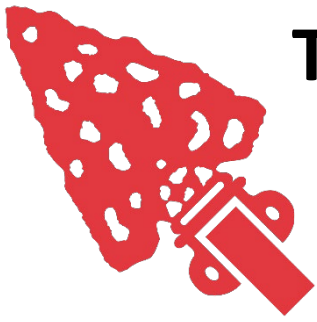




Tukarica Lodge 266

2026 Guide to Unit Elections

Unit Election Season is January 1, 2026, to March 31, 2026

Deadline for Adult Nomination Forms is April 15, 2026

Unit Leaders,

The Order of the Arrow is Scouting's National Honor Society. It recognizes those who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives and, through that recognition, cause others to conduct themselves in a way that warrants similar recognition, to promote camping, to develop leaders, and to crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.

Each Scout troop, Venture crew, and Sea Scout ship with qualified Scouts is urged to hold an election not later than March 31, 2026, to select candidates for an Induction (please see options below):

Spring Induction: Montgomery Farm on June 5-7, 2026

Fall Induction: Camp Bradley on September 18-20, 2026

Upon completion and submission of the *OA Youth Nominee Election Form* (downloadable from <https://www.mountainwestcouncil.org/tukaricahomepage>), the Lodge Elections Advisor will coordinate with the unit leader to schedule the date, time, and place of the election.

Youth Membership Qualifications

1. Be a registered member of Scouting America.
2. At the time of their election, youth must be under the age of 21, hold the Scouts First Class rank, the Venturing Discovery Award, or the Sea Scout Ordinary rank or higher, and following approval by the scoutmaster, crew advisor or Sea Scout skipper, be elected by the youth members of their unit
3. The youth must have experienced 15 nights of camping while registered with a troop, crew or ship within the two years immediately prior to the election. The 15 nights must include one, but no more than one, long-term camp consisting of at least five consecutive nights of overnight camping, approved and under the auspices and standards of the Scouting America. Only five nights of the long-term camp may be credited toward the 15-night camping requirement; the balance of the camping (10 nights) must be overnight, weekend, or other short-term camps of, at most, three nights each. Ship nights may be counted as camping for Sea Scouts.
4. Assistant scoutmasters who are 18, 19 or 20 years old are also considered to be youth members for the purpose of OA elections. All requirements shown above must be met for a young assistant scoutmaster to be eligible for election.

Prior to the annual election, the unit leader must certify the nominee's Scout spirit and youth membership qualifications. Voting for youth candidates will be based on their spirit of brotherhood, cheerfulness (no matter how tiresome their duties), and a willingness to give unselfish and wholehearted service to others at all times.

Adult Membership Qualifications

Each year, upon holding a unit election for youth candidates that results in at least one youth candidate being elected, the unit committee may nominate registered unit adults, 21 years of age or older, to the Lodge Adult Selection Committee. The number of adults nominated can be no more than one-third of the number of youth candidates elected, rounded up where the number of youth candidates is not a multiple of three. In addition to the one-third limit, the unit committee may nominate the currently serving unit leader (but not assistant leaders), as long as he or she has served as unit leader for at least the previous 12 months. In order to be nominated, adults must meet the following conditions:

1. Selection of the adult is based on the ability to perform the necessary functions to help the Order fulfill its purpose and is not for recognition of service, including current and prior achievements and positions.
2. The adult will be an asset to the Order through demonstrated abilities that fulfill the purpose of the Order.
3. The camping requirements set forth for youth members are fulfilled.
4. The adult leader's membership will provide a positive example for the growth and development of the youth members of the lodge.

Adult nominations are not automatically approved. They are reviewed by the Adult Lodge Selection Committee and their recommendations will be submitted to the Scout Executive for approval. If recommended and approved, the unit leader will be notified and the adult may then be called out and attend an Induction weekend.

Next Steps! Preparing for and Scheduling Your Election

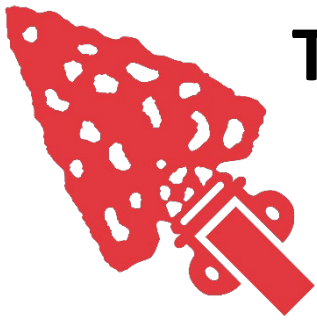
1. Download the *OA Nominee Election Form* (Excel spreadsheet) and the *OA Adult Nomination Form* (fillable PDF) from the Tukarica Lodge Web Page at:
<https://www.mountainwestcouncil.org/tukaricahomepage>
2. Complete the *OA Nominee Election Form* and email it to the Lodge Elections Advisor (OA-Tukarica@chimeraco.net) as an Excel spreadsheet (PDFs and/or handwritten forms will not be accepted).
3. Once received and reviewed, the Lodge Elections Advisor will contact you to schedule your election. It should be held at a regularly scheduled unit meeting. Every effort should be made to have 100% attendance of both youth and adults at this meeting.
4. An election team from Tukarica Lodge or a team approved by the Lodge will conduct the election, certify the results with the unit leader, and calculate the number of adults who may be nominated.
5. Immediately following the election, complete and submit your *OA Adult Nomination Forms*. Deadline to submit is April 15, 2026.

