

NOAC 2024

CU Boulder



# SEEK THE VISION

Meteu

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# Learning Objectives

1. This course will give you some tools to help unlock your own creativity and send you on your way to finding your portrayal.
2. Listen with an open mind...
3. There will also be opportunities for you to contribute to the discussion throughout the session.



# Learning Objectives

4. The course is divided into two portions. During this first part we are going to cover some important concepts and hopefully get you thinking about ceremonies.
5. The second portion is where you will have the opportunity to put the theories and ideas from the first portion into practice.
6. We will invite some feedback, and suggestions on how you can improve your ceremonies. Even if you have never participated in a ceremony before!





# 1. Why Ceremonies?



# “The ones who chose you need you”

- Serving as a principal is service to the Lodge.
- An integral part of the induction process.
- Leadership of the lodge, just like any member of the lodge executive committee.
- It doesn't stop when you step outside the circle.
- Necessary to induct new members and retain active membership in the OA.



# “The ones who chose you need you”

- More than the bare minimum of memorizing lines.
- An accepted responsibility of developing through an ongoing process.
- An opportunity to inspire new members by enhancing the overall experience for the candidates.
- Requires preparation and repetition.
- An occasion to deliver one’s own interpretation of the text.



# “Our purpose and intent”

- Consider the purposes of the induction ceremonies.
- Bring new members into the OA.
- Disseminate the message of Brotherhood, Cheerfulness and service.
- Reinforce the points of the Scout Oath and Law.
- Inspire candidates to explore the qualities in their character.
- Build better leaders through service to others.



# “By inspiration lead them”

- The four Principals represent the first exposure of the Order of the Arrow.
- As leaders, ceremonialists must make a positive impression on the candidates to assist them in their own journey.
- Ceremonialists introduce the ideals of the OA
- Are integral in retaining new brothers by guiding them through their completion of Brotherhood.





# “By inspiration lead them”

- The Principals serve as teachers, presenting a new outlook.
- Ceremonialists must convey meaning and understanding.
- Without the ceremonies the candidates can never discover this deeper meaning.
- As ceremonialists, we must explain and reinforce our core ideals to the candidates.



# “By inspiration lead them”

- In our life experience we develop interests that we are passionate about.
- You must have that same passion for whatever you choose to do in life.
- Ceremonialists must be passionate about the knowledge they are sharing with the candidates.
- You cannot inspire others if you are not passionate about Brotherhood, Cheerfulness and Service.
- Consider why you chose to be involved in ceremonies to help find your own passion as a ceremonialist.



# “These high places are within you”

- Make ceremonies a meaningful part of the Ordeal.
- Ceremonialists must understand the message.
- Relate understanding to the experience to create wisdom.
- Ceremonialists must have both understanding, and experience.
- Experience without understanding is meaningless.
- Understanding that is never used is pointless.





## 2. Taking The First Step.



# “Brothers we are ready”

- First things first, you must become the principal.
- Your goal is to ultimately erase any separation between you and the principal you personify.
- Ceremonialists must be disciplined and put effort in.
- Stop thinking as yourself and start thinking as the principal.
- This will make the difference between someone who does ceremonies and a great ceremonialist.



# “Brothers we are ready”

- Investing serves a purpose and is done for the benefit of the ceremonialists.
- Assists the team in making the transition from themselves into the character they will become.
- Investiture is essential for achieving the goal of inducting the candidates.
- Once you have embodied the principal you can you teach the candidates about the OA.



# “Brothers we are ready”

- Utilize the investing process to clear your mind and gain understanding.
- Listen carefully to what each principal is saying.
- What is their purpose?
- What challenges do they present to the candidates?
- What tokens do they bear?
- What emotions do they display?
- What character changes take place?



# “Test yourselves and so discover”

- Discover ways to assist in your portrayal.
- Learn more about what motivates that principal.
- There is no disconnect between their thoughts, words, and actions.
- To portray them, consider what they say and do.
- Break down each principal’s part to gain insight.







# 3. Breakout Activity

## Who Am I?



# Breakout Questions

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- What is Meteu's purpose?
- What does Meteu represent?
- What is Meteu's Challenge?
- What token does Meteu present?



# “I Meteu”

- What is Meteu’s purpose?
- The storyteller, teacher, and the keeper of the legend.
- What does Meteu represent?
- Meteu represents Brotherhood
- What is Meteu’s Challenge?
- Thoughtful silence and introspection.
- What token does Meteu present?
- Meteu carries the bowstring representing the bonds of brotherhood.



