



Strengthening the Elangomat Program

Instructor Packet

Wa-La-Moot-Kin Lodge #336

Written By Stephen Ash & Ben Johnson

WHY ELANGOMATS?

The Elangomat System for Ordeals is designed to provide the best possible Ordeal experience for each new member. It is designed to maximize the effectiveness of each of the tests of the ordeal and allow each new member, through experience, to see the ideals and spirit of the Order of the Arrow.

Elangomat is a Lenni Lenape word meaning 'Friend' and it is the concepts of friendship and brotherhood, which undergird the entire Elangomat Ordeal process.

WHAT IS AN ELANGOMAT PROGRAM?

Elangomat Ordeals have several key elements, which distinguish them from other methods:

Elangomats - members of the Order who have chosen to voluntarily go through the Ordeal and its tests again in order to lead the new members through their ordeal experience and to show through example the meaning of the Arrow.

Clans - candidates are organized into small groups of 6-8 with an Elangomat functioning as a Clan leader and remain, together for the entire Ordeal.

Coordination - All elements of the Ordeal are assigned with the idea of maximizing the ordeal experience rather achieving set work goals.

Ceremonies - are set up to accommodate the situation of having clans organized with Elangomats.

Planning - An Elangomat Ordeal usually has a higher degree of planning than other methods and planning begins earlier than in other methods.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

The Benefits of using the Elangomat System for Ordeals are many.

Using the Elangomat system, as opposed to the "Task Master" methods, results in higher membership retention because of the improved feeling new members feel towards the members and because they now are very well acquainted with at least one member of the Order, their Elangomat.

Elangomat ordeals also tend to be much better at getting work done. Lodges have been known to see twice the work get done with the same number of candidates. Elangomat Ordeals experience better candidate compliance with the tests of the Ordeal. The cooperative nature of the system and the leadership by example of the Elangomat makes it much easier for candidates to remain faithful to the tests of the Ordeal. The Elangomat embodies by his actions the spirit of the Order and helps to inspire the candidates who see and naturally emulate his actions.



Syllabus

❖ INTRODUCTION & OBJECTIVES

- *Introduction and Welcome:*
 - Welcome.
 - Introduction Game
 - Explain the purpose of the session and read the objectives.
- *Session Objectives:*
 - To understand why we have Ordeals.
 - To understand the advantages of using the Elangomat System.
 - To know the qualities of an Elangomat and the keys of being a good Elangomat.
 - To learn how to start/improve a lodge's Elangomat Program.

❖ WHY DO WE DO WHAT WE DO?

- Purpose of the Order

❖ WHY DO ORDEALS?

- ? - Why do we do Ordeals?
- ? - Why does the Order of the Arrow have an Ordeal weekend instead of a one-evening initiation ceremony?
 - (List answers on board) Ex. To teach, to learn the purposes of the order, to experience something special etc.
- Ten Induction Principles
- The Four Tests

❖ WHY ELANGOMATS?

- ? - What does Elangomat Mean? ("Friend")
- ? - Why do we use the Elangomat Program? (Provide the best experience for each new member, and allow each new member to see the ideals and spirit of the Order of the arrow. Also maximizes the effectiveness of the tests of the Ordeal.)

❖ WHAT IS AN ELANGOMAT PROGRAM?

- EXPLAIN: What distinguishes it from other programs?
- ? - What are parts in the Elangomat program?
 - Clans
 - Coordination
 - Ceremonies
 - Planning



❖ WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- EXPLAIN: *The Benefits*:
 - Higher membership retention
 - Get camp work done
 - Helps candidates remain faithful to the Ordeal

❖ WHAT IS AN ELANGOMAT?

- ASK, SHOW & EXPLAIN: (List the items on a board and explain what they mean)
 - ? - What was your Elangomat like?
 - ? – Was he good or bad? Why?
 - ? - What describes him? Friend, Brother, Leader
 - ? - What qualities should he have? Patience, Intelligence, Knowledge of the Principles of the Ordeal, Ability to be a good Counselor
 - ? - What three qualities should the Elangomat convey to the candidates? Brotherhood, Cheerfulness, and Service

❖ WHAT MAKES THE ELANGOMAT AND THE ELANGOMAT PROGRAM WORK?

