September 15, 2018

Scoutmasters and Varsity Coaches,

The time is upon us to elect new members into the Order of the Arrow (OA). There are many advantages to holding an election which includes: recognizing "honor" scouts, encouraging youth participation, and providing another motivation to go camping. The OA is Scouting’s National Honor Society. Our foundation is built on 3 principles; Brotherhood, Cheerfulness, and Service. With that foundation we fulfill our purpose of:

- Celebrating Scouts.
- Promoting camping.
- Developing leaders.
- And, helping others.

I remember the evening I was elected to the OA. I was super excited for weeks afterwards, hoping that my peers had given me the honor of election as an OA Candidate. Later, at Summer Camp, when I was called out, I was so overwhelmed that I thought nothing could ever be better. Completing my Induction weekend and converting to Brotherhood membership in OA both proved that there was still room for me to be impressed and hugely influenced by the lessons taught in each ceremony. The Lodge has always had its arms open to my participation, but also reminded me of my first obligation to serve my Troop. The result; I became a better Scout and I have been able to bring many lessons learned back to my Troop for everyone’s benefit.

The OA is a youth run organization where all our members are elected by fellow youth (20 and younger). Youth (under 21) are elected through a closed ballot by their youth peers in your unit. All BSA members who are registered, active, and under 21 years of age are eligible to vote. Please take the time to look at the attached documents as it explains the OA membership requirements.

Adults (21 and over) can be nominated to the OA as well. Unlike youth members, adults are nominated by their troop adults. For every three (3) youth a troop elects, one (1) adult leader may be nominated. Scoutmaster (with 12 months in position) nominations do not count against this quota.

For your convenience an “Election Coordinator” directory is included on the Unit Election Instructions page. Feel free to call or email the Chapter OA Unit Elections Contact from your District/Chapter to get the process started. And our Vice Chief of Inductions can be reached at inductions@ainatopahutsi.org.
If you were not already planning to hold elections, I hope you will consider the awesome opportunity this could be for the youth in your unit. It is my goal that every unit in Alamo Area will be visited over the next several months by members of our Order. So even if you are not ready to have an Election now, please schedule a visitation with your chapter and learn more about this fantastic organization. It really was the magic that brought Scouting’s entire benefits home for my scoutmaster and I.

Again, thank you all for what you do, it does matter.
Luke Keith
Aina Topa Husti #60
Lodge Chief