

Greetings Scoutmasters!

With this letter, we hope to enlighten you as to how Unit Elections are changing throughout the lodge this year, as well as giving you some further details as to how the election process works.

If you have not yet already seen a flyer with the changes, our plan is to pair each troop with another, and have those two troops complete each other's Order of the Arrow Unit Election. There are several upsides to doing this, both on the troop level, and at the chapter level. The main idea is that "Many hands make light work". In the past, chapters have assembled a small few teams that covered all of the elections in the chapter, which created a huge strain on those few. While we have managed to make this work in the past, recently it has become too much for the chapters to handle. Often times teams have had so many troops they are attempting to contact, they forget to get in touch with one, and that troop then had to go without an election. By using the concept of "Many hands make light work", we can have each team focus on the one troop they are assigned, with the chapter picking up where the troops are unable to help. This will create better communication and relations within the troops, and more freedom for each troop to choose when their election is - which is a focus of the lodge. By simply providing two scouts to form an election team, we can provide all of this, and perhaps more in the future.

While we suspect that not everyone will be able to pull this off this year, we would also like to move up when we, as a lodge, are conducting our elections. In the past we have conducted our elections in the January - February timeframe. Ideally, we would like to move when we hold elections to a November - Early December timeline. The main reason to do so, is so that the youth, who quite often drive themselves to do elections, are not driving in the snow. While this does not have to happen this year, in future years we would like to move to this timeframe - to keep our scouts safe.

Moving towards the election itself, simply get in touch with the Scoutmaster of the troop you are paired with, to ensure that they know of the changes as well. After that, all that you (should have to) do is make sure that your Unit Elections team is getting in touch with the troop you are paired with. Simply by having your team contact the other troop, it will remind that other troop that they need to contact you as well! At this point, you should do just as you would normally during a troop meeting - let the youth handle it! Of course, if they have questions, or if a situation demands that you step in, please

do so, but communication and communicating well is a valuable skill to have. The earlier you have them practice those skills, the better!