

Official Bylaws

Nentico Lodge 12

We, the members of Nentico Lodge No. 12, W.W.W., do hereby set down these rules for the proper governing of our Lodge.

Article I. Name and affiliation of the Lodge

Section 1. The name of this Lodge of the Order of the Arrow shall be Nentico Lodge Number Twelve (12), W. W. W.

Section 2. This Lodge shall be affiliated with the Baltimore Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, and shall be under the supervision of the Council Camping Committee and the administrative authority of the Scout Executive.

Section 3. The totem of this Lodge shall be that of the Eagle with outstretched wings, representative of strength and unity of purpose. The colors of the Lodge shall be red, white, and yellow.

Section 4. Nentico Lodge shall at all times maintain the principles of the Boy Scouts of America and the Baltimore Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America as stated in the Charter and Bylaws of said organization. This Lodge shall also follow the policies stated in the current edition of the Order of the Arrow Handbooks and in these Lodge Rules.

Article II. Lodge Officers

Section 1. The officers of this Lodge shall be the Lodge Chief, three Lodge Vice Chiefs, Lodge Secretary, and Lodge Treasurer. These elected officers must be under twenty-one years of age for their entire term of office. [Amended 12/2/2012]

Section 2. Lodge officers shall be elected at the annual Spring General Lodge Meeting. The term of all lodge officers shall be from July 1st through June 30th. [Amended 5/2/2021]

Section 3. The procedures for electing lodge officers shall be exactly as follows:

1. Nominations for lodge officers may be made by the designated chapter youth representative when nominations are declared open at any general lodge meeting or at any meeting of the Lodge Executive Committee. Nominations shall require no second. All nominations must be accompanied by a petition signed by 30 youth members in good standing of the lodge. Nominees must be present at the time of the election to accept their nomination. Nominations for each office shall be closed only once – just before balloting for that office.
2. Each officer will be nominated separately in the following order:
 - Chief
 - Three Vice-Chiefs [Amended 12/2/2012]
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
3. After the nominations for a given office are declared closed, the designated chapter youth representative, shall poll their delegates who are younger than 21 and members of Nentico Lodge in good standing to determine how they will cast their votes. Such a poll shall be taken before each ballot.

4. Each chapter in the Lodge may cast one vote per youth member present at the time of the election, up to a maximum of 10 votes for each office on all ballots. The designated chapter youth representative must cast their votes in proportion to the poll of the delegates (in whole votes, not fractions). The Lodge Chief, in consultation with the Lodge Adviser and Lodge Staff Adviser, has final authority to determine any questions about whether a delegation is officially representing a chapter at the general lodge meeting. Such judgments shall be based on written or verbal certification by the chapter adviser or associated district Scout executive(s) of the chapter in question. In no case shall adults vote. Telephone, email, or other electronic votes are not permitted.
5. A nominee must receive a majority (one vote more than fifty percent) of the votes cast on a given ballot to be elected (abstentions do not count as votes cast). Where a majority is not achieved, the nominee(s) receiving the least number of votes is (are) dropped and another ballot is taken. This procedure continues until one nominee achieves a majority and is declared elected, or until two ballots in succession result in tie votes and the balloting is declared deadlocked. This rule is excepted when removal of all tied candidates would leave only one candidate remaining. In this case, the leading candidate and all candidates tied for the position will advance.
6. When balloting is declared deadlocked, the youth conducting the election – either the Lodge Chief or a youth appointed by the Lodge Chief and approved by the Lodge Adviser – will announce to the voting delegates that one more ballot will be taken to break the tie and, if another tie results, they shall cast sufficient votes for the candidate of their choice to achieve a majority and declare them elected.

Section 4. In the event that an in-person Spring General Lodge Meeting cannot be held, a virtual general lodge meeting shall be scheduled within 30 days of the decision to not hold an in-person Fellowship. This meeting will be available (virtually) to all members of the Lodge (only youth members can vote). The election procedure for this meeting shall follow the standard method to elect lodge officers (as defined in Article II, Section 3). The requirements stipulating all nominations must be accompanied by a petition signed by 30 youth members in good standing of the Lodge and that one youth member be present at the time of the election for each vote (up to ten) are waived. Each nomination will instead require the written approval of the nominee's chapter adviser and district Scout executive, or district Scout executive's designee, in advance of being nominated. Each chapter in the Lodge shall receive ten votes to cast by the designated youth representative.

