



www.colonneh.org

January, 2009

Dear Scoutmaster,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of the OA election process. As we prepare for the 2009 Ordeal/Candidate inductions, we would like to remind you of a number of things.

We will be posting a list of the elected candidates on the lodge website www.colonneh.org in the Ordeals section. Please compare our list of names of the candidates in your unit with your unit election records and let us know if there is a problem. Your chapter adviser will also have copies of your election results. The Lodge Website and your Chapter Adviser are our primary means of communication. We will keep the Website up to date.

The Lodge will be **mailing a letter to each elected candidate around April 1, 2009, informing the candidate of their election** and of the opportunities to take their Ordeal Ceremony. We hope that your unit will notify your elected candidates publicly prior to this date. Whether this is through a call-out ceremony at your District Camp-o-ree or other event, or a public recognition ceremony done at a Court of Honor or Troop meeting, we hope that the letter will not be the first the candidate hears about their election. A sample script of a public recognition ceremony for use at a Court of Honor or Troop meeting is available at www.colonneh.org.

We will also continue to provide a Call Out at Scout Fair and Summer Camp recognition ceremonies every week for In-Council Troops to recognize those that have been elected to the OA. We will also conduct a Brotherhood ceremony for each week of camp as well. Ordeals are **not offered at summer camp**. National policy states that **“out-of-Council Ordeals are not permitted.”**

There are some changes to the Ordeal Program for 2009. The biggest change is that your local chapter will also be putting on a Chapter Ordeal for the Candidates in your District. This allows the Chapter to determine the best time and location to conduct an Ordeal. While the event may have more than one chapter participating at with it, each chapter will have their own unique project.

The Chapter Ordeals will need support from Arrowmen in every unit within their District. All our Ordeals will be three day events (with early departure exceptions made for Later Day Saints Units at these Ordeals). The only exception will be the Chapter Ordeals scheduled on Mothers Day Weekend which will follow the two day Ordeal format.

Please look at the Chapter Ordeal as a Unit opportunity to strengthen the spirit of cheerful service within your unit. While your candidates are encouraged to attend their Chapter Ordeal, we realize that some conflicts will exist, and the Lodge will continue to sponsor two Ordeals, the May Ordeal at El Rancho Cima, and the December Ordeal at Camp Strake. A candidate may also attend another Chapter's Ordeal.

We ask that you look at the Ordeal as a unit activity for the Arrowmen in your troop. This will help in coordinating transportation, and allow the candidates to have their Ordeal experience while working with familiar faces. They will be able to share tents on Saturday night, and most importantly they will see the example set by your Arrowmen, the example of serving others by working together on a service project and sharing a common experience. Your Chapter will need your older Arrowmen to serve as Elangomats or in other staff positions to make the Chapter Ordeal a success. We have also enclosed a Staff Registration Form for all

Arrowmen who wish to help at the ordeal. They will need to fill out the Staff Registration Form and return so the administrative staff can register all staffers.

Please encourage your current Arrowmen to volunteer to serve at one of the Ordeals. We want to thank you again for the great service that you provide Scouting week-in and week-out.

Yours in Scouting,

J.D. Edwards
Colonneh Lodge Chief
08chief@colonneh.org

J. Steve Taylor
Colonneh Lodge Adviser
jstevetaylor@msn.com



Order of the Arrow

Benefits the Scout and His Unit

www.colonneh.org

In 2008, over 4,000 Arrowmen of Colonneh Lodge provided over 103,000 hours of service to their Units, Districts, Council and communities, but, some Unit Leaders ask the question, 'exactly how does the Order of the Arrow program benefit my unit program and my Scouts who participate?'

The Order of the Arrow program should enhance a Unit program rather than detract from it and provide additional opportunities to a young Scout, enabling him to develop his leadership talents, refine skills and achieve a deeper understanding about cheerfully and unselfishly giving of himself in the service of his fellow Scouts. Our Lodge program can only be considered successful if these primary themes are maintained in a well-rounded Scouting environment focused on the units.

