

VIGIL HONOR NOMINATION & SELECTION PROTOCOL

PURPOSE

To provide a clear, consistent, and confidential process for the nomination and selection of Vigil Honor candidates who have rendered exceptional service to the Lodge, Order of the Arrow, Scouting community, or Scout Camp, beyond the expectations of their official roles.

Nominations must be sent to vigil@pahinlodge.org or to a Northern Lights Council office by **October 23, 2025**. Nominations must be made on this form only. The nominee must be a registered member of the Northern Lights Council and must also be a current dues-paying member of Pa-Hin Lodge. The nominee must have been a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow for a minimum of two years. Alertness to the needs of others is the mark of the Vigil Honor. It calls for an individual with an unusual awareness of the possibilities within each situation. The Vigil Honor is the highest honor that the Order of the Arrow can bestow upon its members for service to Scouting. Membership cannot be won by a person's conscious endeavors.

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 of office to one or more of the following: Lodge, Order of the Arrow, Scouting community, 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. A lodge may nominate a maximum of two percent of their registered Arrowmen once a year, through the Vigil Honor petition, found in the annual re-charter packet. At least 50% of all nominated must be under 21 at the time of nomination.

1. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

A nominee must:

- Be a current Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow.
- Have been a Brotherhood member for **at least two years** at the time of nomination.
- Have made **distinguished contributions** through **exceptional service, personal effort, and unselfish interest**.
- Have impacted one or more of the following:
 - Order of the Arrow (lodge, section, regional, national involvement)
 - Scouting community (council, district, or broader community)
 - Scout Camp (summer camp staff, camp maintenance, programming, etc.)
- Tenure alone **must not** be considered as a valid reason for recommendation. A nominee's impact must clearly go **above and beyond** what is expected from their roles or positions.

2. NOMINATION PROCESS

- **Nomination Period:** Open annually for a defined window from February 15 through March 31.
- **Nomination Form:** All nominations must be submitted using the official Vigil Nomination Form. The form will require:
 - Nominee's full name, OA membership info, and contact details.
 - Detailed description of the nominee's contributions.

- Explanation of how the nominee's service exceeds their role or duties.
- Supporting examples or testimonials (optional but encouraged).
- **Nominators:** Any member of the Lodge (youth or adult) in good standing may submit a nomination. Self-nominations are not permitted.

3. SELECTION COMMITTEE

- An ad hoc Vigil Honor Selection Committee shall be appointed annually by the Lodge Chief with Lodge Adviser approval and consist of:
 - **At least 3 youth members** (under 21).
 - One adult adviser (non-voting) to guide the process.
- All committee members must agree to keep any nominations, discussion, and final selections in confidence. Once petitions are approved by Lodge leadership and certificates are sent from national, the recipients may be notified.

4. REVIEW AND EVALUATION PROCESS

- All nominations will be evaluated based on:
 - **Depth of service:** Did the nominee go above and beyond expectations?
 - **Scope of impact:** Was their service felt across the lodge, camp, or wider Scouting community?
 - **Spirit of the Order:** Does the nominee embody the principles of Brotherhood, Cheerfulness, and Service?
- Committee may request additional information if needed.
- A scorecard or rubric may be used internally to assist in maintaining fairness and consistency.

5. SELECTION LIMITS AND FINAL APPROVAL

- The number of Vigil Honor candidates each year is determined by National OA policy (typically **no more than 2%** of the Lodge membership annually).
- Once the committee finalizes the list of recommended candidates, it is submitted to the Lodge Chief, Lodge Adviser, and Scout Executive

6. CONFIDENTIALITY AND NOTIFICATION

- The entire process remains confidential. Recipients are only after National approval.
- All unsuccessful nominations will be kept on file for two years for future consideration.

7. RECOGNITION

- Selected candidates are inducted during Spring Conclave(s) and Fall Conclave.
- The Vigil ceremony will be conducted with utmost reverence and adherence to national OA protocols.