



Nentico Lodge

Guide to Ceremonies

Table of Contents

I.	The Order of the Arrow.....	2
	Mission	
	Purpose	
	Ceremonies in the Order	
II.	Nentico Lodge.....	3
	Mission of the Ceremonies Committee	
	Purpose of the Ceremonies Committee	
	Duties of the Ceremonies Committee	
	Goals of the Ceremonies Committee	
	Organization of the Ceremonies Committee	
III.	Lodge Support.....	5
	The Vigil Ceremony	
	The Brotherhood Ceremony	
	The Ordeal Ceremony	
	The Certification of the Ceremonies Team	
	Lodge Leadership Development	
IV.	Chapter Support.....	6
	Certifications	
	Support- practices and ordeals	
	Providing Ceremonies Teams	
V.	The Certification Process.....	6
	Guidelines/ Expectations	
	Grading	
	Submitting	
	Recording	
VI.	Competition Judging.....	9
	Organization	
	The judging committee	
	Scoring	
	Where does the judging occur?	
VII.	Resources.....	10
	Nationally Produced Resources	
	Scripts	

The Order of the Arrow

I.

The Mission

The mission of the Order of the Arrow is to fulfill its purpose as an integral part of the Boy Scouts of America through positive youth leadership under the guidance of selected capable adults.

The Purpose

As Scouting's National Honor Society, our purpose is to:

- *Recognize those who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives and through that recognition cause others to conduct themselves in a way that warrants similar recognition.*
- *Promote camping, responsible outdoor adventure, and environmental stewardship as essential components of every Scout's experience, in the unit, year-round, and in summer camp.*
- *Develop leaders with the willingness, character, spirit and ability to advance the activities of their units, our Brotherhood, Scouting, and ultimately our nation.*
- *Crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.*

Ceremonies in The Order of the Arrow

The ceremonies communicate the meaning of the Order to the candidates and members in a unique way. The importance of brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service were displayed in the first ceremony on Treasure Island in 1915. The ceremonies have changed throughout the Order's history, but the focus has always been to inspire members to lead lives of cheerful service.

**If at any point you are confused as to what a term means or to what this guide is referencing, consult the Order of the Arrow Guide to Inductions, available at Nentico.org/ceremonies and oa-bsa.org.*

Nentico Lodge

II.

Mission of the Ceremonies Committee:

The mission of the Ceremonies Committee of Nentico Lodge is to fulfil the needs of the lodge for accurate, well-rehearsed, and meaningful ceremonies while developing youth leaders and inspiring candidates to live a life of cheerful service.

Purpose of the Ceremonies Committee:

- Inspire candidates to live the obligation of the Order of the Arrow and follow the lessons given to us by the principles in each ceremony.
- Accurately portray the American Indians on which the founders based the customs of the Order of the Arrow.
- Support the chapters of the Nentico Lodge with all of their ceremonial endeavors.
- Serve as a resource for ceremonialists wishing to learn more of our customs and traditions.
- Facilitate the formation and sustentation of a Nentico Lodge ceremonies team.

Duties of the Ceremonies Committee:

- A. Sees that all Lodge Ceremonies Teams are properly trained and certified and visits at least one rehearsal of each team prior to the weekend of the Chapter's Ordeal.
- B. Recruits Ceremonies Teams for Lodge events.
- C. Conducts Ceremonial team competition(s) and certifications at Fellowships.
- D. Supervises upkeep of the Mystic Circle and its trails.
- E. Sees that all Call-out teams use the approved Lodge script and approves any additions to staging that teams wish to use.
- F. Serves as a resource for Lodge Ceremonial Teams and maintains a Lodge list of certified ceremonialists.
- G. Maintains Ceremonial equipment for Lodge Ceremonial Teams and maintains a Lodge list certified ceremonialists.
- H. Assists Chapters in obtaining adequate ceremonial equipment for Chapter use.
- I. Makes sure that the Lodge meets the requirements relating to ceremonies in the Journey to Excellence Program.
- J. Is knowledgeable of all ceremonies and is familiar with the lines, motions and deeper meaning of all ceremonies.
- K. Conduct and supervise ceremony team certifications at all Lodge events and Chapter events as requested.
- L. Ensures Lodge representation at NOAC and Conclave.