UNITS BENEFIT FROM ORDER OF THE ARROW ACTIVITIES, PROJECTS AND OBJECTIVES

- Improvement of facilities and camping areas at Council camps due to service at Ordeals and various service days.
- Teaching camping skills at the Skills Discovery Camps is not only a tremendous experience for new units but is a great opportunity for those teaching to refine their skills and leadership abilities.
- Some Districts have organized Order of the Arrow skills teams to aid the Scoutmaster as a program resource for teaching. New unit assistance is where older Scouts help a new unit prepare for its first camping trip.
- Young Scouts are inspired through ceremonial Indian performances at Camp-o-rees, Call Outs, Arrow of Light ceremonies, and Cub Scout banquets.
- Peer influence and motivation as younger Scouts are impressed by the Order's goals (as represented at Call Out ceremonies and candidate elections) and by the example set by other Scouts distinguished by the Lodge flap.
- Enhancement of Unit leadership which through Order of the Arrow involvement and experience can provide better and more skillful leadership awareness of Council-wide programs and ideas with information received at Chapter meetings.
- Retention of older Scouts in the unit by providing more sophisticated challenges with older Scouts and the Order's quest for service in additional areas.
- Unit Assistance in the form of expert trainers, borrowed leadership and role models.

SCOUTS BENEFIT BY PARTICIPATING IN COLONNEH LODGE ACTIVITIES

- Leadership and fellowship opportunities on a larger scale with older Scouts.
- Opportunities to practice and improve speaking, planning, selling and other leadership and motivational skills.
- Encouragement, especially through the Arrowman's Achievement Award, for Unit involvement, recruiting of new Scouts, advancement to Eagle, earning of the Religious award, and serving in leadership roles in the Unit.



Colonneh Lodge

Ordeal Candidate Pre-Registration 2009

www.colonneh.org

Candidates must pre-register one week before the Ordeal. You may register online or fax /mail this form (fax credit card registrations only), a Medical Form, a Medication Form (if needed) and \$60 (or \$50 for Cima) to the Cockrell Scout Center, OA Secretary, PO Box 924528, Houston, TX, 77292-4528.

The cost of the Ordeal covers 2009 dues, Lodge flap (patch), OA sash, OA handbook and meals. Attendance is limited. Registration is due one week prior to the selected Ordeal and will be based on a first-come first-serve basis to candidates with their complete registration information and fee submitted to the OA Secretary.

Confirmation of registration will be posted at www.colonneh.org weekly for each Ordeal.

Check the Ordeals Section at www.colonneh.org for further information.

Candidate Name _____	DOB _____	Sex _____	Circle: Adult or Youth
Address _____			
City _____	State _____	Zip _____	Home Phone _____
Cell Phone _____		E-mail _____	
District _____	Unit _____	Rank _____	BSA ID # _____
Parent/Guardian _____		Work Phone _____	
Cell Phone _____		E-mail _____	

- Polaris Ordeal Camp Strake April 3-5, 3day format
- Raven Ordeal – Baytown Nature Center, May 1-3, 3 day format
- Lodge Ordeal – El Rancho Cima May 29-31, 3 day format
- Golden Arrow Ordeal – Adams Ranch May 8-9, 2 day format
- George Strake, Tall Timbers, Flaming Arrow Ordeal
- Camp Strake May 8-9, 2 day format
- Camp Brosig Ordeal Mustang, Brahman, Brazos, David Crockett, Tatanka, Tomahawk ,May 8-9, 2 day format
- Bayshore & Eagle Trail Ordeal – Baytown Nature Area May 8 -10 , 3 day format
- Big Cypress, Copperhead, Soaring Eagle Ordeal – Bovay Scout Ranch May 15-17, 3 day format
- Texas Skies Ordeal – Camp Brosig August 28-30, 3 day format
- Lodge Ordeal Camp Strake December 11-12, 2 day format

MEDICAL INFORMATION

All candidates **MUST ATTACH** a completed copy of the Candidate’s Class 1 and Class 2 or Class 3, (current year if over the age of 40) Medical Form. If medications will be taken during the event, a completed Medication Form (listing prescription and over the counter medications) must also be attached. *No candidate may participate in the Ordeal without completed medical forms.* Forms are available at: www.samhoustonbsa.org/home/forms.

