

**Updated 3/1/2021**

INFORMATION FOR THE Order of the Arrow ORDEAL CANDIDATES 2020 and 2021

This information can be found here: <http://crosswindsbsa.org/oa/OrdealInfo.pdf>

Sign up and payment for your Ordeal MUST be done ONLINE: <https://www.lodge104.net/ordeal/>

**COVID-19 Exceptions:** The remaining material is subject to last minute changes due to the existing COVID-19 protocol requirements as each event date arrives. Lodge website posted dates/time/locations supercede anything listed in this more generic information listing.

By receipt of this document, you or your son was recently elected for induction into the Boy Scout's National Honor Society! The Order of the Arrow

Congratulations for being selected from many others, for this honor. If you are new to the OA, I will provide a few links to more information and then some basics on the upcoming Ordeal weekends.

Please share this with Scouts and Scouters in your unit that were recently selected. I do not have everyone's email address. Encourage them to send their email information to me. <mailto:webmaster@crosswindsbsa.org>

If you are reading this and did not get it directly from me via email, please send me at least one email address that we can associate with your membership records. This will ensure you get timely information updates. The Lodge maintains one single email for each member, but our Chapter allows multiple emails, so send me as many as you want and designate one as "primary".

Remember: You have only been "tapped" for membership, you must first meet and work your "Ordeal" to be a full member. Also, if you were selected and choose NOT to be in the OA, please let us know and we will remove you from future contact.

I am Gantt Edmiston. I am a Brotherhood member- Vigil Honor, in the OA and serve also as the adviser to the Vice Chief of Communications, for OUR chapter, the Netami Chapter (nuh-TOM-ee). Netami Chapter is the same group that makes up the Crosswinds Scouting District in the Occoneechee Council. Many Council names are different from their OA Lodge names, but we share the same great name for both Council and OA Lodge --> Occoneechee Council #421 and Occoneechee Order of the Arrow Lodge #104.

Our Lodge website is: <http://www.lodge104.net>

What is the Order of the Arrow?: See this link for details: <https://oa-bsa.org/about/mission-purpose>

Generally, I can say the OA is a LOT OF FUN!

Your Ordeal: You may have heard many things about the OA, but let me provide some basic things you need to Be Prepared, and you will look back on your Ordeal and say, "That was easy!"

The Induction ceremony, called the Ordeal, is the first step toward full membership and privileges. The entire experience is designed to teach significant values and prepare your thoughts for the purpose and life in the OA.

If you have specific food allergies, (like to egg, for example) make sure you notify the person at Registration and also your Elangomat in your group. The "Elangomat" (which means "Friend") will be your guide during your Ordeal and will help you with any concerns.

Candidates for membership in the Order (of the Arrow) must complete the Ordeal and must be inducted into the Order by the Lodge that serves the Council in which the (Scout's) unit is chartered.

The Ordeal must be completed one of the weekends of listed below. If you do not complete your Ordeal one of these opportunities, you must be re-selected next year in order to maintain your eligibility for membership.

Ordeal is held at Camp Durant, here is a link to the map to the camp: [OSR Camp Durant Map and Parking Permit](#)

- **Spring Inductions: March 19-20, 2021 (one night only)**
- **Spring Pow Wow: May 14-16, 2021**
- **Fall Inductions: September 17-19, 2021**

Paperwork: [You register online](#) for your Ordeal, this process will gather all the required information, including medical needs. If do not [register online](#), you will pay a higher fee, and have to complete a paper medical form. We strongly recommend you register online.

Money: OA candidates **should** [register online](#) and pay \$50, to cover their Ordeal weekend meals, membership dues, and their new OA sash. Know also that after your first year, annual dues are \$15 per year. You are a member of the National OA for life, regardless of your age or which lodge you transfer to. However, you must maintain a registration in a Scouting "Unit" to participate in Order of the Arrow events throughout your life. If you lapse membership in Scouting, that is OK, but to become re-activated later in life with the OA, you just need to find and register with a Scouting unit and then pay your dues to which ever OA Lodge is local to you.

Scouts are still youth members in the Order of the Arrow and eligible for leadership positions until age 21. Some of our best leaders and committee chairmen are college students and really show the younger scouts what they can aspire to be. Remember however, they must first stay registered in Scouting via some local unit. Ask your Scoutmaster what positions are available after age 18, like Unit College Reserve.

Additionally monies needed might include \$10 to \$20 to purchase OA t-shirts, caps, candy and drinks at the camp Trading post. Also, you will need to eat a large meal on Friday before arriving at camp.

Transportation: Unlike Troop camping events, OA members must find their own transportation to and from OA events. Each Troop has their own policies on providing transportation for OA, so check with your Troop Scoutmaster or Troop transportation coordinator or your Unit Order of the Arrow Troop Representative to find out about how to get to and from OA events. After your Ordeal weekend, you will see or meet friends and often you can get rides to events with other folks you know.

Arrival on Friday of your Ordeal: You must arrive at OSR Camp Durant absolutely no later than 7:00pm, but preferably by 6:00pm. Registration lines can be quite long and do not expect to arrive at the stroke of 7pm and get to where you need to be on time. You may arrive by 5pm at the earliest and beat the rush.

