

The arrowman called by Allowat Sakima begins speaking when Allowat has cleared the line of scouts still surrounding the ceremonies ring.

Arrowman: We have gathered here tonight in commemoration of great achievements, and to honor those who you have chosen to become members of the Order. The Order is a Brotherhood of Cheerful service. It is made up of members from all the troops in our District, and they are all honor campers, chosen by their fellows. I will try and quickly explain three things. First: the way that these members were chosen; second: what happened here tonight, and; third: how you can become a member of the Order of the Arrow. A few months ago or this weekend an Order of the Arrow member or team of members came to your troop and explained the Order of the Arrow. They also at that time conducted an election. That means that you the NON members chose the members.

What happened here tonight was a PUBLIC RECOGNITION; a way for the Order to show you who has been chosen. This was NOT an induction. All who were chosen must now complete the Ordeal for them to actually become members of the Order. However, you must know that it is not an easy task, and there are those who will not pass the many challenges posed to them.

Many of you are now thinking, "How can I become a member?" The answer is simple, and you probably already know. What did those who you chose do to deserve it? You must do those things. Live by the Scout Oath and Law at all times. You must be an honor camper and help others. You must strive to always do what you know is right in your heart no matter what the world may demand. I will tell you it is not an easy journey. You will feel like it will not end, and even your friends will tempt you at times. You must always remember that election to the Order does not mean that your troop no longer needs you. In fact, it just the opposite. You should be more active in your Troop after you are elected and continue towards Order membership. Now, as you prepare to depart this place, think back upon your scouting career. Reflect upon your friends, and your skills. I bid you know return to your campsites, and walk in silence reverent. Go now my friends, and I hope one day to see in front of the Chieftain being recognized. Good night, Scouts.

Script

All lines should be memorized. For larger blocks of text, remembering the general outline of what needs to be expressed to the scouts observing should be sufficient, if adequate time is taken to prepare. Recommended blocking directions are in *italics*.

Allowat Sakima stands in front of the fire. All candles and the campfire are lit. Kitchkinet gathers the scouts from a parade field or other campfire and walks them silently to the ceremonies ring. He circles the ring until all attending can clearly see the Chief. Then, Kitchkinet walks to and stands in front of Allowat Sakima.

Kitchkinet greets Allowat Sakima with one tap, a pause, and then two short taps to the right shoulder. Allowat replies with three taps.

Allowat Sakima: Kitchkinet, who are these Scouts you have brought to our council ring?
 Kitchkinet: My Chief, these are the Scouts of the Chain Bridge District. Some of them have been chosen by their peers as worthy of joining our Order.
 Allowat Sakima: Have they lived by the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives? *The Chief visually appraises the scouts. Kitchkinet does the same while answering the following questions.*
 Kitchkinet: They have.
 Allowat Sakima: Have they been active in their troops, and excelled in their knowledge of camping and nature?
 Kitchkinet: They have.
 Allowat Sakima: Very well. Let us find those who have been chosen by their fellow Scouts.

Kitchkinet takes his place behind Allowat Sakima. They walk around the inside of the circle looking over all the Scouts and Scouters present. When a Scout or Scouter is encountered who has been elected, the Chief faces him, looks him over, and then produces a tap, a pause and two short taps. However, the Scout does not reply. The Scout then takes his place in the line led by Allowat. All the remaining elected scouts are found, tapped, and take their places at the end of the line. (All guided by Kitchkinet) When finished, Allowat Sakima returns to the inside of the ceremonies ring. Kitchkinet keeps the elected scouts in their line outside of the ring.

Allowat Sakima: The Scouts standing before you here represent the most qualified, active, and cheerful scouts in our District. This is only the beginning of their journey towards Order membership, however. They may now attend our Chapter's Ordeal Weekend, where they will further learn the purpose and intent of the Order of the Arrow. Follow their lead; as you have chosen them as your finest examples of senior scouts. Kitchkinet, please lead the elected scouts from our circle. *Kitchkinet shows the Scouts to a predetermined spot away from the circle where they wait for Allowat Sakima.* Brother _____, please enter the council circle and explain our Order and the ceremony they have just witnessed.

The called arrowman takes his place next to Allowat Sakima. The Chief slowly walks from the circle and joins Kitchkinet with the elected Scouts.

Introduction

The tap-out ceremony is a key event in a candidate's road towards membership in the Order of the Arrow. The ceremony serves several purposes. Among them are:

- Public identification and recognition of Ordeal Candidates,
- A general introduction of the Order and its mission to non-members within scouting units, and
- To improve the visibility of the chapter at high-profile, multi-troop events.

The ceremony serves as an excellent venue to attract troops, scoutmasters and scouts alike to the Order. Improving the Chapter's image in the District is directly correlated to the amount of positive impact the Chapter can have on the troops.

It is important to be clear on what the tap-out ceremony **is not**. Candidates are not inducted into the Order during the ceremony. The tap-out is not a "members-only" event; any scouts and scouters may attend. Finally, the ceremony is not a hazing or attempt to intimidate or scare candidates or other scouts in any way.

Site Layout, Ceremonialists, and Preparation

Site Layout

The ceremonies ring should be constructed in a location that scouts would not be visiting until the ceremony is to begin. A site led to by a trail that can be lined with smudge pots adds effect. The ring is organized much like one for the Ordeal ceremony would be, with a lit fire, smudge pots (or candles) organized in a circle, and (optional) tiki-torches. Tiki torches are most effective when used opposite a semi-circle of scouts. (As would be encountered at a small sized camp) The fire is lit, unlike at the Pre-Ordeal ceremony, but it is acceptable to have a lit fire. The ring does not (and should not) be large enough to fit all the scouts inside. Because the observing scouts are a mixture of members and non-members, only the Indians (and, later, the arrowman explaining the ceremony) should be within the confines of the circle at any given time.

Ceremonialists

The tap-out ceremony in its current form requires two ceremonialists in Indian regalia (Allowat Sakima and Kitchkinet) in addition to an uniformed arrowman to provide an explanation of the ceremony and the Order of the Arrow. The uniformed arrowman's lines at the end may be omitted in exchange for an increased number of lines for Kitchkinet or Allowat, but that approach is not covered in this guide. Stewards to tend the fire and assist with other needs are always desirable, but due to the relative short length of the ceremony and the simplicity of only having two scouts in regalia, they are not required members of the team.

Preparation

Scouts (and Scouters) may or may not know if they have been elected. Scoutmasters of troops having held elections should be contacted before the tap-out to review a common procedure for identifying those elected during the ceremony. The easiest route is to have arrowmen in their troop stand behind the elected scouts and hold a scout sign above their head. This is not necessary if the ceremonialists can pick out all the elected scouts by memory.