TALENT RELEASE

I hereby assign and grant to the Boy Scouts of America the right and permission to use and publish the photographs/film/ video/electronic representations and/or recording made of myself and/or my child at this(ese) event(s) by the Boy Scouts of America, and I hereby release the Boy Scouts of America from any and all liability from such use and publication. I further authorize the reproduction, sale copyright, exhibit, broadcast, electronic storage and/or sound recordings without limitation at the discretion of the Boy Scouts of America and I specifically waive any right to any compensation I may have for any of the foregoing. Names and/or individualized identification shall be unintentional.

Date _____ Signature of Parent/Guardian or Adult _____

Payment Method:	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash	<input type="checkbox"/> Check	<input type="checkbox"/> Amex	<input type="checkbox"/> MC	<input type="checkbox"/> Visa	<input type="checkbox"/> Disc
(checks payable to SHAC)						
Card Holder Name:	_____					
#	_____	Exp. Date	_____			
Signature	_____					
Fax credit card registrations only to: 713-865-9125						

Mail to:	OA Secretary
	PO Box 924528
	Houston, TX 77292-4528
<i>The OA is only staffed 4x's per month</i>	
Phone:	713-756-3395
Acct #:	900277 1-2371-755-00



Colonneh Lodge

Ordeal Staff Registration 2009

www.colonneh.org

Staff Fee is \$12.00

Staff Name _____	DOB _____	Sex _____	Circle: Adult or Youth
Address _____	City _____	Zip _____	
City _____	State _____	Zip _____	Home Phone _____
Cell Phone _____	E-mail _____		
District _____	Unit _____	Rank _____	BSA ID # _____

Parent/Guardian _____	Work Phone _____
Cell Phone _____	E-mail _____

Note: Staff, Elangomats, and Ceremony Teams are not permitted to leave the camp premises during the Ordeal. Prior approval by the Ordeal Adviser is needed to obtain the necessary required permission and paperwork for extenuating circumstances.

I am registering as:	<input type="checkbox"/> Ceremony Team	<input type="checkbox"/> Elangomat	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordeal Staff (Ordeal Master will assign position)
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Check the Ordeal (s) that you are registering for

	Polaris Ordeal Camp Strake April 3-5, 3day format
	Raven Ordeal – Baytown Nature Center, May 1-3, 3 day format
	Lodge Ordeal – El Rancho Cima May 29-31, 3 day format
	Golden Arrow Ordeal – Adams Ranch May 8-9, 2 day format
	George Strake, Tall Timbers, Flaming Arrow Ordeal Camp Strake May 8-9, 2 day format
	Camp Brosig Ordeal Mustang, Brahman, Brazos, David Crockett, Tatanka, Tomahawk, May 8-9, 2 day format
	Bayshore & Eagle Trail Ordeal – Baytown Nature Area May 8 -10 , 3 day format
	Big Cypress, Copperhead, Soaring Eagle Ordeal – Bovay Scout Ranch May 15-17, 3 day format
	Texas Skies Ordeal – Camp Brosig August 28-30, 3 day format
	Lodge Ordeal Camp Strake December 11-12, 2 day format

Payment Method: <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Amex <input type="checkbox"/> MC <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Disc Staff Fee is \$12.00 per Ordeal (checks payable to SHAC) Card Holder Name: _____ # _____ Exp. Date _____ Signature _____ Fax credit card registrations only to: 713-865-9125

Mail to: OA Secretary PO Box 924528 Houston, TX 77292-4528 Phone: 713-756-3395 Acct #: 900277 1-2371-755-00



www.colonneh.org

<<>>, 2009

Dear Ordeal Candidate,

Congratulations! You have been elected as a candidate for membership in the Order of the Arrow, Boy Scouts of America's National Honor Society. Its purpose:

To recognize those campers – Scouts and Scouters - who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives and by such recognition, cause other campers to conduct themselves in such a manner as to warrant recognition.

To develop and maintain camping traditions and spirit.

To promote Scout camping, which reaches its greatest effectiveness as a part of unit's camping program, both year-round and in the summer camp, as directed by the camping committee of the council.

To crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.

