

QUALITY CHAPTER MEETING
Number 12—New Member Orientation

Background: Many newly-inducted members of the Order of the Arrow do not get involved with the chapter or lodge because they either don't understand the OA or don't know how to get involved. The chapter can help by hosting a meeting that discusses the purpose of the Ordeal, the activities of the chapter and lodge, and committees that members can join.

Meeting resources: Utilize your normal meeting room. The Guide to Inductions and JumpStart, available on the National Order of the Arrow website, can provide orientation materials and background information for the trainer. Check with your lodge for information on upcoming events, lodge committees, and contact information.

Meeting Content: Schedule this meeting after an Ordeal. It's a great idea to cover the challenges and purpose of the Ordeal. Let new members know this is the only time they will go through the Ordeal. Although work is expected in the future, Arrowmen are permitted to sleep in tents and eat well!

- ♦ Discuss the JumpStart website, national OA website, and OA handbook where members can learn about the Order of the Arrow on their own.
- ♦ Discuss with new members the opportunity to obtain Brotherhood, what they'll do at a Brotherhood conversion event—it's not another Ordeal!—and when the next opportunity for completing Brotherhood will occur.
- ♦ Talk about the activities of your chapter and lodge. When will they occur? Where will they occur? Why should members come? How can members get there?
- ♦ What opportunities are available for members to get involved? Have information available on what chapter and lodge committees do and have contact information for the chairman and adviser.
- ♦ Arrowmen are likely to return if they feel they have a role to play. Develop roles within the chapter so everyone has a part. Chapter committees can include camp promotions, elections, ceremonies, activities, training, and service. New members are excellent camp promoters as soon as they are inducted and can easily learn the other roles too.
- ♦ Have a separate discussion about opportunities for the youth and adults. Youth officers should brief youth members. Adult advisers should brief adult members. Everyone has opportunities to get involved in the OA!