

Dear Mitigwa Lodge member,

In spring of 2013 at a Lodge Executive Committee Meeting (LECM) at Spring Conclave, it was voted to form a committee to review the Lodge Bylaws, something that hadn't been done for approximately 6-7 years. At Snowflake Pow-Wow and an additional meeting in Summer 2014, the youth committee met and reviewed the Lodge rules and has proposed the attached changes. The members of the youth committee contained at least one representative from each Chapter, at the final meeting not every chapter was present due to scheduling conflicts, the date of the meeting had been decided on and announced about a month in advance at the LECM at Spring Conclave.

Some of these items are simple updates to what the current practices are of the Lodge as well as wording and rule changes of the National Order of the Arrow organization, others are some major changes that the youth committee decided would be best for the Mitigwa Lodge moving forward. All of the changes, except simple formatting, grammar and spelling changes, are noted in the attached track changes. A clean version of the proposed Bylaws can be found at www.mitigwa-lodge.org.

In reviewing the Bylaws, you may notice that they require 30 days notification for consideration at the Annual Business meeting. We didn't make the 30 days due to a variety of reasons, but we hope that the Lodge Executive Committee will vote to consider these changes since all of the current dues paying members of the Lodge have been notified of these proposed changes and that the Bylaws Committee submitted these changes to the Lodge Officers by the 60 day requirement.

The Bylaws Committee invite any questions or concerns to be sent to mitigwachief@gmail.com.

-2013-2014 Mitigwa Lodge Officers & Bylaw Committee members

Note for the final page: These are two items that were changed in the document that didn't have enough space to be listed in the side bar.

Order of the Arrow Lodge Rules

I. Lodge Name

1. The name of this Order of the Arrow Lodge shall be the Mitigwa Lodge W.W.W. The #450 can still be used as an historical reference.

II. Structure

1. The Lodge shall be affiliated with the Mid-Iowa Council #177 Boy Scouts of America. The Lodge shall be under the direction of the [Outdoor Adventure Committee](#) and the administrative authority of the Scout Executive.
2. The Lodge shall be divided into Chapters each existing within the boundaries of each District within the Council. Each Chapter shall come under the direction of the related District Camping Committee and the District Scout Executive. The name of each Chapter will be that of its District.
3. The Lodge fiscal year will begin at the conclusion of the Fall Fellowship.
4. All powers not specified in the Lodge Rules rest with the Lodge Executive Committee.

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III. Objectives of the Lodge

1. [Recognize those who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives and through that recognition cause others to conduct themselves in a way that warrants similar recognition.](#)
2. [Promote camping, responsible outdoor adventure, and environmental stewardship as essential components of every Scout's experience, in the unit, year-round, and in summer camp](#)
3. [Develop leaders with the willingness, character, spirit and ability to advance the activities of their units, our Brotherhood, Scouting and ultimately our nation.](#)
4. [Crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.](#)

Deleted: <#>To recognize those campers-Scouts and Scouters-who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives and by such recognition cause other campers to conduct themselves in such a manner as to warrant recognition. - ... [1]

IV. Membership

I.1. Qualifications for Membership

1. [The requirements for membership in this Lodge are as stated in the current printing of the Order of the Arrow Handbook and the Order of the Arrow Guide for Officers and Advisers.](#)
2. All elections must be held in accordance with approved National and Lodge policies.
3. Elections will be held between the dates of [following Winter Banquet](#) and Spring Conclave of any given year. [Chapters may complete troop elections between Spring Conclave and Troops date of Summer Camp at their discretion.](#) Camping Promotions may be conducted separately on an earlier date where need is determined. In-Camp elections will not be permitted during summer camp. All Elections and Promotions will be conducted by trained Chapter and Lodge Team members. All Elections and Promotions materials will be supplied and delivered by the Elections and Promotions team on the night of the troop camp promotions and/or Order of the Arrow elections.
4. Membership may be transferred to the Mitigwa Lodge from another Order of the Arrow Lodge by paying [current year's dues](#) and giving appropriate membership records from the old lodge to the Lodge [Vice Chief of Membership](#). A copy of the Lodge Rules is available [upon](#) request.

