



NAMPA-TSI LODGE ORDER OF THE ARROW

Building Your First Coup Thong

Items Needed:

Ordeal Candidate coup thong from Great Rivers Council call-out ceremony including:
brown leather thong, roughly 40 to 48 in. in length
blue bead (large)

Note: Sometimes the Ordeal Candidate's coup thong will be issued with a small blue bead. If you have a small blue bead, ask during the Jumpstart Session (or if after the Jumpstart Session ask at the Lodge Trading Post) to exchange it for a large blue bead.

Note: If you did not receive an Ordeal Candidate's coup thong by not being able to be present at your call-out ceremony, your unit did not have a call out, you attended an out of council summer camp, or you lost it, ask for one during the conclave check-in process.

Items from New Ordeal Member packet including:

black plastic imitation eagle claws, glued together, qty. 2.

black beads (small), qty. 2.

Universal Arrow Ribbon (silver arrow suspended from a small red and white ribbon)

Optional Items:

drill. If you have a power drill, ask an adult for help. Wear protective gloves and eyewear.

drill bits of assorted sizes: 1/8", 9/64", 5/32", 11/64", 3/16", and 1/4".

soft jaw pliers: to hold the bead when drilling.

Instructions:

Step 1. Take your Ordeal Candidate coup thong (see Figure 1) and untie the square knot at the top.

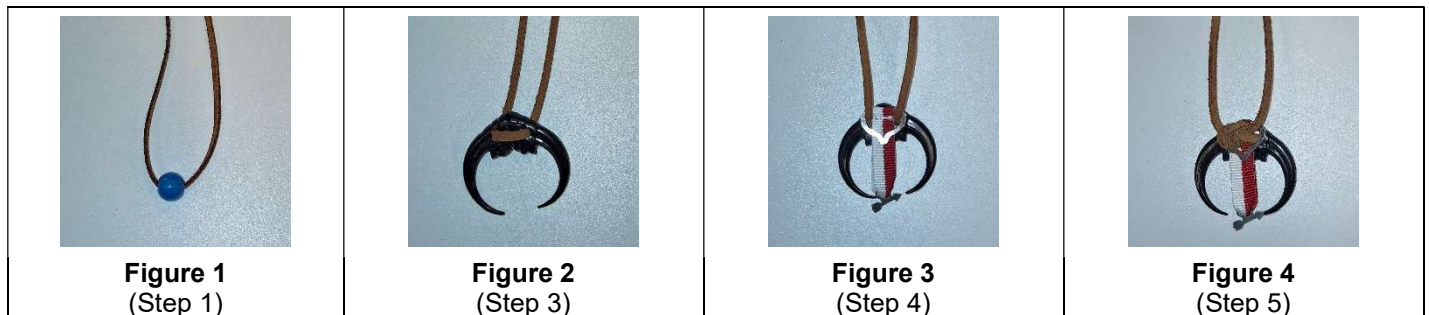
Step 2. Remove the blue bead. If you have a small blue bead exchange it for a large blue bead.

Step 3. Insert one end of the leather thong through the back (to the front) of the eagle claws. (There is no difference in the front or back so just choose one side the front and the other the back). Continue to take the leather thong through the front (to the back) of the other eagle claw. Slide the claws through the leather thong to center them on the leather thong. You may wish to adjust the leather thong so that there are no twists visible on the front (see Figure 2).

Step 4. Place the Universal OA Ribbon on the back of the claws with the leather thongs through each side of the metal hanger of the Universal OA Ribbon. It is best to place the metal hanger upside down such that the bottom of the ribbon hanger is not at the top and the ribbon suspended below is in between the hanger and the claws (see Figure 3, view from back).

Note: The Universal OA Ribbon should be attached such that the silver arrow suspended from a small red and white ribbon is pointing up and to the left when viewing the coup thong from the front.