Council callouts will take place at Wagon Wheel Camporee and Wilson Camporee. Please encourage all nominees to attend.

An elected youth or nominated adult candidate will have 18 months from the date of their election/approval to attend an Induction Weekend; otherwise, they will have to go through the selection process again.

The Election Season is only 13 weeks. ***We encourage you to download and complete the OA Nominee Election Form and schedule your election as early as possible.***

Should you have any questions, please contact Janet Johnson, Tukarica Lodge Elections Advisor, at OA-Tukarica@chimeraco.net.



Tukarica Lodge 266

Unit Elections FAQ

Unit Election Season is January 1, 2026, to March 31, 2026
Deadline for Adult Nomination Forms is April 15, 2026

Can my unit conduct our own election?

No. Under no circumstances may a unit conduct their own unit election.

Can another OA Lodge in another Council conduct our election?

No. All elections must be conducted by the OA Lodge of the Council in which the unit is chartered. No unit may visit outside its Council and hold an OA unit election under the auspices of the OA Lodge of another Council.

Can my unit conduct our election at summer camp?

No. All unit elections are to be conducted at troop, crew, or ship meetings.

How many elections can a unit do?

One per year. If an error in the election process is identified after conducting an original election, the unit leader may submit a request to the Lodge Executive Committee for a second election to be held.

When are elections conducted?

January 1 to March 31. OA Nominee Election Forms are available to download from the Tukarica Lodge web page. A completed Excel form must be submitted in order to schedule an election.

Why do we need to complete and submit the OA Nominee Election (Excel) Form?

The digital form provides all the information our membership team needs to upload into LodgeMaster and sync with Scouting America and OA National. Forms completed by hand are difficult to read and often result in mistakes and inaccurate data, making it challenging to communicate with candidates.

Are nominated adults automatically accepted into OA?

No. Units must use the Adult Nomination Form to nominate adults. Nomination forms are reviewed by the Lodge Selection Committee who then recommend adults to the Scout Executive for approval. The unit will be notified of the results. Only then may an adult be called out and be eligible to attend an Ordeal/Induction.

When are adult nominations due?

April 15. Fillable Adult Nomination Forms are available to download from the Tukarica Lodge web page.

How many youths must attend a meeting in order to conduct an election?

At the unit meeting, the unit leader must verify to the OA election team at least 50% of the registered active unit membership is present. If not, the election cannot be held and the election should be rescheduled.

What happens if no one receives enough votes to be elected?

The OA Election Team will further explain the purpose of the Order of the Arrow and the election procedures, and answer any questions. They will then conduct a second election. If no one is elected again, this is the final result for this year's election.

Can a unit leader adjust the results of the youth election?

Election results are final. After youths have voted, the unit leader cannot adjust the results of the election.

Can Scouts vote through an absentee ballot or by proxy (someone completing a ballot on their behalf)?

No. All youths must be physically present to vote in a unit election.

Do youths have to be present to be placed on the election ballot and be elected?

No. All Scouts who meet the eligibility requirements should be included on the election ballot, even if some of these Scouts are not present when the election is being held.

How do I determine which youth are active for determining if a quorum is present for an election?

A 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.

Are voting and counting votes done in public?

No. Voting is done by secret ballot and the election team and unit leader count the votes as a group in private. No information about the votes received by candidates is to be revealed at any time. After the election, the election team destroys the ballots.

What about Assistant Scoutmasters who are under age 21? Are they considered youth or adults?

Young adults ages 18-20 are considered youth members of the Order of the Arrow. Because of this, assistant Scoutmasters who are 18, 19 or 20 years old and who meet the youth eligibility requirements should be included on election ballots whenever an election is held in a troop, and these young adults should be allowed to participate in the election in the same manner as youth members under age 18.

After election, how long does a candidate have to complete an Ordeal?

Candidates have 18 months to attend an Induction weekend and complete the Ordeal. After that, they must be re-elected. Exceptions can be made for medical or other unusual circumstances.

Can a Lone Scout be elected into the Order of the Arrow?

No. Scouts must be elected by their fellow Scouts. Lone Scouts do not have a unit. So, in order to be elected into OA, they would need to become active in a unit.

How many adults can my unit nominate?

A unit election that results in at least one youth candidate being elected, the unit committee may nominate registered unit adults, 21 years of age or older. The number of adults nominated can be no more than one-third of the number of youth candidates elected, rounded up where the number of youth candidates is not a multiple of three. In addition to the one-third limit, the unit committee may nominate the currently serving unit leader (but not assistant leaders), as long as he or she has served as unit leader for at least the previous 12 months. Below is a table.

Number of Youth Elected	Maximum Number of Adult Nominations
1	1 + unit leader
2	2 + unit leader
3	2 + unit leader
4	3 + unit leader
5	4 + unit leader
6	4 + unit leader
7	5 + unit leader
8	6 + unit leader
9	6 + unit leader
10	7 + unit leader
11	8 + unit leader
12	8 + unit leader
13	9 + unit leader
14	10 + unit leader