



MIAMI LODGE #495

ORDER OF THE ARROW

"SCOUTING'S NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY"

Greetings Fellow Scout:

Congratulations on being elected for candidacy in the Order of the Arrow. Your election demonstrates that you live the Scout Oath and Law in your daily life and serve as an example for the Scouts of your Troop. Election is merely the first step on this journey you are about to undertake. The next step is to attend an induction or "Ordeal" weekend. At this weekend you will face many challenges with your fellow Scouts. After successful completion of your Ordeal, you will become a member of our Lodge. There are three opportunities to complete your Ordeal on the dates listed below. You can register online for your ordeal by going to www.miami495.org. We highly encourage you to register early so you can prepare for your experience.

Spring Ordeal: April 28th -30th at Cricket Holler Scout Camp
Summer Ordeal: August 11th – 13th at Cricket Holler Scout Camp
Fall Ordeal: September 29th – Oct 1st at Cricket Holler Scout Camp

Cost for participation in an Ordeal is \$ 80.00 This cost includes your food for the weekend, OA sash, Miami Lodge pocket flap, OA handbook, membership dues for 2023 & 2024, and the cost of your Brotherhood conversion the following year. If these items were purchased separately, it would be \$125.00. Six months after you have been inducted you will be encouraged to seal your membership by undergoing a Brotherhood conversion. Brotherhood conversions are held at every Ordeal. If you go through your Brotherhood conversion prior to the end of 2024, there is no cost. The Brotherhood conversion costs \$35 but included in the cost of your Ordeal. If you feel you will be unable to afford the cost of the ordeal weekend, please email our Lodge Adviser at drewturner.bsa@gmail.com as financial assistance is available.

Attached to this letter you will find a guide and packing list for your Ordeal weekend. We also understand that parents/guardians often have questions about the OA and we have created a special website just for them at www.miami495.org/parents. Additionally, there is also a special section of our website dedicated to answering your questions about Ordeals. This website can be found at www.miami495.org/ordeals. We encourage you to visit this site and if you have any other questions please email our Vice Chief of Inductions at inductions@miami495.org.

Again, congratulations on this honor and we look forward to seeing you at one of our Ordeals this year.

Yours in Service,

Jessica Houseman
Lodge Chief

Drew Turner
Lodge Adviser

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Candidates can register by visiting the Miami Lodge website at www.miami495.org. You will see a link to register on the right of our website. We want every Scout to benefit from the opportunities that membership in the OA provides. Financial assistance is available to offset the cost of attending an Ordeal. If a Scout is in need of financial assistance, their parent/guardian should contact our Lodge Adviser by emailing drewturner.bsa@gmail.com

Candidates may start checking in for our Ordeals at 8:00pm. Check in for (Spring, Summer and Fall) Ordeals are at Cricket Holler Scout Camp in front of the K Lodge. Candidates should plan to check in no later than 9:00pm. If a later check in needs to be arranged, please email drewturner.bsa@gmail.com

Scouts and Scouters won't need to bring that much to their Ordeal. Be sure that you do bring everything on the list below, and also be mindful of the items you should not bring and leave those at home. All food, mess kits, and sleeping arrangements for the weekend will be provided by the Lodge. If you have any questions, please contact our Vice Chief of Inductions at inductions@miami495.org.

What to Bring:

- Class A Uniform
- Sleeping bag / sleeping pad
- Tarp / Ground cloth
- Tent / Hammock (**Saturday night only**)
- Work clothes / gloves
- Extra change of clothes
- Rain gear
- Water bottle
- Personal Hand Sanitizer
- Flashlight
- BSA Annual Health Records Parts A & B
- Spending money for Lodge Trading Post
- Any needed medication (turned in at check in)

What NOT to Bring:

- Food / Mess kit (please inform us of any special needs)
- Electronics of any kind (watches, phones, tablets, etc.)
- Matches / Lighters

Candidates are expected to stay the entire weekend (Friday – Sunday). Each Ordeal ends with a Lodge meeting typically around 11:30am on Sunday. The exact pick up time will be communicated during check in.

Any special needs (e.g. dietary) should be communicated to the Lodge as early as possible. This can be done by emailing inductions@miami495.org.

After your Ordeal you are expected to return to your Troop and serve as a positive example of the Scout Oath and Law. You are encouraged to become active in your OA Lodge. The Lodge also hosts many fun events throughout the year which are planned by our youth leaders. You are welcome to become involved at the Lodge level. Our Lodge meetings are listed on our lodge website as well as the council website. Check our website and our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/miami495) for upcoming events. If you would like to get involved in the Lodge, email our Lodge Chief at chief@miami495.org.

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