Goals of the Ceremonies Committee

1. Standardize Ceremonies across Nentico Lodge
This shall be accomplished through a greater level of interaction between the Ceremonies Committee, Ceremonialists, Advisers, and Chapters. This is in the Lodge's effort to standardize Nentico's ordeals so that each candidate learns the same lessons and is inspired to live a life of love for others and a dedication to leadership through service.
2. Build a Ceremonies Team to represent Nentico Lodge
This team shall consist of the best of Nentico Lodge. It shall be advised by the Ceremonies Committee. Its members will be decided based upon the decision of the Ceremonies Committee Chairman and his Adviser. The initial performance of this team shall be at the NE-6A Conclaves. Each of the ceremonies will have an A and B team, with more being added as seen fit, based on the performance of its members. The team will practice at the discretion of the Ceremonies Committee Chairman and his adviser. The long term goal of this team is to compete at National Order of the Arrow Conferences.

3. Ensure positive ceremonial experiences through the maintaining of a list of active ceremonialists.
While not very specific at first glance, this goal is intended to lift the burden of providing ceremonies off of the chapter and greater bear the load across the lodge. If, for instance, an ordeal is two weeks away and the certified team lost one of its principles due to unforeseen circumstances, the Ceremonies Committee will work to provide an Arrowman to fill that role. This will be done through the maintaining of a database of active ceremonialists, which roles they play, and their contact information. In order to be put on this database, each Arrowman or team will have to appear before the Ceremonies Committee, or its representative judge, and demonstrate that they have knowledge of the principles in which they plan to portray.
4. Certify the various ceremonies teams before they perform
This is to ensure that each and every candidate who goes through an ordeal in Nentico Lodge is provided with the highest quality of ceremonies. Each team who wishes to perform a Pre-Ordeal, Ordeal, Brotherhood, or Vigil ceremony must be certified by the Ceremonies Committee. Certifications will be occurring in mass at Spring Fellowship or by other special appointment, coordinated in advance with the ceremonies committee.

Organization of the Ceremonies Committee

The Ceremonies Committee is chaired by a youth, who has the same term as any other lodge chairman, January 1 – December 31. The chairman must be under 21 years of age for his entire term of office and should have a working knowledge of all the ceremonies he is entitled to view, as well as symbolic progression through the ceremonies. He is supported by his Adviser. This Adviser functions as any Adviser in the Order of the Arrow would. They then seek out additional members, both youth and adult to serve on the Ceremonies Committee. These members should have demonstrated themselves as knowledgeable of the Order of the Arrow ceremonies. They meet as the Chairman and Adviser see fit in order to decide any business of the committee. The committee members will be called upon to aide in the assistance of the certification of ceremonies teams at fellowship, or in special circumstances. Geographical diversity of committee members should be taken into account as well, in case a chapter needs a representative in a short period of time. This structure has been determined as the most efficient, while still allowing input from multiple perspectives.



The Vigil Ceremony

At the annual fall fellowship the Ceremonies Committee shall provide enough ceremonialist to complete the Vigil induction process in a timely and efficient fashion. Due to the nature of the Vigil, limited information is placed in this guide in order to safeguard its mystery.



The Brotherhood Ceremony

The Ceremonies Committee will provide a certified ceremonies team at both Fall and Spring fellowship and assist Brotherhood Master with the induction process. The Ceremonies Committee will also assist Chapters in any outside Brotherhood Ceremony they hold throughout the year.



The Ordeal

The Ceremonies Committee will provide certified ceremonialists to each Chapter ordeal. If the chapter does not have a full ceremonies team the committee will fill in any position needed. The committee will do this so the burden is lifted from the Chapter to overwhelm their ceremonialists with extra parts to complete their ceremonies. The goal of the Ceremonies Committee is to have a team from each ceremony or at least two different teams so that only four individuals do not have to worry about performing three different ceremonies.



The Ceremonies Team Certification Process

In order to satisfactorily complete the fourth goal of the Ceremonies Committee, the committee will certify ceremonies teams before they perform. This is to ensure that the proper message is being instilled in each and every candidate across the lodge. These certifications will take place in mass at the annual spring fellowship. In the case that a chapter wishes to complete a brotherhood conversion before spring fellowship they may seek a special certification by contacting and arranging it through the committee.

Lodge Leadership Development

At the annual Lodge Leadership Development (LLD) the Ceremonies Committee will provide the necessary trainers and support to the lodge based upon the requests of the lodge officers. The committee will take this time to further educate the leaders of Nentico Lodge on the meaning and purpose of ceremonies in the Order as well as the role of the Ceremonies Committee and how it can aide each chapter in the ceremonial facet of its program. The Ceremonies Committee will also take this time to further explain and update its goals for the upcoming year.



Chapter Support.....IV.