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I.2. Stages of the Order of the Arrow Membership

1. The stages of membership shall be as stated in the Order of the Arrow Handbook: Ordeal, Brotherhood, and Vigil Honor.
2. Responsibility for Induction to stages and times offered:
 - a. Ordeal: At the [Fall, Spring, and Nationally Accredited Summer Camp within the Mid-Iowa Council](#).
 - b. Brotherhood: Qualifications set by the Order of the Arrow Handbook and Lodge Executive Committee offered at least twice per year.
 - c. Vigil Honor: Set by the Vigil Honor Committee and National Rules at least annually.

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I.3. Categories of Membership

1. Active members are defined as those members who have paid all dues and fees associated with their stage of membership (Ordeal, Brotherhood, Vigil Honor) through the end of the current [calendar](#) year. Inactive members may [reactivate](#) their membership [by paying the current year's dues](#). They may not advance to a new stage of membership until they have been reactivated.

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I.4. Requirements for Membership

1. Requirements for Ordeal Membership are stated in the current edition of the *Order of the Arrow Handbook*. The Ordeal must be completed at Summer Camp, Fall Fellowship, or Spring Conclave within one year following election.
2. Requirements for Brotherhood Membership are stated in the current printing of the *Order of the Arrow Handbook* and the Order of the Arrow Guide for Officers and Advisers. A Brotherhood Scorecard will be included in Ordeal packets. Unit leaders must approve unit participation and a Lodge member will certify participation in a work weekend at, one Lodge event or, one Chapter event in order to qualify for Brotherhood.
3. Attainment of the Vigil Honor shall be in accordance with the requirements in the current printing of the Order of the Arrow Handbook and the Order of the Arrow Guide for Officers and Advisers.

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Deleted: Requirements for Vigil Honor Membership are stated in the current edition of the Order of the Arrow Handbook

V. Officers

I.1. Terms of Office

1. Lodge Officers will be elected at the annual Fall Fellowship Business Meeting and will take office at the completion of the election. The outgoing officers will make themselves available at the request of the new officers for guidance and assistance until Installation. The new officers will be officially installed at the annual Lodge Winter Banquet. Any active member under 21 years of age for the entire term of office may stand as a candidate for election and officers may be re-elected.
2. Chapters will elect officers within one calendar month of Fall Fellowship, and to the extent possible, their service shall be for the same period of time as that for Lodge Officers. The same qualifications and provisions for Lodge Officers also exist for Chapter Officers (Article IV, Section 1A). If Chapter Elections are not held within the aforementioned time limits, it will be the responsibility of the Lodge Officers to appoint Chapter members to said Chapter offices.

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I.2. Selection Procedures:

1. A nominating committee shall be appointed to review Lodge Officer candidates. Candidates may be nominated by either the Nominating Committee or from the floor at the meetings. All candidates for each office shall be included on the first ballot for that office.
 - a. Each Chapter in the Lodge, in good standing with the Lodge, may cast one vote per youth member, active member under 21 years of age, present at the time of the election, up to a maximum of 10 votes, for each office on all ballots. The Chapter representatives must cast the votes in proportion to the poll of the Chapter (in whole votes, not fractions). Telephone, email, or other electronic

[votes are not permitted.](#) The Lodge will utilize the Chapter caucus system for counting and recording the votes.

Deleted: Each active member under 21 years of age will be given one vote in all Lodge elections.

- b. Fifty percent plus one vote of those voting shall be required to elect a candidate for Lodge office. If no candidate receives a majority of those voting, another ballot will be taken with the candidate (or candidates in the event of a tie) receiving the least number of votes being dropped from the ballot. This process will continue until one candidate has a majority, at which time he shall be declared elected.
- c. If a motion to close nominations is approved with only one candidate being nominated, the Lodge Chief shall declare the candidate elected without the need for a caucus or final vote.
- d. [When balloting is declared deadlocked, the youth conducting the election will announce to the voting delegates that one more ballot will be taken to break the tie, and if another tie results, he shall cast sufficient votes for the nominee of his choice to achieve a majority and declare him elected.](#)

- 2. Lodge and Chapter Advisers (21 years of age and over) are appointed by the Scout Executive in consultation with the District Committee, for terms of one year from September 1st to August 31st and may be reappointed.

