



2024 National Order of the Arrow Conference

Session: Seek the Vision - Nutiket

Trainer Name: [Name]

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Session Length: 2 hours and 45 minutes

Session Description

Seek the Vision at the 2024 National Order of the Arrow Conference is designed to assist ceremonialists and those who aspire to be ceremonialists, with provide you with some techniques and ideas which will help each of you develop your own interpretation of the principal. While this session will cover some of the specific traits personified by Nutiket, much of the general information is applicable to any principal a ceremonialist personifies. It is not designed to teach you the one quintessential way of portraying a principal, since that does not exist. Once a ceremonialist reaches that level of truly embodying the principal, they will be delivering a powerful portrayal that inspires candidates and furthers the aims and purpose of the OA.

Learning Outcomes

Outcome 1: Through this session, you will:

Explain specific techniques that participants can use when preparing to become a principal, including finding the objectives and actions and placing the focus on the candidates they are speaking to.

Demonstrate by exposing the participants a process of rehearsal that can be used when preparing to conduct the ceremonies in order to create a powerful experience that they have connected to themselves.

Guide by encouraging them to dig deeper into the text to understand the meaning of the message they must effectively communicate to the candidates, and conduct an in-depth analysis of each the principal, and their motivation.

Enable participants to tap into their own creativity. Provide participants with hands-on feedback on their portrayal by working with them directly.

Outcome 2:

Ceremonialists have a unique and distinct honor of providing the first exposure of the Order of the Arrow's customs and traditions to the candidates during the pre-Ordeal ceremony and help to influence their destiny as Arrowmen. Encourage participants to listen with an open mind as they may learn perspectives that they have not encountered before.

Outcome 3:

The course is divided into two portions. During the narrative portion the session will cover some important concepts and hopefully get participants thinking about ceremonies in a different way. Encourage participants to take notes and ask questions. take notes and ask questions. However, as this is designed as a workshop, try and move quickly through this first portion so you can get to the more “hands-on” part of the course. The workshop portion is where participants will learn how to put the theories and ideas from the narrative portion into practice. Participants will have the opportunity to come up and work on a portion of the pre-Ordeal Ceremony. Invite some feedback, but it won't be an instruction, but rather suggestions on how they can improve their ceremonies. Encourage participation in the workshop even if they have never stepped foot in the ring in front of candidates.

Theme Connection: Seek New Heights

The theme of the 2024 NOAC is Seek New Heights, emphasizing the drive for excellence that characterizes the OA and our daily lives. As the title of this session suggests, your goal is to seek the

Facility and Material Needs

higher vision in your portrayal of a principal and therefore improve the overall candidate experience. You will need your presentation on a laptop or electronic device to display the PPT slide deck. Connectivity will likely be HDMI, and trainers should be prepared with any adapters they might need.

Session Preparation Steps

Seek the Vision is the result of the accumulation of over 30 years of ceremonies training and evaluations experience. Much of the information within has been presented before in various iterations. It has been reformatted as a workshop and expanded for the 2024 NOAC. The course is designed to provide a balance of lecture by the trainer and practical experience, in order for participants to give and receive direct feedback on various performance styles. It is recommended that the trainer should balance their engagement of the slide deck with the practical portion and to encourage active participation in the workshop.

As the course includes both a lecture and practical portion, as the instructor, you need to present the information in a way that covers the content, but allows the participants to take an active role in the discussion. Be mindful that it is the instructor's job to guide and set limits on the conversation. Trainers are encouraged to invite questions or comments, but take a few and then move on. It is important to

leave enough time to get through all of the material in the allotted time. If allowed, some participants could spend the entire session trading “war stories”. The overall goal is to encourage and challenge Arrowmen to improve themselves and the performance of the ceremonies in their lodge.

The general information is structured the same for each principal and then incorporates a character specific module for each different session. As the bedrock ceremony for development of the principals, the pre-Ordeal monologues are best suited to incorporate into the discussion and practical performance portion. However, it may be appropriate to utilize the Ordeal ceremony especially for Nutiket and the telling of the legend. Participants should also be encouraged to utilize the skills learned during the session in their future performance of any of the ceremonies.