As you are aware, you must complete an Ordeal in order to become a member of the Colonneh Lodge Order of the Arrow. If you do not attend one of the 2009 Ordeal opportunities, then you will have to be re-elected by your Unit next year. Please keep in mind that September weekends are full of football games, band competitions and other outside obligations, so please plan to attend one of the earlier Ordeals if possible.

There are two Ordeal Options. 1.) You can attend the Ordeal that is put on by your Chapter or another Chapter, 2.) Or you can attend one of the two Lodge based Ordeals: El Rancho Cima in May and the second at Camp Strake in December. Your local Chapter Adviser will be contacting you about the Chapter Ordeal opportunity. The schedule of Chapter Ordeals can be found on the Lodge Website at www.colonneh.org. **Please note that there are no Ordeals at summer camp. Ordeals are a Lodge or Chapter -specific event. A Candidate cannot complete his Ordeal at another Council's summer camp.**

A complete Scout Field Uniform (Class A) is required for the Ordeal and you should show up at registration in uniform. You will change into work clothes on Saturday morning and will be given an opportunity to clean up and change back into your field uniform for the Ordeal Ceremony.

You will need to submit a copy of your current Class I & 2 or Class 3 Medical form (youth forms are good for 3 years) and medication form with your registration. You will be responsible for letting us know about any medical conditions or dietary restrictions prior to the Ordeal.

Ordeal Schedule

	Polaris Ordeal Camp Strake April 3-5, 3day format
	Raven Ordeal – Baytown Nature Center, May 1-3, 3 day format
	Lodge Ordeal – El Rancho Cima May 29-31, 3 day format
	Golden Arrow Ordeal – Adams Ranch May 8-9, 2 day format
	George Strake, Tall Timbers, Flaming Arrow Ordeal Camp Strake May 8-9, 2 day format
	Camp Brosig Ordeal Mustang, Brahman, Brazos, David Crockett, Tatanka, Tomahawk, May 8-9, 2 day format
	Bayshore & Eagle Trail Ordeal – Baytown Nature Area May 8-10 , 3 day format
	Big Cypress, Copperhead, Soaring Eagle Ordeal – Bovay Scout Ranch May 15-17, 3 day format
	Texas Skies Ordeal – Camp Brosig August 28-30, 3 day format
	Lodge Ordeal Camp Strake December 11-12, 2 day format

Equipment for the Ordeal:

Field and Activity Uniform	Insect repellent
Work clothes (jeans, long sleeve shirt, boots, work gloves, hat)	Sunscreen
Sleeping Bag	Flashlight
Ground Cloth	Rain Gear
Backpack [to hike gear (except tent)]	Water Bottle
Foam Pad (for sleeping on ground under stars Friday night)	Personal Hygiene Items (soap, towel, shampoo, toothbrush/paste)
Tent (for Saturday night – may share with other Candidates from same unit)	

You will need to carry all of your gear in a backpacking type bag except for your tent that will be used on Saturday Night. We encourage Candidates from the same Troop to attend an Ordeal together in order to share rides and tents.

For Health and Safety purposes, work clothes, consisting of long sleeve shirts, long pants, boots, gloves and a hat, are required for participation in the service projects. Service projects will include brush clearing and camp clean-up (and may include painting). Several locations have poison ivy or thorns. It will be hot and plan to drink plenty of fluids.

You should eat a hearty meal BEFORE arriving at the Ordeal. You should not bring food unless it is part of a medically prescribed diet detailed on the medical form. If there are dietary restrictions for medical or religious reasons, please make note of this on the registration form. Directions to the camps can be found at www.shac.org/home/camping.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

The cost of the Ordeal is \$60, except for the Ordeal at Cima which is \$50. The Ordeal fee covers 2009 dues, Lodge flap (patch), OA sash, OA handbook and meals. A candidate must attend the complete Ordeal process to become a member of the Order of the Arrow. **If you do not attend an Ordeal during 2009 then you will have to be re-elected by your unit next year.**

Registration is available online and is on a first-come, first-serve basis to candidates with their complete registration information and fee submitted to the OA Secretary **no later than one (1) week prior to the Ordeal**. Confirmation of registration will be posted on www.colonneh.org. The website will be updated weekly with a list of Candidates registered for each Ordeal. You may also print and fax or mail the registration forms to the OA Secretary. Walk-ins and late registrations (less than one week before the Ordeal) should take all registration and medical forms to the Ordeal. Due to camp limits, walk-ins and late registrations may not be able to participate in the Ordeals and Ordeal materials may not be available. These materials will be available following the Ordeal by visiting a Chapter meeting.

