

# Elangomat Training Manual

Monaken Lodge 103

## **What is an Elangomat?**

The elangomat is one who is fully willing to give of himself in order to bring to others the true realization of the purpose and spirit of the Order of the Arrow. He will endure the hardships of the Ordeal again and again to help new members gain the deep and powerful experience of the Ordeal. The title, "Elangomat" means FRIEND. Your primary responsibility is to be a friend to the candidates. Your job is not easy; you must function as a mentor, counselor, mediator, and authority figure. The Ordeal is, however, better the second time around.

## **The Spirit of an Elangomat**

The elangomat is willing to sacrifice himself in order to preside over his clan. His job is to act as Allowat Sakima in observing the candidates throughout the Ordeal. If you embody the spirit of the Ordeal, the candidates will follow your example and act accordingly. The more you keep the spirit of the Ordeal with you, the more powerful and meaningful the Ordeal will be for the candidates.

## **Responsibilities of an Elangomat**

- Honestly try to bring the candidates understanding of the spirit of the Order of the Arrow. Take the initiative in performing service and accomplishing tasks.
- Be a continual example of the spirit of the Order.
- Ensure that the candidates fully follow the challenges of the Ordeal.
- Make the candidates feel they are part of the Order and work with them until they achieve Brotherhood.

## **Clans**

Our lodge does not build clans as it is suggested, but a clan is a group of Ordeal candidates under your supervision. You will get to know your members and be a friend and mentor to them during their Ordeal and as they rise up through the Order. You are a patrol leader in charge of the clan.

## **Elangomat Duties Through the Ordeal**

Friday Night:

You will be assigned to and organize your clan. You should get to know them, and take note of any allergies or medical issues that will need to be addressed. Have them carve their arrows and hang them around their necks. **The arrows must be around their necks for the entire day.** This will distinguish them as Ordeal candidates so that others may act accordingly. Establish a buddy-type relationship with your clan to ensure they can trust you throughout the Ordeal. At this point you should write down the names and contact information for each candidate in your clan for later purposes.

The elangomats should line up at the head and tail of the Pre-Ordeal ceremony line. You may take your sleeping gear with you, or may return for it after the candidates are put down for the night. You should stand in line with

them for the entire ceremony, doing what they do (including stepping forward and testing the bow). At this point you are also under a vow of silence except when necessary.

Upon arriving at the sleeping site (past Eagle Lodge on the gravel road), send the candidates one by one from the back of the line off into the woods five to ten yards, alternating on both sides of the road. Make sure you know where everyone is and how many candidates are in your clan. Make your camp in the middle or near end of the candidates.

#### Saturday Morning:

Wake the candidates with an hour or two for them to cook their breakfasts. You may choose to build a fire for them, or may let them build a communal fire together. **The candidates may not talk unless absolutely necessary.** Take them back to the pavilion where they left their gear before work tasks are assigned but after the rest of the camp has gone in for breakfast. After work tasks are assigned, maintain authority over the candidates assigned with you.

#### Saturday Afternoon:

Before lunch, assemble the candidates in a line to get their food. Escort them into the dining hall to get their food and then have them sit at the picnic benches and tables below the dining hall. There is to be no talking. Check on all of the candidates and see how they are doing – they may answer direct questions.

During afternoon tasks, maintain the same position as morning tasks. After the completion of afternoon tasks, assemble the candidates back at the pavilion. Remind them that the vow of silence is still in effect and that they should spend their time contemplating the Ordeal.

#### Saturday Evening:

Have the candidates wash up and put on their uniforms. At the designated time, assemble them to go to chapel and dinner. Remind them that the vow of silence will be lifted in order to sing/pray at chapel and answer direct questions/ask for food at dinner. You should also be dressed in your uniform as well as your OA sash. Before the ceremony, line them up but do not stand in line with them. You are already bound to the order and only need to stand next to them. You will also not be bound with the candidates. Upon arriving at the fire circle, you may split off and sit with the rest of the lodge. You should be the first to shake the Ordeal members' hands at the conclusion of the ceremony.

#### After the Ordeal:

After the Ordeal, stay in contact with new members. Encourage them to attend further events and to work toward their Brotherhood. Call or email them and ask if they plan on attending the next event. If not, try to elicit a reason so that anything that can be changed can be fixed. Your job of Elangomat is finally finished when each and every Ordeal member in your clan achieves Brotherhood.

### **Discipline**

Discipline will always be a problem. You are not allowed to disqualify a candidate (only they can make that choice). If the candidate is not fulfilling the tests of the Ordeal, take him aside and explain to him that a continuation of his activities will be considered a renunciation of his candidacy. If that does not work, inform the Head Elangomat or Elangomat Chairman so proper actions may be taken. Let the Head Elangomat be the “bad cop” in the situation. Allow him to deal with any issues severely.

## **What Not to Do**

- You cannot disqualify a candidate – only he can make that decision.
- Do not let anyone distract a candidate from his duties, especially other people attending the Ordeal as brothers. They do not have the right.
- Do not do anything that will negatively affect the candidates – they will do as they see you doing. Set a good example at all times.
- Do not tempt candidates to break any of the tests.
- Never let time go unfulfilled – try to organize an activity with the Head Elangomat to keep the candidates busy; boredom is the enemy of the Spirit of the Ordeal.
- Do not discuss the Spirit of the Arrow booklets the candidates are given – allow them to ponder the words in silence.
- Do not talk unless absolutely necessary – you have taken the same vows as the candidates. If you must talk, other than of things relating to work, do it away from the group.

## **Severe Weather Plan**

Our lodge's severe weather plan for Friday night only pertains to the candidates sleeping out. If weather is deemed severe by the Lodge Chief, the Head Elangomat, or any advisor, the elangomats will be alerted by the chief and Head Elangomat. You should quickly but calmly wake your clan and assemble them on the road, explaining what is going on. The candidates will be led back across the lake and will spend the night in the OA/Pool pavilion. Everyone must be under the pavilion, and the same rules still apply.

Always follow the Scout motto and make sure your clan is prepared for any weather. They should always have water and a waterproof jacket with them whenever they travel around camp.

## **Elangomat Participation in Ceremonies**

In the Pre-Ordeal ceremony, the elangomats will do all of the same things the candidates do. Before the Ordeal ceremony on Saturday night, after lining the candidates up, one elangomat will ask, **“If you intend to continue your service to your troop, place your left hand on the shoulder of the candidate in front of you.”** Once the candidates arrive at the trail to the fire circle and Kichkinet arrives, the first elangomat in line will say, **“Brother Kichkinet, we all have the same purpose.”**

## **The Elangomat Promise**

I, do hereby promise, on my honor as a member of the Brotherhood of Cheerful Service, to remain true to the ties of the Elangomat; to exemplify and endure the tests of the Ordeal, that those who are to join in our brotherhood may gain greater understanding of our purpose; to be a constant example of cheerful service and brotherhood; and to strive with all my power to help them see the Arrow.