



Cell Name: Unit Elections

Session Length: 45 Minutes

Through this session, you will:

Explain The importance of maintaining contact between scouts, scouters, and the OA.

Demonstrate How to be effective in communicating to others about unit elections.

Guide Arrowmen in creating positive relationships with new scouts.

Enable Arrowmen to set up and conduct quality elections and follow scouts through ordeal.

Learning Outcomes:

- Ways to contact Scoutmasters.
- Identify opportunities to become involved in influencing the lives of scouts.
- The importance of maintaining communication with scouts.
- Recognize the importance of investing time in new scouts and developing them into leaders.

Theme Connection:

The theme of NOAC 2018 is “Decide Your Destiny,” emphasizing the message that today’s decisions shape tomorrow’s reality. This session will relay this theme in the following ways:

- Today’s effort to elect youth into the brotherhood will result in exponential return when they become effective leaders.
- Making a difference in one life can have a huge impact on the lives of many.
- Always striving to leave the program better than you found it allows for constant and never-ending improvement in an ever-changing world.

This session will help the Chapter (C#) and Lodge (L#) with the Journey to Excellence Requirements: C1, C2, L1, L2, L3, L4, L5, L7, L9, L10

Required Materials:

- Projector
- Whiteboard/markers



TRAINER PREPARATION

Familiarize yourself with the steps required to set up a unit election. Review your lesson plans, have an idea of what you're teaching. Spend a few minutes recollecting the ideas about promoting the OA in a positive light to new scouts/scouters or other people who aren't familiar with the program. Review the session narrative to have talking points and to be able to continue the flow of information to the trainees.

Session Narrative

Introduction **5 minutes**

Go over the key ideas. Talk about the basics of assembling your creating your committee. Maintain 2 deep leadership. Have a chief or a committee chairman in charge. He is going to be in charge and you will also capture his vision and help him in achieving it. Contacting scoutmasters is the way to get into the unit election and get members elected. District and council events are a great way to contact both scoutmasters, scouts and the units. Becoming involved on staff and having the chapter or a group of Arrowmen in charge of an event is great publicity. The OA is kind a small organization that can have a huge impact, especially on youth leaders. Maintaining contact is key, it's how the newly elected scouts and scoutmasters will know of ordeals. They'll also be able to ask you any questions they have. If you're nice, they'll always want to keep coming back. Follow through is also a big way to keep in touch. Don't fall off after the election, they need to complete the ordeal to become members. Once they do that, even still, don't leave them alone. They deserve the opportunity to become involved.

Assembling the Committee **5 minutes**

Needs at least 2 youth and an Adviser. The senior of the youth should be in charge. He should be working to train the newer member. He needs to capture a vision for success. He is responsible for what happens in the committee. He is in charge of holding committee meetings if necessary. He will be the one to report happenings at LECM's. The committee needs to determine their capability



and be able to strive to meet that and even achieve more. If in a small lodge, maybe their focus will be more toward the committee doing all or most of the unit elections. They'll be more the ones to do the actual elections. They'll be the main face of the OA to nonmembers and other scouters. In a large lodge, the committee should be more aimed toward helping chapters to become independent of the committee. The chapter should be working toward doing unit elections in their district. They have a more personal connection with their area and their members and the needs of the members. In large lodges the unit elections committee will be more focused on training chapters and other members how they can be effective in providing unit elections to the areas' troops.

Contacting scoutmasters

5 minutes

When contacting scoutmasters, you need to talk with the lodge key three. They will be able to help you best. They can help you get in contact with the right people to get a list of all unit leaders in the council or district. Make contact with them. Call them or send them emails. Any communication you can get will be able to significantly help you out. Be positive and respectful when talking with them. Ask them if they know anything about the OA. Explain what it is and what the benefits of having members of the OA in their troop can do for them. The benefits can include, better leadership opportunities for their members, more opportunities to meet more scouts, other chances to camp, to learn about scouting, greater understanding of the program, better scouting relationships, bring ideas back to the troop, etc..., Ask the scoutmasters if you can come and do a unit election. Be respectful if they say no. It's possible, and that's ok. They may not need or want the OA, and you need to be open to that. Just let them know they can always reach out if they change their mind or need help with anything. Another thing that can help if they want to learn more or show interest in the OA is to see if you can come visit and give a small presentation or opportunity to talk with the youth about the OA. If you can make the youth want to have an election, the scoutmaster will be much more open and accommodating to that idea. Continue to check in with scoutmasters after the initial call. See if they become more open to the idea over a period of time. If they feel like you're keeping in touch well, they will want to reach out to you also.

