TAHOSA LODGE UNIT ELECTION GUIDE

YOUTH ELECTIONS

- Scout must have the approval of unit leader prior to the election, and the unit leader must certify the following requirements.
    - A registered member of the Boy Scouts of America within the unit
    - Scouting Spirit, adherence to the Scout Oath and Law, and participation in unit activities.
    - Under the age of 21
    - Meets all specified requirements at the time of this annual election.
        - Hold the First Class Rank of the Boy Scouts of America, as a minimum rank
        - Have experienced fifteen days and nights of camping during the two year period prior to election. The fifteen days and nights must include
            - Six consecutive days (including five nights) or resident camping, approved and under the auspices and standards of the Boy Scouts of America.
            - The balance of the camping must be overnight, weekend, or other short-term camps.
- Candidates for youth member shall be elected by other youth members in accordance with policies set forth by the national committee of the Order of the Arrow.

Scouts with Disabilities:
The Order of the Arrow recognizes Scouting for youth with disabilities, and elections should be held in these units. Any scout with disabilities who is classified as a youth member of the unit shall be considered a youth (voting) member of the Order of
the Arrow regardless of age. Scouts with disabilities must still meet all other membership requirements.

ELECTION PROCEDURES:

To become a member of the Order of the Arrow, a Boy Scout or Varsity Scout is chosen by vote of the youth in his unit. Lodge members in the unit have a vote as well as nonmembers. **It is important that the members of the unit have the membership requirements explained to them.**

Registered Active Member:
In Boy Scout Troops and Varsity Teams, every registered active member of the unit under age 21 at the time of the election is eligible to vote. A Boy Scout or Varsity Scout who carries a current national membership card and participates in at least some unit activities during the year is considered to be a registered active member of the unit. Scouts registered eligible for membership in the Order.

Elections and Inductions Outside the Registered Council:
Order of the Arrow elections are held in qualified Troops and Teams only under the direction of the lodge in the council where the unit is chartered. No unit may visit outside its own council and hold an OA election under the auspices of another council. In all cases, newly elected candidates for membership in the Order, both youth and adult, should complete the Ordeal and be inducted into the Order by the lodge that serves the council in which their unit is chartered.

UNIT ELECTION PROCEDURE:

- The date and place of the election are determined by the unit leader in coordination with the Lodge Elections Advisor or the Lodge Elections Chairman, who will coordinate with the appropriate Chapter. The unit leader contacts the Lodge Elections Advisor or the Chapter Elections Advisor at least l4 days in advance but no later than February 28, 2013.
- During the 2012-2013 election season, unit elections may be held only from October 1, 2012 to March 15, 2013 .
- At the time and place determined by the unit leader, the Boy Scouts and Varsity Scouts should be assembled with their leader to elect candidates.
- The unit members should have previously been informed of the purpose, history and organization of the Order of the Arrow.
- The Order of the Arrow must be represented by a two or three member election team of OA personnel, with at least one holding a Lodge Trained card. All members of the election team must be from another Troop/Team with the exception of the OA Rep.
- Failure to have a qualified team conduct any membership election may invalidate election results.
- Before the election, the OA team must secure from the unit leader verification that at least 50 percent of the registered active unit membership is present. If at least 50 percent is not present, an election cannot be held.
- The number registered and the number present is entered in spaces provided on the "Youth Candidate Election Report". If the leader is an Arrow man, he may again explain to the group the purposes of the Order of the Arrow and the basis on which candidates should be selected, and describe the method of election. If the unit leader is not a member of the Order, a member of the OA team should make this presentation with the unit leader's consent.
- The unit leader provides the number of all registered active members of his unit and the number of those members who he certifies meets all the eligibility requirements including attitude spirit and participation. These members are entered on the report form and the unit leader signs the certification.
- The election team leader explains the following to the unit leader:
    - This is the current method of election approved by the national OA committee and Tahosa Lodge.
    - All eligible youth who receive votes from at least 50 percent of those who turn in ballots are elected.
    - If no one is elected a second vote may be held immediately, and the results of this vote are final.
- A voter may list on his ballot any combination of names, including all candidates who he believes are worthy to become members of the Order of the Arrow.
- The OA team conducts the election using the Lodge Election Ceremony which stresses the following points:
    - Select the candidates who, in your opinion, have set the best examples of brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service.
    - Vote only for those you believe will continue in unselfish service to your Troop or Team.
    - If you feel that no one is worthy, turn in a blank ballot

  - If you are new to the unit and do not know the candidates well enough to vote wisely, you may abstain by not turning in a ballot at all; this will not affect the final results
  - Youth eligible for election also vote, and they may vote for themselves if they feel they are worthy

- When the voting is finished, the OA election team counts the number of ballots turned in, and enters the number on the youth report
- The OA team determines the number of votes one must receive to be elected as follows:
  - If the number of ballots turned in was even (2,4,6,8, etc) divide this number by two.
  - If the number was odd (1, 3,5,'7 , etc) add one then divide by two.
- The number of votes a youth must receive to be elected is entered on the youth report
- The votes are counted in private by the election team to determine who has been elected. All votes count equally. If at least one youth has been elected this result is final. If no one is elected, the OA team announces this fact and states that the unit will now be given the opportunity to vote again
- Time is allowed for further explanation of the purpose of the Order and the election procedures, and for any questions
- No information about the votes received by candidates is to be revealed at any time
- The second election is then held immediately, and if the unit still elects no one, this is the final result for this year's election

REPORTING OF RESULTS
The OA team assists the unit leader in listing the names of those who have been elected in Part A of the "Youth Candidate Election Report". Their addresses, birth dates, rank, emails, and telephones numbers will also be included. The unit leader and the OA team members sign the report, unless it is filled out electronically.

Copy or e-mail report to Unit Leader
Keep Original for Chapter.
Fill out online election form for each elected candidate, and e-mail electronic copy to
Elections@tahosalodge.org
electionstahosalodge@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS
As soon as the election is completed, the unit leader may announce to the entire unit the names of members who have been elected. If the leader so chooses the announcement may be delayed until some future unit ceremony or chapter call-out.

CANDIDATE STATUS
After the election a Boy Scout or Varsity Scout remains a candidate until completion of the Ordeal and Ordeal ceremony held by the Lodge. If the period of candidacy exceeds one year, the candidate's name is dropped and he is no longer a candidate. To become a candidate again, he must be re-elected. The executive committee of the lodge may extend the 1-year limit between election and induction if a candidate is ill or there are other unusual circumstances.