

Unit Elections

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Answers to questions: Inductions@tipisa.org

Unit Election Basics

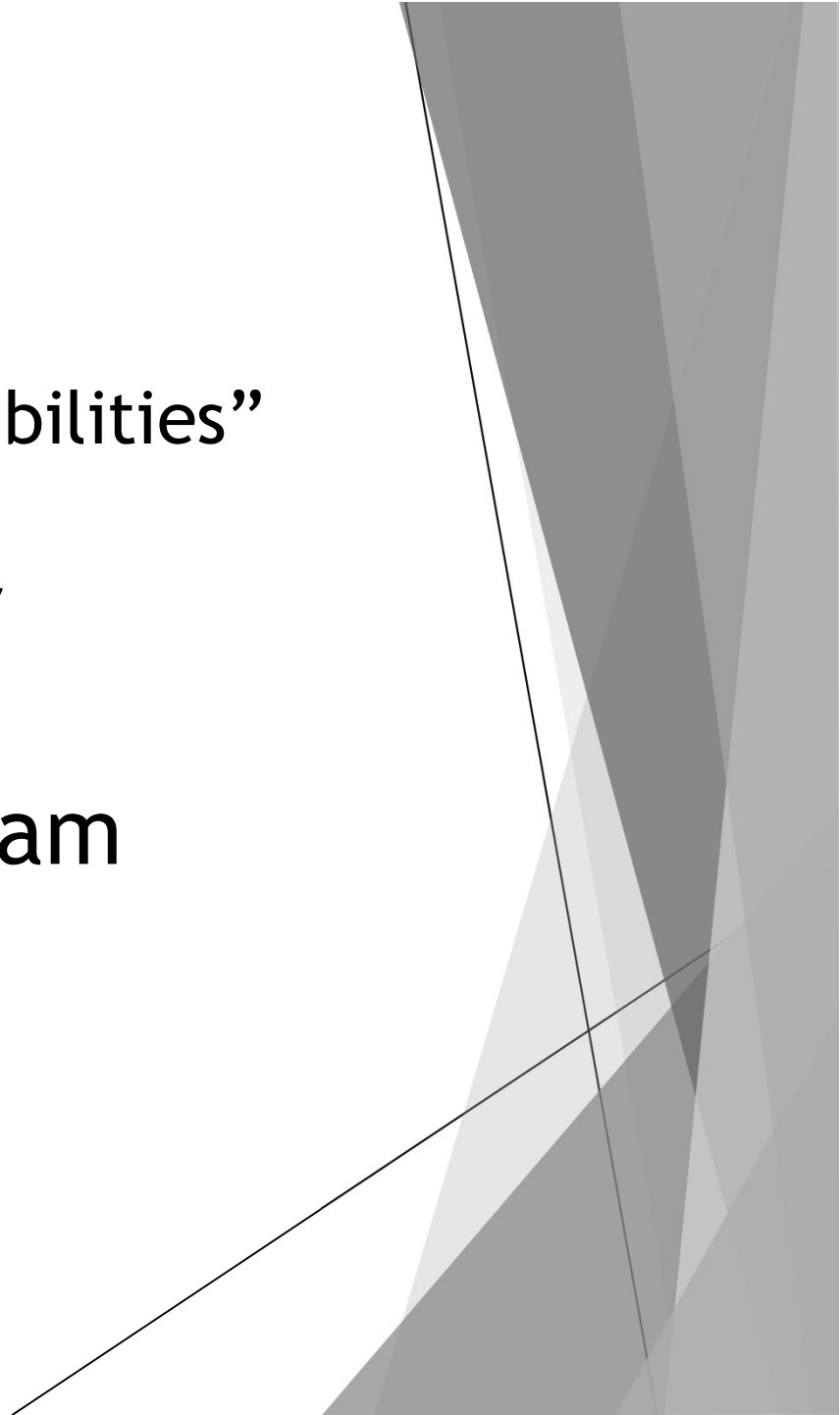
- ▶ Chiefs and Advisers are...
 - ▶ Leaders and expected to be knowledgeable.
 - ▶ (Why you're here at LLDC!)
 - ▶ Responsible to ensure that all election teams are properly trained and prepared.
 - ▶ (Why you're here in this class!)
- ▶ Things change...plan ahead.

Resources for Unit Elections

- ▶ The LLDC
- ▶ Polestar Workbook: Chapter 3 - Unit Elections
- ▶ The Guide to Unit Elections
 - ▶ <https://oa-bsa.org/resources/publications#gte>
- ▶ Lodge Leaders!
 - ▶ Officers & Advisers - All
 - ▶ inductions@tipisa.org

“Rights” and “Responsibilities”

Unit Leader
and
OA Election Team



Unit Leader Rights

- ▶ Permit or deny an OA election
 - ▶ UE Team Responsibility: Record and report all denied elections to the Inductions Chairman (inductions@tipisa.org)
- ▶ May introduce and describe what the OA is before the team presents. If the Unit Leader is not a member, please consult what he or she will do. First impressions are everything.
- ▶ May count votes with the election team privately
 - ▶ Best Practice - Invite the Unit Leader to count with the team
- ▶ * New Standard Practice
 - ▶ Recognize Candidates using the new Unit Elections Script
 - ▶ Many copies have been provided to each chapter
 - ▶ In the Unit Elections Appendix in the Chapter Chief and Adviser Notebooks
 - ▶ Tipisa.org/inductions