Before teaching the session, become familiar with the narrative. Instructors are encouraged to put the ideas into your own words and add in your thoughts that go along with the concept being explained. In order to better connect with the audience, introduce yourself and your ceremonies resume so that the participants become active listeners early in the presentation. In addition, by weaving in a few appropriate personal anecdotes, the trainer can connect with their audience rather than just reading the narrative verbatim.

Trainers should keep the discussion moving along in order to prevent the lecture portion from getting too long, but be sure not to rush either. There is a lot of information included and should not be overlooked. One caveat to remember is that there will be participants at different levels of ceremonies experience in the session. Instructors need to make the session informative and interesting for the entire audience.

The narrative has been separated into sections headed by a ceremonial quote that can be related to the main idea. Some of the concepts presented contain more information and as such, cover multiple slides. Instructors will want to move the discussion through the bullet points of those slides so that the participants can take notes if they wish. It is also recommended to try to complete the discussion of each heading’s focus area before moving onto the next section in order keep the narrative flowing.

Appendix Resources:

- Required materials: PowerPoint presentation file
- Ceremony for the Ordeal, 2022 printing
 - An official Order of the Arrow publication

Lesson Plan

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Advance PPT Slide | “SEEK THE VISION” |
|-------------------|-------------------|

Introduction

5 minutes

Advance PPT Slide

Meet Your Trainer

Briefly introduce yourself, including your lodge, home town, and explain your qualifications as a trainer. Avoid going into a long resume. Keep it short and sweet, the session should be focused on your guests.

Advance PPT Slide

Learning Objectives

Welcome to Seek the Vision at the 2024 National Order of the Arrow Conference. While this session is designed to cover some of the specific traits personified by Nutiket, much of the general information is applicable to any principal a ceremonialist personifies. It is not designed to teach you the one quintessential way of becoming Nutiket, since that does not exist. As an instructor, it is my goal to provide you with some techniques and ideas which will help each of you develop your own interpretation of the principal. Once you reach that level of truly embodying the principal, you will be delivering a powerful portrayal that inspires candidates and furthers the aims and purpose of the OA. Without the induction process, and specifically the ceremonies we conduct, there would be no future Arrowmen. Moreover, there would be no future for the OA. This is why what you do in the ring is so vital and why ceremonies are so important. This course will give you some tools to help unlock your own creativity and send you on your way to finding Your Nutiket. Please listen with an open mind. You may hear things in my presentation that are new, foreign to you or that you simply don't agree with. There will also be opportunities for you to contribute to the discussion throughout the presentation. In either case, I encourage you to listen and take time to evaluate later. Remember that by listening we can make the right decisions and we can learn something new every day.

Advance PPT Slide

Learning Objectives

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 in a different way. I encourage you to take notes and ask questions. However, we will try and move quickly through this first portion so we can get to the more “hands-on” part of the course. The second portion is where we learn how to put the theories and ideas from the first portion into practice. Many of you will get an opportunity to come up and work on a portion of Nutiket's part in the pre-Ordeal Ceremony. We will invite some feedback, but it won't be an instruction, but rather suggestions on how you can improve your ceremonies. Even if you have never stepped foot in the ring in front of candidates, I invite you to consider participating in that

portion of the session. By doing so you'll hopefully be better prepared for when you do take your place in the circle.

Section One

15 minutes

Advance PPT Slide

Why Ceremonies?

Advance PPT Slide

“The ones who chose you need you”

Serving as a principal is not only service to the lodge, but an integral part of the induction process. Ceremonialists are leaders of the lodge, just like any member of the lodge executive committee. We are here to help you on as far as one can guide another, and it does not stop when you step outside the circle. Without a good ceremonies program, we cannot induct new members or retain active membership in the OA.

Advance PPT Slide

“The ones who chose you need you”

If you are simply memorizing the lines and delivering them the same way every time, you are simply doing the bare minimum. By becoming a ceremonialist, you have accepted the responsibility of developing your portrayal through an ongoing process. By trying to improve and get the message across in a clearer, more inspiring way we improve the overall experience for the candidates. This is done through preparation and repetition. The ceremony was purposefully written with few directions, only telling you where to stand at what time. The rest is left up to the individual ceremonialist and the ceremonies team to develop their own version. It is open to some interpretation, so outside of the directions given in the text, there is not one right or wrong way to portray a ceremony.

