

Call-Out Ceremony for a Small Troop

Requires Kitchkinet, the only demanding part, and two torch-bearing guards, each of whom should be in regalia. Three torches are required (see below). The troop should prepare tokens (described below by Kitchkinet. Hairpipe, beads and medicine bags can be obtained from most crafts stores, or through Crazy Crow 1 - 800 786-2287. Use string that can break in their construction for safety reasons).

The troop [and guests] are assembled at dusk and marched to the ceremonial site where ceremonies team awaits hidden. The Scoutmaster or other representative reminds the Scouts of their recent election, and discusses the history of the OA (see OA Handbook), Lodge and Chapter, and OA's place in Scouting. Only candles or the speaker's flashlight should be in use here, as darkness is desired. As he finishes speaking, and on some cue, perhaps asking Scouts to rise, form themselves into a line, or extinguish their candles, the two guards light their torches revealing the presence of the team in the distance.

They approach slowly and halt where Kitchkinet can survey the scene (preferably on a rise or hill) and be seen and heard by all, Guards to left and right. The third torch could have been pre-positioned here, unlit, or is brought in by another non-participating OA member or the Scoutmaster. One of the guards now lights this third torch. It will remain here to illuminate Kitchkinet. Alternately, the Scoutmaster may have used while taking about OA.

Notes to Kitchkinet: Use exaggerated gesturing so that it can be seen at the distance of the audience. At the start, stop and look over the audience slowly to let tension build. When you speak, speak slowly, deliberately, with exaggerated pauses. Speak with authority, but don't yell, make people listen to hear you.

Kitchkinet:

I am Kitchkinet, guide of our Lodge, and have come in response to your call, for it is said by Brother Meteu, Lodge Medicine Man, that there have been found among you some who have shown themselves worthy of our Order by their steadfast adherence to the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. As is my duty, I have come to confirm this, and, doing so, to warn those chosen of an ordeal approaching swiftly, and to prepare them for a coming journey.

Kitchkinet:

Go, my brothers, (gesturing to each guard in turn) among these young men. Examine the heart and soul of each. Determine if there are indeed those who are ready for the trials. (Guards: look at Kitchkinet and appear to really listen to him)

Guards:

It shall be done, brother Kitchkinet. (Guards descend the hill and, passing down the line of scouts, examine each scout by looking deeply into his eyes. As they pass slowly among the scouts, Kitchkinet views their progress, and spaces these lines appropriately to keep audience attention from flagging. Guards may pause and turn to Kitchkinet as he speaks. Alternately, the Guards may receive these instructions before they turn to start their search.)

Kitchkinet:

Hear my message: find only those Helpful, Friendly, Courteous and Kind, those who know their duty to help other people at all times.

Kitchkinet:

Hear the message of Brother Nutiket, whose duty is to guard the Circle: Find only those Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, and Clean, those who know their duty to keep themselves physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.

Kitchkinet:

Hear the message of Allowat Sakima, mighty Chief. Find only those who are Trustworthy, Loyal, Obedient, and Reverent, those who feel their duty to God and to Country.

(Guards proceed until having examined each Scout.)

Guard:

Brother Kitchkinet, there are indeed those who are found worthy here among us.

Kitchkinet:

Bring them before me.

Guards walk, one in front, one in back, along line of scouts, (intentionally choose candidates at random rather than as they occur in line, so that all will feel they still have a chance even though the guards may have passed them.) Guards halt in front and back of Candidate, wait for him to realize he has been chosen, and lead half way to Kitchkinet. Guards form the candidates in a line at a forty-five degree angle to the audience, or some variation so as not to block the proceedings from audience view. Guards go back for next. This continues until all have been called out. (No contact with the Candidate that can in any way be construed as hazing, including grabbing, pulling, etc. is to be made.)

Kitchkinet:

Are there any others who have been chosen to make the journey? (This question may be asked several times, but finally guards will answer thus:)

Guard:

There are not, brother Kitchkinet

The following may be spoken in either order:

Kitchkinet:

To you, the chosen, I present this token. (Holds up medicine pouch on necklace). Within these Red medicine bags are tokens (which may simply be the signatures of the other scouts) given by your fellow scouts, to remind you that you have been chosen by them and represent them. Their tokens are their hopes for your success in the trials that await you. These twelve White hairpipe are to remind you of your duties to all under the Scout Law. These three Blue beads are to remind you of your obligations to all under the Scout Oath. I tie this token about your neck with the square knot, the symbol of the brotherhood of Scouting. Wear this token always until we meet again.

Kitchkinet ties the necklace token about the neck of each candidate, (Scoutmaster calling each name aloud as he does so) and congratulates each in turn. Candidates are led off by guards to receive their information packets, have their questions answered, etc.

Kitchkinet:

Scouts. Though you have not been chosen to make the journey at this time, I urge you, to rededicate yourselves to the principles of Scouting, to the Scout Law, the Scout Oath and to hear the call to Brotherhood, Cheerfulness, and Service. Accept these principles in your hearts. Doing this, your fellows will certainly notice, and will again call to me to appear, this time as your guide.

Kitchkinet turns and leaves to join Guards and candidates. Scoutmaster announces close of ceremony.

Torch Construction Notes. Make torches with old T-shirt(s) or towels tightly wrapped around one end of a stick of at least 1 ½" diameter. Wrap several layers of aluminum foil or thicker sheet metal (perhaps from a split soup can) under the area where the bottom of the head of the torch will be, and extending 1 ½" or so beyond the t-shirt wrap to keep the stick from burning through and the torch head dropping off. Tightly secure soup can, then t-shirts with wire cut from coat hangers, twisted tightly at the end with pliers. Soak each in coffee can of kerosene; remove a half-hour or so before the ceremony. NEVER use gas or white gas (Coleman fuel), as certain disaster will result!