



**Dear Scoutmasters,**

**Welcome to another year of summer camp at Onteora Scout Reservation. As you may know, the Buckskin Lodge has been very active at camp. We wish to continue that this summer, but in order to do so we need your help.**

**The Order of the Arrow is scouting's equivalent of a national honor society. It reinforces scouting's highest ideals to foster a stronger scouting experience. It has been cited that young men who become active in the Order of the Arrow are more likely to stay active in their home troop. Summer camp is a perfect opportunity for your young men to set off upon this trail.**

**The ordeal in the Order of the Arrow is the first step for a young man or leader who wishes to become active. The ordeal experience is a critical step in the Order of the Arrow experience, though if a scout sets off to complete this endeavor while unprepared it can have quite the unintended effect. We hope that you will ensure this doesn't happen, please check that none of your ordeal candidates miss Monday evening colors, the ordeal starts with the tap out. Thereafter, please check that your scouts bring everything they need for Monday night.**

**The second step in the OA experience is the Brotherhood. Any dues paid OA brother who has been in the lodge for longer than ten months is eligible to participate in the Brotherhood ceremony. We ask all scoutmasters to urge their eligible brothers to complete their brotherhood. When one undergoes the brotherhood, he is sealing his bonds with in the order. In order to do so, one must complete a few simple tasks before Thursday night. The first thing one must do is find a sponsor; a sponsor can be any brotherhood or vigil member that the scout has a personal relationship with. If a scout can't find such a brother the OA Coordinator can assist him in finding one. Once this has been accomplished, the scout must begin to memorize some of the symbols of the OA. Those include the Obligation, the Song, the Hailing Sign, the OA's history, and the symbolism within the ordeal. The final step that must be completed prior to Thursday night is that the brotherhood candidate must write a short letter about what cheerful service he has been done since his ordeal and what he plans to do in the future.**

**We also ask that you support both your ordeal and brotherhood candidates. To do this, we hope that you and the OA brothers in your troop will attend the ceremonies so you can be there to congratulate your troop members. We feel it is important that there be people a young man knows there when he completes either ceremony.**

**There is an important change regarding the OA and OSR. During weeks one through five, any participant in the weeklong camp experience either with his unit or as part of the provisional troop will pay only ten dollars for his Ordeal. Sealing their vows in Brotherhood will be free.**

**We would like to thank you ahead of time for your support. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to consult with Anthony Bacchi the OA Coordinator in camp.**

**Yours in Brotherhood,**

**Michael Dioguardi, Lodge Chief**

**Glenn Greubel, Lodge Advisor**

## **Necessary equipment for Ordeal Candidates**

### **Prepare a Pack with the following items:**

**Sleeping Bag**

**Ground Cloth**

**Sleep-wear**

**Work Clothes**

**Poncho (rain gear)**

**Pocket Knife**

**Flashlight**

**Water Bottle**

### **Leave in your tent:**

**Food**

**Watches**

**All Electronic Devices**