

ORDER OF THE ARROW LDS UNIT ELECTION RESOURCES

MYTHS –LDS SCOUTING & THE ORDER OF THE ARROW

Second Edition, 02/2017

Myths

1.) Few LDS Scouts meet the First Class Requirement.

This is not only false the opposite is true. The goal of LDS Scouts is to achieve the rank of First Class in their first year in Scouting. The fact is that a far higher percentage of LDS Scouts achieve the rank of Eagle Scout than the general Scouting population. The three BSA councils in Utah rank #1, #2 and #3 in the nation for new Eagle Scouts.

(<http://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2016/02/24/eagle-scout-statistics-for-2015/>).

Utah has more Eagle Scouts than any other state, even though it is the 33rd most populated state. Other states with large LDS populations rank the highest in per capita Eagle Scouts because of LDS units with Utah ranked #1, Idaho ranked #2 and Wyoming ranked #3.

(<http://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2016/02/25/which-state-had-the-most-eagle-scouts-in-2015/>).

2.) Eagle Scouts in LDS units are “paper Eagles”.

LDS Eagle Scouts are the same as all other Eagle Scouts. While nationally there may be some Scouts that do not meet the requirements as vigorously as intended, this is no more of a problem in LDS units than it is anywhere else.

3.) The Order of the Arrow is not in keeping with the LDS religion.

This is false. While it is true that some misinformed leaders believe that this is true, it is not. All formal Order of the Arrow texts, including our ceremonies are reviewed. As an example, when the OA created a new Brotherhood ceremony, all major religions, including the LDS Church reviewed the new text to confirm it was acceptable for usage for their members. The OA is a program recommended by Mark Francis, the Director of LDS-BSA Relationships Mark Francis and Past Young Men General President and current BSA National Commissioner Charles Dahlquist.

4.) LDS Scouts cannot do Order of the Arrow because they cannot camp on Sundays.

This is false. While it is true that LDS Scouts at almost all Scouting events need to be able to return home on Saturday night, there is no reason simple accommodations cannot be made to insure their Induction Weekend is completed such that they can return home at a reasonable hour on Saturday night. Many lodges complete the Ordeal Ceremony and a banquet in a timely manner for their LDS Scouts to leave before 7:00pm on Saturday.

5.) LDS Scouts do not meet the OA Camping Requirement.

While LDS units do not camp over Saturday night, they do camp over Friday night. There is no request to waive the camping requirement for LDS Scouts. Most LDS Scouts, like non-LDS Scouts, meet the camping requirements within their first two years of active Scouting.

6.) LDS Scoutmasters are Anti-OA

As with any group of Scoutmasters, there are some that are not interested in the Order of the Arrow. The reality is that a high percentage of LDS Scoutmasters do not even know what the OA is because the OA has lost, or never had a relationship with the LDS units. It is incumbent on the OA to dispel myths about the Order. The SURGE video was created to help lodges educate Scoutmasters, parents and church leaders on the benefits of the OA.

7.) LDS units do not want Order of the Arrow elections.

Again, most LDS units do not know what the Order of the Arrow is because OA lodges have not established relationships with their LDS units. While it is true that some leaders have told the OA that they are not interested in OA elections, in most cases that was years ago and the people that did not want elections gone. Even if someone told you this just last year, that person may have been released since then. Now

is the time to establish relationships with current leaders. It is time to ask again and this time be prepared to share the SURGE video.

8.) LDS Scouts and their leaders do not feel comfortable going to Scout events where there may be a pot of coffee, or the event concludes on a Sunday.

While it is true that LDS Scouts and their leaders do not drink coffee, and do not travel or camp on Sundays it is not a problem that you do. Latter-day Saints are fine if others have coffee or a caffeinated soft drink in their presence.

To meet their church obligations, they will leave early, just like anyone else that has a responsibility Sunday requires them to depart on Saturday evening. LDS Scouts will adapt to be active Arrowmen in Scouting's National Honor Society if you plan your schedule so they can leave on Saturday evening at a reasonable hour.

Alcohol is strictly forbidden at Scouting functions including OA events. It is not to be present at any Scouting event regardless of whether LDS Scouts are present or not.

If you have questions or need more resources for SURGE, please email the SURGE team at surge@oa-bsa.org .