After you complete your Ordeal, you are encouraged to attend Chapter meetings and to take full advantage of all that the OA has to offer. Colonneh Lodge has many opportunities for service, leadership development, Native American dancing, drumming, and ceremonies. As a member of the Order, you will be able to participate in exclusive Lodge events (e.g., Fall PowWow, Spring Fellowship), Regional events (e.g., Section Conclave), and National events (e.g., National Order of the Arrow Conference). You can even serve a valuable role both to your Unit and Chapter at the same time by serving as OA Troop/Team Representative. This role counts as a "Position of Responsibility" toward the rank of Eagle. The OA has something for everyone!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your District's Chapter Adviser (for names and phone numbers see www.colonneh.org) or the Ordeal Adviser Don Dunbar (713-416-4975, 281-933-0546 ddunbar3@gmail.com) or the Colonneh Lodge OA office (713-756-3395, oa@shac.org). Copies of this information will be posted on the Lodge Website (www.colonneh.org).

Again, congratulations on your selection. We are looking forward to welcoming you into the Order of the Arrow.

Yours in the Brotherhood of Cheerful Service,

J.D. Edwards
Lodge Chief
07chief@colonneh.org

Don Dunbar
Lodge Ordeal Adviser
(713) 416-4975, (281) 933-0546
ddunbar3@gmail.com



www.colonneh.org

>>>>> **C O N F I D E N T I A L** <<<<<<

Spring 2009

Dear Parent(s),

Congratulations! Your son has been elected as a candidate for membership in the Order of the Arrow, Boy Scouts of America's National Honor Society.

Your son may or may not know at this time about his election. Please do not share this information with him until his Unit Leader has informed your son of his selection. *This is Highly Confidential.* Candidates are usually "called out" in a Troop, Team, District or summer camp "call out" ceremony. You should check with your son's Unit Leader to learn the time and place of this special ceremony. We will notify all Candidates of their election through a mail out on April 2, 2009 which will contain the Ordeal information and registration form. Registration forms will be available at the Lodge website www.colonneh.org. There is no online registration, forms must be mailed in or faxed.

After being "called out," a candidate must complete an Ordeal (during 2009) to become a member of the Colonneh Lodge Order of the Arrow. Your son should receive this information at his "call out." Colonneh Lodge felt it was important for you to receive this information in advance so you may facilitate your son's completion of the Ordeal process and assist in scheduling the appropriate date for your son to register for his Ordeal experience. If your son does not attend one of the 2009 Ordeal opportunities, then he will have to be re-elected by his Unit next year.

Your local chapter (scouting district) will be conducting a Chapter Ordeal. This allows the local units to determine the timing for the event that best suits the units in their area. Please keep in mind that September weekends are full of football games, band competitions and other outside obligations.

The Chapters or Sam Houston Area Council's Colonneh Lodge will offer several weekend Ordeals. **There are no Ordeals at summer camp. Please note that the Ordeal is a Lodge/Council-specific event. A Candidate cannot complete his Ordeal at another Council's summer camp. For safety purposes, a candidate will not be released early from an Ordeal without prior approval of the Ordeal Adviser. There are provisions made for the Later Day Saints Units. Candidates check in is at 7 pm. Candidates at 2 day Ordeals may be picked up at 9 pm on Saturday. Candidates attending at 3 day Ordeal may be picked up at 10 am on Sunday.**

Ordeal Schedule

	Polaris Ordeal Camp Strake April 3-5, 3day format
	Raven Ordeal – Baytown Nature Center, May 1-3, 3 day format
	Lodge Ordeal – El Rancho Cima May 29-31, 3 day format
	Golden Arrow Ordeal – Adams Ranch May 8-9, 2 day format
	George Strake, Tall Timbers, Flaming Arrow Ordeal Camp Strake May 8-9, 2 day format
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	Bayshore & Eagle Trail Ordeal – Baytown Nature Area May 8-10 , 3 day format
	Big Cypress, Copperhead, Soaring Eagle Ordeal – Bovay Scout Ranch May 15-17, 3 day format
	Texas Skies Ordeal – Camp Brosig August 28-30, 3 day format
	Lodge Ordeal Camp Strake December 11-12, 2 day format