Section 5. Vacancies in unexpired terms of lodge officers shall be filled by majority vote (as defined in Article II, Section 3, Clause 5) of the Lodge Executive Committee (one vote per chapter in good standing, voting). Elected officers, committee chairs, and the immediate past lodge chief shall not vote. Deadlocks, as defined in Article II, Section 3, Clause 5, will be decided by the youth conducting the election, after one additional tie.

Replacement lodge officers must meet the same eligibility requirements defined in Article II, Section 1. Each nominee must have the written approval of the nominee's chapter adviser and district Scout executive, or district Scout executive's designee, in advance of being nominated.

Section 6. The Lodge Chief shall hold no other office in the Order of the Arrow, or at the council, territory, or national level in any other Scouting program during their term. Should a candidate hold another council, territory, or national position within Scouting and be elected Lodge Chief, they will need to resign from the other position. [Amended 5/2/2021]

Section 7. The implementation of Article II Section 2 shall follow the procedures below:

1. Election at 2021 Fall General Lodge Meeting
2. Installation at 2022 Lodge Banquet (12-month Term: Jan. 1, 2022 – Dec. 31, 2022)
3. Election at 2022 Fall General Lodge Meeting
4. Installation at 2023 Lodge Banquet (6-month Term: Jan. 1, 2023 – June 30, 2023)
5. Election at 2023 Spring General Lodge Meeting
6. Installation at 2023 Lodge Picnic (12-month Term: July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024)
7. The implementation of Article II Section 2 is completed; therefore, Article II Section 7 shall be removed from the Lodge By-Laws as its purpose has been fulfilled.

[Amended 12/9/2021]

Article III. Executive Committee

Section 1. The Executive Committee of this Lodge shall be in accordance with current Order of the Arrow literature.

Section 2. The Lodge Chief shall appoint such operating committees necessary for the Lodge. All committee appointments will be subject to the approval of the Lodge Adviser. All committee chairmen shall be under twenty-one years of age for their entire term of office.

Section 3. The Lodge Adviser and their deputy(s) shall be appointed by the Scout Executive in consultation with the chairman of the Council Camping Committee. The Chapter Advisers are appointed annually by the Scout Executive in consultation with the Lodge Adviser, Lodge Chief, and the Council Camping Committee Chair. [Amended 10/9/2016]

Section 4. Only the Lodge Officers, Chapter Chiefs, Operating Committee Chairs, and the Immediate Former Lodge Chief, if they are under the age of 21, shall have a vote on the business matters of the Executive Committee. Any voting member of the Executive Committee may introduce or second a motion. A motion needs only one second to be put to a vote. The Lodge Chief shall only cast a vote in the event that a matter is tied. In the event that a chapter chief is unable to be present for a vote, a chapter vice chief may vote on their behalf. No person may vote on the behalf of a lodge officer, operating committee chair, or the Immediate Former Lodge Chief. [Amended 4/7/2019]

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Article IV. Camp Council

Section 1. The Order of the Arrow camp council of this lodge shall be in accordance with all current Order of the Arrow literature.

Article V. Lodge Meetings

Section 1. The Lodge shall schedule the following meetings annually:

1. Spring General Lodge Meeting
2. Fall General Lodge Meeting

Section 2. The Executive Committee of this Lodge shall hold at least four meetings a year, not including the general lodge meetings.

Section 3. Special meetings of the Executive Committee or of the Lodge may be called by the Lodge Chief with the approval of the Scout Executive, or by the Scout Executive themself.

Section 4. Each meeting of this Lodge shall be opened with the Obligation of the Order of the Arrow.

Section 5. Only those members of the Lodge who are under twenty-one years of age shall have a vote in any decisions of this Lodge.

Section 6. A simple majority of the voting members of the Lodge Officers and Chapter representatives shall be present to conduct the business of the Lodge.

Article VI. Election to Membership

Section 1. The requirements for membership in this Lodge shall be as stated in current Order of the Arrow literature.

