

Choosing Vigil Honor Candidates

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 or office to one or more of the following: their lodge, the Order of the Arrow, Scouting or their Scout camp. Under no circumstances should tenure in Scouting or the Order of the Arrow be considered as reason enough for a Vigil Honor recommendation. (For a complete explanation of the meaning and selection criteria, refer to "Vigil Honor" in the *Order of the Arrow Handbook*.)



The following procedure has been established by the national Order of the Arrow committee to maintain a consistent, high standard in the selection of Vigil Honor nominees across the nation. Lodges should observe the following procedure in recommending candidates for the Vigil Honor and in carrying out the Vigil Honor induction. None of the Vigil selection and induction procedures may be delegated to chapters, other than to recommend candidates to the lodge nominating committee.

The lodge chief appoints a Vigil Honor nominating committee chairman and committee members composed of youths who have been approved by the lodge adviser and Scout executive. The lodge adviser appoints one adult adviser in consultation with the lodge chief and staff adviser. The chairman and committee members are usually Vigil Honor members; however, any youth member of the lodge may serve on the committee, provided that he is not eligible to receive the Vigil Honor. A committee of five to 10 youths has been found effective in many lodges. The key is to keep the committee to a manageable size, yet large enough to complete its task. The committee should be of sufficient size so that its members will collectively be aware which Arrowmen have been the leaders and workers in the lodge.

Mailed ballots should never be used for selection of Vigil Honor candidates. Open discussion between members of the Vigil Honor nominating committee is the best way to ensure that all eligible Brotherhood members receive proper consideration. *Inasmuch as the Vigil Honor does not connote a separate membership or grouping, it is inappropriate for the nominating committee to be "a committee of the whole" involving all or substantially all Vigil Honor members*

of the lodge. Nor is the Vigil Honor nomination process to be one in which the Vigil Honor members of the lodge, as a group, determine who is selected.

In selecting Vigil Honor candidates, the lodge nominating committee may reach agreement through consensus, without a formal vote. However, if a vote is taken in order to select Vigil Honor candidates, only those members younger than age 21 may vote, as in all OA matters. The nomination flows from the lodge to the national committee.

The lodge nominating committee should use the following step-by-step procedure in determining Vigil Honor nominations to be submitted to the national Order of the Arrow committee for approval.

1. Secure from the lodge secretary a complete list of Brotherhood members who are actively registered with the lodge and the Boy Scouts of America and who have been Brotherhood members for at least 2 years. *There will be no posthumous Vigil Honor candidates.*
2. Determine the number of Vigil Honor candidates that the lodge is eligible to nominate to the national committee by finding out the total lodge membership, as reported on the most recent lodge charter renewal application. Use this figure against the chart, "Quota Table—Vigil Honor Nominations," to determine the maximum number of candidates the lodge is eligible to nominate.

QUOTA TABLE

Vigil Honor Nominations

Total lodge membership reported on latest charter renewal application	Maximum number of lodge Vigil Honor nominations
0-99	2
100-149	3
150-199	4
200-249	5
250-299	6
300-349	7
350-399	8
400-449	9
450-499	10
500 or more	Ratio 1 to 50

3. In selecting candidates for the Vigil Honor, keep in mind that all candidates must have been Brotherhood members for two years or longer **at the time** of selection by the lodge Vigil nominating committee.

When weighing "distinguished service" in nominating candidates, remember to measure a Scout on a youth's standard and an adult on an adult's standard.

To maintain a proper ratio of youths to adults in awarding the Vigil Honor, the national committee has

established a policy which requires that at least 50 percent of a lodge's nominations must be for candidates younger than 21, including those, as outlined below, that do not count against the quota for any given year. All nominations may be for candidates younger than 21, but no more than 50 percent may be for persons 21 years of age or older.

Nomination of professional Scouters, the council president, council camping or Boy Scout committee chairman, and camp rangers will not count against the lodge quota for total nominations. However, these nominations will count toward the policy limiting total adult nominations to a maximum of 50 percent of the total nominations submitted in a given year. Adults in this group must meet the requirement of at least two years of service as Brotherhood members.

4. Select an **honorable** American Indian name and its English equivalent for the candidate. Use the American Indian-English translations from the Lenni Lenape Word List found in the back of the *Order of the Arrow Handbook* or from another credible American Indian language text. The American Indian name should be selected in a serious manner, based upon each person's qualities, talents, or traits.
5. Prepare the Vigil Honor petition. Obtain the petitions from the director of the Order of the Arrow through your local council service center.

The petition must be filled out completely before it can be approved. Particular care should be used in furnishing membership figures requested and in giving the month and year that Brotherhood was conferred. Specific reasons for nominating the candidate for the Vigil Honor should be listed completely and concisely. The petition must be used during the current charter calendar year. Unused quota may not be carried over to future years.

6. Secure approval of the petition from the lodge chief and the Scout executive. Each must personally sign the petition before forwarding to the Order of the Arrow director. Unsigned petitions will be returned to the council. A lodge's Vigil Honor petitions must be submitted as a group, and only once per calendar year.

7. Forward the Vigil Honor petitions with the Vigil Honor fee for each candidate to the OA director. Make the check payable to the Order of the Arrow, Boy Scouts of America. If a petition is not approved, the fee will be returned. A minimum of 30 days must be allowed for the national Order of the Arrow committee to consider the petition and advise the lodge of its acceptance or rejection. Do not assume approval or make a public announcement until certificates have been received. Vigil Honor identification cards are also available for a nominal fee.
8. Upon receipt in the national office, petitions will be reviewed. If approved, certificates will be sent to the council Scout executive. If petitions are not approved, the council Scout executive will be notified with an explanation for the disapproval or a request for further information.
9. When approval has been received, arrange for notification or conduct a call-out of the Vigil Honor candidate.
10. Order Vigil Honor sashes from the Supply Division of the Boy Scouts of America through your local council service center.
11. Arrange and conduct the Vigil Honor induction. If there are no Vigil Honor members in the lodge, arrange to have candidates inducted by a nearby lodge that has Vigil Honor members, or bring in Vigil Honor members from another lodge to conduct the induction. Approved Vigil Honor candidates must be inducted within **one year** of national office approval. Otherwise they must be removed from the approved list. Their selection and approval must then be reconsidered with the current year's quota.
12. Arrange and conduct a public presentation of Vigil Honor sashes and certificates to the new Vigil Honor members at some major function of the council or the lodge.
13. If approved candidates are not inducted, it is very important to notify the director of the Order of the Arrow immediately. Otherwise, they will be considered inducted members of the Vigil Honor, and their petitions will be kept on permanent national file.

Planning for the Vigil induction ceremony must include arranging for drivers for the candidates and the ceremonial participants following the ceremony.



Vigil Honor sash

