



## 2024 National Order of the Arrow Conference

### **Session:** Brotherhood: The Legend Continues

**Lead Trainer Name:** [Name]

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**Session Length:** 170 minutes

## Session Description

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A deeper exploration into the Brotherhood process up to and including the ceremony, ceremonial symbolism, and the legend within the legend. Brotherhood and Vigil Honor members only.

## Learning Outcomes

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**Outcome 1:** Understand the different ways to structure the Brotherhood weekend

**Outcome 2:** Understand the importance and meaning of the Brotherhood hike.

**Outcome 3:** Explain the connections between the Ordeal Legend and the Brotherhood ceremony's Tale of Uncas.

**Outcome 4:** Demonstrate how the Brotherhood ceremony continues the symbolic progression begun in the Ordeal experience.

**Outcome 5:** Analyze how the Ordeal and Brotherhood ceremonies relate to each other through effect of the text on members.

## Theme Connection: Seek New Heights

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- It will allow lodge members to seek new heights by evaluating the best way for their lodge to conduct Brotherhood inductions.

- Provide members a richer meaning of the Brotherhood ceremony and the events leading up to the ceremony.

## Facility and Material Needs

### Facility Needs

*Is this session remote delegate-compatible?* No  
(ie. can the material be engagingly taught via live stream)

*Does this session need audio/video (AV) capabilities?* Yes  
(ie. projector)

*Are there any other specific facility needs for this session?* N/A  
(ie. movable chairs, panel-style seating, etc.)

### Material Needs

Material	Quantity	Source
Copies of the Ordeal Ceremony Text Most Recent Printing	2-3	<a href="https://oa-bsa.org/uploads/inductions/ceremony-texts/OrdCerem-202312.pdf">https://oa-bsa.org/uploads/inductions/ceremony-texts/OrdCerem-202312.pdf</a>
Copies of the Brotherhood Ceremony Text Most Recent Printing	2-3	<a href="https://oa-bsa.org/uploads/inductions/ceremony-texts/BroCerem-202312.pdf">https://oa-bsa.org/uploads/inductions/ceremony-texts/BroCerem-202312.pdf</a>

# Lesson Plan

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## Introduction

5 minutes

*Slides 1-3*

- Introduce yourself and the learning objectives.

## Topic 1 – Structuring the Weekend

15 minutes

*Slides 4-7*

The structure of the Brotherhood induction weekend can take many forms. The Brotherhood weekend can be done in conjunction with other lodge events such as Ordeal induction or as a separate, standalone event. Outlined are several ways which lodges can structure the Brotherhood induction event. Your lodge's leadership will have to look at which type of event will work better for your lodge and its membership.

### I. Full Weekend

#### a. Friday

- i. pre-Ordeal Ceremony – Refreshing our memories
- ii. Fellowship

#### b. Saturday

- i. Brotherhood Service Projects
- ii. Brotherhood Training Session – Proving your understanding
- iii. Brotherhood Hike – Time to reflect on the Order and its meaning
- iv. Brotherhood Ceremony
- v. Ordeal Ceremony
- vi. Fellowship

#### c. Sunday

- i. Brotherhood Ceremony Recap

### 2. One Day Event

#### a. Saturday

- i. Brotherhood Service Projects
- ii. Brotherhood Training Session – Proving your understanding
- iii. Brotherhood Hike – Time to reflect on the OA and its meaning
- iv. Brotherhood Ceremony

v. Fellowship

**Topic 2 – Brotherhood Service Projects**

**5 minutes**

*Slides 8-10*

- These projects provide service to camps to allow for the Scouting program to continue its purpose with the equipment and camps in the best condition possible.
- This also allows for the Arrowman to continue proving you our living by the obligation of the Order of the Arrow.
- The bond with fellow brothers making new friends and strengthen old friendships that make the brother feel more willing to continue to participate in the Order of the Arrow.

**Topic 3 – Brotherhood Training Sessions**

**15 minutes**

*Slides 11-12*

- Gives an opportunity for the lodge officer (especially the Lodge Secretary) to meet with the brothers to discuss the order with the soon to be Brotherhood members.
- Provides a formalized way for brothers to prove their knowledge required to obtain Brotherhood membership.
- Gives the brothers an overview of the events that will occur leading up to the ceremony.

