

RULES OF GOVERNANCE OF
OCONOMOWOC LODGE,
MOUNTAINEER AREA COUNCIL #615, SCOUTING AMERICA

Adopted 6/14/2025

These Rules of Governance shall govern the organization and operation of the Order of the Arrow Lodge of Mountaineer Area Council, Scouting America (hereinafter, the Lodge). The Lodge acts as an extension of Scouting and shall be an integral part of Scouting. The Lodge shall be under the supervision of the council camping committee and the administrative authority of the Scout Executive, who shall be the Supreme Chief of the Fire and the final authority over the Order of the Arrow.

Section One- Name and Totem

- A. The name of the Lodge shall be Oconomowoc, meaning “place where the waters meet.”
- B. The totem of the Lodge shall be the Smilodon (prehistoric Sabre-tooth Cat)
- C. The Lodge is being established as of August 1, 2025, as a result of the merger of Mountaineer Area Council and Ohio River Valley Council.

Section Two- Membership

- A. All members in good standing of Menawngihella Lodge #550 and Onondaga Lodge #36, as of August 1, 2025, shall become Founding Members of Oconomowoc Lodge of Mountaineer Area Council. A member in good standing is defined as a person who is currently registered as a member of Scouting America in Mountaineer Area Council and who has paid their most recent dues as a member of either of the merging lodges.
- B. Persons who have allowed their membership in Scouting America and/or the Order of the Arrow to lapse shall be eligible to join the Lodge upon reactivating or confirming

- their current membership in Mountaineer Area Council, confirming their former membership in the Order of the Arrow, and paying Lodge dues for the current year.
- C. New members shall be elected (in the case of youth) or selected (in the case of adults) in accordance with the policies and procedures established by Scouting America, National Order of the Arrow Committee, as set forth in the current edition of the Order of the Arrow Handbook and the OA Handbook for Officers and Advisers, and administered by the Lodge by conducting unit elections and Ordeal ceremonies.
 - D. While active participation is desired of all Lodge members, the Lodge may not establish requirements for participation in activities or voting in Lodge elections, beyond being a youth member of Scouting America in good standing and being a current dues paying member of the Lodge, subject to any requirements and contained in the current edition of the Guide to Safe Scouting.
 - E. Lodge members between the ages of eighteen (18) and twenty- are adults and must be registered and trained as such, however, they are also considered youth members for the purposes of holding office and for voting on Lodge matters.
 - F. All references to voting in these rules are votes taken by youth members (members under the age of twenty-one (21)). Adult advice is welcome on all matters of importance to the Lodge, but only youth may vote upon Lodge business.

Section Three- Officers, Elections and Meetings

- A. The elected officers of the Lodge shall be the
 - a. Lodge Chief
 - b. Lodge Vice Chief(s)
 - c. Lodge Secretary and/or
 - d. Lodge Treasurer.

The offices of secretary and treasurer may be combined, upon a vote of the lodge membership. Also, to facilitate lodge administration, the Lodge may elect more than one vice chief to lead particular program areas. All officers must be elected by a majority vote of youth lodge members at a meeting called for the conducting the election.

- B. All officers must meet the following eligibility requirements:
 - a. Be currently registered in Scouting America, in the Mountaineer Area Council;
 - b. Be a member in good standing in the Lodge;
 - c. Be younger than the age of 21 for the entire term of office.
- C. All Lodge officers shall serve a one-year term, commencing with the date of the Winter Banquet in December, through the date of the next year's Winter Banquet in December.

An exception is the year of the Lodge merger, 2025, during which the officers elected as officers of the merging lodges during 2024 shall serve as co-officers until the 2025 Winter Banquet. Elections for the 2025-2026 Lodge officers for the new Lodge shall take place at the Fall Fellowship in October 2025.

- D. Lodge officers shall not hold any other Lodge offices. If a Lodge Chief is elected as a Section chief they must resign their Lodge position within 30 days.
- E. If a Lodge officer resigns or leaves an elected Lodge office for any reason before the expiration of their term a replacement officer shall be elected at the next regular lodge meeting, or at a special meeting called for that purpose.
- F. A Scout who desires to run for office must deliver a written letter or e-mail to the Lodge Adviser at least one week prior to the date of an election, stating the reasons they wish to be elected to that office. The candidate must be nominated by another Scout at the election meeting, who shall give a brief nominating statement for the candidate. At the election meeting, each candidate shall give a brief statement of their reasons why they feel that they should be elected. The candidates shall be separated from the meeting during the delivery of the statements.
- G. Elections shall be by secret ballot of youth members under the age of 21 at the time of the election; the winner shall be elected by a majority of votes cast at the meeting.
- H. The date of the annual election for Lodge officers shall be established by the Lodge in its annual planning of events for the upcoming year.
- I. The Lodge shall meet at least four (4) times per year.

