- Guide
 - Manifestation of the three*
 - Arrow
 - Night Alone/Isolation



Principal: Kitchkinet

- “So tonight, beneath the heavens, sleep alone upon your groundsheet.”
- "All your strength will be required when you face the isolation which a leader often faces.”





4.

Introduction to Ceremonial Skills Workshop

Symbolism Overview



Symbolism Overview

- The meaning of words – layers!
 - Literal Meaning
 - Symbolic (individual)
 - Symbolic (group)



Fire

- Allowat Sakima: “If these virtues glow brightly in our hearts, the fire cannot fail to be kindled in theirs.”
- Nutiket: “Fifteen blazes led you to us, but the trail that you have followed becomes rougher, steeper, fainter: you will need a brighter fire!”
- Nutiket: “seek the fire at the center!”
- Nutiket: “fan it now, forgetting hunger, feed it—till it is a fire.”
- Kichkinet (Ordeal): “They have, Nutiket. They stepped bravely forward and tested the bow, and the fire now burns cheerfully in their hearts.”



Arrow

- Allowat Sakima: “As the warrior draws the arrow most trustworthy from the quiver, you were drawn from many others: for the first shaft of the hunter must be straightest, must be surest.”
- Allowat Sakima: “straight and true you each will travel—as an arrow driven skyward, as an eagle soaring sunward.”
- Kichkinet: “Thus do you appear to others on the path of cheerful service.”
- Kichkinet: “Now with courage on this first step, follow me and these my Brothers. Let us try to find the Arrow!”
- Allowat Sakima (Ordeal): “As the symbol of our Order, the arrow has been fitly chosen. It must be straight, its point keen. Aimed high, its course is undeviating, its direction onward and upward.”



Allegory

- A story, poem, or picture that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically a moral or political one.



Symbolism Overview

- Note **bold** or *italicized* text – this is the ceremony telling you something is extra important! (insofar everything in the ceremony is important).





5.

Introduction to Ceremonial Skills Workshop

Symbolism of the pre-Ordeal
Ceremony



Opening (Investiture)

Opening for the ceremonialists to become the principal, alluding to the closing and their symbolic purpose.



Meteu

- "They have not felt the fire, they have not heard the admonition, they have not seen the Arrow"
- Who are they?



Nutiket

- "Each one who comes to us must find us ever Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, & Clean. I will remind is to keep ourselves "Physically Strong, mentally awake, and morally straight". I will guard the entrance, and open the way to those who are ready"
- What is Nutiket guarding?
- Who/what are they guarding that from?



Kichkinet

- “Each one who comes to us must find us ever Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, and Kind. I will remind us ... ‘to help other people at all times.’ I will guide them, and I will answer for them.”
- Answer for them? How so?
 - Literally in the Ordeal ceremony!



Allowat Sakima

- “Each one who comes to us must find us ever Trustworthy, Loyal, Obedient, and Reverent. I will remind us of our duty to God and country. If these virtues glow brightly in our hearts, the fire cannot fail to be kindled in theirs.”
- Allowat embodies what principles? What's important about the four parts of the law, since Allowat is the leader?
- What do they reference when they say the virtues "glow" in our hearts and the fire will be "kindled" in theirs?
 - Note that the pre-Ordeal still has an unlit firelay.



Pre-Ordeal Ceremony

Nutiket



Nutiket

- “Awake, my friends.”
- Why does Nutiket say "awake"?
- Why is Nutiket calling them friends? They've only just met.



Nutiket

- “Now starting on a long and toilsome journey. Before you undertake it, you must Be Prepared completely.”
- They're not physically going far... and they're not climbing a mountain. Why does Nutiket call it long? Why do they say toilsome? How will this be hard?
- Capitalization is always significant. What does it signify here? How are the principles helping you be prepared?



Nutiket

- “Fifteen blazes led you to us, but ... you will need a brighter fire.”
- What is the significance of the number 15?
- What does Nutiket mean by a “brighter fire”?



Nutiket

- “Lay the oak and pine together ... with a warm and cheerful spirit.”
- What do the oak and pine represent, and how will that help the candidates in the challenges ahead?
- Warm. Fire is warm, now, isn't it?