**Topic 4– Nimat and the Brotherhood Hike**

**20 minutes**

*Slides 13-16*

- Involvement of Nimats should be encouraged to show that his or her commitment to the brothers is unending. This Hike also gives the Arrowman an opportunity to reflect on their time in the OA. It also allows for the lodge to set up the ceremony without distraction and gives the brothers a reminder of their ordeal ceremony. As Meteu says “Hours spent in thoughtful silence are worth days and day of talking.”
- During the Brotherhood hike three stops are required. At each stop, the Nimat should allow the candidates to talk about what came to mind as they were walking and why. The Nimat may choose to share water or simple food (fruit, nuts) at any time. After the discussion at the first stop, the Nimat should lead candidates, as a group, in saying the Obligation, and should ask them to recite the three principles of the Order (Brotherhood, Cheerfulness and Service) at the second stop.
- Prior to leaving the first two stops, the Nimat should give the next reflection topic and begin to hike again in silence to the next stop. Toward the end of the third stop, the Nimat should encourage the candidates to pay attention to the words and actions of the upcoming ceremony.
- After the discussion at the third stop, the Nimat sets the candidates about ten yards apart and allows them to reflect for the remainder of the time until the ceremony. The location for placing the candidates should be such that ceremonial preparations can neither be seen nor heard. When he leaves each candidate, 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.

## **Topic 5 – The Legend**

*Slides 17-19*

**15 minutes**

- Review the Legend in the Ordeal Ceremony.
- Peaceful Tribe.
- Conflict with neighboring tribes and distant enemies.
- Chief Chingachgook asking his people to give warning to the other tribes.

- Only Uncas, the chief's son, volunteered to go on this noble journey.
- At each stop some were found some who were willing to give themselves in cheerful service.
- People ask to commemorate it.
- Chingachgook bound these cheerful servants in a brotherhood known as WWW.
- We perpetuate today.

**Topic 6 – The Legend Continues - The Tale of Uncas**

**20 minutes**

*Slides 20-21*

- Uncas collects firewood on a dark and rainy night
- He sees a failing fire upon a nearby mountain 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 that they could both stay warm
- Mehukwa shot his arrow off into the darkness and offered 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

**Topic 7 – Challenges of the Ordeal and Seals of Brotherhood**

**20 minutes**

*Slides 22-24*

- 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
- Brotherhood Seals (Foreshadowed by Allowat Sakima in the 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 united with all of your brothers in the OA
- The Burden
- Take on the burden of being an example in selfless service to others

### **Topic 8 – The Brotherhood Ceremony**

**40 minutes**

*Slides 25-27*

- The ceremony provides further context for the OA legend – “each place they went there were some found to give themselves in cheerful service.”
- The Ordeal membership is where you are chosen to be a member of the Order of the Arrow, but Brotherhood membership is where you choose to be a member of the Order of the Arrow.
- Each challenge shows your willingness to give yourself to the principle of the Order of the Arrow.
- By adding to the fire you show you will cheerfully serve even at cost to yourself.
- Bearing the burden proves that you will help your fellow brothers at all times even when help is not asked for.
- The “Blood Seal” show that you are willing to bind yourself equally to each and every Arrowman in the OA.
- As time allows, facilitate additional discussion on how to conduct the Brotherhood ceremony, with particular emphasis on the mechanics of the seals.

### **Topic 9 – Divesting**

**10 minutes**

*Slides 28-29*

- 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 was there already glowing!

### Conclusion & Takeaway Challenge

5 minutes

*Slides 30-31*

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.

## Appendix: Resources and Source Material

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[Please add all referenced sources or handouts that would be useful to share with session attendees.]

Resource	Link
Order of the Arrow, Mission & Purpose	<a href="https://oa-bsa.org/about/mission-purpose">https://oa-bsa.org/about/mission-purpose</a>
Ceremony for the Ordeal	<a href="https://oa-bsa.org/uploads/inductions/ceremony-texts/OrdCerem-202312.pdf">https://oa-bsa.org/uploads/inductions/ceremony-texts/OrdCerem-202312.pdf</a>
Ceremony for the Brotherhood	<a href="https://oa-bsa.org/uploads/inductions/ceremony-texts/BroCerem-202312.pdf">https://oa-bsa.org/uploads/inductions/ceremony-texts/BroCerem-202312.pdf</a>
Conducting the Brotherhood Ceremony	<a href="https://oa-bsa.org/uploads/inductions/Conducting-the-Brotherhood-Ceremony.pdf">https://oa-bsa.org/uploads/inductions/Conducting-the-Brotherhood-Ceremony.pdf</a>
Inductions Handbook	<a href="https://oa-bsa.org/uploads/publications/ih/IH-B-202312.pdf">https://oa-bsa.org/uploads/publications/ih/IH-B-202312.pdf</a>