



SOUTHERN PRAIRIE LODGE ORDER OF THE ARROW

Dear 2026 Candidate for Membership in the Order of the Arrow:

Congratulations! The Scouts of your unit have selected you as a candidate for membership in the Order of the Arrow. As you may know, the Order of the Arrow is Scouting's National Honor Society. It recognizes those Scouts and Scouters who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives and seeks to encourage those members to conduct themselves in a manner that justifies receiving this honor. In addition, the Order focuses on leadership development and programs to support Scouting, while striving to instill in all its members a spirit of cheerful service.

Now that you've been elected, what's next? As a candidate, you are invited to take part in the Order of the Arrow's induction weekend called the "Experience" which will teach you about the Order of the Arrow and your role as an Arrowman. During the "Experience" you will participate in camp service projects and sleep under the stars.

To assist you in planning, there will be two opportunities to complete the "Experience" this year at our council camp. The Spring Experience is scheduled for March 20-22, 2026 at John Nichols Scout Ranch and the Fall Experience which is scheduled for August 7-9, 2026 at Camp George Thomas. Maps to John Nichols Scout Ranch and Camp George Thomas are available [here](#).

The 2026 Spring Experience registration is available online at [2026 Spring Experience](#). The 2026 Fall Experience registration is available online at [2026 Fall Experience](#).

When selecting your preferred induction weekend, you should choose a date that works best for you. You may also wish to check with other candidates from your unit and attend the induction weekend together. **Remember, if you do not complete The Experience Weekend within 18 months, you must be re-elected by your unit.**

Regardless of which induction weekend you choose, prior registration is required. The total candidate fee includes the cost of an Order of the Arrow sash, handbook, lodge pocket flap, and paid OA membership dues for 2026. The cost of food for the event is also included in this fee. Prior registration is needed for planning purposes and food preparations. Therefore, registration must be received prior to the event or a late fee will be charged.

The Experience Weekend will begin at 9:30PM. We recommend that you arrive at camp by 7:30PM on Friday evening and have your ride pick you up at 9:00AM on Sunday. It is highly recommended that you remain until Sunday for the full fellowship experience of Southern Prairie Lodge. No meals will be served Friday, please eat at home or bring a sack lunch. You should wear "work clothes" to camp, do not wear your Scout uniform. Your uniform will be needed for the ceremony after completion of "The Experience".

You will need the following equipment for Friday night:

Sleeping bag, ground cloth, canteen, pocketknife, work gloves, insect repellent, and a poncho.

You should also bring and packed separately:

A tent or plan to share a tent on Saturday Night, Personal grooming articles, a towel, a Class "A" Scout uniform for the induction ceremony, and other necessary items.



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Please also note the following information:

- ✓ All health considerations must be provided in complete detail on your health form and on your registration. Include a list of all medications, allergies, special diet instructions, activity restrictions and any necessary other health information.
- ✓ Eat dinner before you arrive at camp on Friday evening. All other meals are provided.
- ✓ Registration/Sign-in begins at 6:30PM and ends at 9:00PM. The Experience ends at 9:00AM on Sunday. All candidates must check-out and be picked up by 9:00AM on Sunday.
- ✓ **You should expect to sleep under the stars on Friday night.** Bring a waterproof ground cloth and warm sleeping bag. Wear work clothes, long pants, boots/shoes and work gloves to camp on Friday. You will need to pack a full Scout uniform for Saturday evening.
- ✓ Bring gear appropriate for the season/weather. Layer clothing so that it is adjustable to the seasonal conditions and be sure to include extra warm/dry clothing. Bring a jacket or coat, rain gear, hat, water bottle, flashlight, sunscreen, insect repellent, and a small daypack for carrying your gear on Saturday.

Schedule:

Friday

6:30PM – 9:30PM

Registration

Friday

9:30PM

The Experience Begins

Sunday

9:00AM

The Experience Ends

The ceremony is for candidates and members only. Parents of candidates can get prior approval (before the start of the Experience) from the Lodge Adviser to attend.

We will have a short new member information seminar Saturday afternoon and the new members will meet with members from their Chapter. This will help new members learn about Southern Prairie Lodge and what it means to be an Arrowman. Please plan to depart at 9:00AM on Sunday. The pickup point will be the same as the drop off point.

If you would like to purchase optional lodge uniform items, we will have a variety available including additional lodge flaps. Snack items will be available for purchase beginning Saturday after the induction ceremony.

Candidates with general questions may contact the lodge at lodge@southernprairie.org. Remember, regardless of which Experience Weekend you choose, prior registration is required.