I.3. Lodge Officers and their Responsibilities

- 1. **Lodge Chief** shall be a leader of the Lodge. His duties will include appointment of Committee Chairmen, Chairing the Lodge Executive Committee (LEC) and regular Lodge meetings, be responsible for all Lodge function and policies, and represent the Lodge at Lodge, Council, Sectional, Regional, and National events. He will present a report on the status of the Lodge at the Winter Banquet. Upon his election, he will conduct an election for a Lodge Vice Chief to serve in his absence. All Lodge Officers shall vote in this selection. The selection must have the approval of the Lodge and Staff Advisers.
- 2. **Lodge Vice Chief of Ceremonies** shall be responsible for all Lodge outfitting, inductions, and ceremonies. He will be responsible for other duties assigned by the Lodge Chief.
- 3. **Lodge Vice Chief of [Elections and Promotions](#)** shall be responsible for all Order of the Arrow unit elections and camping promotions. He will be responsible for other duties assigned by the Lodge Chief.
- 4. **Lodge Vice Chief of Communications** shall be responsible for keeping notes at all Lodge Executive Committee and Lodge meetings. He will be responsible for reading the minutes of the previous meeting. He serves as Editor of [all official publications of the Lodge](#). He will be responsible for other duties assigned by the Lodge Chief.

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5. **Lodge Vice Chief of Membership** shall be responsible for all Lodge financial records, membership records, keeping the mailing list current, and serving as the quartermaster for all Lodge supplies as directed by the Lodge Executive Committee. He will give a financial report at the Lodge Executive Committee meeting. He will be responsible for other duties assigned by the Lodge Chief.
6. **Lodge Adviser** shall advise adults of their role in the Order and setting a good example, coordinating Lodge activities with the Council program, encouraging participation in Unit, District, Chapter, Lodge, Council, Sectional, Regional, and National events, coaching Lodge Officers on their responsibilities, interpreting the Lodge Rules, and will advise the Lodge on National policies and procedures. He will serve as a member of the [Outdoor Adventure Committee](#). The Lodge Adviser may suspend the rules when safety of the membership is in question or when following the rules may not be in the best interest of the Lodge Membership.
7. **Lodge Staff Adviser** shall work closely with Lodge Officers and Advisers, maintaining a close relationship to benefit the Lodge and Council, is accountable for the Lodge finances and coordinates financial operations with appropriate Council personnel, coordinates Lodge activities and puts them on the Council activity calendars, coordinates Order of the Arrow summer camping promotion, serves a liaison with the Council Executive Staff, including the Camp Ranger and coordinates use of Council facilities, advises adults of their roles in the Order of the Arrow and encourages participation in Unit, District, Chapter, Council, Lodge, Sectional, Regional, and National events.
8. **Scout Executive** shall serve as the Supreme Chief of the Fire and has the final authority in all matters involving Lodge procedures or programs.

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I.4. Chapter Officers and their Duties

1. **Chapter Chief** shall be responsible for the appointment of Chapter Committee Chairmen, chairing all Chapter meetings, being responsible for all Chapter functions, and representing the Chapter at all Chapter, Lodge, District, Council, Sectional, Regional, and National events. Upon his election, he will conduct an election for a Chapter Vice Chief to serve in his absence. All Chapter Officers shall vote in this selection. The selection must have the approval of the Chapter Adviser.
2. **Chapter Vice Chief of Ceremonies** shall be responsible for Chapter outfitting and ceremonies. He will be responsible for other duties assigned by the Chapter Chief.
3. **Chapter Vice Chief of Elections and Promotions** shall be responsible for Chapter unit elections and camping promotions. He will be responsible for other duties assigned by the Chapter Chief.
4. **Chapter Vice Chief of Communications** shall keep notes at all Chapter meetings and forwarding all information to the Lodge Vice Chief of Communications. He will be responsible for other duties assigned by the Chapter Chief.