Advance PPT Slide

“Our purpose and intent”

Consider the purpose of the Ordeal ceremonies. Through the ceremonies process, we not only bring new members into the OA, but we also disseminate the message of Brotherhood, Cheerfulness, Service and reinforce the points of the Scout Oath and Law. The qualities in the character of the candidates lead them to the circle where they should be inspired to explore as they participate in ceremonies. The deeper purpose is to build better leaders through service to others in their unit and the community.

Advance PPT Slide

“By inspiration lead them”

The four principals represent the first exposure of the Order of the Arrow to new members. Therefore, as leaders of the lodge, ceremonialists must make a positive impression on the candidates to assist them

in their own journey of becoming better leaders. Ceremonialists not only introduce the ideals of the OA, but are integral in retaining new brothers by guiding them until they complete their induction by attaining Brotherhood membership.

Advance PPT Slide

“By inspiration lead them”

When you drill down on their purpose, you understand that the four principals serve as teachers, presenting a new outlook on life. As ceremonialists, it is important for you to convey this deeper meaning and understanding to the candidates. The Ordeal is a journey rich with meaning, but without the ceremonies the candidates can never discover that deeper meaning. Allowat Sakima, Nutiket, Nutiket, and Kichkinet, are there to explain and reinforce our core ideals to the candidates and by doing so, give them the keys to unlock its mysteries.

Advance PPT Slide

“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. Think about teachers you have had in school. The best teachers were the ones that were passionate about what they were teaching and believed in the importance of the knowledge they were sharing with you. You cannot inspire others on their journey 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 for the principal you personify.

Advance PPT Slide

“These high places are within you”

As a ceremonialist you must make ceremonies a meaningful part of the Ordeal. First comes an understanding of the message. We then must relate that understanding to the experience to create the wisdom of the ceremony. To make ceremonies meaningful, the ceremonialists must have both understanding, and experience. Experience without understanding is meaningless, and understanding that is never used is pointless.

Section Two

15 Minutes

Advance PPT Slide

Taking the first step

Advance PPT Slide

“Brothers we are ready”

First things first, you must become the principal. Your goal should be to ultimately erase any separation between yourself and the principal in order to personify that principal. You must be disciplined and put effort into the role. Stop thinking as yourself and start thinking as the principal. That is how you erase

the separation. That is how you become them. This will make the difference between someone who does ceremonies and a great ceremonialist.

Advance PPT Slide

“Brothers we are ready”

Before you read any word of dialogue in the Ceremony for the Ordeal text, you will see instructions for the investing process. Investing serves a purpose and is done for the benefit of the ceremonialists. The process assists the team in making the transition from themselves into the principal they will become. Investiture is essential for achieving the goal of inducting the candidates. Once you have embodied the principal you can teach the candidates about the Order through the spirit of the character.

Advance PPT Slide

“Brothers we are ready”

Utilize the investing process to clear your mind and make their purpose your purpose, their thoughts your thoughts. To gain understanding, we must listen carefully to what each principal is saying. To do this, take a moment and put yourself in the principal's mind. Ask yourself, 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?

Advance PPT Slide

“Brothers we are ready”

For most ceremonialists, the process of becoming a principal can be very difficult. Ceremonialists must discovery ways to assist in their portrayal. One of the most important things a ceremonialist must do before they can become the principal is to learn more about what motivates them. With each of the four principals there is no disconnect between their thoughts, words, and actions. This makes your job as a ceremonialist easier. To portray them, consider what they say and do. By breaking down each principal's part, you gain insight into your portrayal.

Section Three

20 Minutes

Advance PPT Slide

Breakout Activity

Breakout Activity

Materials Needed: Paper for the group to write down ideas during discussion.

Length of Activity: 5 Minutes.

Activity Description: Participants should discuss the principal, using the slide questions as a starting point. The training should assist in breaking them into groups of 4-8 depending on class size. The trainer should ask each group for at least one response for each question before moving onto the next slide.

Advance PPT Slide

Breakout Questions

What is Nutiket purpose? What does Nutiket represent? What is Nutiket challenge? What token do they present?