Section 2. Procedures for the Ordeal shall be as stated in current Order of the Arrow literature.

Section 3. All elections to Lodge membership must be approved by the membership committee.

Article VII. Brotherhood Membership

Section 1. Completion of the Brotherhood membership shall be in accordance with current Order of the Arrow literature.

Article VIII. The Vigil Honor

Section 1. Attainment of the Vigil Honor shall be in accordance with current Order of the Arrow literature.

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Article IX. Dues

Section 1. There shall be an induction fee payable at the time of induction, for which each new Ordeal member shall receive:

1. A membership card
2. An Order of the Arrow sash
3. An Order of the Arrow Handbook
4. Feather
5. Nentico Lodge Handbook
6. Nentico Lodge 12 Standard Flap [Amended 10/9/2016]

Section 2. Dues of the Lodge shall be collected annually by the Lodge Treasurer, the amount to be set by the Lodge Executive Committee upon approval by the General Lodge; such dues to be deposited in the Council office.

Section 3. All Order of the Arrow funds shall be handled through the Baltimore Area Council and go through all normal accounting procedures used by the council. All expenses of Nentico Lodge beyond the limits of a budget must be approved prior to expenditure by the Lodge Adviser – or Deputy Lodge Adviser(s), or any adult delegated by the above persons, or upon a regular meeting of the Executive Committee.

Section 4. To be considered an active member in good standing of this Lodge, a member must be registered with the Baltimore Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America and have paid the current years' dues. [Amended 10/9/2016]

Article X. Lodge Insignia

Section 1. The insignia of this Lodge shall be in accordance with that described in current Order of the Arrow literature.

Section 2. The standard issue pocket flap of this Lodge shall be a white flap with a red border bearing the totem of this Lodge (a gold eagle) holding an arrow. The flap shall bear the words "Nentico Lodge 12" and "WWW." [Amended 10/9/2016]

Section 3. Any additional flaps produced by this Lodge for commemorative or other purposes shall be approved in purpose and design by the Lodge Executive Committee. [Amended 10/9/2016]

Section 4. Any additional flaps issued by this Lodge for other purposes are permitted to be worn on the uniform. A member shall not be permitted to wear a flap that ceased to be issued before they were a member. [Amended 10/8/2017]

Article XI. Name and Affiliation of the Chapters

Section 1. The name of each chapter shall be the same as that of the district with which it is affiliated with the exception of the districts falling within the limits of Baltimore City. The district or districts within Baltimore City shall be affiliated with a chapter specifically for Baltimore City; this chapter will be the McHenry Chapter. [Amended 10/8/2017]

Article XII. Chapter Officers

Section 1. Each chapter in this Lodge will have a chapter chief, at least one chapter vice chief, and a chapter secretary. These officers must be under twenty- one years of age for their entire term of office. These chapter officers shall be registered in the district with which the chapter is affiliated.

Section 2. The chapter nominating committee shall not be appointed until after the Lodge officer elections. Newly elected Lodge officers shall not be considered for the position of chapter chief. The Lodge Chief elect may not be considered for any chapter office.

[Amended 4/7/2019]

Section 3. The chapter officers must be elected at a general chapter meeting. Their term of office shall be the same as the Lodge officers. [Amended 5/2/2021]

Article XIII. Chapter Meetings

Section 1. The chapters in this Lodge will schedule at least one general chapter meeting a year. This meeting will be for the election of chapter officers.

Section 2. Chapters may have other events with the approval of the Executive Committee of this Lodge.

Article XIV. Chapter Finances

Section 1. Chapter finances shall be handled through the Lodge in accordance with current Order of the Arrow literature.

Section 2. Finances for chapter events shall be approved by the Executive Committee of the Lodge. Chapters also may have patches for their chapter activities with the approval of the Lodge Executive Committee.

Article XV. Amendments to the Lodge Rules.

Section 1. These rules shall be subject to amendment at any regular or special meeting of this Lodge, provided such amendment has been submitted in writing to the Lodge Executive Committee at least two months prior to such meeting and that due notice has been sent to all active members at least ten days prior to such meeting. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present shall be required for acceptance of such amendment.