

# Inductions and Membership

## SURGE - Conducting Unit Elections for Units chartered by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Session Length: 30 Minutes

### Objective

This training session focuses on the communication before a unit election and how to use an email/letter to establish contact, how to communicate with unit leaders, general tips and guidelines, and how to use the LDS themed unit election video.

### Needs:

- Ability to view Video
- Handouts:
  - How to use this video
  - Sample letters and
  - Sample phone conversation script

### Section 1: Introduction (10 minutes plus 6 minutes for the video)

Slide 1 Title Slide – SURGE (Can appear while people are finding their seat)

Introduce yourself and other youth and adult presenters. “We are here to tell you about SURGE and how it can be implemented in our Lodge(s) and Chapters”.

SURGE was developed in Section W-2W, which includes Lodges in Utah, Idaho and Wyoming, specifically for outreach to units that are chartered by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. These units make up most of Scouting in sections W-2W, W-2N and W-2S.

Slide 2 SURGE (letters are revealed with each click)

**SURGE - Strengthening Units through Really Great Elections.**

But it goes beyond elections! SURGE starts with the unit election, but it also requires a strong Lodge and Chapter program, including:

- An effective and meaningful Induction Weekend
- Meaningful service projects
- Polished induction ceremonial teams
- Meaningful interaction with Lodge and Chapter members including Elangomats
- A great new member orientation
- Organized fellowship and service activities
- Productive quality Chapter and Lodge meetings

If you do not have a quality program it is unlikely you will be able to maintain a continued relationship with your LDS units or their members.

This class was created to provide Arrowmen with necessary information on how to engage LDS Units and begin to establish a tradition of each unit holding an annual Order of the Arrow unit election. Arrowmen that are part of unit election teams are the most critical part of SURGE. We need you to establish a relationship that leads to annual elections into Scouting's National Honor Society and the successful induction of new members.

Slide 3            Why SURGE? (1)

What are the main pain points?

- Low participation in Scouting's National Honor Society by LDS Units.
  - In most BSA councils, the OA has lost, or never had, a relationship with their LDS units.

Slide 4            Why SURGE? (2)

- Poorly trained election teams leave a poor impression on the members of the units, youth and adults.
  - We find we often hurt ourselves with poorly trained election teams, which leave a bad impression that results in newly elected Scouts not attending their "Induction Weekend". These bad impressions are also left on parents, church leaders, and Scoutmasters, making our outreach much more difficult long-term.

Slide 5            The Facts

- 1 in 6 Boy Scouts are in an LDS unit, yet less than 1 in 100 Arrowmen are LDS.
- There are LDS units in every council in the BSA. SURGE is designed to help you reach out to them, maybe for the first time in years!
- There is an incredible amount of untapped potential and that potential also exists in your Section(s), Lodge(s) and Chapters.

Slide 6            The Question

Ask the audience, "If the Order of the Arrow had proportional participation by LDS units, how many additional Arrowmen would you guess would be in the OA? Raise your hand if you would guess 2,500. Keep them up if you think 5,000? ...8,000?

... Keep them raised if you think 10,000? Would you believe...

Slide 7            35,000

Over 35,000 more members! And the lion share is in the Western Region! (does not apply if you aren't in the Western Region)

That's why we're here today. We want to help our Lodge(s) reach out to the LDS units in our council(s) to both strengthen our program and provide the chance for LDS youth everywhere that are missing out on the incredible opportunity that is the OA.

Slide 8            What do we do about it? (This is the Set Up / Intro to the SURGE Video)

Slide 9            SURGE VIDEO (make sure to insert and test the video in your presentation)

<Play Video - 6 minutes>

Slide 10           SURGE: Solutions (Key points to make.)

