



# *Mic-O-Say Parent's Guide*





# *The Meaning of Micosay*

***The word Micosay means “deep, abiding, and everlasting friendship, with warmth of heart to reach down and lift up those younger and weaker.”***

H. Roe Bartle brought the Scouting program to the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming in the early 1920's. There, he developed a deep friendship with a Northern Arapaho, LoneBear, who allowed Bartle to witness firsthand his tribe's kinship with nature, their strong belief in the Great Spirit, and their adherence to important values. Through this relationship, a bond grew and from it a respect and knowledge of values, customs, and traditions.

Micosay began in the hills and canyons of Wyoming, based on Bartle's relationship with LoneBear and the desire to help youth grow into a meaningful adulthood. The same is true today.

It was decided that a program should be established at Bartle's home Boy Scout camp, near Kansas City, which would be the honor of all honors — going only to those who were top leaders and first-rate campers. This honor program united the best of the Arapaho's coming-of-age challenges and the established ideals of Scouting.

This inspiration for our program was given to H. Roe Bartle by LoneBear and his Lakota and Shoshone friends on the Wind River Reservation. At the same time, they gifted Bartle a word for this program: Micosay. LoneBear explained to Bartle that “Micosay” meant “deep, abiding, and everlasting friendship, with warmth of heart to reach down and lift up those younger and weaker.”

The stated purpose of the Tribe of Micosay is “an H. Roe Bartle Reservation honor camping program based upon the intensification of the principles and ideals of Scouting. Micosay's purpose is to provide a life guide for youth who have demonstrated leadership skills, set and achieved worthy goals, and proven their devotion to Scouting.”

In later years, another group of American Indians developed and gave Micosay the “Dance of Joy,” which is part of the call Warrior program and performed on Visitors Days and at Brave and Warrior ceremonies.

As with any program nearing its one hundredth anniversary, there have been many opportunities to pause and reflect regarding the program and its delivery. Indeed, many changes have taken place, largely due to the success of the program, now some 86,000-members strong, and its legacy. However, much of the program remains untouched and is forever linked to the early days that H. Roe Bartle spent with the Arapaho on the Wind River Reservation.

Since our beginning, we have worked successfully with many American Indian advisors and groups. Many American Indians are members of Micosay and support our goals of appreciation and creating an awareness of Indian culture. Long ago, we changed items that could have been deemed disrespectful and today, we continue to work with groups and individuals to ensure a dynamic and appropriate program.





## *The Meaning of Micosay*

We begin each summer with songs and prayers led by American Indians. It is an atmosphere of respect and wonder; we never know what words they will have for us. The Arapaho Tribe of Wyoming gave Micosay their nation's flag to fly over our camp. This flag is meant to show everyone their acknowledgement of our relationship and our desire to work together. We have agreed the words "everlasting friendship" were given with purpose and it truly is without end. Recent discussions with Arapaho Tribal Elders have focused on how Micosay can be of a larger part of their community.

There is excitement in the future of the Micosay and Arapaho. We embrace our history and are thankful for our special relationships.



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## ***A Parents' Guide to Micosay***

*(For distribution to adults only. Please keep the “mystique” alive!)*

Note: Please direct questions to your Scoutmaster or Committee Chair

### **Introduction**

The Boy Scouts of America does not permit secret societies. Micosay is NOT a secret organization. Any adult may learn all there is to know about the program. We do keep some information from non-member youth to preserve the “mystique” of Micosay. We do ask that adults keep that “mystique” alive by not discussing such information with non-member youth.

Micosay is an honor leadership organization for Scouts BSA of the Heart of America Council. Venturing, Exploring, and other BSA programs do NOT participate in Micosay. The program advances Scouting’s goals of building character and leadership in Scouts. Adult leaders provide leadership for the program at the Council and Troop level, and there are opportunities for adult membership and participation.

Micosay activities are centered around the Heart of America Council’s camps at the H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation located near Osceola, Missouri. Most activities occur at camp during the summer camping season.

The mystique, structure, and opportunities for advancement provide strong incentives for Scouts (and adults) to remain active and continue to grow in maturity and leadership with their Troops.

