

Vigil Call-Out Ceremony

This Vigil call out ceremony is designed to publicly recognize those outstanding lodge members who have been selected for the Vigil honor. It can be used by any chapter to recognize their Candidates. Chapters that have their own Vigil Call-Out Ceremony may use that ceremony if they desire, as long as the ceremony follows the guidelines given in the Guide for Inductions.

Chapters may conduct one or more Vigil Call-Out ceremonies, and may hold them at any suitable occasion for recognizing the new Vigil Candidate. This ceremony is designed to be public, so it can be conducted with non-OA members and non-Scouts present. Occasions such as Chapter Service Weekends, Spring Camporees, District Dinners, District Roundtables, Chapter Meetings, Camp Flag Ceremonies, and so on, can be appropriate, depending on who the candidate is and what he or she does in Scouting and the OA.

In keeping with the Order of the Arrow's emphasis on youth leadership, the ceremony should be conducted by youth under the age of 21. While it is appropriate for the youth conducting the ceremony to be Vigil Honor members, it is not required. Having suitable youth do the ceremony is more important than having Vigil members do it. The ceremony is written for two youth, but can be done by one youth covering both parts. Or, if additional youth are available, they can be given a portion of either part, or can serve as honor escorts for the Candidates.

All youth conducting this ceremony need to be either in appropriate Ceremonial Attire with their OA sash, or in full BSA Field Uniform ("Class A") with their OA Sash.

Youth 1:

The Order of the Arrow is "Scouting's National Honor Society." In over 300 lodges across our nation, the OA is at the forefront of the Scouting movement, developing the leaders and citizens of tomorrow. Here in Northern Star Scouting, the members of the Totanhan Nakaha ("Toe-tahn-hahn Nah-kah-hah") Lodge carry out their principles of brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service. Our chapter is a proud part of this noble tradition.

Youth 2:

The Vigil Honor is the highest honor that an Order of the Arrow lodge can bestow upon its members. Vigil cannot be won by a person's conscious endeavors, but is presented by the lodge in recognition of a member's unselfish leadership in service.

The Vigil Honor is a high mark of distinction and recognition reserved for those Arrowmen who, by reason of exceptional service, personal effort, and unselfish interest, have made distinguished contributions beyond the immediate responsibilities of their position to their Lodge, the Order of the Arrow, Scouting, or their Scout Camp. Alertness to the needs of others is the mark of the Vigil Honor.

Youth 1:

Any member of the Order of the Arrow is eligible to be considered for recommendation to the National Order of the Arrow Committee for elevation to the Vigil Honor, provided that the individual has been a Brotherhood member for a minimum of two years. A lodge may nominate a maximum of two percent of their registered Arrowmen once a year. Out of thousands of members, our lodge recognizes less than 70 Vigil Candidates each year.

Today we are honored to recognize Arrowmen from our Chapter who have demonstrated their exceptional service, personal effort, and unselfish interest.

Youth 2:

Would _____ (*Candidate's name*) please come forward at this time? (*As the candidate is moving to the front ceremony area, continue with:*)

_____ (*Candidate's name*) is currently serving Scouting as _____ (*candidate's position(s) and roles in Scouting & OA*), and has demonstrated an outstanding record of service. (*Briefly describe the main reasons for his/her nomination:*) _____

(Wait for the candidate to arrive at the front, then continue:)

I am pleased to congratulate _____ (*first Candidate's name*) as our newest Candidate for the Vigil Honor! (*Youth 2 gives the Candidate the OA handclasp, while Youth 1 leads the group in applause. Youth 2 then asks the Candidate to remain in the front until all Candidates have been called out.*)

(Repeat the previous section for each additional Vigil Candidate being called out at this time. Youth 1 should do the recognition for the second Candidate, then Youth 2 should do the recognition for the third Candidate, and so on, alternating the youth with each Candidate.)

(After all the Candidates have been recognized:)

Youth 1:

Candidates for the Vigil Honor have distinguished themselves among their fellows. They will go through their Vigil Induction later this year. Please join me now in once again congratulating our Vigil Candidate(s)!

(Lead applause, then exit)