- We have dropped the term "Ordeal Weekend" in favor of the more positive, encouraging term "Induction Weekend".
- We emphasize the term "Scouting's National Honor Society". Parents and Scoutmasters should want their boys to be part of the OA and not left out of our great Brotherhood.
- Created LDS Unit Election Video!
- We want this to be a tool for Lodges and Chapters to use, think of it as an Arrow in your Quiver (meaning it is a tool, when used properly can be effective). It is not a replacement for quality program – quality Induction Weekends, meaningful Chapter and Lodge meetings or fellowship and service activities.
- The video has two purposes. It is designed it to be shown at a troop meeting the night of the OA unit election. It is also designed to be shown to parents, Scoutmasters, Church Leaders, at round-tables, and other meetings to tell the story of "Scouting's National Honor Society"
- It is intentionally made to be familiar to any LDS Scout or Scouter. LDS Scouts will immediately recognize the church building, the meeting room, and even the hymns used in the scoring of the video.
- Be aware that your Induction Weekends must be compatible with the needs of LDS Scouts. That means being flexible about time of your Saturday ceremony for LDS Scouts so they can return home at a reasonable hour Saturday evening. This enables them to attend Sunday LDS services. This is an essential part of LDS unit outreach and in W-2W it has become an easy and inclusive accommodation to make.
- This video, along with a "How to use it" guide is available for your use with LDS units in your section.

Slide 11           Director of LDS-BSA Relationships contact Mark Francis

If you are having problems reaching a Stake President or a Stake Young Men's President, Mr. Francis can help facilitate a contact for you. He is a former Lodge Chief and a youth Vigil Honor member. He is interested in helping. He is not your contact for scheduling a unit election. Your Lodge or Chapter adviser should make this contact for you.

Slide 12           SURGE landing page

Direct Arrowmen to the SURGE tab on the Western Region homepage – <http://western.oe-bsa.org> for SURGE information and resources. The SURGE tab is in the upper right corner of the landing page. This is where Lodges and Chapters will go to request the video. This is also where you download the "How to Guide".

Section 2: Email/Letter Samples (6 minutes)

Slide 13      Sample Letters

Communication is important. This is a sample letter that can be used to make a first contact with the unit leader

How to use this letter: **<you may want to provide copies and read the letter>**

This letter can be sent as an email or as a mailed letter. It is recommended that you contact the unit/church leaders two months in advance of an anticipated unit election.

Approximately two weeks after this letter is sent, it is appropriate to follow up with a phone call to coordinate the details of the unit election.

For instructions on how to generate lodge specific letter head refer to (<http://www.oe-bsa.org/pages/content/order-of-the-arrow-brand-guidelines>)

Section 3: Conversation Script (5 minutes)

Slide 14      Conversation Script **<you may want to provide copies and read the script>**

You are going to be speaking to Scoutmasters and Bishops about the Order of the Arrow and arranging for their units to have OA elections. This may be new for some of you, so we are going to practice how to make such a phone call.

The following is a script of a sample conversation between an OA Election Team Member and a Unit Leader:

OA Member: Hello, this is [NAME] calling from the Order of the Arrow, Scouting's National Society. May I speak with [Unit Leader Name]?

Unit Leader: This is [Unit Leader].

OA Member: Hello, [Unit Leader]. How are you doing this evening?

Unit Leader: I'm doing well.

OA Member: Great! I am calling to find out if you received our email/ mailing that we sent a couple weeks ago, specifically about selecting members of your unit to be inducted into the Order of the Arrow.

Unit Leader: Yes, we received it. I have a few questions.

OA Member: Great! What questions can I answer for you?

**<answer questions, be prepared to discuss both youth and adult membership requirements>**

OA Member: When could we come conduct a unit election for your troop/team?

Unit Leader: We will have a unit meeting next Wednesday, August 15th at 7:00 PM.

OA Member: That sounds great. Could you please prepare a list of Scouts in your unit that are eligible for a vote from the Scouts in your unit? Also, please encourage everyone to attend this meeting, both youth and adults.

Unit Leader: Yes, I will be sure to do that.

OA Member: Great. Could you please confirm the address where we will be meeting?

Unit Leader: 30 S Main Street, Centerville, Utah

OA Member: Great. Do you have equipment available to show a video during the meeting?

Unit Leader: Yes, we have everything available.

>If not be prepared to bring what is needed with you<

OA Member: Great! We will see you on Wednesday at 7:00 PM.

