

CLOSING SESSION

Session Length: 10-15 Minutes

Learning objectives:

- Understand how each part is important to make the Conclave
- Understand the importance of the Conclave

Ideal Trainer:

Section Chief or Section Adviser

Materials:

- Copy of Poem for everyone



SESSION NARRATIVE

Parts make the Whole: We have spent time planning our Conclave. Mention certain things each group is planning for example, Shows is thinking of bringing a whole new style to the show or Training is adding a college, etc. Mention every group. For the next (#) months you will be working on your part of the conclave, your full energy and time will be dedicated to your piece of this puzzle. I would like to read you a poem.

(Read the poem found at the end of this syllabus)

You see, although we are each working on a piece of the elephant we must work to ensure the participants see the whole thing. Don't let your excitement of the trunk, the leg or the ear prevent the entire beast to be seen.

Importance of Conclave: Close your eyes. Think back to your first conclave. What do you remember? What will you never forget? Who did you meet? What did you not expect? What did you think on the drive home? Open your eyes. So maybe this year will be your second or third or thirtieth conclave. We must remember that Section Conclaves are an incredibly unique experience. We want everyone to get as excited as they were at there first, I want you to be as excited as if this were your first. For many of the Arrowmen who will attend it will be the largest Scouting event they ever attend. They may not make it to a Jamboree or a NOAC. What do you want them to think about if someone asks them to close their eyes and remember their first conclave? What can you do to ensure that this is something they will never forget?

Remember everything we have done (today or this weekend) and leave here inspired to work hard year long. If you find yourself tired, stressed or worn out just close your eyes and think back. Take out the poem and remember how you are part of the larger picture. I thank you for your service, have a safe travel home.

Sing the Song.

APPENDIX: POEM

American poet John Godfrey Saxe (1816-1887) based the following poem on a fable which was told in India many years ago.

It was six men of Indostan
To learning much inclined,
Who went to see the Elephant
(Though all of them were blind),
That each by observation
Might satisfy his mind
The First approached the Elephant,
And happening to fall
Against his broad and sturdy side,
At once began to bawl:
"God bless me! but the Elephant
Is very like a wall!"
The Second, feeling of the tusk,
Cried, "Ho! what have we here
So very round and smooth and sharp?
To me 'tis mighty clear
This wonder of an Elephant
Is very like a spear!"
The Third approached the animal,
And happening to take
The squirming trunk within his hands,
Thus boldly up and spake:
"I see," quoth he, "the Elephant
Is very like a snake!"
The Fourth reached out an eager hand,
And felt about the knee.
"What most this wondrous beast is like
Is mighty plain," quoth he;
" 'Tis clear enough the Elephant
Is very like a tree!"
The Fifth, who chanced to touch the ear,
Said: "E'en the blindest man
Can tell what this resembles most;
Deny the fact who can
This marvel of an Elephant
Is very like a fan!"
The Sixth no sooner had begun
About the beast to grope,
Than, seizing on the swinging tail
That fell within his scope,
"I see," quoth he, "the Elephant
Is very like a rope!"
And so these men of Indostan
Disputed loud and long,
Each in his own opinion

Exceeding stiff and strong,
Though each was partly in the right,
And all were in the wrong!

Moral:

So oft in theologic wars,
The disputants, I ween,
Rail on in utter ignorance
Of what each other mean,
And prate about an Elephant
Not one of them has seen!