- J. The Lodge Chief shall be responsible for preparing an agenda for each meeting and electronically circulating it to members of the Lodge Executive Committee at least one week prior to the meeting.

Section Four- Lodge Executive Committee (LEC)

- A. The Lodge Executive Committee shall consist of the Lodge Chief (chair), the Lodge Vice Chief(s), Lodge Secretary, Lodge Treasurer, immediate past Lodge Chief and any chairs of Committees established by the Lodge who are deemed to be voting members as a part of their duties. (If the Immediate Past Lodge Chief attains the age of 21 while serving on the LEC they may continue to serve in an advisory capacity, but they may not vote after turning 21). A quorum of 51% of the voting LEC members must be present in order to transact business and also 2/3 of the elected Lodge officers must be present. All motions or votes must be adopted by more than 50% of those voting at a meeting.
- B. The following adults shall also be members of the LEC: Lodge Adviser, any Associate Lodge Advisers, Staff Adviser and Scout Executive (Supreme Chief of the Fire). The Lodge Adviser may appoint other adults to the LEC from time to time as they may deem appropriate. The adults shall not be voting members of the LEC.
- C. The LEC shall be responsible for administering the day-to-day affairs of the Lodge, planning the long-term program of the Lodge and governing all aspects of the Lodge program in accordance with the rules, policies of the Lodge and policies of the National Order of the Arrow Committee and Scouting America.
- D. The LEC, under the leadership of the Lodge Chief and the guidance of the Lodge Adviser, shall establish Committees for carrying out its duties and for administering Lodge functions.
- E. The LEC shall also be responsible for recruiting and training Unit Election teams for conducting unit elections to select new members of the Order of the Arrow and for seeing that all Scouting America units that desire a unit election have an election each year.

- F. The LEC shall meet at least every other month, at dates, times and places established by the LEC and made a part of the Lodge's annual calendar of events. The Lodge Chief may call special meetings of the LEC from time to time as they deem necessary for Lodge Administration.

Section Five- Lodge Finances

- A. All Lodge funds, including Lodge Trading Post funds shall be deposited and processed through the Council Service Center after receipt of funds by the Lodge.
- B. The Lodge shall establish an amount of annual dues by majority vote at a Lodge meeting.
- C. The LEC shall establish the fees to be paid by candidates for each honor induction ceremony (Ordeal, Brotherhood, Vigil) and shall determine what items a successful candidate receives for each honor.
- D. The LEC shall establish fees for all other Lodge functions, such as Fellowship, Lodge functions and Lodge workdays at camps.
- E. A financial report of Lodge finances should be presented at each Lodge meeting and LEC meeting by the Lodge Treasurer, or Secretary/Treasurer, or designee.

Section Six- Special Awards and Honors

The LEC shall establish such special awards and requirements as it determines may best serve the members and the council. It shall also elect the members to be awarded the Vigil Honor and Founders Awards according to the Handbook for Officers and Advisers and the standards and procedures of the National Order of the Arow Committee.

Section Seven-Removal of Officers

- A. Officers may be removed from their position for failing to carry out their duties. Taking the action of removal should be a last resort and if a Lodge Officer has difficulty carrying out their duties, the Officer should resign the office voluntarily.
- B. An Officer may be removed for failing to attend at least 60% of Lodge functions or for failing to carry out their duties by a majority vote of Lodge members at a meeting called for that purpose. Absences excused by the Lodge Adviser shall not be considered in the calculation of the 60% attendance standard.
- C. A Lodge Officer may be removed at any time by the Lodge Adviser or the Supreme Chief of the Fire for failing to live by the Scout Oath, Scout Law or by otherwise failing to uphold the principles of Scouting America and the Order of the Arrow.

Section Eight- Amendments to the Rules of Governance

- A. After adoption of these rules by the Lodge, pursuant to the procedures outlined in Chapter 10 of the *Lodge Merger Handbook for Councils*, (and approval by the Scout Executive), any changes to these by laws shall be by amendment.
- B. Amendments shall be submitted to the LEC in writing at least one calendar month before a Lodge meeting to consider the amendment to the rules, which may take place at any regular or special meeting. Notice of the amendment to the rules, which shall include the text of the change, shall be transmitted to all Lodge members at least 10 days prior to such meeting. The notice may be sent electronically and shall be posted to the Lodge website or Facebook page.
- C. If the amendment is passed by a two thirds (2/3) vote of youth Lodge members at such meeting, it shall become effective immediately.