What to bring: Friday night, you will be required to sleep alone, without your tent. You should pack a personal sized water resistant tarp, ground pad, and sleeping bag or sleeping liner. A small pillow is OK and a bottle of plain water. You may not bring food or candy with you for Friday night. I recommend you pack two bags, one for Friday night and another for Saturday night. Know that if dangerous or heavy storms come through Friday night, you will be moved to a shelter.

You need to have your Friday gear LIGHT and PORTABLE and READY. Roll your gear tightly into your tarp and secure it all with a light rope that you can throw over your shoulder. You need to be able carry your Friday gear several miles in your hands or hanging from your shoulder. Comfortable work shoes / boots are recommended.

However, Be Prepared to shield yourself from mild rain or heavy dew, over night with a tarp. You will most likely be placed in a camping location along a secured roadway. The ground will not be soft so a Thermo-rest™ pad would be a great solution for getting some sleep.

Again, your Friday pack should be minimal, light and able to be worn over your shoulder. It should also be easily rolled up and be mobile in a few minutes.

A small bottle of personal sized insect repellent would also be advisable. If you have medicines you must take, make sure you have those with you in a water tight zip-lock baggie. Make sure you also keep all your money with you or locked in your vehicle. Cell phones and other electronics should be TURNED OFF and used only in the case of personal emergency situations. No non-emergency electronics usage during your Ordeal.

Clothing: You are expected to bring and wear your Class A scout shirt to all OA events. On Saturday, you will be allowed to change out of that shirt and into work clothing. Saturday afternoon, you will be given time to clean up, shower if you like, and dress back into your Scout uniform for the evening Ordeal membership ceremony. Your gear that you do not take with you Friday night, will be secured in the field where you gather on Friday. It will be monitored overnight, but do not leave valuables, money or required medicines in your gear. It would be good to bring with you a pair of work gloves with your name ID written on or in each glove.

Electronics: Cell phones are prohibited from Friday 7:00pm until after your ceremony Saturday night. You may bring them, but they must be turned off during your Ordeal. Signal coverage in the camp is spotty and it's best to leave them off anyway, to save your battery for important calls.

Property Identification: Remember, most Scouting apparel looks pretty much the same. Label ALL clothing and items with something that will get it back to you. Scouters will go to extreme measures to return lost property, but only if you make it easy. If you do lose something, check the Sullivan center registration desk, for lost and found.

The official OA Ordeal is completed by 10pm on Saturday night. Late night events like a dance and Pow Wow will be held. You will receive your Ordeal sash and Ordeal shirt flap patch, Saturday night, in your ceremony ring. Make sure you get both, before you leave your ceremony. Most new members stay overnight Saturday and leave Sunday after breakfast and Chapel. You are however, free to leave camp late Saturday night if you cannot stay until Sunday morning. We **STRONGLY** recommend that if you leave Saturday, that you ride with a person who was fully rested to ensure a safe trip home from camp. Do **\*NOT\*** drive yourself or others if you are not fully rested.

A week after your Induction ceremony, you will receive an email, from Occoneechee Lodge, using the email address you provided when you registered. Watch for that, and check your Spam/Junk folder, if you don't get that. In this email, you will be given a link to download and print your temporary new membership card. When you register again, for your next Lodge event, you will receive on arrival, a permanent plastic membership card.

Fees for each weekend include four meals, three on Saturday and Sunday breakfast, plus Crackerbarrel snacks late Saturday night. Snacks at the trading post are extra. The Trading Post is located in the basement of the Grand Lodge dining hall. The entrance of the Trading post faces the waterfront at Camp Durant.

Additionally, there is a Lodge specific trading post in the Charley Sullivan Center. You can buy OA patches, clothing, and other lodge swag that will let you wear your OA membership with pride!

Events end at 9:30am on Sunday after Chapel services. A weekend schedule of events will be posted online just prior to the Inductions weekend, look for it at: <http://www.lodge104.net/>

Welcome to the Order of the Arrow!

**Chapter Meetings:** Once you complete your Ordeal, you will be eligible to attend your local Chapter meetings. Netami Chapter normally meets, the second Thursday night, from 7:00pm to 8:00pm. The current meeting location is the Apex United Methodist Church, located at 100 S Hughes St, Apex, NC 27502

. This is in the Discipleship building. Uniform is field (class A) and your OA sash. We also send out a reminder a week before, where you can optionally sign up on a survey, to get pizza for dinner. Those who sign up, and arrive 30 minutes early, bring \$3 CASH, and get 2 large slices of Domino's pizza. You should bring your own water bottle or drink of your choice. This is a pre-meeting 30-minute social time, that many brothers enjoy.

Remember, **you should not attend** these meetings, until AFTER you complete your Ordeal weekend.

If you have questions, you may contact those in the listed order below:

Your Troop Scoutmaster first.

Then:

OA Netami Chapter Adviser: Donna Dragon [okdragon204@gmail.com](mailto:okdragon204@gmail.com) 919-270-2542

Netami Adviser to VC Communications: Gantt Edmiston [webmaster@crosswindsbsa.org](mailto:webmaster@crosswindsbsa.org) 919-740-9191