Step 5. Tie a square knot at the back of the eagle claws. It should be tight enough to not come undone but be careful not put too much tension to cause it to break (see Figure 4, view from back).



continued on other side

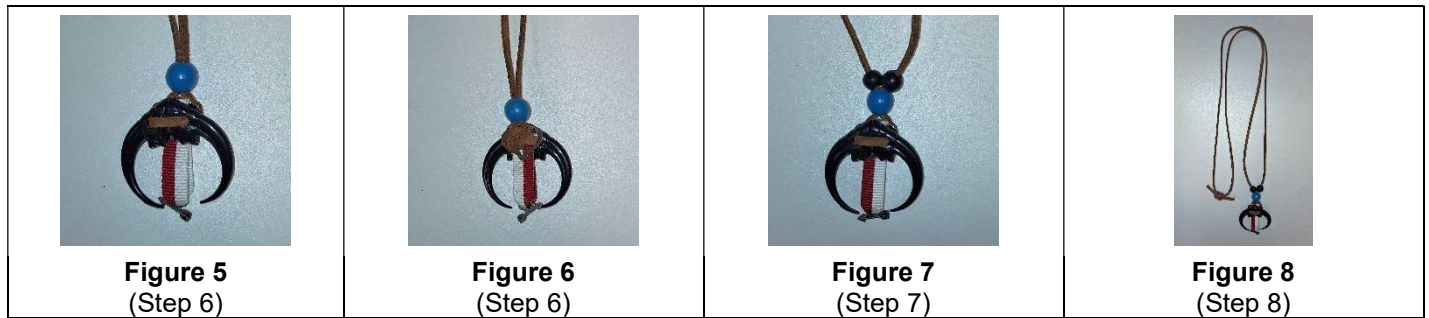
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continued from other side

Step 6. Insert both thongs through the blue bead. If the hole in the large blue bead will not allow for the passage of the leather thong you can drill out this hole to make it larger. Start with smaller size drill bit (1/8" works well) and work up through larger sizes checking to see if both sides of the leather thong will fit through the bead before going to the next larger size drill bit. Use soft jaw pliers to prevent mis-shaping the soft plastic bead. You do not necessarily need to use drill but rather the bit only perhaps held by a set of pliers. You may need to wear protective gloves and eyewear to hold the bead firmly during this process (see Figure 5 (front view) and 6 (back view)).

Step 7. Insert a small black bead through each of the leather thongs (see Figure 7).

Step 8. Tie each end of the leather thong with a square knot. Adjust the location of this knot as needed to place the claws at just above your waistline. Trim the ends close to the knot as desired (but first read the section below about the Fisherman's knot) (see Figure 8).



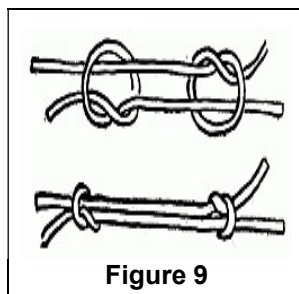
This is the basic method of building your coup thong. Your coup-thong is now finished and ready-to-wear.

Customization

Customization is allowed and we encourage you to customize your coup thong to make it your own. You may use different leather thongs, but please use one that is from light tan to dark brown or even black in color. The thickness should be approximately 1/8" in diameter. The shape of the need not be square cut like leather but can be more rounded. It does not even need to be made from leather but should still have the same basic look as leather.

You can use different knots to secure the Universal Arrow Ribbon and different methods of attaching the large blue bead such as instead of inserting both ends of the thong from the same side of the large blue bead to inserting each end of the leather thong through opposite side of the hole so that the hole is horizontal instead of vertical.

You can use a different knot to tie the top together. A Fisherman's knot allows for both adjustability and place the location of the knot to the sides instead of the back of the neck. Since most new youth Ordeal candidates are still growing this adjustability will come in handy and prevent replacing the thong over time. Just tie each overhand knot firmly but do not pull the two overhand knots together but in either direction to expand or contract the length of the necklace as needed to place the claws just above your waistline (see Figure 9).



Additional Resources:

For more information on the coup thong please check the resources section of the lodge website at:

<https://nampa-tsi.org/resources/coup-thong>

or scan the QR code to the right.

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