Advance PPT Slide

“I Nutiket”

What is Nutiket’s purpose? Nutiket is the guardian of the circle. What does Nutiket represent? They represent Cheerfulness. What is Nutiket’s Challenge? Nutiket challenges us with self-denial and instructs us to eat scant food and be resilient during our Ordeal. What token do they present? Nutiket carries the bow-wood and tells us, “that a cheerful heart is lively as this bow-wood under hardship.” They then flex the bow to show its resilience, and as a symbol of the cheerfulness that should glow deep within the hearts of the candidates.

Advance PPT Slide

“I Nutiket”

As with the other principals, Nutiket exhibits character while speaking. Acting as the guard of the circle seems to be in contrast with the embodiment of cheerfulness. If you are to portray Nutiket you need to find balance in these ideals in the character. There should also be a clear transition when they become the “Scout” within the monologue. Nutiket serves as a motivator who urges the candidates to accept the challenges they will face in their Ordeal.

Advance PPT Slide

“I Nutiket”

Nutiket begins by referencing the candidate’s election. Nutiket then explains that the Scout Oath, Law, and Motto, have served as guidelines for the candidate to follow. Explains that it was because of their acceptance of these principles that their peers elected them to the OA.

The inner journey is explicitly mentioned by Nutiket, “You were sent to seek a vision of yourselves.”

Advance PPT Slide

“I Nutiket”

The 15 blazes, referenced by Nutiket are not as physical flames, but are representations of the Scout Oath, and law which have served as guidelines. They also make up the inner self of the candidate which we encourage them to use in their journey. These values are represented in outward character traits of the candidate and are embodied by the principals. They also make up the inner self of the candidate which we encourage them to use in their journey. Allowat Sakima will later urge the candidates to, “hold fast to Scouting pledges” to reinforce these concepts. The challenges are presented are intended to assist the candidates in their quest, not to prevent them from successful completion.

Advance PPT Slide

“I Nutiket”

Why is it an unlit fire lay? Nutiket say, “Seek the fire at the center”? They referring to the fire of cheerfulness to be kindled in the hearts of the candidates. The candidates have already exhibited a spark by the qualities which got them elected to the Order. This is the spark used to light the fire of cheerfulness. “Kindle all that is within you”. Why Lay oak and pine together? They are a hardwood and softwood. These are two types of wood that come together to build upon the fire of cheerfulness. Remember that the bow-wood is representative of the candidates.

Section Four

45 Minutes

Advance PPT Slide

4. Tips & Tricks

Advance PPT Slide

“You must be prepared completely”

The most important time for you individually as a ceremonialist and with your team is not the actual Ordeal. Instead, it is the time in between when you are discovering new ways to connect with the principal. During this preparation time, give yourself the freedom to explore and play with the ceremony.

Advance PPT Slide

“You must be prepared completely”

Ceremony meetings and individual preparation are times where you can experiment with new gestures and inflection. Use it as an opportunity to get the opinions and suggestions of your teammates. By working together to dig deeper into the ceremony, your team will bond and the overall performance will improve. It doesn't matter how good you are, there is always room for improvement. An athlete or musician must practice to get better at their craft, so too must you spend time practicing the performance of the ceremony.

Advance PPT Slide

“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 depending on what your chairman, advisor or coach tells you to prepare for. 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!

Advance PPT Slide

“Master every challenge faithfully”

You will perform the ceremony how you first memorized it. Do not break up thoughts - “Hi...how...Are you...Doing?” If you deliver the lines this way, candidates may understand what was said, but meaning may be lost on them. A ceremonialist performs this way because they memorized the lines as they were written out in the ceremonies text.

Advance PPT Slide

“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. A very useful exercise is to write the ceremony out in prose and then write it out in your own words. This will force you to be clear on what the principal is saying. Recite the lines in formal sentences that have a natural flow to them. Part of connecting with the candidates is speaking in a natural rhythm.

Advance PPT Slide

“Awake my friends”

Know your audience. Once you’ve put in the work of truly understanding what you are saying, the next step is to make it easy for the candidates to understand it. That is where it is important that you connect with them. How can we effectively connect with the candidates? First, it is important to 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. Don’t just focus on a couple of candidates; try to connect with as many as possible by looking them over.