A complete Scout Field Uniform (Class A) is required for the Ordeal and the Candidate should show up at registration in their uniform. The following morning they will change into work clothes. They will be given an opportunity to clean up and change back into their field uniform for the Ordeal Ceremony. Please include any medical information and inform us of any dietary (medical or religious) or activity restrictions at check in.

Equipment for the Ordeal:

Your son will need to arrive at the Ordeal in his Field Uniform (Class A) with the following equipment, prepared to spend the first night under the stars:

Field and Activity Uniform	Insect repellent
Work clothes (jeans, long sleeve shirt, boots, work gloves, hat)	Sunscreen
Sleeping Bag	Flashlight
Ground Cloth	Rain Gear
Backpack [to hike gear (except tent)]	Water Bottle
Foam Pad (for sleeping on ground under stars Friday night)	Personal Hygiene Items (soap, towel, shampoo, toothbrush/paste)
Tent (for Saturday night – may share with other Candidates from same unit)	

The candidate will need to carry all of his gear in a backpacking type bag (except for his tent for Saturday Night).

For Health and Safety purposes, work clothes, consisting of long sleeve shirts, long pants, boots, gloves and a hat, are required for participation in the service projects. Service projects will include brush clearing and camp clean-up (and may include painting). Several locations have poison ivy or thorns.

Candidates should eat a hearty meal BEFORE arriving at the Ordeal. Candidates should not bring food unless it is part of a medically prescribed diet detailed on the medical form. Special foods and medications will be turned over to the Ordeal Adviser for distribution. We make every effort to get medications out to youth as prescribed, please assist us by having the Candidate notify the Ordeal Staff about required medication. Directions to the camps can be found at www.shac.org/home/camping.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

The cost of the Ordeal is \$60, except for the Ordeal at Cima which is \$50. The Ordeal fee covers 2009 dues, Lodge flap (patch), OA sash, OA handbook and meals. A candidate must attend the complete Ordeal process to become a member of the Order of the Arrow. **If a candidate does not attend a 2009 Ordeal opportunity then he will have to be re-elected by his unit next year.**

We are encouraging candidates within a unit to attend their Chapter Ordeal. The experience is one that is enhanced when done with friends. This will also help in sharing rides and sharing tents.

Registration is based on a first-come, first-serve basis to candidates with their complete registration information and fee submitted to the OA Secretary no later than one (1) week prior to the Ordeal. Walk-ins and late registrations (less than one week before the Ordeal) should take all registration and medical forms to the Ordeal. Due to camp limits, walk-ins and late registrations may not be able to participate in the Ordeals and Ordeal materials may not be available. These materials will be available following the Ordeal by visiting with the Chapter meeting.

We will post a list of the candidates registered for each Ordeal on the Lodge Website www.colonneh.org beginning in late May and update the list on a weekly basis. This will be the only confirmation of registration. Additional information about the Ordeals can also be found on the website.

After your son completes his Ordeal, he is encouraged to attend Chapter meetings and to take full advantage of all that the OA has to offer your son. Colonneh Lodge has many opportunities for service, leadership development, Native American dancing, drumming, and ceremonies. As a member of the Order, he will be able to participate in exclusive Lodge events (e.g., Fall PowWow, Spring Fellowship), Regional events (e.g., Section Conclave), and National events (e.g., National Order of the Arrow Conference). He can even serve a valuable role both to his Unit and his Chapter at the same time by serving as OA Troop/Team Representative. This role counts as a Position of Responsibility toward the rank of Eagle. The OA has something for everyone.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your District Chapter Adviser (for names and phone numbers see www.colonneh.org) or the Ordeal Adviser Don Dunbar (713-416-4975, 281-933-0546 ddunbar3@gmail.com) or the Colonneh Lodge OA office (713-756-3395 oa@shac.org). Copies of this information will be posted on the Lodge Website (www.colonneh.org).