Adults run the program. The Troop committee makes recommendations on admission and advancement at the Troop level. The Council of Chieftains set and implement policies at the Council level. SheSheBe Council makes decisions on youth elevations at Camp. Members of the Council of Chieftains and the SheSheBe Council are senior leaders who have many years of leadership in the Heart of America Council.

The Micosay Leader's Guide provides more information on organization, policy and implementation. Your Troop leadership will have a copy for reference.

### **Brief History**

In 1923, a young lawyer named H. Roe Bartle was approached with a job offer from the Boy Scouts of America to become the Scout Executive for the State of Wyoming. In Wyoming, Bartle spent much time on the Wind River Indian Reservation. He befriended an American Indian Chief named LoneBear of the Arapaho Tribe. LoneBear shared with Bartle many ideas on developing youth and that exchange became known as Micosay.

Bartle was later recruited to the larger council in Kansas City, Missouri, arriving in 1928. Under Bartle’s skillful leadership, Micosay quickly became a vital force, helping the council grow into what today is known as the Heart of America Council, one of the most successful BSA councils in the country.



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## The Mission of Micosay

Tribesmen who have embraced the principles of Micosay will find their lives enriched by a vision raised to higher sights, see their performance increased beyond previous limitations, and will develop lifelong friendships. They will stand tall within their communities as examples of unselfish service and of willing leadership.

## The Ranks and Responsibilities

Please do not talk about the requirements for induction, advancement and recognition around those not 21 years old. Preserve the mystique! The Troop committee makes recommendations on induction, advancement, and recognition before the camping season each spring. Limited exceptions to Micosay requirements are possible. Please address specific questions to your Scoutmaster or Committee Chair about interpretations of the requirements and exceptions. Your Scoutmaster or Committee Chair can further discuss specific cases with Tribal leadership.

All induction, advancement and recognition ceremonies take place at camp during the summer camping session.

## For Registered Scouts BSA Youth under the age of 18:

### Foxman

Foxmen are NOT in the Micosay program, but rather are told that their Troop leaders are watching for the year to see if they are worthy of becoming Braves in the Tribe. Foxmen wear a medicine stick around their necks. They have been told to improve their leadership and responsibility in four areas: their home, religion, community and school/Scout troop.

Requirements for Foxman consideration:

1. **Rank** — Must be at least a Star Scout prior to coming to camp.
2. **Age and Grade in School** — Must be at least 13 years of age on or before August 31 of the current camping season and finished the 7th grade in school.
3. **Seasons of Long-Term Camping** — Must have attended three seasons of long-term resident Scouts BSA camp, including the current season. Current season must be a FULL SESSION at Bartle.
4. **Scout Spirit and Participation** — The troop committee and unit leaders (21 and older) certify that the Scout has participated and given effective leadership to the best of the Scout's ability in a majority of Troop activities, and lives the Scout Oath and Law in daily life.



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## Brave

The first of the two ranks. Braves wear a Medicine pouch and single claw.

Requirements:

Scouts are NOT required to be a Foxman before becoming a Brave. The Troop committee can recommend a Scout (such as one who joined Scouting later than their peers) who otherwise meets the Brave requirements.

1. **Rank** — Must be at least a Life Scout before coming to camp.
2. **Age and Grade in School** — Must be at least 14 years of age on or before August 31 of the current camping season and finished the 8th grade in school. Must not be over the age of 17.
3. **Seasons of Long-Term camping** — Must have attended four seasons of long-term resident Boy Scout camp, including the current season. Current season must be a FULL SESSION at Bartle.
4. **Scout Spirit and Participation** — The Troop committee and unit leaders (21 and older) certify that the Scout has participated and given effective leadership to the best of this Scout's ability in a majority of Troop activities and that this Scout lives by the Scout Oath and Law in daily life.

## Warrior

Warrior is the second of two ranks of Micosay. Scouts who become Warriors before their 21st birthday wear double claws mounted back-to-back.

