

The Meaning and Significance of the Day of Arduous Labor

During the Pre-Ordeal Ceremony, Allowat, the mighty chief, challenged you to:

...Spend the day in arduous labor, working gladly, not begrudging, seek to serve and thus be faithful to the high ideals and purpose of the Order of the Arrow...

Be cheerful while serving others.

Try to find the greater beauty in a life of cheerful service.

The reward of serving others is unlike any other. Cheerfully serve others today and try to find the greater beauty. Seek to find the true joy in serving others.

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Congratulations on Your Election into the Order of the Arrow!

You are already undergoing your Ordeal -- your induction into the Order of the Arrow.

You have already completed the first challenge of your ordeal; spending the night alone.

Three challenges are still before you:

- ✦ Eating scant food
- ✦ Maintaining strict silence
- ✦ Spending a day in arduous labor

You, like the Arrow, are just beginning on your journey onward and upward.

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

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The Significance of Your Journey through the Ordeal Weekend

You, like the Arrow, were chosen from many others, but your journey is just beginning.

Spending the night alone has taught you that it will not always be an easy journey. Others will often test you and tempt you to betray your promises.

The scant food will teach you to give without counting the cost. The silence will give you a chance to reflect and learn more. The arduous labor will instruct you on the true joy of serving others.

You are now setting foot upon the lifelong path of cheerful service!

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

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Welcome to Your Ordeal Weekend!

Remember that your fellow Scouts chose you out of many others to be a member of the Order of the Arrow.

You will have an Elangomat, which means friend, to guide you through the Ordeal.

Today is not meant to be a day of punishment, but rather a day of learning.

Do your best to keep a cheerful spirit throughout the Ordeal!

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

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Reflection questions

1. Why did your fellow Scouts choose you?
2. What are the four challenges and what is their significance?
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."

The Meaning and Significance of Eating Scant Food

During the Pre-Ordeal Ceremony Nutiket, the guard, said:

...your companions taking note of your devotion to the high ideals of Scouting have proposed you to the order.

You were sent to seek a vision of yourself and of your purpose...

Then he challenged you:

...So [today] eat you nothing but the scant food you'll be given. So [today] learn by fasting, sacrifice, and self denial to subordinate desires to the spirit's higher purpose...

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Understanding the Arrow

Booklet 2



Shawnee Lodge
Order of the Arrow
Boy Scouts of America

The Meaning and Significance of Maintaining Strict Silence

During the Pre-Ordeal Ceremony, Meteu challenged you to strictly keep a pledge of silence until you have taken the obligation.

Meteu declared:

...Hours spent in thoughtful silence help us make the right decisions more than days and days of talking...

Today will be a great opportunity to think and reflect about your life.

You and every other Ordeal candidate are all under the same pledge of silence. You are all undergoing the same Ordeal. This binds you as brothers in the Order of the Arrow.

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