- *Keys for functioning as a good Elangomat*
 - Remember the Ordeal is the tests of the Ordeal. We cannot disqualify a candidate; only he can make the decision to withdraw from the Ordeal.
 - Silence is the test that we most have to deal with.
 - Elangomats lead by example
 - Elangomats needs to be a cheerful worker.
 - Candidates who refuse to follow some test of the Ordeal are uncommon
- *The Four Step Discipline Procedure*
 - The silent finger shush!!!
 - Take them aside and tell them to control themselves
 - Ask the Ordeal Master to talk to them.
 - Give them a personal work project with an Adult supervisor.
- Elangomats should rely heavily on the assistance of the officers and other brothers.
- Clans can be more cohesive units if they utilize a few tricks i.e. Name, totem, ribbon, or arm band

❖ ORDEAL – PERSPECTIVE

- Candidate
 - Perception of schedule
 - Feelings that candidates experience
- Ceremonial team
 - Ceremonies schedule
 - What should I do as and Elangomat?
- Elangomat
 - Schedule
 - Work projects
 - Spirit of the Arrow booklets
 - Clan discussions



❖ CONCLUSION

- We, the members of the lodge, owe it to the candidates to make their Ordeal experience as enriching and memorable as possible. We who love the woods and camping, we who strive in cheerful service, stand beside and urge them forward. On the next step of their journey, on their long and toilsome journey. Each one ready now to help them through their toils and tribulations. This is our purpose and intent, mark with silence reverent.

After The Ordeal

The Extended Elangomat System takes the Elangomat out of the Ordeal and into the newly inducted Ordeal member's Scouting life. The Elangomat helps keep the Scout active and interested in Scouting and the Order of the Arrow and thereby leading to the Ordeal member becoming a Brotherhood member.

During the approximately 10 months between the candidate's induction as an Ordeal member and the Brotherhood ceremony, Elangomats will maintain continual contact with their assigned Ordeal members. The Elangomats will be responsible for mailing the three individual letter packets to the Ordeal members. These packets are identical to the Active Ordeal Member packet, except that a character letter numbered 1 through 4 will accompany each packet. These letters will accompany the first through fourth packet, respectively. The fourth packet will contain the same information regarding the invitation, etc. for the Brotherhood ceremony. These character letters are from the four members of the Ordeal ceremony with each letter being written by a different Ordeal character. By sending one of these letters with each successive packet, it is hoped that the purpose and goals of the Order of the Arrow will be reinforced with the potential Brotherhood member and remind him of why he was elected and inducted into the Order. Examples of the packets and letters are contained in this total package.

The Lodge Officers hope that this packet will help the Chapters with your Brotherhood conversion achievement for the coming year and future years. This Brotherhood Conversion Program should be planned and placed in effect at the time of your next Ordeal and each Ordeal thereafter. It is a living program and if actively implemented and supported, will result in the conversion of the majority of the Chapters' eligible members into Brotherhood. With this, the Chapters and Lodge will consist of active and dedicated Arrowmen whose contributions and participation will help to ensure both Honor Chapters and an Honor Lodge.



My Brother,

“As guardian of the Circle, I urge you to seek the fire at the center... lay the Oak and Pine together... kindle all that is within you with a warm and cheerful spirit... a cheerful heart is lively as... bow-wood under hardship.” Thus, I Nutiket, awakened you on the eve of your Ordeal.

My brothers and I each present a challenge, as in the torchlight we presented you with tests on the eve of your Ordeal. Do you recall my charge in the Ordeal? I urged you to sacrifice and learn the virtues of self-denial by the test of Scant Food. Thus you abandoned mere personal comfort or desires in order to fulfill your Obligation. Have you thus far fulfilled your new obligation in your unit? Only thus can you be ready for Brotherhood membership.

The bow I carried when presenting my test is symbolic of cheerfulness for the Bow is lively and flexible under stress, just like the cheerful spirit. It is the trait of cheerfulness that other Scouts in your unit saw in you and weight heavily in their decision to elect you to the Order. The sash you wear, the Arrow, is symbolic of Leadership. But the sash is only a symbol and an ideal. It is your efforts to fulfill the Obligation that really distinguishes you from your fellow Scouts.

Always remember that your fellow Scouts honored you by electing you to our Order. They set you apart as one from whom they expect a great deal. They expect you to cheerfully provide leadership in camping and service.

You were sent to seek a vision of yourself and of your purpose. The challenge of Brotherhood is a part of that vision. When are you ready for Brotherhood? Do not let your fellow Scouts down. Those who chose you need you. Serve cheerfully my Brother. We await your decision in the Circle.