Requirements:

1. Must be a Brave.
2. **Leadership** — The Tribesman must have given leadership and have lived as a true Tribesman for the past year.
3. **Camp Leadership** — The Tribesman must be currently camping for a FULL SESSION at the Bartle Scout Reservation.
4. **Age limit** — Must be 15 years of age on or before August 31 of the current camping season and finished the 9th grade in school. The Tribesman must not be over 21.
5. **Scout Spirit and Participation** — The troop committee and unit leaders (21 and older) certify that the Scout has participated and given effective leadership to the best of the Scout's ability in a majority of Troop activities and that this Scout lives by the Scout Oath and Law in daily life.



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## Paint Responsibility

Warrior is the second and higher rank of Micosay, but Warriors can receive additional “paint responsibility,” signified with paint on the tips of their double claws. There are five “youth” paint responsibilities, in order from lowest to highest:

- Firebuilder (orange paint on the claw tips)
- Tom-Tom Beater (green paint)
- Runner (blue paint)
- Keeper of the Sacred Bundle (yellow paint)
- Shaman (purple paint)

Note that 18, 19, and 20 year-olds can receive paint if they remain active with their Troops.

Further explanations of the responsibilities are found in the Tribe’s Customs and Traditions book. Ask your Scoutmaster or Committee Chair to look at a copy – but please don’t share it with Scouts not in the Tribe!

## For Adults

### Honorary Warrior and Honored Woman

Adults 18 years of age and older may also enter the Tribe. Men are inducted as Honorary Warriors, women as Honored Women. The Troop committee recommends them. Their path to “The Inner Circle” of Micosay is separate from the youth, reflecting the adults’ maturity and wisdom from life’s experiences.

Honorary Warriors and Honored Women have the same responsibilities and recognition as Hardway Warriors, except they are not eligible for “youth paint.” ”

### Adult Paint Responsibility

Adults in the Tribe 21 years of age or older who meet the standards of elevation may be recommended for Tribal Council responsibilities. This includes Hardway Warriors, Honorary Warriors and Honored Women. Tribal Council members wear white paint on the tips of their claws. There are four levels of Tribal Council responsibility. They are, in order from lowest to highest: Sachem; Keeper of the Wampum; Sagamore; and Medicine Man. The Tribal Council supports the Tribe’s activities and ceremonies, and the higher levels discuss and decide on some exceptions to the requirements for induction and advancement.



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## **Coups**

Members wear additional recognition on their lanyards. These are the various beads we call “coups” (pronounced “coos”). Ask Tribal members about the coup on their lanyards!

## **The Value of Micosay**

As explained earlier, the purpose of Micosay is to enhance understanding of and put into practice the Scout Oath and Law. The Scouts gain additional experiences that aid in their maturity and leadership skills. Many parents have noted the positive change in their child from their Micosay experience.!

## **Welcome to Scouting – and Micosay!**

This is a very brief overview of what Micosay is and how it works. The Tribe has inducted more than 86,000 members since its inception in 1929, many of whom remain active far into adulthood.

Please direct any questions to your Scoutmaster or Committee Chair. And please consider becoming an adult leader in your Troop! !





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## FAQs About Micosay

**The leaders in my Scout's Troop haven't given us a lot of information about Micosay. I read somewhere that there aren't supposed to be any secret organizations in Scouting. Is this correct?**

You are correct! Scouting does not permit any secret organizations. Your Troop's leaders do not conduct or administer any portion of the Micosay program, so they may be unsure as to how to answer your questions. Be assured, however, that any adult with questions can have them answered fully and the program explained completely by camp administrators and program professionals of the Heart of America Council. Please ask your Troop leader to direct your inquiries or concerns to the Micosay leadership listed at the beginning of this guide.

While we will freely discuss this leadership program with adults, we do not divulge the details with young Scouts not yet selected for membership. Maintaining an air of mystery piques a youth's interest. Telling too much would destroy the impact of this learning experience – turning new members from participants into mere spectators, much in the same way that divulging the surprise ending of a movie diminishes the enjoyment of the theater goer. For that reason, we would encourage you not to share the content of this Guide with Scouts who are not yet members of Micosay.

### **Where did Micosay come from?**

It all started with a young Scout Executive in Wyoming in the 1920's. His name was H. Roe Bartle. He understood youths' fascination with American Indian culture and in consultation with tribal leaders in the Wyoming American Indian communities, developed a program to enhance a Scouts' understanding and commitment to the ideals of the Scout Oath and Law. Bartle carried these program ideas to Kansas City, Missouri, where he served as Scout Executive of Boy Scouting for 25 years, before accepting a call to civic leadership as the Mayor of Kansas City.