District and council events

5 minutes

There are lots of district and council events that the OA can capitalize on. For district events, having the chapter there and having a quality presence will help to promote the OA to scouts. Ask the organizing party if you can help out on staff or help be in charge of an activity. If you can be there and show a strong youth presence, other youth will want to be apart of that. They'll see what they can do in the program, and they'll want to be apart of that. Also, when the event splits off into unit time, go around to the campsites and talk about the OA with them. When they're at a scouting event they'll be more likely to want to do more scouty things. Always stay upbeat and fun, positive energy is contagious. Council events are very similar, just on a bigger scale. Find ways to be useful. Figure out what the OA can do to have a great influence on the event and those in attendance. If



scouts and scouters see the OA a lot and in a good light they'll notice and they'll do what they can to also become involved.

Summer camps

5 minutes

Summer camps are a fantastic way to induct members into the OA. What better time to induct members than when they're already up at camp? Near the end of the week is when you can hold the ordeal. They'll just go with the OA and do the ordeal instead of completing merit badges or whatnot. It's better for the older scouts who may have already completed some of their merit badges. They can do their ordeal without missing out on too much. Explain that they will potentially miss out on some experiences but they will definitely make up for it with their new brothers and a new program to get involved in. Explain the benefits, like you would do normally. Generally, more scouts in units attend scout camp than typically attend weekly meetings. If the OA can work at the scout camp, or you can induct staff to the OA, they can be a huge help. These staff members will already be at camp and they can easily run the elections and the ordeal. The scouts at camp will also be much more likely to agree to a unit election because they've had most of the week to make memories, and they'll definitely want to have something else to do. They'll also want something to look forward to when they get home. The OA can have a fantastic impact upon scout camps too, because the ordeals will inevitably provide service to camps. Ordeals at summer camp are a killer way to induct members into the order.

At the election

5 minutes

At the election is a great way to get the scouts to seriously become interested in the OA. It could potentially be the first contact the youth have with you. Establish connections and build real relationships with the boys. Be sure to remain positive, upbeat, inclusive, and happy. If the scouts enjoy your company, they'll want to be a part of what you're a part of. While you're there, be sure to take down accurate info from those to be elected. You need to be able to maintain contact with them. Another great thing to do is to give them accurate info so they can also reach out. Communicating is a two-way street, and they need to feel like they can reach out when they need to. Handouts about events coming up and ordeals is something they can take home and refer back to. Again, always be helpful and positive, and make them feel like they're already included.

After the election

5 minutes

This is a critical time. Those elected still need to be inducted. So, maintaining contact is important as ever still. It doesn't matter how many people you get elected if none of them actually become members. It's a good idea to go to ordeal and greet them. If those elected can see that you're genuinely interested in them, they'll want to pass that on and introduce new people to the order. Everything you put into fellowshipping new scouts will exponentially repay itself. Go find that one



scout and make a difference in his life and he'll make a bigger difference in the lives of countless others.

Takeaway Challenge

5 minutes

Please take out your notebook and pen. For the final 5 minutes or so, think about the role that you will be playing next year in the OA, or the role you hope to play. Write down three key ideas related to unit elections and rallying the troops that you can use to help improve the way your chapter or lodge works and plans programs. During your break time later today, share these with others in your chapter or lodge.

Appendix: Resources and Source Material

[Insert materials as appropriate, for example:]

- Guide to unit elections

<https://oa-bsa.org/resources/publications/guide-to-unit-elections>

- Choose OA

<https://oa-bsa.org/chooseoa/>

- Western Region Surge

<https://western.oa-bsa.org/surge/>