

Legend of Our Founder's Life Quest

SAGE: The Legend of our Founder's Life Quest

Our founder, Treasure Island Scout Camp Director Urner Goodman, did not regard his creation of the Order of the Arrow as fulfillment of his life purpose. He went on to become Scouting's first National Program Director. He standardized the new Cub Scout and Senior Scout programs. He oversaw Green Bar Bill's creation of the first Patrol Leader and Scoutmaster handbooks. He organized the first National Jamborees. In short, molded the best and largest youth program in history. And in his later years, he received an honorary PhD, led a program for young men in his church, and served others faithfully until his passing from this life.

Will you do likewise? Will you carry what you have learned here beyond the Order of the Arrow? Beyond Scouting? To all your efforts and relationships until the very end of your life on Earth?

[If there are no Brotherhood/Fletcher candidates, skip to Closing.]

In token of Brotherhood, I invite each of you to join your hearts to each other. And to the hearts of all your brothers and sisters who have been so bound since the beginnings of our Order. All humanity shares the same blood, regardless of age, race, or gender. All arise from the same Earth and breathe the same air. The same air and Earth and blood of our brothers and sisters in the Order today and back to the beginnings of our order. And to the beginnings of life itself.

In ancient times, it was customary for those choosing to become as if brothers to mingle their physical blood. But in our Order, there can be no blood spilt between us. Yet we wish to join in unity to one another. So we invoke the ancient image of blood ties, but reject wounding each other.

Now existing Fletchers will come forward as Nimats, one in front of each Fletcher candidate, and join in the handclasp of our Order.

[Additional words of instruction are appropriate if there is confusion, or if no Fletcher volunteered for one or more Fletcher candidates. Wait until each candidate is clasped with an existing Fletcher. Any of the four ceremonial Principals who are themselves Fletcher may participate this way.]

In ancient times, blood brothers bound their wounds together. So bind yourself to the Order by winding your new sash around your handclasp with the help of your Nimat.

[Principals should give instructions or otherwise assist as needed. Wait until each candidate is clasped with an existing Fletcher with their new sash wound around the handclasp. Then wait 10 seconds.]

This is Brotherhood. Bound to each other by invisible ties, made visible with this handclasp and sash. But there is a deeper meaning, a higher calling as Fletcher.

Nimats, remove your left hand from the bindings. Leave the bindings around the candidate's hand. Candidates, turn around and face the south. See the assembled members. See the path that leads from this circle, from this moment, to the rest of your life.

With outstretched hand, as if to shake the hand of another, bind yourself to your future, to all those

along the paths you choose. Our principle of Brotherhood demands we reach out to others, not only today, but forever.

Listen! Our admonition guides you to love every other. Not just the members of our Order.

If you accept this guidance, to live a life of loving others, of brotherhood and sisterhood with all you meet, for the rest of your life, whisper now the Admonition and its meaning. [Pause while they do so.]

Wear your new sash as a symbol of this moment. Place it over your own shoulder as all this was your personal choice. [Old sashes are worn temporarily under their new sashes.]

Congratulations, Fletchers, on your achievement of the Brotherhood Honor. Step forward and carry the glow of our council fire into the world, wherever your paths may lead. Stand with those who you serve.

[All applaud as the new Fletchers merge in with the other members. See Diagram 19.]