

NOAC 2009 Call-Out Competition

More Scouts and other interested parties view the Call-Out ceremony than will ever have the chance to view the other ceremonies of the Order of the Arrow. Therefore, lodges should place special emphasis on the performance of their Call-Out ceremony to ensure that their Call-Outs are well presented in order to make a great first impression with the candidates and also to showcase the OA to non-members.

Purpose

The purpose of a Call-Out is to officially recognize each elected Scout as a candidate for membership in the Order of the Arrow. The Call-Out is a form of public recognition used to communicate the honor of being selected for membership into our Order to members, non-members, and the public. Its dignity must impress all with the high ideals and standards of the Order of the Arrow. It should serve to intensify a Scout's desire to become a member.

The purpose of the Call-Out Competition is to provide lodges with useful comments from experienced evaluators on how to improve their Call-Outs. The top ceremonies will also be available for other lodges to view via the national OA website. Awards will be presented to the top three scripts.

Please note that this competition will be based only upon the written script and video submitted. A live Call-Out team will not be evaluated as part of this competition.

Call-Outs should comply with the Guidelines for Call-Outs and include all the key Call-Out elements listed below. The script will be disqualified from the competition if it does not comply with all nine elements.

Key Call-Out Elements: The key elements that should be included in all Call-Outs are:

- Purpose of the Order of the Arrow
- History of the Order of the Arrow in Scouting
- History of the lodge
- Reason for the selection of candidates
- Recognition of candidates: calling-out each candidate's name, unit number and community
- Challenge to Scouts that are non-members to strive to uphold the Scouting ideals that will lead to their selection for membership in the Order of the Arrow
- Presenting each candidate a letter of recognition and welcome from the Lodge Chief
- Giving of the Scout handclasp
- After the ceremony, distribute Spirit of the Arrow booklet 1 and provide information about all upcoming Ordeals to the candidates

Call-Out Guidelines

Call-Outs should comply with the following guidelines:

Key Call-Out Elements: Each Call-Out should include the nine Key Call-Out Elements listed above.

Make Everyone Aware of the Importance: The candidates and the audience of youth, parents, and leaders should be made aware of the importance of the honor being given. The lodge should concentrate its efforts on putting together an exciting ceremony and leaving behind an important message for the audience to silently ponder at the close. The buildup in excitement should lead all persons witnessing the Call-Out to realize the importance of Order of the Arrow membership.

Announce the Candidates: The name, unit number, and community of each candidate must be announced clearly. Each candidate must be given the same opportunity for recognition. It is important to get the correct spelling and pronunciation of each candidate's name.

Conduct the Ceremony with Dignity: The ceremony should be conducted with dignity. Rough stuff, making the candidate kneel, blindfolding the candidate, hazing, touching the candidate, teasing, marking the candidate in any way or any other kind of physical or psychological abuse has no place in the Order of the Arrow and is strictly forbidden.

Make it impressive: Call-Out ceremonies should be dignified and impressive. They should have an Indian theme. Campfires, drums, and dancing can be used to supplement, but not overwhelm, the honor.

Keep it short and to the point: The successful Call-Out should last no longer than 10 minutes plus the time it takes to announce the candidates. It should leave a strong impression on the candidate and the non-member. Keep things moving, avoid repetition, and keep to the point: the recognition of the candidate.

Items not to include: The meaning of the induction unfolds in a logical, systematic manner in the steps from a candidate's election until he achieves Brotherhood membership. The Call-Out must not violate the principal of "Symbolic Progression" as described in Principle 9 of the "Ten Induction Principles" . Therefore, no characters, information, symbolism or text from the Pre-Ordeal, Ordeal, Brotherhood or Vigil ceremony should appear in the Call-Out ceremony. Examples of violating symbolic progression are:

- Firing an arrow
- The use of the bow, bowstring, or arrow
- Giving the Obligation
- Giving the Admonition
- Reciting any part of the Legend
- Singing the OA song
- Putting candidates on silence before Meteu's challenge in the pre-Ordeal ceremony
- The placing of the hand on shoulder
- Binding the candidates with rope
- Using the names of any of the four principals
- The use of the W. W. W.

Competition

The minimum requirement to participate in the competition in the lodge's Call-Out script. In addition, lodges are encouraged to record and submit a video of their team performing the Call-Out ceremony. Although a video is not required, it may substantially improve a lodge's chances of earning recognition as one of the top three lodges in the Order. Videos of top lodges' ceremonies may also be made available on the national OA website following NOAC as an example for other lodges.

In order to participate, a lodge must submit four (4) printed copies and one copy in Microsoft Word 2003 on a CD/DVD of their Call-Out script, along with a video in .MPEG format if submitting a video along with the script. The copies must be delivered to the Inductions and Ceremonial Events (ICE) Committee office no later than noon on Sunday, August 2nd.

If you have questions about the Call-Out Competition or would like a mailing address to submit your call-out script and video in advance of NOAC, contact ICE Evaluations at ceremonyevals@registration.aa-bsa.org.

Revised 3/14/2009