<Divide into groups and Practice making phone calls>

Take the next five to seven minutes and practice making phone calls with one another. First pick two Scouts that seem more able to demonstrate for everyone. Then have the Scouts pair up and take turns practicing. The instructor should walk around the room offering advice. Afterward take a few minutes to review anything that stood out and to answer questions. Encourage the Arrowmen to keep practicing so that they feel more comfortable when talking to an adult Scoutmaster they may have never met or spoken to before.

#### Section 4: Unit Election Guidelines (3 minutes)

Slide 15 Conducting a Unit Election (1)

General Guidelines when conducting a Unit Election

- Always wear a complete, clean Scout Uniform including the OA sash, a key symbol of our Order.
- Arrive 15 minutes early to talk with unit leaders before the unit election begins
- Have materials ready for voting.

Slide 16 Conducting a Unit Election (2)

- Be Prepared to discuss the importance of the OA and the exact youth and adult membership requirements.
- Remember that you are a representative for Scouting's National Honor Society.
- Have a copy Guide to Elections available (it can be on your phone) if you need to look something up.

#### Section 5: The Unit Election (5 minutes)

Slide 17 Guide to Unit Elections

Unit election teams are encouraged to use the Guide to Unit Elections. This guide includes instructions, script, letters, forms, and many other great resources. It is available at

<http://www.oa-bsa.org/pages/content/guide-to-unit-elections>

After the Unit Election Team shows the LDS unit election video to the unit, the election team is encouraged to answer any questions Scouts may have then conduct the election. When using the LDS Unit Election Video, it is important that the election team is prepared to present the

program using a computer and projector or large screen TV. If you have access to a projector, make sure it is available, working properly and in your possession at the time of your appointment. Make sure you have rehearsed using your computer, the cable connecting the computer to the projector or TV, the projector or TV and an extension cord and plug strip. Make sure everyone can hear the sound. Will you need speakers?

Slide 18      Any Questions?

Introduce any LDS OA members or Lodge leaders that are and able to answer questions.

Take questions.

<Trainer – Review the “Myths” document (not for distribution) for possible questions.>

Slide 20      SURGE email

For more information contact [surge@oa-bsa.org](mailto:surge@oa-bsa.org) .

Slide 21      Logo

<end of presentation>

## Sample Scoutmaster Letter Handout



February 2017

To: Scoutmaster

From: Order of the Arrow, Tahosa Lodge, Spirit Eagle Chapter, Pioneer Trails District

Subject: Annual Unit Elections

Dear [INSERT NAME]

The Order of the Arrow (OA) is Scouting's National Honor Society. It recognizes those Scouts and Scouters who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives. All Boy Scout troops and Varsity Scout teams are strongly encouraged to hold an election to nominate and induct Scouts and Scouters into the OA. The Order of the Arrow will send a trained team to your troop or team meeting place to conduct an election that typically takes 20 to 30 minutes.

The Youth Membership Qualifications to join the Order of the Arrow are the following:

1. A Scout must hold the First Class rank or higher, be under the age of 21, and be registered as an active member of your troop or team.
2. With the approval of his leader, and the fulfillment of the camping requirement below, the youth may be nominated for election. Please verify qualifications before the night of the unit election.
3. Youth must have experienced 15 nights of Boy Scout camping approved and under the auspices and standards of the Boy Scouts of America. The 15 nights must include one long-term camp consisting of at least five consecutive nights of overnight camping. Only five nights of the long-term camp may be credited toward the 15-night camping requirement. The remaining 10 nights must be overnight, weekend, or other short-term camps of no more than three nights each.

Please take six minutes now and watch this video to learn more about the importance of the OA in LDS units and to see what we would like to show to your unit prior to your OA election: <https://youtu.be/5DSYktGo-h8>

Please email us at (insert email) or call at (insert phone number) to arrange for your OA Unit Election today! I can also discuss Adult Membership Qualifications or any other questions you may have when you do. I know you would not want the boys of your unit to miss out on the exciting opportunity and honor that comes with membership in Scouting's National Honor Society.