Nutiket

- “*Eat you nothing* but the scant food you’ll be given.”
- Why is this phrase italicized?



Nutiket

- “Learn through fasting, sacrifice, and self-denial, to subordinate desires to the spirit’s higher purpose.”
- So, what is the purpose of the test of scant food?



Nutiket

- “A cheerful heart is lively, as this bow-wood, under hardship.”
- What does it mean for a bow-wood to undergo “hardship” literally?
- What does it mean for a heart to undergo hardship, figuratively?
- What then, does the unstrung bow represent?



Pre-Ordeal Ceremony

Meteu



Meteu

- “Long ago ... the great and mighty chieftain looked with love upon his children ... saw them ...fighting... with the evil ... and he spoke and said in this wise:”
- Who is the great and mighty chieftain?
- This section of the pre-Ordeal is frequently referred to as the “Love Poem.” Why?



Meteu

- “You who love the haunts of nature ... love the moonlight ... love the sunshine ... love the shadow of the forest ... love the wind ... love the rushing of great rivers ... love the thunder in the mountains ... listen to these admonitions for your guidance on your journey.”
- What is an admonition - IE the dictionary definition?
- What admonitions is the great and mighty chief, through Meteu, referring to here?
- What then, are they suggesting we do?



Meteu

- “I, Meteu, heard this message whispered on the western mountains where the sun from eve to morning never sets, while all beneath me as... slept in darkness, slept in shadow.”
- What does Meteu do when they hear the message of the great and mighty chief?
- How does the sun not set at night?
- When have we talked about sleeping already?



Meteu

- “These high places are within you”
- The admonitions we listen too



Meteu

- “This ordeal is but a pattern for a journey whose directions are the whispers, urgings, promptings, deep within your hearts and spirits.”
- If the Ordeal is just the pattern, what is the actual journey? What did we talk about earlier?



Meteu

- “Therefore, from this moment onward, till we meet within the circle or unless the ban is lifted, *strictly* keep a pledge of silence.”
- (Note the italics.) What is the purpose of the test of silence?



Meteu

- “Soon you will be bound as brothers in this ... Order, but only if you ... fulfill its obligations out of love for one another.”
- Does that sound familiar? Where have we heard that before?



Meteu

- “Let silence, like a bowstring, bind you each to every other, closer when the bow is tested.”
- Do you see the picture being created there?
- What then, does the bowstring represent?



Pre-Ordeal Ceremony

Allowat Sakima



Allowat Sakima

- “As the chieftain, I exhort you, spend the day in arduous labor ... and thus be faithful to the high ideals and purpose of the Order of the Arrow.”
- What does exhort mean?



Allowat Sakima

- “Friends, the ones who chose you, need you.”
- Who chose them? How were they chosen? And how do they need them now? How are we expected to fulfill that need?



Allowat Sakima

- “Who will go upon this journey? You must choose. If you decide to stop ... you may withdraw without discredit. ... If you accept the full ordeal ... take one step forward.”
- Why does Allowat Sakima do this? Why does it matter that candidates choose to go forward at this point?



Allowat Sakima

- “Each new friend shall test the bow, and ... give proof in silence of his will to make the journey.”
- Here Allowat Sakima strings the bow. Recall what the bow and bowstring each represent. What does this action symbolize?
- What does testing the bow symbolize? How does this play into the choice with the induction?



Allowat Sakima

- “As the warrior draws the arrow ... from the quiver you were drawn from many others, for the first shaft of the hunter must be straightest, must be surest.”
- What does the arrow represent? What does the quiver represent? What does the drawing of the arrow represent?



Allowat Sakima

- “If you hold fast to Scouting pledges, straight and true you each will travel as an arrow driven skyward, as an eagle soaring sunward. He who follows such a pathway ... will be seen by many others, and, by inspiration, lead them.”
- What “Scouting pledges” is Allowat Sakima referring to?
- What does the flight of the arrow represent?
- His service will be seen by others, and by inspiration lead them means what?



