

Guidelines and Writing Advice

Your *Brotherhood letter* to Octoraro Lodge 22, W.W.W., **must** address the following points:

- ♦ Explain in your **own** words what you think the Obligation means.

This is **NOT** as intimidating as it might initially seem: you are being asked for *your* opinion; therefore, there are neither right nor wrong answers. As you read each phrase of the Obligation, think about what that phrase is saying to you, and write down those thoughts. In other words, ask yourself, “What am I promising to do?” Write down your answer that question. Done!

- ♦ Describe how **you** have been fulfilling the Obligation in your troop and in your daily life; *and* how **you** applied your understanding of the “challenges” of the Ordeal as a guide to *your* actions.

Your comments should concern both Scouting **and** non-Scouting aspects of your life. The actions and/or attitudes you describe do **NOT** have to be monumental; more often you are judged on how you accomplish your everyday endeavors, than on how you tackle a few immense tasks. Remember that the Ordeal taught you the importance of **Brotherhood, Cheerfulness, AND Service**. Recall the four “challenges” of the Ordeal: How did you overcome those challenges? Have you found yourself in analogous situations **since** your Ordeal? What did *you* do?

- ♦ Tell about your **specific** plans for giving service to Octoraro Lodge 22, W.W.W.

Ordeal membership entails a commitment to render service to your unit and in your daily life. Brotherhood membership asks for *your* commitment to the Order of the Arrow and the lodge, *in addition* to your unit and daily life. This commitment does not need to be overwhelming — in fact, it is **not expected to be**.

This letter is *your* chance for self-reflection on the *traditions of the Order of the Arrow* and how you can practice those traditions within Scouting and throughout your daily life. The form on the reverse is for your convenience, it does **NOT** need to be used. If you prefer not to utilize the form, the Brotherhood Committee asks that you write your letter on 8½ × 11-inch paper. The committee requests any paper torn from a spiral notebook have a neatly trimmed edge. Please print your name and the date on your letter. *Thank you.*