Certifications

The Ceremonies Committee will provide all necessary information needed for the Chapter to successfully certify their ceremonies teams. A member of the committee will also visit chapter ceremonies team practices to assist and provide feedback when asked. The committee will also take note of proper and effective ceremonies practices and pass on any recommendations the committee has to better their team to the chapter adviser.

Support- practices and ordeals

The Committee will provide ceremonies and, if needed, logistical support for each ordeal. This is in an effort to make each ordeal candidate have the same experience no matter which ordeal they attend. Prior to each ordeal the committee will get in touch with the host chapter(s) and figure out what the committee needs to supply besides a ceremonies team.

Providing Ceremonies Teams

Besides providing ceremonies teams for the chapter's ordeal, the committee will provide the necessary ceremonialists at special events when called upon. These events can include call outs or special brotherhood conversion weekends. These can be obtained through contacting ceremonies@nentico.org. Note that this is not a guarantee that the ceremonies committee will be available to provide a team for such an occasion, however the committee will make its best effort to fulfill a special request.

Certification Process.....V.

Guidelines/Expectations

The committee is not looking for word-for-word script accuracy but rather that the message is portrayed. For instance, if Meteu in the Pre-Ordeal does not say "let silence like a bow-string bind you to each and every other" but something along the lines of "I bid you to keep the strictest silence during your time of testing" that will result in a passing certification. It is highly recommended that each team and ceremonialist make every effort to be as close to 100% accurate as possible. For, there is a reason that the script was worded the way it is and not some other way. It is important to remember to, if a ceremonialist forgets a line, it is important not to say something that is referenced later in the ceremonies. For instance, it would be inappropriate to call candidates in the Pre-Ordeal brothers because they have not been admitted to the order and Allowat Sakima later references new members' ability to be called brothers in the Ordeal ceremony. The judges will focus more on the motions of the ceremony. For instance there can only be one fire-even if the team is performing an Ordeal ceremony immediately following a brotherhood ceremony. In addition ceremonialists must make their way around the circle the correct way.

This is in no way meant to be a way of ranking ceremonies teams. No one team should have the mindset they are better or are out to "knock the socks" off of any other team. We are all here to help and train each other. That is why in the judging process we are scoring each team, not ranking them. The score sheet is a way of evaluating each team to further their progression and skill and ceremonialists.

Grading

During the certification process teams will accumulate points through a grading system. There will be no threshold where a team will pass or fail, it will be up to the discretion of the judges. The group of individuals judging the team should consist of at least one youth and one adult with considerable ceremonial experience, one of whom should have attained the Vigil honor. After the end of the ceremony, the judges will conference and make a decision. In the event of a failure, the team will be informed and will be given another opportunity in the near future, in the event of a pass, the team will be informed and its members will be added to the lodge ceremonialist database. In either case, the team as a whole and the individual ceremonialists will be given feedback on how to improve the ceremony. The Chapter Adviser will be given a copy of the score sheet to take back to his/her chapter meeting to use as a guide for future practices.

The sheet that will be used to judge teams is on the next page.



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Ceremonies Judging Sheet

Ceremony Being Judged:

- ☐ Pre-Ordeal
☐ Ordeal (No competition)
☐ Brotherhood
☐ Vigil

Scoring System (except Memorization)

Unsatisfactory: 0-2
 Fair: 3-5
 Good: 6-9
 Very good: 10-12
 Excellent: 13-15

Team Being Judged

Clothing Score 15 Points possible	Unsatisfactory: Fair: Good: Very Good: Excellent:	Incomplete outfit or missing sash Outfit in poor condition not dress-out completely All clothing relates to central tribe theme All clothing relates with distinction between characters As above, but better
Memorization Score 40 Points possible	Unsatisfactory: 0-7 Fair: 8-15 Good: 16-23 Very Good: 24-31 Excellent: 32-40	Team does not know lines Changes lines and has considerable difficulty with lines Team gets meaning across, changes a few words Team get meaning across well, few words changed Team almost word perfect
Speech Score 15 Points Possible	Unsatisfactory: Fair: Good: Very Good: Excellent:	Poor voice diction, low volume, rate of deliver too fast or too slow Fair voice, diction, volume, and rate of delivery Good voice, diction, volume, and rate of deliver Voice, diction, rate of deliver, and volume command attention Relate well to the character being portrayed
Gestures Score 15 Points Possible	Unsatisfactory: Fair: Good: Very Good: Excellent:	Little use of gestures, arms folded while speaking, etc. Some use of gestures Good use of gestures, no distracting movement Very good gestures, no distracting movement Gestures are very good, appropriate, and focus attention to what is being said
Bearing Score 15 Points Possible	Unsatisfactory: Fair: Good: Very Good: Excellent:	Participants distracted or paying little attention to ceremony Fair cooperation between member, some members distracted Good cooperation between team members, all have good bearing Cooperation and bearing of team members results in a very good presentation Cooperation and bearing of team members results in an excellent presentation