Again, congratulations on your selection. We are looking forward to welcoming you into the Order of the Arrow.

Yours in the Brotherhood of Cheerful Service,

J.D. Edwards
Lodge Chief
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Don Dunbar
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(713) 416-4975, (281) 933-0546
ddunbar3@gmail.com



Colonneh Lodge

www.colonneh.org

Frequently Asked Questions

www.colonneh.org

Question: Why all the secrecy around the OA activities?

Answer: The Order of the Arrow recognizes that an aura of mystery not only stimulates interest in the OA, but also helps new members feel proud of an accomplishment that is not achieved by every Scout. Most candidates receive fewer benefits if they know about the induction in advance. Knowledge of the Ordeal events lowers expectancy, and dulls the edge of experience. In other words, you hurt candidates by telling them about the "Ordeal." Parents should feel free to discuss the experiences their children had at the Ordeal, after its completion. The Order of the Arrow is happy to share any pertinent information about our activities with parents who are not members.

The OA is not a secret society, and does not support hazing in any form. BSA has officially stated: *"The induction is not a hazing or an initiation ceremony. The Order is not a secret Scout organization, and its ceremonies are open to any parent, Scout leader, or religious leader. There is an element of mystery in the ceremonies for the sake of its effect on the candidates. For this reason, ceremonies are not put on in public. The ceremonies...are not objectionable to any religious group."*

Question: Can parents or non-OA Members attend Ceremonies?

Answer: Parents and non-OA siblings are strongly discouraged from attending OA Ceremonies. Our concern is that the future experiences of participants who may one day have an opportunity to join the Lodge will be spoiled.

Question: What happens during the Ordeal?

Answer: The Ordeal starts with an inspiring ceremony, where the candidate is presented with four activities to help him understand the obligations of a member of the Order: brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service. Once the four activities are completed, the member takes an obligation of service, and becomes an Ordeal member in the OA. Note that nothing in the Ordeal is considered hazing; the Ordeal activities are intended to promote self-discovery and inspiration while providing service to our Scout camps. All ceremonies are reviewed regularly by Scouting and religious leaders. The experience of the Ordeal is to challenge the candidate to understand an obligation of life-long cheerful service.

Question: How do Scouts benefit from the OA?

Answer: In 2006, over 5,000 Arrowmen in Colonneh Lodge gave more than 60,000 hours of service to their Units, Districts, Council and communities. The Order of the Arrow program provides additional opportunities for a Scout to develop leadership talents and motivational skills; improve speaking, planning, and motivational skills; fellowship with older Scouts; and achieve a deeper understanding about cheerfully and unselfishly giving of himself in the service of his fellow Scouts.

Question: What is expected of a new OA member?

Answer: OA members are expected to stay active in their Troop, set an example by living the Scout Oath and Law, promote camping, and provide service to Scouting and the community. In addition, OA members should attend monthly Chapter meetings in their district, attend Lodge events, pay annual dues, and provide service to future Ordeals.

Question: How do new OA members get involved?

Answer: Besides the personal experience of being part of an Honor Society, Arrowman can sharpen their leadership skills, work with others to solve problems, and brainstorm with others to help make the organization as strong as it can be. Getting involved is easy. OA programs provide a variety of innovative leadership opportunities and fun events not found anywhere else in Scouting. New Arrowman should first find out when and where their Chapter meets in their District by visiting www.colonneh.org.

Arrowman can serve as an **Elangomat** or "friend" at Ordeals to make new candidates feel welcome. Serving as an Elangomat is a wonderful leadership experience as well as an opportunity to make new friends. Serving as an Elangomat can also help youth achieve the Leadership in Service Award as well as the Service Clan Sash.

