

# The Challenges of Brotherhood Membership

*From page 50 of the Order of the Arrow Handbook*

You must meet five challenges before you can enter the Circle of the Brotherhood. The first of these you should meet now. The next three require steady effort over a period of months. The last challenge you must meet after you are satisfied that you are meeting the first four.

1. **Memorize the signs of Arrow membership.** Memorize the obligation of the Order, which you received from Allowat Sakima (printed on the back of your membership card and in the OA Handbook). Also, memorize the Order of the Arrow Official Song, the Admonition, the sign of Ordeal membership, and the Arrow handclasp.
2. **Advance in your understanding of the Ordeal.** Gain a thorough understanding of the Ordeal through which you have passed.
3. **Serve your unit. Retain your registration in Scouting.** During a period of at least ten months, strive to fulfill your obligation by continuing and expanding your service to your own troop or team.
4. **Plan for service in your lodge.** Retain your registration in your Order of the Arrow lodge and keep your dues paid. Be aware that acceptance of Brotherhood membership involves a pledge of service to the lodge. Develop a concrete idea of how you plan to fulfill this pledge.
5. **Review your progress.** When you earnestly feel that you have met the four challenges above, write a letter to your lodge or chapter secretary (depending on who is administering the induction). In this letter (see sample letter, next page):
  - Explain what you think the obligation means
  - Describe how you have been fulfilling this obligation in your troop or team and in your daily life, and how you have used your understanding of the Ordeal to aid in this service.
  - Describe your specific plans for giving service in the lodge program.

## **Tips on how to easily meet these challenges:**

- ✓ Read the OA Handbook, especially pages 47 through 54.
- ✓ Attend Chapter and meetings, we always open and close with the obligation and the song, which makes learning them much easier.
- ✓ Ask an experienced Brother to help you. It will help fill in the blanks .
- ✓ Our Lodge does a “Brotherhood Interview” the day of the ceremony, by an experienced member. Do this with a small group of Ordeal members like yourself. It will give you confidence to LOUDLY recite the obligation!

## SAMPLE BROTHERHOOD LETTER

(This letter should be submitted to the Lodge Secretary on application for the Brotherhood Honor. It should be in your own handwriting and be approximately one full page)

Lodge Secretary  
Ini\_to Lodge #324, Order of the Arrow  
C/O Thunder Scout Reservation  
1166 Dripping Rock Rd  
Molena, GA 30258

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Secretary,

As an active, registered Ordeal member of our Lodge, I have completed the ten months of service requirement for Brotherhood membership. I am a registered Scout in Troop \_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, Georgia.

I have learned the Obligation, the Order of the Arrow Official Song, and the Admonition.

I ask now for the privilege of being interviewed for the Brotherhood.

To me, the Obligation means I will

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As a Boy Scout, I have been fulfilling the Obligation in my unit and in my daily life

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I have demonstrated my understanding of the traditions of the Ordeal by

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Here are some of the ways I plan to render service to my Lodge in fulfillment of the new pledge I expect to take:

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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_