



Nampa-Tsi Lodge #216 Coup Thong Award Program



Members of the Nampa-Tsi Lodge wear a coup thong around their necks as a display of their achievements in the Order of the Arrow and in Scouting. The coup thong of our lodge is unique and should be worn with pride. Some other lodges have similar award programs, but each is different and has its own story.

As stated, the coup thong is a way for our members to display their achievements. Our native brothers had similar ways of showing their achievements, including lanyards and coup sticks.

If you study the coup thong, it has embedded symbolisms. The eagle claws are reminders of Boy Scouting's highest rank and come together to form a crescent moon, a symbol of both strength and guidance. The two claws bound together also remind us of our union, the Nampa-Tsi Lodge, which came to be with the merger between the Metab and Po-E-Mo lodges in 1971. Additionally, they also represent an Arrowman's connection with all other Arrowmen, as well as their commitment to the Admonition and Obligation of the Order of the Arrow. In addition, the program uses three types of beads: small spherical - 3/8" in diameter with 1/8" hole, large spherical - 1/2" in diameter with 1/8" hole, and flat round - 1/2" in diameter across and 1/8" in height with 1/8" hole.

Order of the Arrow Candidacy. After being called, candidates are given the initial and essential part of the coup thong the blue call-out bead, a large spherical blue bead on a brown leather thong. Simplistic in appearance, it is the symbol of the candidacy. If an Arrowman was tapped out instead or called out (approximately prior to mid-1991) this bead shall be black in color.

Ordeal Membership. After completing the Ordeal, Arrowmen are given their pair of two plastic eagle claws, as well as their first pair of black tenure beads (small spherical). For each concluding year after having paid dues, a new pair of tenure beads will be given to them matching their membership status (until an Ordeal member becomes a Brotherhood member, he or she will continue to receive black tenure beads as long as he or she pays his or her dues). Also, an Ordeal member will wear the Universal Arrow Ribbon below the eagle claws.

Brotherhood Membership. Upon sealing one's membership in the Order as a Brotherhood member, members are given a pair of red tenure beads (small spherical). Arrowmen will receive an additional pair of red tenure beads each year that they pay their dues. A Brotherhood member may wear the lodge totem below the claws attached to the Universal Arrow Ribbon.

Vigil Honor Candidacy. Should a Brotherhood member be called to become a Vigil Honor member in the Order, he or she wears the wooden Vigil triangle attached to his or her coup thong. Following obtainment of the Vigil Honor, the triangle should not be worn.

Vigil Honor Membership. Upon completing the Vigil, members are given a pair of white tenure beads (small spherical). Arrowman will receive an additional pair of white tenure beads each year they pay their dues. The Vigil Honor pin should also be worn on the Universal Arrow Ribbon with the lodge totem.

Further Information on Tenure Beads. As an Arrowman ages, his or her coup thong may become very long. If an Arrowman desires, ten pairs of small tenure (small spherical) beads (representing one year for each pair) can be replaced by one pair of large tenure (large spherical) beads of the same color.

Recognition Beads. In the spring of 2007, our Lodge Executive Committee approved plans to implement a new series of recognitions to be honored on an Arrowman's coup thong.

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Beads can be worn as preferred in any order or combination; however, beads will be worn above the call-out bead and under the tenure beads in a single column with both strands of the necklace going through each bead. Only one bead of each color is to be worn.

YOUTH (large spherical beads)	
Red	Eagle Scout
Purple	Camp staff
Dark Brown	Trained Elangomat
Light Brown	Trained Nimat
Clear	Vigil Guide
Yellow	Ceremony Team member
Orange	NOAC participant or staff
Green	Chapter Chief
White	Lodge vice chief

ADULT (flat round beads)	
Red	Eagle Scout (as a youth)
Purple	Camp staff
Dark Brown	Trained Elangomat
Light Brown	Trained Nimat
Clear	Vigil Guide
Yellow	Ceremony Team member (as a youth)
Orange	NOAC participant or staff
Green	Chapter Adviser
White	Lodge vice chief

Youth recognition beads may be earned before turning twenty-one years of age. Adult recognition beads may be earned on or after becoming twenty-one years of age. An adult may continue to wear all youth recognition beads (large spherical beads) after turning twenty-one years of age if earned before becoming twenty-one years of age or they may wear the adult flat beads for any beads earned as a youth.