Scouts can help their unit and earn credit for rank advancement leadership by becoming a **Troop OA Representative**. The Troop OA Representative serves as a link between the Lodge or Chapter and the Unit. In the Unit, the Troop OA Representative makes sure that fellow Arrowmen know about upcoming OA events. In addition, the Troop OA Representative takes information back to the Chapter and Lodge on how the OA can help the Unit. The OA Troop Representative is a very important role to the OA. The OA Troop Rep should assist the Election Team with the OA elections in the unit. **He should also plan to attend encourage the elected candidates to attend a common Ordeal and where he will serve as their Elangomat (or Guide).** It is a way to serve the Lodge and Unit at the same time, and fulfill a leadership requirement for advancement towards Eagle. **As a leadership position for the Eagle leadership requirement, we do want the youth in this role to take an active part in the OA. We ask that the Scoutmaster confirms the Troop Rep's participation with the Chapter Adviser.**



Chapter **Ceremony Teams** conduct inspirational Arrow of Light Ceremonies, Pre-Ordeal and Ordeal Ceremonies and Brotherhood Ceremonies. In addition, ceremony teams have many exciting opportunities to participate in competitions at the Lodge, Section, and National level events. Joining a ceremonial team is a rewarding experience. Workshops on **Native American Dancing and Drumming** are available at Fall PowWow and Spring Fellowship. Colonneh's Native American Committee promotes cultural education through song, authentic dance, crafts, and more. Individual dancing and drumming competitions occur at many Lodge, Section, and National events.

The OA was founded upon camping traditions. Each Chapter has a **Camp Promotions Team** to improve interest in our local camps and promote the excitement of camping and adventure. Serving on **Summer Camp Staff** at one of the Sam Houston Area Council camps is an outstanding opportunity to serve Scouting.

Every year there are lots of awesome opportunities for Arrowmen to participate in **Lodge and Section events**:

- **Fall PowWow** is Colonneh's premier Lodge event held at Camp Strake. It is a combination of Native American activities such as ceremony and dance classes, crafts, competitions and PowWows; sports; exciting games; shows; expos; and more.
- **Spring Fellowship** is a one-day event full of fun and service and Lodge elections held at Camp Strake. The day starts with Arrowman giving back in cheerful service to the camp. The afternoon includes fun events, exciting activities, ceremony competitions, dance competitions, crafts, singing, drumming, regalia building, and a few surprises too!!!!
- **David Hinds Memorial Training** is a dynamic annual training event, to learn more about the OA and Colonneh Lodge and how to become a better leader. Youth and Adult training classes include leadership development, event planning, tools needed to improve chapters, and communication skills to name a few. This important training is open to all Arrowman.
- **OA Banquet** is a night of celebration to recognize award winners and celebrate the past year's accomplishments. Arrowman gather to look back at all of fun that was had over the past year.
- **Section Conclave**—Scouts from Lodges all over Texas and SE Louisiana have a blast participating in the numerous special events, games, food, fun, ceremony and dance competitions, awesome shows, LOTS of patch trading and so much more.



Being a member of the OA has many benefits beyond Colonneh. Here are just a few of the **National programs and events** available to members of the Order:

- **National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC)**— Held every two years at a major university, over 7,000 Arrowmen gather for this awesome week-long premier Order of the Arrow event.
- **Northern Tier OA Wilderness Voyage**— One of the last untouched wilderness areas lies on our nation's northern border--the Northern Tier Charles L. Sommers Canoe Base. OA members between the ages of 16-20 can participate in the OA Voyage program for just \$150, plus the cost of transportation. Participants spend two weeks on the waters of northern Minnesota; performing service the first week, and taking part in a crew-designed voyage the second week.
- **Philmont OA Trail Crew**— an inexpensive, fun way to visit Philmont? OA members ages 16-20 can participate in the OA Trail Crew program for just \$150, plus the cost of transportation. Participants spend two weeks in the Philmont backcountry; performing service the first week, and taking part in a crew-designed trek the second week.
- **Florida Sea Base Crew**— the OA Ocean Adventure (OAOA) is a unique opportunity to experience the programs at the Florida Sea Base, while providing a new type of service to the Atlantic Ocean for just \$150, plus the cost of transportation. In a two-week period, participants will complete PADI SCUBA certification, as well as interact with undersea wildlife like no other Scouts do, take wildlife samples in the Florida Keys, and performing island restoration.
- **National Boy Scout Jamboree**— The OA provides leadership to several areas of the National Jamboree—Scouting's largest event including a Service Corps that gives cheerful service throughout the event.