Yours in Wingolauchsik,

Nutiket

Recommended enclosures:

- Chapter Calendar
- Map to Chapter Meeting Location
- Chapter Organization
- Roster of Key Chapter Personnel



My Brother,

As a shadow in the firelight, I, Meteu, remind you of the Admonition whispered by all the natural world around you. The admonition of our Order was whispered in your ear at the Ordeal, do you remember it? It should be your guide to Brotherhood membership.

The admonition as whispered by nature cannot be heard without a receptive ear. Thus I presented you with the test of Silence in the Ordeal that you might clearly perceive your reflection in the mirror of nature. "Hours spent in thoughtful silence help us make the right decisions more than days of talking... help us catch the higher vision..." in the tradition of Uncas.

As my symbol, I carry the Bowstring, for without a string a lively Bow will do little to propel the Arrow onward and upward. Likewise, without the ties of Brotherhood and Love, a cheerful heart can accomplish little.

Before you took the Obligation, your ties of Brotherhood were symbolized first by silence which "like a bowstring bound you each to every other" and then by the rope. The months following your achievement of Ordeal membership are your opportunity to strengthen the ties of Brotherhood and express your love for fellow Scouts by fulfilling the Obligation in your Unit.

My Brother, seek to identify the tests of the Ordeal when you encounter them in new ways and strive not to flinch from opportunities to apply the Admonition and Obligation. Only thus will you BE PREPARED to make your decision to seal your membership in the Brotherhood. We await your decision in the Circle.

Yours in Wimachtendienk,

Meteu

Recommended enclosures:

- Member Interest Survey Form
- Lodge Calendar



My Brother,

I, Allowat Sakima, the Mighty Chief, challenge you to service! From me you accepted the test of Arduous Toil for the Ordeal. By my request, you were caused to approach the fire of Cheerfulness and to accept the Obligation of our Order. May you ALWAYS be willing to spend your time in service to others even when your Brothers in the Order cannot assist you as they did during the Ordeal. Are you ready thus to serve your unit?

On the eve of your first service with our Order, I strung the Bow, symbolic of uniting Brotherhood and Cheerfulness FOR SERVICE. I had you test the completed Bow, symbolic of your willingness to serve. My token, however, is the Arrow. Fitly chosen as a symbol of our Order, it is drawn from a quiver just as the election drew you from many others in your Unit. Do you still serve? Will you continue to serve?

The Hailing Sign of our Order is reminiscent of your introduction to the Arrow and is symbolic of your being set apart for something higher. Have you memorized the Obligation that you may more easily recall what you have promised? Was the judgment of your fellow Scouts accurate and justified? Remember that you pledged to return in service to your unit by placing your hand on the shoulder of the Brother Scout in front of you. Will you reconfirm the pledge? Your Brothers in the Order stand ready to assist you. Take advantage of their support whenever possible, but remember that the Arrow is a symbol of Leadership and that membership in our Order is given not for what you have done but for what you are expected to do in the future. "He alone is worthy to wear the Arrow who will continue faithfully to serve his fellow man." My Brothers and I await your decision in the Circle.

Yours in Witahemui,

Allowat Sakima

Recommended enclosures:

- Lodge Organization
- Roster of Key Lodge Personnel



My Brother,

As Kitchkinet, your Guide, I urge you forward on the next step of your journey. I am here to help you onward as a friend and Brother. Remember that the handclasp of the Order symbolizes your Obligation as additional ties to the ideals of Scouting. The Helpful Hand of your Brothers is available to you - clasp it.

I shot the Arrow on the eve of your Ordeal as a token of your pathway to the goal – “Thus do you appear to others on the path of Cheerful Service.” Are you still on the straight and true path? I urge you on with the same words with which I led you to the test of the Night Alone beneath the Heavens; “Now with courage on this...step, follow me and these my Brothers, let us try to find the Arrow.”

In the test of the night alone you confirmed your Self-Reliance, your willingness to accept the responsibility for your own thoughts and actions. Have you continued to test yourself and apply the traditions of the Order in your daily life? Are you walking with me and my Brothers the Path of Uncas? Remember how he cheerfully offered his help despite the negative attitudes of everyone around him?

I will be looking for you just outside the Circle to continue guiding you on this next step of your journey. Will you join me there? Will you accept the challenge to seal your membership at this time? My Brothers and I await you around the fire.

Yours in Wimachtendienk, Wingolauchsik Witahemui,

Kitchkinet

Recommended enclosures:

- Brotherhood Ceremony Registration Form
- Map to Brotherhood Ceremony Location
- Information on Requirements for Brotherhood Candidates