Advance PPT Slide

“Awake my friends”

Put yourself in their shoes. We were all once candidates ourselves, so remember there is a lot going on in the lead up and during the pre-Ordeal. If you are truly sincere in your performance, the candidates will see that in your eyes. It goes beyond just eye contact and must really be a spiritual connection with them. This type of strong connection with the listeners is not always easy, but once mastered will benefit you in your own experiences and personal interactions throughout your life.

Advance PPT Slide

“Whispers urgings promptings”

Another important technique you must develop as a ceremonialist is finding your voice. You must project your voice. You must develop a strong voice, but don't yell at the candidates! The message you are trying to convey will not get across if the candidates can't hear what you are saying. Great singers use their diaphragm to project their voice, so do great public speakers.

Advance PPT Slide

"Whispers urgings promptings"

Be sure to enunciate all the vowels in a word and avoid swallowing words. To facilitate this, open your mouth wide and be careful not to block your face with your gestures. Just as with eye contact, you must project your voice to all the candidates as a group and be sure that you are projecting your voice in all directions, so that the furthest candidate away can hear you.

Advance PPT Slide

"Whispers urgings promptings"

A good exercise is to imagine that you are throwing a ball to your friend, project your voice and say, "Catch the ball." Finding your own voice has a second meaning that refers to your delivery of the ceremony. Make your performance YOUR own interpretation of the principal, not an impersonation of someone else's.

Advance PPT Slide

"Leave all daily cares behind you"

There's no clock on this thing. You should enjoy and appreciate the ceremony when performing, don't rush! It is rare that someone will be critiqued on delivering lines too slowly. As long as your delivery is flowing, don't be afraid to take your time. Pauses can be your friend, they help you add emphasis by making your words sink in and help your overall delivery of the ceremony.

Advance PPT Slide

"Leave all daily cares behind you"

Pauses can also be effective when making character changes. A deliberate pause can key the audience into an important part of your portrayal. If you have a brain flub or get lost in your delivery, don't be afraid to pause and collect your thoughts.

Advance PPT Slide

"On the first step"

Body language is a large part of our communication with the candidates. Your body is always telling a story, so utilize that in your portrayal. You should 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.

Advance PPT Slide

“On the first step”

However, while you carry yourself with confidence, avoid becoming a statue. Don't be afraid to move around the ring in your portrayal of the principal. 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 Nutiket's change into the Great and Mighty Chieftain or Nutiket's change into a generic scout.

Advance PPT Slide

“On the first step”

Move with a meaning and purpose that will be apparent to the candidate. If you choose to move around during the ceremony, make 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? In addition, often our bodies will begin to shift or sway while we are speaking. Try to avoid swaying or shifting around in place especially when other principals are speaking.

Advance PPT Slide

“On the first step”

This distracts our audience and takes the energy away from what we are saying and makes it lose its focus. Most of the time we aren't even aware that we are doing it. During ceremony meetings, your teammates and advisers can point those actions out to you. Another technique is to 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 these issues, they will eventually disappear.

Advance PPT Slide

“Lay the oak and pine together”

“I don't know what to do with my hands”, is a common lamentation, especially by new ceremonialists. Figuring out what to do with our hands is often one of the hardest things to do. Consider gestures as an opportunity to make Your portrayal of the ceremony unique. Gestures help us convey the message through visual representation. The use of gestures should be personal to each ceremonialist. Therefore, the actual gesture you use and the amount you use them is a very personal decision.

Advance PPT Slide

“Lay the oak and pine together”

You can initially use gestures that others have used 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 and you want to avoid boxing yourself in. Do not stand with your arms crossed or use closed fists. It is okay to repeat gestures or try variations of the same movement such as when pointing to your sash for example using a one-handed vs. a two-handed movement.

Advance PPT Slide

“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, rather than just waving your hands. 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.

Advance PPT Slide

“Thus do you appear to others”

Don't just, “phone it in”. If your heart is not in the portrayal of a principal, the candidates have no reason to be invested in the ceremony either. Obviously, you can't effectively portray a principal in the ceremony if you don't know the lines, but anyone can just memorize the words and regurgitate them back. Utilize gestures, inflection, and changes in volume to emphasize meaning.