Totems. Chapters may develop and wear a chapter totem attached to their coup thong; however, the Lodge Executive Committee must first approve the totem.

The Tradition of Lodge Chief Claws Being Painted White. Another unique tradition in our lodge's coup thong award program is the current lodge chief painting both of his claws white. When his term ends, only one claw is to be painted white and is to be worn on the wearer's right; therefore, the current and past lodge chiefs of our lodge can be easily distinguished.

Special Award Ribbons. Additionally, recipients of the Fred A. Zimman Distinguished Service Award are permitted to wear a blue ribbon on their coup thong in substitution of the Universal Arrow Ribbon. Recipients of the Founder's Award may also wear the gold-colored arrow suspended from a red ribbon on their coup thongs (like the ribbon of the Fred A. Zimman Distinguished Service Award, the ribbon for recipients of the Founder's Award substitutes for the Universal Arrow Ribbon). If an individual should happen to receive both the Fred A. Zimman Distinguished Service Award and the Founder's Award, he or she may wear a ribbon that is half red and half blue.



Nampa-Tsi Lodge #216 My Personal Coup Thong Record

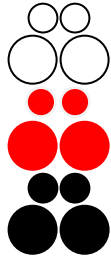


Name _____

Unit _____

Chapter _____

Tenure beads (small: 3/8"; large: 1/2"; both with 1/8" hole)



Vigil Honor - white beads (one pair) - date of ceremony: ___/___/___

one additional pair for each additional year

Note: one pair of large beads can be substituted for ten pairs of small beads

Brotherhood - red beads (one pair) - date of ceremony: ___/___/___

one additional pair for each additional year

Note: one pair of large beads can be substituted for ten pairs of small beads

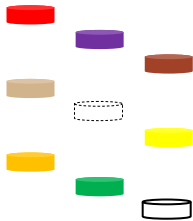
Ordeal - black beads (one pair) - date of ceremony: ___/___/___

one additional pair for each additional year

Note: one pair of large beads can be substituted for ten pairs of small beads

Recognition Beads - Adult (3/8" wide by 1/8" tall with 1/8" hole)

Note: Adults have the choice of wearing the adult flat beads for any beads earned as a youth.



red Eagle Scout (as a youth)

Camp staff - date of award: ___/___/___

purple

Trained Elangomat - date of award: ___/___/___

dark brown

Trained Nimat - date of award: ___/___/___

light brown

Vigil Guide - date of award: ___/___/___

clear

Ceremony Team member (as a youth)

yellow

NOAC participant or staff - date of award: ___/___/___

orange

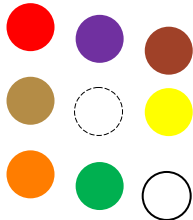
Chapter Adviser - date of award: ___/___/___

green

Lodge vice chief (as a youth)

white

Youth (3/8" round with 1/8" hole)



Red

Eagle Scout - date of award: ___/___/___

Purple

Camp staff - date of award: ___/___/___

dark brown

Trained Elangomat - date of award: ___/___/___

light brown

Trained Nimat - date of award: ___/___/___

Clear

Vigil Guide - date of award: ___/___/___

Yellow

Ceremony Team member - date of award: ___/___/___

Orange

NOAC participant or staff - date of award: ___/___/___

Green

Chapter Chief - date of award: ___/___/___

White

Lodge vice chief - date of award: ___/___/___

Candidate (1/2" round with 1/8" hole) - blue - date of ceremony: ___/___/___

OR if "Tapped-out" (became a candidate in 1991 or prior) (1/2" round with 1/8" hole)- black - date of ceremony: ___/___/___

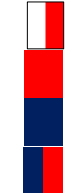
Eagle Claws - black



OR if current Lodge Chief - two white claws - dates of service: ___/___/___

OR if past Lodge Chief - one white (worn to the wearer's right) and one black claw

Universal Arrow Ribbon



OR Founder's Award (a national award) - red ribbon with gold arrow - Date: awarded: ___/___/___

OR Fred A. Zimman Distinguished Service Award (a local lodge award) - blue ribbon - Date: awarded: ___/___/___

OR if both awards - half blue (worn to the wearer's right) and half red ribbon

Vigil Honor pin, if Vigil Honor



Lodge Totem, if Brotherhood member

Wooden Vigil triangle (worn on a separate leather thong), if currently a Vigil Honor candidate - date called-out: ___/___/___