# “I Meteu”

- Meteu exhibits character changes throughout the ceremonies.
- Perhaps most profound during the change into the Great and Mighty Chieftain when delivering the “love poem”.
- As a teacher, Meteu reveals that the journey of the Ordeal is a mirror of the candidate.
- Meteu reminds them to look inward stating, “These high places are within you” and “shows you clearly your reflection.”



# “I Meteu”

- Meteu quickly is established as the storyteller.
- Delivers a poem where love is mentioned seven times.
- Foreshadows the importance of love.
- Prepares the candidates for the admonition of the OA.
- Instructs to candidates to listen not talk.



# “I Meteu”

- Meteu explicitly shares the admonition with the candidates, “Out of love for one another.”
- The admonition is revealed to guide the candidates.
- To portray Meteu, you must understand the message.
- Love is obviously important and mentioned nine times.
- This importance must be conveyed to the candidates.



# “I Meteu”

- As Meteu, remember to weave character changes into the telling of the Legend as well.
- When speaking as Uncus, you must become Uncus and deliver his lines with conviction.
- The role of Meteu is unique as the ceremonialist truly becomes a storyteller during the legend.
- Take full advantage of that opportunity in your portrayal.





# 4. Tips & Tricks.





# “You must be prepared completely”

- Preparation time is the most important time as an individual ceremonialist and as a team.
- It is the time in between, rather than the actual Ordeal.
- Time to discover new ways to connect with the principal.
- Freedom to explore and play with the ceremony.



# “You must be prepared completely”

- Ceremony meetings and individual preparation is where you can experiment with new gestures and inflection.
- An opportunity to get the opinions and suggestions of your teammates.
- Work together to dig deeper into the ceremony, your team will bond and the overall ceremony will improve.
- Like athlete or musician you must you spend time practicing the ceremony.



# “You must be prepared completely”

- It is easier to learn something correctly the first time rather than unlearn a bad habit.
- A good ceremonialist should always come prepared to rehearsal.
- Always keep an open mind and be prepared with new ideas and perspectives.
- Most importantly, The Ordeal is not the time to try new gestures or inflection!



# “Master every challenge faithfully”

- You will perform the ceremony how you first memorized it.
- Do not break up thoughts, “Hi...how...Are you...Doing?”
- You may be understood, but meaning may be lost.
- A ceremonialist performs this way because they memorized the lines as they appeared in the ceremonies text.



# “Master every challenge faithfully”

- When we have conversations we don't naturally speak in a choppy way.
- A memorized portrayal should not sound like you are reading lines out of a book.
- Write the ceremony out in prose and then in your own words.
- Recite the lines in formal sentences that have a natural flow.
- Connect with the candidates by speaking in a natural rhythm.



# “Awake my friends”

- Know your audience.
- It is important that you connect with the candidates.
- Make eye contact and talk to them not at them.
- We communicate a lot with our eyes.
- Sometimes you can say more with a look than with words.
- Connect with as many as possible by looking them over.



# “Awake my friends”

- Put yourself in their shoes, we were all once candidates.
- Be sincere and the candidates will see that in your eyes.
- Make that spiritual connection with them.
- Once mastered will benefit you in your own experiences throughout your life.



# “Whispers, urgings, promptings”

- Find your voice.
- Project your voice, but don't yell at the candidates!
- Your message will not get across if the candidates can't hear you.
- Great singers public speakers use their diaphragm to project their voice.





# “Whispers, urgings, promptings”

- Be sure to enunciate all the vowels in a word and avoid swallowing words.
- Open your mouth wide and be careful not to block your face with your gestures.
- Like eye contact, you must project your voice to all the candidates as a group.
- Project your voice so the furthest candidates can hear you.



# “Whispers, urgings, promptings”

- Imagine that you are throwing a ball to a friend, project your voice and say, “Catch the ball.”
- Finding your voice also refers to your delivery.
- Make your performance YOUR own interpretation of the principal, not an impersonation of someone else’s.



# “Leave all daily cares behind you”

- There’s no clock on this thing, enjoy and appreciate the ceremony.
- It is rare that someone be critiqued on slow delivery.
- If your delivery is flowing, don’t be afraid to take your time.



# “Leave all daily cares behind you”

- Pauses can be your friend, they help you add emphasis by making your words sink in and help your overall delivery.
- Pauses can also be effective when making character changes.
- A deliberate pause can key the audience into an important part.
- If you have a brain flub or get lost in your delivery, don't be afraid to pause and collect your thoughts.