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5. [Chapter Vice Chief of Membership shall be responsible for all Chapter financial records, membership records, keeping the mailing list current, and serving as the quartermaster for all Chapter supplies. He will give a financial report at Chapter meetings. He will be responsible for other duties assigned by the Chapter Chief.](#)
6. Chapters may elect Chapter Officers at a Chapter Meeting within a month prior to Fall Fellowship where notification to all members was given at least 15 days in advance or during Fall Fellowship (without notice). The election will be from among the Chapter membership present at the election and eligible to vote. Where the Chapter Chief and Chapter Adviser determine a need, multiple officers (except Chief) may be elected to serve in a geographical area within the Chapter but one Officer will be responsible for the duties within the entire Chapter.
7. Chapter Adviser's duties shall parallel those of the Lodge Adviser in dealing with Chapter matters.
8. Chapter Staff Adviser's duties shall parallel those of the Lodge Staff Adviser in dealing with Chapter matters.

VI. The Lodge Executive Committee (LEC)

I.1. Members of the Lodge Executive Committee

1. [Selection of the Lodge Executive Committee Members shall be in accordance with the appropriate sections of these Lodge Rules and the current printing of the Order of the Arrow Handbook.](#)
2. The voting members of the Lodge Executive Committee consist of all Chapter Chiefs, the Lodge Officers, and the Immediate Past Lodge Chief (if under 21 years of age). The Lodge Chief shall only vote in the event of a tie and will serve as the tie breaker. Each voting member shall have one (1) vote per person. In the absence of a Lodge Officer, no one may vote in his place. [In the absence of a Chapter Chief, a chapter may provide another member to vote in his place.](#)
3. The non-voting members of the Lodge Executive Committee shall be all Chapter Vice Chiefs, all appointed Lodge Committee Chairmen, the Lodge and Chapter Advisers, Committee Advisers, and Lodge and Chapter Staff Advisers.

I.2. Duties of the Lodge Executive Committee

1. This group decides on most Lodge and Chapter operating procedures including approving the Lodge Calendar, Budget, fees for Lodge events, setting policies on all Lodge memorabilia including patches, sets job descriptions for Lodge Committees, and is responsible for setting the time and location of the Spring Conclave, Snowflake Pow Wow, Fall Fellowship, and Winter Banquet, with approval of the Lodge and Staff Advisers.

- The Lodge Executive Committee shall also be responsible for the recommendation of one or more Arrowmen to serve as Order of the Arrow [Camp Chief](#) for any or all camps with in the Mid-Iowa Council. The Order of the Arrow [Camp Chief](#) shall be responsible for all Order of the Arrow merchandise and overseeing the induction process. His selection shall be contingent upon the submission of his Seasonal Staff Application to the Mid-Iowa Council and approval of the Lodge Adviser, Lodge Staff Adviser, and Lodge Chief.

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VII. Meetings and Activities

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I.1. Regular Lodge Meetings

- Regularly scheduled Lodge meetings for the purpose of electing new Lodge Officers shall be held at Fall Fellowship.
- At least four (4) regularly scheduled Lodge Executive Committee Meetings (LECM) will be held each year.

Deleted: Additionally, a Chapter work weekend will be held at one of the Council summer camps during the spring and fall of each year.

I.2. Special Lodge Meetings

- Special meetings of the Lodge may be called at any time by the Lodge Chief with the approval of the Lodge and Staff Advisers. The Lodge Executive Committee and others may also schedule events beyond those called for in Article VII Section 7.01. Any special meetings of the Lodge Executive Committee for the Lodge must be [notified](#) at least 15 days in advance of the special meeting, stating the time, date, location, and reason for the meeting.
- Any special meeting of the Lodge for the purpose of changing the rules shall have a prior announcement as provided in Article XIII.

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VIII. Committees

I.1. Standing Committees

- The Lodge shall have a number of standing committees. Those include [Communications](#), Ceremonies, [Elections and Promotions](#), [Membership](#), Vigil Honor, Elangomat, [Event Committees](#).

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I.2. Special Committees

- The Lodge Chief shall have the power to create any special committee to help carry out the goals of the Lodge and help with any Lodge event.