Yours in Scouting,

[AS APPROPRIATE]

Lodge or Chapter Chief  
Email  
Phone

Unit Elections Chairman  
Email  
Phone

Lodge or Chapter Adviser  
Email  
Phone

SCOUTING'S NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

## Sample Stake Leadership Letter Handout



February 2017

To: Members of the Castle Rock Stake Young Men Presidency,

From: Order of the Arrow, Tahosa Lodge, Spirit Eagle Chapter, Pioneer Trails District

Dear [INSERT NAME]

Perhaps you were a member of the Order of the Arrow as a youth or you have a friend who was. Now is the time to help the young men in your Stake experience membership in the Order of the Arrow (OA), Scouting's National Honor Society. The Order recognizes those Scouts and Scouters who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives. All Boy Scout troops and Varsity Scout teams are strongly encouraged to hold an annual election to nominate and elect Scouts and Scouters into the OA. The Order of the Arrow will send a trained team to your unit's meeting place to conduct an election that typically takes 20 to 30 minutes.

The Youth Membership Qualifications to join the Order of the Arrow are the following:

1. A Scout must hold the First Class rank or higher, be under the age of 21, and be registered as an active member of your troop or team.
2. With the approval of his leader, and the fulfillment of the camping requirement below, all qualified youth may be nominated and elected.
3. Youth must have experienced 15 nights of Boy Scout camping approved and under the auspices and standards of the Boy Scouts of America. The 15 nights must include one long-term camp consisting of at least five consecutive nights of overnight camping. Only five nights of the long-term camp may be credited toward the 15-night camping requirement. The remaining 10 nights must be overnight, weekend, or other short-term camps of no more than three nights each.

Please take six minutes now and watch this video to learn more about the importance of the OA in LDS units and see what we would like to show your units prior to their OA election:  
<https://youtu.be/5DSYktGo-h8>

Please help us arrange OA Unit Elections in your Stake. I would be happy to discuss Adult Membership Qualifications or any other questions you may have. I know you would not want the boys of your units to miss out on the exciting opportunity and honor that comes with membership in Scouting's National Honor Society.

Yours in Scouting,

Chapter Adviser  
Spirit Eagle Chapter Adviser  
(insert email address and phone number)

SCOUTING'S NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY



## Section 3 Conversation Handout

### **Section 3: Conversation Script Handout**

The following is a script of a sample conversation between an OA Election Team Member and a Unit Leader:

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Unit Leader: This is [Unit Leader].

OA Member: Hello, [Unit Leader]. How are you doing this evening?

Unit Leader: I'm doing well.

OA Member: Great! I am calling to find out if you received our email/ mailing that we sent a couple weeks ago, specifically about selecting members of your unit to be inducted into the Order of the Arrow.

Unit Leader: Yes, we received it. I have a few questions.

OA Member: Great! What questions can I answer for you?

**>answer questions, be prepared to discuss both youth and adult membership requirements<**

OA Member: When could we come conduct a unit election for your troop/team?

Unit Leader: We will have a unit meeting next Wednesday, August 15th at 7:00 PM.

OA Member: That sounds great. Could you please prepare a list of Scouts in your unit that are eligible for a vote from the Scouts in your unit? Also, please encourage everyone to attend this meeting, both youth and adults.

Unit Leader: Yes, I will be sure to do that.

OA Member: Great. Could you please confirm the address where we will be meeting?

Unit Leader: 30 S Main Street, Centerville, Utah

OA Member: Great. Do you have equipment available to show a video during the meeting?

Unit Leader: Yes, we have everything available.

**>If not be prepared to bring what is needed with you<**

OA Member: Great! We will see you on Wednesday at 7:00 PM.

## Resources

### **SURGE OA Unit Election Video download**

<http://western.oa-bsa.org/surge/video/>      The password is Nephi

### **OA Guide to Unit Elections**

<http://www.oa-bsa.org/pages/content/guide-to-unit-elections>

### **OA-BSA.ORG "traditional" Unit Election Video**

<http://www.oa-bsa.org/pages/content/guide-to-unit-elections>