Total Score

100 points possible

Judge's InformationJudges Names:Additional Comments:

Submitting

Score Sheets will be saved in the Ceremonies Committee's records and also given to the Chapter Adviser for future reference and practice material.

Recording

After a ceremonies team successfully completes their evaluation they will be placed in the Nentico Lodge Ceremonies Team Database. This is how the committee finds ceremonialists when a chapter is missing one. If a ceremonialist shines through, he will be asked to join the lodge ceremonies team.

Competition Judging.....VI.

Organization

All competitions will be overseen by the ceremonies committee, its chairman and his adviser in accordance with the rules of the event the Arrowmen are attending. The Chairman and Adviser will appoint judges to grade and evaluate each team in the competition. The guidelines and expectations are the same as the certification process. See section V for more information.

The judging committee

There will be no more than six judges; one per principle, a head judge, and a line judge. The judges will be from multiple chapters. Following the ceremony, the committee will come to a consensus on the score of the team as a whole using input from all of the judges. If a consensus cannot be reached, the head judge has the ability to make decisions final. The line judge is responsible for following along in the script and check accuracy of the principle's lines, marking each incident where a principle misses a line. The head judge in addition to leading the panel through the judging process, should track the movements of the principles in the ceremony and ensure it is in accordance with the ceremony. Whoever the ceremonies team adviser is for that team can sit in as a line judge but no other position. All judges will be approved by the committee before the day of competition.

Scoring

Judges will use the same scoring sheet used in the certification process. The scores will be used to evaluate each team and provide feedback to improve the overall performances of each team. Each team will be given points to be added to the spirit award.

Where does the judging occur?

Judging will occur at the Spring Fellowship. If Nentico is the host lodge to a Conclave then the Ceremonies Committee will provide judges to that event and any other event Nentico is requested to provide judges for.



Nationally produced recourses

- The national OA website: oa-bsa.org. This has link to the Guide to Inductions and Guide to Officers and advisers and many of the handbooks listed below. URLs have not been included due to a forthcoming update to the website however they can all be found under the resources tab. The Ask the Chairman can also be very helpful when attempting to interpret difficult policy questions.
- The Guide to Inductions is the go to source for all ceremonies related questions. It is the definitive answer when it comes to ceremonies, what it says goes. oa-bsa.org
- The Guide for Officers and Advisers also provides valuable resources about ceremonies and policies revolving around them. Available at oa-bsa.org
- The Guide to the New Member Orientation is a guide to producing a lodge's new member orientation. It has a section where it explains each of the ceremonies, the principles, the tests, and the various symbolic elements that new members are privy to. It can be useful when introducing someone to ceremonies.

Scripts

- Arrow of Light: Various chapters use various different scripts for Arrow of Light and bridging ceremonies. Some examples of these can be found on the Nentico website at nentico.org/ceremonies.
- Callout: Nentico Lodge uses a standard call out. This is the only call out approved for use in Nentico Lodge. If a chapter wishes to use a different call out, they must contact the Ceremonies Committee with a copy of the script of the desired call out. The standard lodge call out is available online at nentico.org, on page 69 of the Lodge Leaders Handbook (LLHB). A copy is contained in this guide beginning on page 11.
- Pre Ordeal and Ordeal: The Ceremony for the Ordeal contains scripts for both the Pre-Ordeal and the Ordeal ceremonies. It is available on nentico.org/ceremonies with a passcode of the admonition.
- Brotherhood: The Ceremony for the Brotherhood is available at nentico.org/ceremonies with its passcode being the response to the questions Allowat Sakima asks during the ceremony.
- Vigil: The Ceremony for the Vigil is available at Nentico.org with its passcode being the watchwords.

Call-Out Ceremony

A Ceremony

A Call-Out ceremony should begin with an introduction by a uniformed Arrowman. Here is a sample:

“What you are about to see is the recognition of those Scouts and Scouters who have been selected to become a part of the Order of the Arrow. Founded in 1915, the Order is a national organization of honor campers devoted to the ideals of brotherhood and cheerful service. Those who are called out tonight have been chosen by their fellow Scouts because of their fulfillment of the ideals of the Scout Oath and Law. The ceremony is such that we must request that you remain quiet throughout. We also ask that the only pictures you take are those in your mind. Please, no film or video. Thank you.”