Advance PPT Slide

“Thus do you appear to others”

Remember that 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. Your gestures, inflection and movements during the ceremony should be natural, and compliment your portrayal, never detract from it.

Advance PPT Slide

“Be you steadfast as the polestar”

“The show must go on”. Stage fright is natural, so reassure yourself that you prepared, and practiced as much as you could in rehearsal. Even the most experienced actor or ceremonialist can get nervous before a performance. 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.

Advance PPT Slide

“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. You should utilize the 5 P's: Proper Preparation Prevents Poor Performance! The only cure is to prepare beforehand and use your practice time wisely.

Advance PPT Slide

“The brighter greater beauty”

Above all make sure you are having fun! Ceremonies should be something you enjoy with your fellow brothers on your team. Think about strengthening your ties of brotherhood by spending time together outside the ring. As a team, you can plan non-ceremonial events and just go out to have fun. This will help you bond and will develop how you function as a team. Perhaps you can have a meeting where you focus more on meaning and symbolism rather than individual portrayal.

Advance PPT Slide

“The brighter greater beauty”

You can also do fun exercises such as trying an improvisational version of the ceremony while still delivering the same message. In other words, try telling the story without using the text. You can also try breaking the ice at meetings to ease the nerves of aspiring ceremonialists by performing the ceremony as different characters just for fun. “Now Performing: Darth Nutiket?” While it may seem like a silly exercise, it can be a helpful tool even for an experienced ceremonialist to break out of a habitual way of their portrayal in the ceremony, and open us to new ideas. Just please don’t perform as a character in an actual ceremony!

Section Five – Practical Application

60 Minutes

Advance PPT Slide

Practical Application

Trainer Action

At this point the trainer needs to ask for volunteers to demonstrate their portrayal of the principal. Have a copy or two of the ceremonial text and encourage those that ~~may~~ never have done it before to try it out. This is a learning exercise not a formal evaluation. Keep it limited to a paragraph or small portion they want to work on from the pre-Cedeal ceremony. In the Meteo session, it is okay if they want to use a portion of the legend. After the volunteer is finished, take a moment to provide and elicit feedback from the group. Keep it positive, brief and moving forwards onto the next volunteer.

Conclusion & Takeaway Challenge

5 Minutes

At the end of this portion, make sure to thank all of the Arrowmen who participated and give a final word of encouragement to all attendants to continue to dig deeper and find new ways to connect to the candidates.

Advance PPT Slide

“Listen to these admonitions”

During ceremony team meetings, you will get feedback from teammates and advisers. In competitions and evaluations, you will get feedback from evaluators. However, anyone can judge a ceremony so don't be afraid to accept critique from a broad range of Arrowmen. Remember who your key audience is during the ceremony. You must remember that the ceremony is for the candidates who have not seen or read the ceremony. Often, a neutral evaluator will observe something in a portrayal that an advisor, coach or fellow team member missed. Always keep an open mind and be open to feedback. Accept feedback for the gift it is. If you disagree with the criticism you may disregard it, but it never hurts to try something new. Before you get defensive, consider if you have a rational basis for an aspect of your portrayal. If so, then it may be very effective. However, if a portion of your portrayal requires an in-depth explanation, it's probably lost on the candidates. Be ever mindful that there is no one perfect way to portray a principal in a ceremony. The words, “But we've always done it that way.” Should be eliminated from your vocabulary. Try to avoid getting locked into one track of belief and understanding. Critique focuses on areas where you can improve. Criticism should be constructive and a good ceremonialist should be able to accept criticism and want to improve. In giving and receiving criticism be mindful of the admonition. These tools, like the ceremonies themselves, are not merely limited to helping the individual gain a better understanding of the Ordeal. Take this experience back to the Lodge and now that you have this “Higher Vision”, help your brothers understand.

Advance PPT Slide

“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.

Appendix: Resources and Source Material

| Resource | Link |
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|---------------------------------------|---|
| Order of the Arrow, Mission & Purpose | Available online at: https://oa-bsa.org/about/mission-purpose |
| Ceremony for the Ordeal | Available online at: https://oa-bsa.org/resources/inductions/ceremony-texts |
| Inductions Handbook | Available online at: https://oa-bsa.org/resources/inductions/inductions-handbook |
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