I.3. Committee Operations

- Any committee created by the Lodge Chief must have at least one member from each [Chapter](#) unless the Lodge Chief specifically requests that the LEC approve a smaller

size committee for a specific purpose. The appointment of Committee Chairmen is contingent on the approval of the LEC.

2. The jurisdiction or life of a committee and the appointment of its Chairman is considered to end at the conclusion of the term of office of the Lodge Chief who created the committee and appointed the Chairman with the exception of the Vigil Honor Committee which will end at the conclusion of the Vigil Honor Weekend and the Winter Banquet Committee which will end at the conclusion of the Winter Banquet.
3. The Lodge Chief may request committee reports at any time and each Committee Chairman will be expected to prepare a report to be given at the Fall Fellowship Business Meeting.
4. The Lodge Adviser will appoint Advisers to serve each committee and are subject to the ending of the committee appointment at the conclusion of the term of the Lodge Chief.

IX. The Lodge Flap

I.1. Parts of the Official Lodge Flap

1. An Official Lodge Flap shall be the same size and shape as the pocket flap of the current Official Boy Scout uniform shirt. The Flap will contain the requirements outlined in the current printing of the Order of the Arrow Handbook.
2. Any changes in an Official Lodge Flap must be made by the Lodge Executive Committee.
3. The Lodge Executive Committee will determine the primary Lodge flap that will be provided to new Ordeal members.

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X. Quorum

1. A quorum shall be the members present from at least 60% of the voting members of the LEC. These same requirements shall be in effect for meetings of the LEC.

XI. Officer Responsibility

I.1. Removal of Officers

1. An Officer of the Lodge or Chapter Chief may be removed by a 2/3 majority vote of those present and voting at LECM if he has been negligent of his duties or other reasons with the approval of the Scout Executive and Lodge Adviser and at the request of the Officer leading the Lodge. This officer is the Vice Chief appointed to serve in the absence of the Lodge Chief in case the Lodge Chief is being removed.

2. [Chapter Vice Chiefs may be removed by a 2/3 majority vote of those present and voting at a Chapter Meeting if he has been negligent of his duties or other reasons with the approval of the Chapter Chief and Chapter Adviser.](#)

I.2. Replacement of Officers

1. In case of removal or resignation of the Lodge Chief from office, the Vice Chief appointed to serve in the absence of the Lodge Chief shall immediately become the Lodge Chief. When there is a vacancy in any other Lodge office, a special election shall be held at the next LECM to fill the vacancy.

XII. Parliamentary Procedure

1. The authority on parliamentary procedure for the Lodge shall be the most current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*.

XIII. Amending the Lodge Rules

I.1. Advance Notice

1. It shall be the responsibility of the Officers of the Lodge and the Lodge Advisers to notify all active members of the Lodge of any plans to amend the Lodge Rules. Such ratification will be made in writing, and will be mailed at least 30 days prior to the meeting. [All proposed changes will be posted to the Lodge website.](#) Any member wishing to propose an amendment to the rules should submit it in writing to the Lodge Officers at least 60 days prior to the Lodge Business Meeting.
2. In the event that the above advanced notice provision is not met, a written amendment can be brought to the floor of the Lodge Business Meeting in one of two ways:
 - a. Approval for discussion by the Lodge Chief, Lodge Adviser, and Lodge Staff Adviser, with an explanation of why the notice was not sent.
 - b. A 2/3 vote of the voting members at the Lodge Business Meeting in favor of discussion.
3. Following discussion at the Lodge Business Meeting, any amendment to the Lodge Rules must receive a 2/3 vote of those voting members present in favor to become a part of the Lodge Rules.
4. Any changes to the Lodge Rules will become effective immediately upon ratification.

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To recognize those campers-Scouts and Scouters-who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives and by such recognition cause other campers to conduct themselves in such a manner as to warrant recognition.

To develop and maintain camping traditions and spirit.

To promote Scout camping, which reaches its greatest effectiveness as part of the unit's program, and to help strengthen the District and Council camping program both on a year-round basis and for long-term camping.

To crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.

Promote Youth Leadership

1.

Selection of Lodge Executive Committee Members

Selection of the Lodge Executive Committee Members shall be in accordance with the appropriate sections of these Lodge Rules and the Order of the Arrow Handbook.