The host then retires while someone signals the team to begin the ceremony.

Order of entry: Torchbearer, Drummer, Runner, Chief, Runner, Medicine Man, Guide, Torchbearer.

Alternate:

Line 1: Torchbearer, Drummer, Runner, Chief.

Line 2: Torchbearer, Guide, Medicine Man,

During the approach, which should be slow and dignified, a chant and drumming maybe used. The chant is as follows:

1. Wah-pin-tah-tay-toh [beat]
2. Wah-pin-tay-ah-hah-nor-ay [beat]

It is recommended that soft Indian flute music be played in the background. It does not matter who does the chanting, although you may wish to have it alternate between the two lines. The person chanting the first part is responsible for stopping the chant as the lines come into view of the audience. The drummer should continue the beats until the line has moved into position in front of the audience.

Medicine Man: We are gathered here together in the midst of this great forest,
Underneath the stars above us. Gathered now to recognize those
Scouts and Scouters who have served their fellows cheerfully and
without ceasing, and who will not falter in the many moons to come.

[pause—drumbeat]

As the sun's rays in the morning give strength to the waking world,
so may our actions here this evening give these Scouts the strength
and courage for their journey to come.

[pause—drumbeat]

Guide: When your name and unit number are called, please rise, step to the aisle, and wait to be escorted before the Mighty Chief.

The Medicine Man now reads from his scroll the list of candidates, reading first the troop number and then the name. When the candidate stands, the Chief taps his own left shoulder, points at the candidate with his right hand, and says "Him." The runners then run to the candidate and escort him with dignity before the Chief. The Chief gives three evenly-spaced taps with his right hand on the candidate's left shoulder. The drummer beats quickly during the running and emphasizes each tap with a beat. The runners then lead the candidate behind the Chief, forming a line. The candidates are NOT to be placed hand-on-shoulder. The runners return to their original place and the Medicine Man calls the next name. After the last candidate has been tapped, the Medicine Man continues:

Medicine Man: Brothers, our task here is completed. Let us go seek further enlightenment.

The group then leaves in a single line, with the candidates between the Chief and the Runner who follows him. They walk to a spot somewhat removed from the campfire area, where they stop and are addressed by one of the Runners or a uniformed Arrowman with the following message:

Congratulations on your election as a candidate for the Order of the Arrow. To become a member, you must now go through an Ordeal to test your devotion to the Order's ideals of brotherhood and cheerful service. These tests will be difficult, but they will be within your abilities. The letter you will now receive contains further information. Again, I congratulate you. You may now return quietly to your troops.

After seeing that all candidates have letters and the first Spirit of the Arrow booklet, the team waits for the candidates to leave before retiring themselves.

Other Considerations:

Try to recruit the team well before the ceremony. Although it is a simple ceremony, they should all know the procedure well. You should especially practice the entrances and exits. Make sure any trails are wide enough to allow for torches and bonnets. You should make your torches and smudge pots well before the ceremony. The torches need to drain after they have been soaked to prevent spills. The torchbearers need to know how to handle the torches without problems.

The audience must remain silent throughout the ceremony. If there is excessive noise, a designated uniformed Arrowman should stand and give the Scout sign for silence. After quiet is restored, he sits and the ceremony continues.

The team should keep a lookout for rain. Bonnets should NOT be worn in any rain. A heavy rain may require stopping the ceremony. Have some plan for both how to do this and

for how to handle the candidates who will still need to be called out.

Regalia for the Call-Out should be as follows:

Chief:	best headdress, warshirt, leggings
Medicine Man:	horned headdress, second most prestigious looking
Guide:	simple regalia with headdress
Drummer:	simple regalia, drum and stick
Runners(2):	simple regalia
Torchbearers(2):	simple regalia

Team members must bring their own breechcloths, moccasins, and sashes. Some arm-bands and three-feather headdresses are available.

Things that must be avoided:

- Shooting arrows, especially flaming arrows.
- Placing candidates hand-on-shoulder.
- Binding candidates.
- Telling candidates they must remain silent.
- Not passing out invitations.

This is the most current approved Lodge Call-Out Ceremony. Other ceremonies may only be used if you first have them approved by the Lodge Ceremonies Chairman to ensure that they are appropriate and do not violate symbolic progression.