Unit Leader Responsibilities

- ▶ Certify youth eligibility before the election
 - ▶ Rank
 - ▶ Camping Requirement
 - ▶ 15 Days & Nights -Under the auspices of BSA
 - ▶ (Including, but not more than, 5 Long-term nights)
 - ▶ Scout Spirit

Unit Leader Responsibilities

- ▶ Ensure that the name and BSA ID of each eligible youth is clearly printed on the 3-part Unit Election form.
 - ▶ The team may print while the UL dictates
 - ▶ All data must be collected, but only name and BSA ID are required on the form before UL signs.
- ▶ Ensure that the attendance criteria are completed (and valid) before the UL signs.
 - ▶ # Registered Active
 - ▶ # Attending (must be at least 50% of Registered Active)
- ▶ When all the above criteria have been recorded, sign the form
 - ▶ The election officially begins when the 3-part Unit Election form is signed by the Unit Leader.
 - ▶ No name may be added or removed after the Unit Leader signs the 3-part UE form.

The Unit Leader *May Not*...

- ▶ Change the eligibility list after the election has begun
- ▶ Change the outcome of the election
- ▶ Prohibit a 2nd round if none are elected on the 1st

The Election Team May Not...

- ▶ Conduct the election until the 3-part form is signed by the Unit Leader.



Youth Eligibility

- ▶ 1. Be a registered member of the Boy Scouts of America.
- ▶ 2. At the time of their election, youth must
 - ▶ be under the age of 21,
 - ▶ hold the Scouts BSA First Class rank, the Venturing Discovery Award, or the Sea Scout Ordinary rank or higher, and
 - ▶ following approval by the Unit Leader, be elected by the youth members of their unit.
- ▶ 3. Within the two years immediately prior to the election, the youth must have experienced
 - ▶ 15 nights of camping while registered with a troop, crew or ship.
 - ▶ The 15 nights must include one, but no more than one, long-term camp consisting of at least five consecutive nights of overnight camping, approved and under the auspices and standards of the Boy Scouts of America.
 - ▶ Only five nights of the long-term camp may be credited toward the 15-night camping requirement;
 - ▶ the balance of the camping (10 nights) must be overnight, weekend, or other short-term camps of, at most, three nights each.
 - ▶ Ship nights may be counted as camping for Sea Scouts.

Youth Eligibility cont.

- ▶ 4. Assistant scoutmasters who are 18, 19 or 20 years old are also considered to be youth members for the purpose of OA elections. All requirements shown above must be met for a young assistant scoutmaster to be eligible for election.
- ▶ Prior to the annual election, the unit leader must certify the nominee's Scout spirit and youth membership qualifications.
- ▶ Voting for youth candidates will be based on their spirit of brotherhood, cheerfulness (no matter how tiresome their duties), and a willingness to give unselfish and wholehearted service to others at all times.

Youth Eligibility cont.

- ▶ Virtual Camping may be counted IF
 - ▶ Directly COVID-related
 - ▶ Includes Unit-organized communications during or immediately after
 - ▶ All YPT and Safety Guidelines are followed
 - ▶ Not more than 3 days/month
 - ▶ * Tipisa: Unit leaders contact key3@tipisa.org if seeking to use more than 3 total virtual nights

Adults

Nominated \Rightarrow Recommended \Rightarrow Approved

- ▶ “Nominated” (not “elected”) by Unit Committee
 - ▶ IF elected-youth = 0, THEN adults nominated = 0
 - ▶ IF at least 1 youth is elected, THEN up to 2 adults per 3 elected-youth may be nominated
 - ▶ Round-up to nearest multiple of 3. (1-3 = 2, 4-6 = 4, 7-9 = 6, etc.)
 - ▶ IF the Unit Leader has held the position for at least the previous 12 months AND is not an OA member THEN
 - ▶ The Unit Committee MAY ALSO nominate the Unit Leader
 - ▶ NOT Assistant Unit Leaders
 - ▶ This is in addition to any “1 per 3” nominations
- ▶ “Recommended” by Adult Selection Committee
 - ▶ Lodge Adviser & Staff Adviser
 - ▶ Council Camping Committee Chairman
- ▶ “Approved” by Scout Executive

Adult Eligibility

- ▶ Same camping requirement as a youth
 - ▶ No exceptions or waivers
 - ▶ Cub Scout camping doesn't count
- ▶ Nominated by Unit Committee
 - ▶ NOT an honorarium, recognition, or "Thanks, bud!"
 - ▶ ONLY if at least one youth is elected
 - ▶ ONLY to contribute to the OA's program
 - ▶ Requires a completed OA Adult Nomination Form
 - ▶ Lodge will contact Unit Committee Chairman AFTER youth election results have been received and verified by the lodge