Pre-Ordeal Ceremony

Kitchkinet



Kichkinet

- “From the darkness ... we have come with words of warning ... an ordeal approaching swiftly, as a flock of field crows flying black across the sun.”
- What feelings is Kichkinet trying to create in the candidates here?
- What image do they create to accomplish that?



Kichkinet

- “My friends, leave all daily cares behind you, leave the crowd and its opinions, lift your thoughts like sparks when from the fire’s heart they shoot like arrows springing from the bow bent backward... loosed upon a lofty journey! Thus do you appear to others on the path of cheerful service”
- What is Kichkinet asking the candidate to do?
- Here, Kichkinet looses the arrow from the bow. Remember what the flight of the arrow represents, from Allowat Sakima’s portion of the ceremony. Considering that, what is the firing of the arrow?
- What do the candidates resemble?



Kichkinet

- “It is not an easy journey. Sometimes even friends will mock you, tempt you to betray your promise. All your strength will be required when you face the isolation that a leader often faces.”
- Who has ever been mocked for being a scout or for following scouting ideals?
- What promise do they want you to betray?
- What isolation must a leader face?



Kichkinet

- “So tonight, sleep alone upon your groundsheet.”
- (Note the italics.) What is the point of the night alone?



Kichkinet

- “Then in your Ordeal tomorrow I will labor with you. With you, I will listen, eating little.”
- What does Kichkinet say they’ll do – why do they do it?



Kichkinet

- “This ordeal is but a shadow of the rigors of the journey, but its joys also are shadows of the brighter greater beauty in a life of cheerful service.”
- Do you see a connection between Kichkinet’s definition of the Ordeal, and Meteu’s definition of the Ordeal? Kichkinet describes two aspects of Meteu’s “journey.” What are they?



Kichkinet

- “Now, with courage on this first step follow me, and these my brothers. Let us try to find the Arrow!”
- Who are the brothers Kichkinet is referring to?
- What does it mean to try to find the Arrow?





6.

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Symbolism of the Ordeal Ceremony



Symbolism of the Ordeal Ceremony

- The Ordeal ceremony is more mechanical and operational than the pre-Ordeal.



Tokens

- Where'd the tokens go?
 - X



Hand on the shoulder

- Adjusted in the 2022 Ordeal Ceremony revision



Rope

- Adjusted in the 2022 Ordeal Ceremony revision



Pathway into the Circle



Meteu's Prayers

First Prayer

- "Gathered now to help and serve, cheerfully in our actions, lovingly in our reflections"

Second Prayer

- "We... [s]tand beside and urge them forward on the next step of their... long and toilsome journey, each one ready now to help them through their toils and tribulations"



Allowat Sakima's Charge

- "Membership in the Order of the Arrow is given, not only for what you have done, but what you are expected to do in the future, for your journey is just beginning"



Kichkinet

- What does Kichkinet do during the ceremony?



Other Ordeal Ceremony Symbolism

- Legend
- The drumbeats





7.

Introduction to Ceremonial Skills Workshop

Learning the Ceremonies



Learning the Ceremonies

- DO NOT START WITH MEMORIZATION



Learning the Ceremonies

- Start with discussion!
- Go through the ceremony & talk about what every paragraph, sentence, & work mean
- Discuss on the literal & symbolic level
- Get familiar with the principals & symbols. Know the process before the words and you'll be a stronger ceremonialist.



Memorization

- Write it out
- Say it out loud
- Listen to it
- Read it whenever you can



Embodying the Principals

- What does “Embody” mean?
- Ceremonialists become the physical manifestation of the principal (and the principle)
- It doesn’t matter who you are on the outside. What’s on the inside is what matters.
- Be Authentic!



Tone and Delivery

- Speak Conversationally, Speak Naturally
- Slow down
- Project
- Annunciate the last consonant of every word



Movements

- Don't be distracting
 - Enhance the words, do not distract from them
- You are not a plant



Gestures

- Gestures add to certain words to give visual connection to what you're saying.
- Do not overuse them, and do not underuse them.



Gestures Breakout

Select one paragraph of the ceremony and come up with 2 or 3 gestures





7.

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Questions?





8.

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Conclusion



Questions, Quandaries, Queries, and/or Dilemmas?

- Please reach out to us:
ice@oa-bsa.org

