

NOAC 2024

CU Boulder



The Vigil Honor Experience

Beyond the Triangle

Overview

- To learn about the choices which exist throughout the entire Vigil Honor process.
- To identify the responsibilities of the Vigil Honor committee.
- To identify the important people and places in the Vigil Honor induction process.
- To understand the differences between public announcement and private notification.
- To learn how to provide the best experience for the Vigil Honor candidate.



Focus

- Who is the most important individual in the Vigil process?
 - The candidate
- Who is the second most important individual in the Vigil process?
 - The guide
- What is the most important location in the Vigil process?
 - The Place of the Vigil
- When is the Vigil completed?
 - The Single Question





1. Candidate Selection



Selection Criteria

Order of the Arrow Handbook definition:

The Vigil Honor is a high mark of distinction and recognition **reserved** for those Arrowmen who, by reason of **exceptional service** , personal effort, and **unselfish interest** , have made **distinguished contributions** beyond the immediate responsibilities of their position or office to one or more of the following: their **lodge** , the **Order of the Arrow** , **Scouting** , or their **Scout camp** . Under no circumstances should tenure in Scouting or the Order of the Arrow be considered as reason enough for a Vigil Honor recommendation.



Candidate Selection - Discussion

- How rigorous should the Vigil Honor selection committee be when evaluating Vigil Honor candidates?
- There are four categories of service that can be recognized for Vigil Honor –Lodge, Order of the Arrow, Scouting, and Scout Camp. Should service in any of these four be weighted differently?
- Should youth and adult nominees be evaluated by the same standards?
- What does beyond really mean?



Perspectives

- Rigorous selection
 - Perspective 1 - if the Vigil Honor committee fails to maintain the standards of the Vigil Honor, then it lessens the value of the Honor for those who receive it.
 - Perspective 2 –if the Vigil Honor committee puts the Honor out of reach, then the committee may be perceived to be biased.
- Four categories
 - Perspective 1 –If Vigil Honor can be received for service to any of the four categories, then it would not be appropriate to rank them.
 - Perspective 2 –This is a recognition from the Order of the Arrow, and it can be confusing to both OA and non-OA members about why candidates were selected.



Perspectives

- Youth and adults
 - Perspective 1 –there is no differentiation between youth and adult service in the description, so they should be held to the same standards.
 - Perspective 2 –since the selection committee must select youth members in equal amounts to adult members it would not be fair to evaluate a youth member who may have at most 7-10 years of service to an adult.
- What does beyond mean?
 - Perspective 1 –if a lodge member performs less service than a lodge chief, they could be more worthy of Vigil.
 - Perspective 2 –it might be easy to miss all the work in the background that a lodge chief does; is it fair to judge their service based on the performance of the lodge?





2. Induction Logistics



Vigil Honor Induction Safety

- Youth Protection and Guide to Safe Scouting still apply
- How to handle fire bans
 - “Fire” alternatives that are allowed
 - What does the fire symbolize?
 - Thing of the Spirit
- Medical conditions
 - Principle 5 – Discretion
 - Thing of the Spirit
- Selecting the “Place of the Vigil”



Place of the Vigil

- Should be away from non - Vigil members
- Close enough for safety checks and Voices
- Ways to add meaning to the selection
 - The site already has meaning
 - The site is created to have meaning



Enhancing the Candidate Experience

- Candidate packs
 - Personal letters, gifts, ceremony texts, Brotherhood letters, ashes from the guide's fire
 - What does the guide think?
- Participants
 - Who is invited to attend –advisers, other key Vigil members from the candidate's journey
 - Incorporate into Voices
- Vigil Honor tokens and mementoes
 - <https://oa-bsa.org/resources/inductions/vigil-honor-ceremony-resources>



Break





3. Vigil Ceremony Portrayal



Review of Symbolism

- The pre-Vigil is the culmination of the Vigil Charge first heard from Meteu in the pre-Ordeal. Meteu describes Meteu's own Vigil.
- The Vigil Chief is a reflection of the Vigil candidate. Meteu's presence in the pre-Vigil ceremony mirrors the role of the guide.
- The Vigil Charge directs Vigil members to live by the admonition to its fullest extent – battling the evils that abound, particularly selfishness, greed, and hypocrisy.



Ceremonial Portrayal

- Memorization
 - Movements
 - Bearing
 - Gestures
 - Clarity
 - Expression
- Technical
- Physical
- Verbal



Memorization

- More important than other ceremonies
 - Dimmer lighting/ full nighttime ceremony
 - Personal ceremony
 - One-on-one ceremony
- Common mistakes
 - “ *will* bring to you a memory which *shall* abide with you...”
 - “but this time not so much to *try* your bodily endurance as to *test...*”
 - “Go then, with this your guide, out under the *sky..*” [it’s not “stars”!!]



Movements

- “Bring their pack...”
- Nothing else required
- Opportunities to enhance
 - Seated ceremony
 - Help the candidate stand up
 - Seated at the beginning and end to emphasize it's a Vigil
 - Pre-Vigil at the candidate's Place of the Vigil
 - Vigil Chief and candidate sitting next to each other rather than across from each other



Bearing

- Eye contact
 - How aggressive can you be in a one-on-one ceremony?
- Body language
 - Relaxed or formal?
- Facial expressions
 - When can the Vigil Chief smile
 - Joyous unselfish service
 - Haven in the circle
 - Adventure of greater importance



Gestures

- Any good examples to share?
- How about for:
 - The four tests
 - Selfishness, greed, hypocrisy
 - The Meteu transition
 - Worthy or unworthy
- How “big” should they be for a one-on-one ceremony?



Clarity

- Pacing
 - Unofficially aim for four minutes
 - Don't rush, the candidate should feel like they are the only person in the world
- Projection
 - Be careful not to be too quiet or too loud
 - Very difficult to master for a one-on-one ceremony



Expression

- Options for voice and tone
 - Imposing, resonant, deep
 - Calm, relaxed, caring
 - Quiet, happy, ethereal
- What's the correct balance?



Let's Practice



Summary

- There are a number of choices in the Vigil Honor induction
- Lodges should carefully select which choices provide the best experience for the Vigil candidate
- There are also ways to portray the ceremony to emphasize the symbolic connections



Thank you