# “On this first step”

- Body language is a large part of our communication.
- Your body is always telling a story, so utilize that.
- Walk with purpose that is apparent to the audience.
- Every movement made in the ring should have meaning.
- A grounded body communicates confidence and power and helps the listener pay attention.



# “On this first step”

- Carry yourself with confidence, but avoid becoming a statue.
- Don't be afraid to move around the ring when speaking.
- Movement is another method to effect a character change.
- A principal might change position when transitioning into a different character within the same monologue.
- Think of Meteu's change into the Great and Mighty Chieftain or Nutiket's change into a generic scout.



# “On this first step”

- Be sure that you are moving with purpose and not simply wandering.
- Be sure to look at and pay attention to the other principals when they are speaking!
- If you’re not paying attention then why should the candidates?
- Avoid swaying or shifting around in place especially when other principals are speaking.



# “On this first step”

- Distractions take the energy away from what is said and causes loss of focus.
- Usually we are unaware of random movements.
- Use ceremony meetings where others can point those actions out to you.
- Perform in front of a mirror or make a video of yourself. Then, it just becomes a matter of being conscious of it for a while.
- If you work on it these issues, they will eventually disappear.





# “Lay the oak and pine together”

- Figuring out what to do with our hands is often one of the hardest things to do.
- Consider gestures an opportunity to make YOUR performance of the ceremony unique.
- Gestures convey the message through visual representation.
- The use of gestures is a personal decision by each ceremonialist.



# “Lay the oak and pine together”

- You can initially use gestures that others as a foundation to build upon as you develop and incorporate your own.
- Gestures should be big so that all the candidates can see them
- Do not stand with your arms crossed or used closed fists.
- It is okay to repeat gestures or try variations of the same movement.



# “Lay the oak and pine together”

- Make sure your gestures flow naturally and feel comfortable to you.
- Your gestures should aid in conveying meaning and understanding of the ceremony.
- If a gesture doesn't aid in understanding, it may be unnecessary.
- If your gestures feel forced, or appear uncomfortable, they probably look unnatural to the candidates too.



# “Thus do you appear to others”

- Don't just, “phone it in”. If you don't care why should the candidates?
- Anyone can just memorize the words and regurgitate them back.
- Utilize gestures, inflection, and changes in volume to emphasize meaning.



# “Thus do you appear to others”

- Facial expressions are also non-verbal cues that add meaning.
- Gestures and inflection should help the candidates gain understanding of the meaning of the ceremony.
- Gestures, inflection and movements during the ceremony should be natural, and compliment your portrayal, never detract from it.



# “Be you steadfast as the polestar”

- “The show must go on”, stage fright is natural.
- The most experience actor or ceremonialist can get nervous.
- Take a deep breath before you perform and be confident.
- If you forget a line it is never going to be as bad as you can imagine.
- We are often our own worst critics. Channel your nerves and fear into increased focus on your portrayal.



# “Be you steadfast as the polestar”

- If you dwell on a mistake you will inevitably make more mistakes.
- When a musician misses a note, they continue their performance so that the audience doesn't catch on.
- Remember that the candidates have never heard the ceremony before.
- Utilize the 5 P's: **Proper Preparation Prevents Poor Performance!**
- The only cure is to prepare before hand and use rehearsal time wisely.



# “The brighter greater beauty”

- Above all make sure you are having fun!
- Ceremonies should be enjoyed with your team.
- Strengthen your ties of brotherhood by spending time together outside the ring.
- Plan non-ceremonial events and just go out to have fun.
- Have a meeting where you focus only on meaning and symbolism.





# “The brighter greater beauty”

- Improve by telling the story without using the text.
- Break the ice at a meeting to by performing the ceremony as different characters. “Now Performing: Darth Allowat?”
- A silly, but helpful tool to calm nerves of new members, and get an experienced ceremonialist to open up to new ideas.
- Please don’t perform as a character in an actual ceremony!





# 5. Practical Application.



# Takeaway Challenge

Catch the Higher Vision



# “Listen to these admonitions”

- Anyone can judge a ceremony, don't be afraid to accept critique from a broad range of Arrowmen.
- Remember that the ceremony is for the candidates.
- Accept feedback for the gift it is, it never hurts to try something new.
- If a portion of your portrayal requires an in-depth explanation, it's probably lost on the candidates.
- Take this experience back to the Lodge and now that you have this “Higher Vision”, help your brothers understand.



# “Catch the higher vision”

- 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. For example, how in your role as a ceremonialist improve the candidate experience. Later today, feel free to share these key ideas with others in your chapter or lodge.



# Questions, Quandaries, queries, and/or dilemmas?

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns on this session, please reach out to:

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