



Tiwahe Lodge San Diego – Imperial Council



Dear Parent,

Congratulations! Your Scout has been elected as a candidate for the Order of the Arrow (OA), the National Honor Society of the Scouting America. Founded in 1915 to recognize honor campers, the purpose of the Order of the Arrow is to honor those Scouts who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives. Through this recognition, the OA seeks to inspire others to live by these same ideals, promote camping, develop leadership, and transform the Scout habit of helpfulness into a lifelong commitment to leadership through cheerful service to others.

Candidates for the OA are selected not only for their past accomplishments, but also for their demonstrated potential to serve the welfare of others in the future. Because your Scout was chosen through the unique process of election by their peers, this honor reflects the high regard in which they are held by fellow Scouts. We are confident that your Scout is truly deserving of this recognition.

To become a member, a candidate must complete the OA induction experience. This experience is designed to be meaningful, reflective, and grounded in Scouting values. The induction weekend includes:

1. **24 Hours of Silence** – to allow candidates to turn their thoughts inward toward the ideals of Scouting and service.
2. **Arduous Labor** – to reinforce the importance of service and faithfulness to the ideals of the OA.
3. **Night Alone** – to encourage self-reliance and reflection, and to symbolize being set apart for a higher purpose.
4. **Scant Food** – to teach self-discipline and the virtue of self-denial.

There are three opportunities this year for Scouts to complete the induction experience and join the Order of the Arrow. Detailed information regarding induction weekends, costs, and dates can be found on the Tiwahe Lodge webpage (<https://www.sdicscouting.org/programs/order-of-arrow>) in **Induction Central**.

Please note: if a Scout does not complete their induction experience within eighteen months of their election, they must be reelected to candidacy in order to join the OA.

Induction into the OA opens many new doors for your Scout. Our lodge participates in numerous events throughout the year, and the OA offers some of the most valuable youth leadership training and service opportunities available in Scouting. These experiences build upon the foundation your Scout has already developed and help prepare them for future leadership roles.

This is truly an exciting time for you and your Scout, and your encouragement and support are greatly appreciated.

Virtual information meetings for parents will be held prior to the induction weekends to address any questions or concerns you may have. Information will be posted on our website. Please feel free to contact either of us if you have additional questions about the OA.

Thank you for your continued support of your Scout and of Scouting. We look forward to meeting you and welcoming your Scout as a member of the OA.

Yours in Brotherhood,

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