

## The Meaning and Significance of the Night Alone

Dedicating your life to cheerful service is not always easy. Your friends might often test your dedication to service. They may say that Scouting is "uncool" or tempt you to make decisions that are contrary to the Scout Oath and Law.

You must be steadfast and remain loyal to the Scouting pledges even when faced with isolation from your peers.

Kitchikinet warned you, "It is not an easy journey. Sometimes even friends will mock you, tempt your resolution often, often try to make you faithless. All the world may seem against you and your path seem dark and lonely. All your strength will be required to face the isolation which a leader often faces."

"So tonight beneath the heavens sleep alone upon your groundsheet. Be you steadfast as the polestar self-reliant, undiscouraged."

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## Congratulations on Your Election into the Order of the Arrow!

The Order of the Arrow is the National Honor Society of the Boy Scouts of America and it is the Brotherhood of Cheerful Service.

You are now undergoing your *Ordeal*—your induction into the Order of the Arrow.

While it may be difficult to understand the meaning of the Ordeal right now, if you have *done your best to meet its tests*, you will likely look back on this experience as one of the most meaningful of your life.

*"Awake, my friends. You are now starting on a long and toilsome journey."*

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## The Meaning and Significance of the Night Alone

Spending the night alone in thoughtful silence should help you prove to yourself that you will not flinch even when isolated from your peers in standing up for what is right.

Spend tonight in thoughtful silence!

In the ceremony, Meteu said, "*Hours spent in thoughtful silence help us make the right decisions more than days and days of talking.*"

*Use tonight to reflect on the following:*

- The ceremony
- Why you were selected
- What brotherhood, Cheerfulness, and Service mean

*"Let us try to find the Arrow!"*

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## Your Election into the Order Is Indeed Unique

There are very few organizations in the world in which members are primarily elected by non-members.

The Scouts in your home unit selected you. Why?

You were kind, helpful, easy to get along with, and a friend to all.

You were cheerful, even when you had many tiresome jobs to do.

You were always ready to give unselfish and wholehearted service to others.

You lived the values of the Scout Oath and Law, and your fellow Scouts saw something in you that was straight and true.

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## Reflection questions

1. Who are you?
2. Why did your fellow Scouts choose you?
3. Are you willing to dedicate yourself to a life of cheerful service?
4. What do Brotherhood, Cheerfulness, and Service mean?

*"This Ordeal is but a shadow of the rigors of the journey but its joys are also shadows of the brighter, greater beauty in a life of cheerful service."*

## What Is the Purpose of the Ordeal and Why Am I Here?

You are here to prove to yourself your willingness to dedicate yourself to a life of cheerful service.

Think about it.

*Only you* can commit yourself to the great task of leading a life of cheerful service.

You might also learn of the true joy that comes from cheerfully serving others.

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## Understanding the Arrow

Booklet 1

Shawnee Lodge  
Order of the Arrow  
Boy Scouts of America

## The Four Challenges

Tonight you participated in a ceremony of great significance. In it, Allowat challenged you to complete four tests of your determination to lead a life of cheerful service.

The four challenges include:

- Spending the night alone
- Eating scant food
- Maintaining strict silence
- Spending a day in arduous labor

Each test has significance. They are meant to help you prove to yourself your willingness to dedicate yourself to a life of cheerful service. Tonight you will spend the night alone in thoughtful silence. You will undergo the other three tests during your Ordeal weekend.

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