



“It is only right for us to stand by them through their Ordeals, until they enter into the bond of **Brotherhood**.”

-Meteu, the opening lines of the Pre-Ordeal Ceremony

An open invitation from the Lodge Chief:

Dear Brother,

Many moons ago you came as a humble candidate seeking the way into the Order of the Arrow, and fifteen blazes led you to the circle of your brothers. However, your Journey is all but complete. Having successfully completed your Ordeal, you made a commitment to cheerfully serve your fellow man and you became an *Ordeal* member in the Order of the Arrow. Now, it is time for you to seal your membership in the Order and become a *Brotherhood* member. If you read your membership handbook that was given to you at your Ordeal, you will discover that membership in the Order of the Arrow exists in two degrees: 1) *Ordeal & Brotherhood* and 2) *Vigil*. This is so because although you have completed your Ordeal and some of the Order's secrets have been revealed to you, your status as an Arrowman is not confirmed until you take the next step of your Journey, become a *Brotherhood* member, and seal your membership in the Order of the Arrow.

The Order has much more to offer to you beyond what you learned in your Ordeal, and there is so much more that I wish I could share with you, but it is up to you to begin the next step on your own. Understand, that the *Brotherhood* is not a challenge like your Ordeal. Rather, the *Brotherhood* is simply an opportunity for you to seal your membership and learn more of the Order's customs and traditions. Our Lodge is offering you only two more opportunities in 2008 to receive your *Brotherhood*: at S-4 Section Seminars 2008, hosted by our Lodge on **November 7-9**, and at Winter Fellowship on **December 5-7**. Both of these events will take place at Tanah Keeta. Scout Reservation. For **Section Seminars**, there will be a *Brotherhood* Candidate meeting at **9:30 p.m.** on Friday night, counseling with start at **4:15 p.m.** on Saturday, and the ceremony will begin at **10:30 p.m.** Saturday night. For **Winter Fellowship**, the counseling for will start at **7:00 p.m.** on Saturday, and the ceremony itself will begin at **11:00 p.m.**

To be eligible to become a *Brotherhood* member, you must be an *Ordeal* member for at least ten months. If you are eligible and ready to become a *Brotherhood* member, then there are four things that you need to do **prior** to the date of your *Brotherhood*:

- 1) Write a letter to the Lodge Secretary, Bradley Woods, explaining how you will continue to serve the Lodge, your Unit, Scouting in general, and the community. Bring this letter with you on the date of your *Brotherhood*.
- 2) Memorize the Obligation of the Order of the Arrow (on the back of this letter).
- 3) Memorize the Order of the Arrow Song (on the back of this letter).
- 4) Call Kelsey at the Council Service Center - or email her at Kelsey.Cupples@Scouting.org - and tell her that you wish to register for *Brotherhood*. The fee for *Brotherhood* is \$14, which covers the cost of your new sash. You can register in advance and pay the \$14 for your *Brotherhood*, by October 22 for Section Seminars, or by November 28 for Winter Fellowship. You can register by phone or email with a Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express; or you can pay with cash or check by mailing it to the Council Service Center at the address on the bottom of this letter. (Please make sure to provide your name, event registering for, and phone number you can be reached at, credit card information - name on card, card # and expiration date.) Otherwise, you can register for your *Brotherhood* at the door Friday night of each event.



Mike Grove
Lodge Chief

Zack Ragan
Vice Chief of Program

Justin Warrimont
Vice Chief of Service

Bradley Woods
Lodge Secretary

Oakley Hammond
Lodge Treasurer

Stephen Feldman
Lodge Historian

Frank Taft
Lodge Advisor



2008-2009
Lodge Officers

Note: your Lodge dues must also be current. Check the date by your address on the envelope of this letter. If the envelope does not say 2008, then you must also pay \$10 to update your Lodge dues through 2008. **Also note:** The Section Seminars weekend fee includes a shirt and a patch, and is \$30 if you pre-register or \$40 if you wait and pay at the door.

My Brother - for hopefully soon I will be able to truly call you by that title - taking the *Brotherhood* is a rich experience which you must discover for yourself, but we are here "to help you on as far as man can guide his brother."

Yours in Cheerful Service,



Michael Grove
Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge Chief
chief@aal-pa-tah237.org

Council Service Center:
Gulf Stream Council, BSA
8335 N. Military Trail
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410-6329
561.694.8585 / 561.694.9050 fax



Aal-Pa-Tah Online: www.aal-pa-tah237.org

Order of the Arrow Obligation:

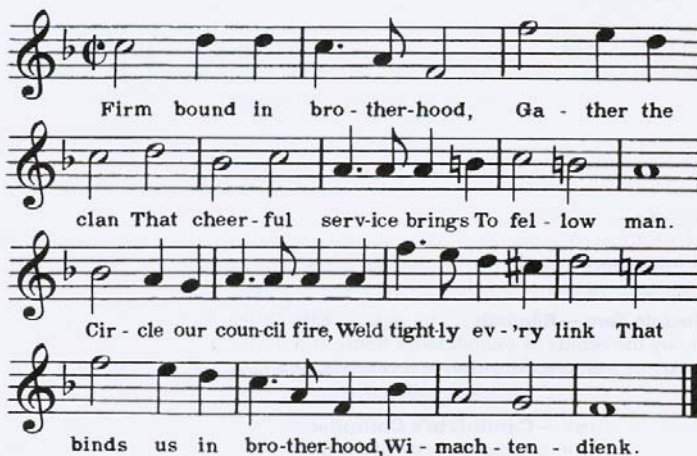
I do hereby promise on my honor as a Scout, that I will always and faithfully observe and preserve the traditions of the Order of the Arrow, Wimachtendienk, Wingolauchsik, Witahemui.

I will always regard the ties of brotherhood in the Order of the Arrow as lasting, and will seek to preserve a cheerful spirit, even in the midst of irksome tasks and weighty responsibilities, and will endeavor, so far as in my power lies, to be unselfish in service and devotion to the welfare of others.



ORDER OF THE ARROW OFFICIAL SONG

Words by E. Urner Goodman



Firm bound in bro-ther-hood, Ga-ther the
clan That cheer-ful serv-ice brings To fel-low man.
Cir-cle our council fire, Weld tightly ev-'ry link That
binds us in bro-ther-hood, Wi-mach-ten-dienk.



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