District or Council Adults

- ▶ May be nominated only if the Adult's primary registration is the District or Council by:
 - ▶ Lodge Adviser, District Chairman
 - ▶ Council President, Professional Staff (Paid)
- ▶ May have the camping requirement waived
 - ▶ Professionals are ex officio members ("from the office") of the lodge while they are employed

Election Planning

- ▶ Coordinate with the UL for time and place for the OA election.
 - ▶ Meeting, campout, event... Fine!
 - ▶ Lodge will send the initial email to Unit Leaders on behalf of chapters
- ▶ Show up as promised!
 - ▶ The Order must be represented by a trained 2 or 3 member team...
 - ▶ Youth is team leader. Adult is “support.”
 - ▶ Best practices:
 - ▶ Election team members should not conduct voting or count ballots for their own unit. The integrity of the election is enhanced when the team conducting voting is obviously impartial.
 - ▶ A trained team-member, who is skilled in explaining the Order, its purpose, eligibility, and or election procedures, may provide this service to their own unit.

Election Procedure

- ▶ Eligibility rules must be explained to the troop
- ▶ At least 50% of the registered active members must be present
 - ▶ Must hold BSA membership card and participate in some troop activities to be deemed “active”
- ▶ Both members and non-members can vote
- ▶ Scouts of the unit considered youth *in the OA* may likewise vote in an OA election
 - ▶ A Scout with disabilities, who is classified as a youth member of the unit, shall be considered a youth (voting) member of the Order of the Arrow regardless of age.
 - ▶ This is the only instance where someone over 21 can vote in an OA election.
- ▶ Elections conducted outside of a unit’s home council are not permitted. Ever.

Team Leader

- ▶ Explain to the UL that current procedures will be used
 - ▶ Available for reference in the UE packet
 - ▶ Brief & Review
 - ▶ Rights, attendance requirements, and voting rules
- ▶ Verify that 50% of the registered active members are present
- ▶ IF the unit does not meet the attendance requirement THEN
 - ▶ Politely explain that the election cannot be conducted because the attendance requirement has not been met.
 - ▶ Ask to reschedule the election.
 - ▶ Excuse the team.

Election Team

- ▶ Full uniform & sash
- ▶ “A Scout is clean...”
- ▶ Use the election script
 - ▶ LEC notebook & GOA pg. 26-27
- ▶ Use paper ballots with candidate names
 - ▶ Ballots will be sealed & retained by the chapter for 1 year following election
 - ▶ The UE envelope can be used for this purpose.
 - ▶ Caution: Forms returned to the Lodge must be kept separate!
 - ▶ OA election results are rarely challenged.
 - ▶ Hard-copy proof is indispensable when challenges happen.

Voting

- ▶ All unit youth members may vote
- ▶ Scouts may vote for one, some, or all candidates
- ▶ Candidates may vote for themselves
- ▶ Voting is not required
 - ▶ “No ballot - No problem”
 - ▶ Scouts not wishing to vote should fold the ballot, slip it in their pocket, and dispose of it later.
- ▶ Returning a blank ballot means “I don’t think anyone is worthy for this honor.”
- ▶ Blank ballots count as a vote against ALL names.

Electing

- ▶ Election requires 50% approval from ballots received
 - ▶ Even/2 or (Odd + 1)/2
- ▶ If none are elected in the 1st round
 - ▶ Explain the OA once again and the desire we have to recognize honor campers
 - ▶ Explain the voting procedures again
- ▶ If none are selected on 2nd round
 - ▶ No more rounds - done until next year

Post Election Duties

- ▶ The election is “certified” only when the UE team signs the 3-part UE form.
 - ▶ DO NOT sign the form until the election is complete!
 - ▶ Election result for each name properly recorded on the 3-part UE form and verified as correct by both UL and Election Team.
 - ▶ Ballots counted & sealed.
- ▶ Conduct: Candidate Recognition Ceremony
- ▶ Provide Unit Leader with
 - ▶ Pink copy of signed UE form
 - ▶ “Ordealship” briefing
 - ▶ Finance is never a barrier!
 - ▶ Chapter Callout date & location (optional)

Brief Unit Leader on Candidate Status

- ▶ After election, a candidate is a candidate until the completion of the Ordeal and the Ordeal ceremony
- ▶ The Ordeal and Ordeal ceremony must be completed within 2 years of the election date, otherwise...
- ▶ The scout must be reelected to regain candidate status
- ▶ The LEC may extend the one-year limit for illness or other unusual circumstance
- ▶ Scouts elected from LDS units (whose charters will lapse on 12-31-19) will retain their eligibility if they are registered with a new unit upon undertaking their Ordeal.

More Post Election Duties

- ▶ Ensure all data is legible
- ▶ Immediately photograph completed UE form and accompanying printouts & email to inductions@tipisa.org
- ▶ Chapter may coordinate to enter data into LodgeMaster but completed UE forms (white) must still be submitted
- ▶ Return unused documents to Lodge Inductions Chairman
- ▶ Retain yellow copy and ballots for one year

Resources

- (email) Inductions@tipisa.org
- tipisa.org/resources/inductions
- oa-bsa.org/resources/inductions
- oa-bsa.org/resources/publications#gte
 - Guide to Unit Elections