Since 1929, more than 86,000 Scouts and Leaders have become members of the Tribe of Micosay. Parents and Leaders who entered Micosay as Scouts themselves are most enthusiastic about having maturing Scouts also gain from this experience.

### **What is the relationship between Order of the Arrow and Micosay?**

The Order of the Arrow is Scouting's "National Honor Society." Micosay is a camp leadership enhancement program of the Heart of America Council and based at the H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation. Each uses special enhancement to a Scouts' understanding of the Scout Oath and Law. The methods of selection for membership, the program of recognition, the ceremonies, and the calendar of activities are set by each organization and differ in the methods used to achieve their goals. Scouts in the Heart of America Council are encouraged to participate in both Order of the Arrow and Micosay!

### **How does a Scout get selected for membership in the Tribe of Micosay?**

Scouts who attend summer camp at the H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation are eligible for membership and advancement upon being recommended. A recommendation is made by the Troop's



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Adult Leaders (All of the BSA-registered Committee members, Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters over the age of 21) based on the requirements for consideration put forth by Micosay's Council of Chieftains.

### What happens when a Scout is selected to enter Micosay?

The journey to becoming a member of Micosay actually begins a year before being "called out" to be a Brave. On Call Night, Scouts (most often third-year campers who are at least Star rank) are called to become "Foxmen." Foxmen are not members of Micosay, but are in a year-long process where they grow in leadership potential. They are issued a challenge to grow as members of their family, faith, community and school, and troop. They must work on their Scouting advancement becoming at least a Life Scout. They are given a decorated stick to wear around their neck, to remind them of this challenge to let others know they are endeavoring to grow in their maturity. If they do these things and return to camp next year, they may well hear their name called to be in Micosay.

This year-long period of personal growth is important because they have been told their actions will be watched. They must prove themselves. While at camp, they will have also seen the testing of their older friends, observing them as they perform camp service in silence and spending several nights camping away from their troop. Foxmen thus prepare themselves for this testing, knowing what to expect and having seen others measure up to these challenges.

### What are these "challenges" like?

There are a number of tasks leading up to the induction ceremony which occur near the end of the camp session. They include several meaningful tests designed to teach important life lessons. While the Tribe provides the tests, it is the candidate for membership who tests themselves. They must remain silent while considering, in depth, the meaning of the Scout Oath and Law. During this period of introspection, they must develop a plan by which they can make the Scouting ideals become a part of their daily living. They will make the trail easier for those who follow them, by devoting a day of unselfish service, making the Reservation a better place. Their years as a Scout and camping experience will prepare them to spend time alone (with a camping buddy) in the woods – there in silence formulating a plan to live by.

When they have made their plans, they will signify this by placing a small object (of their own choosing) in a Brave's pouch that they have prepared. Braves wear that "medicine pouch" along with a single claw, for the next year. The content of the pouch is known only to them alone. This is Micosay's only secret, one that the Scout alone knows the answer.

Having made their "medicine" (that is developing their "action plan" and placing an object in their pouch), they will choose a Tribal name. Again, this will be of their own choosing, with special meaning to them, and will be a unique name among the more than 86,000 Tribesmen.

On a succeeding evening, they will reveal their "action plan" to a Tribal Council member, (an adult specially trained in helping young Called Braves understand the ideals of Scouting.) On the night of their induction ceremony, they will experience a series of life lessons, each element not only teaching a lesson but also making a memory. Presented in a theatrical manner with the all



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members assembled, they will hear the legends of Micosay, illustrating the virtues of keeping calm in the midst of chaos, standing by the courage of ones' convictions, fearlessly facing the unknown, and the value of perseverance. At the conclusion of the ceremony, it is inspiring to see the look on new Braves faces as they realize that they have come so far and have a set of guideposts to measure their future endeavors. .

### Is further recognition possible in Micosay?

- Returning the summer after becoming a Brave (one claw and Pouch), the Brave may become a Warrior (two Claws). Warriors who return in succeeding summers may receive "paint responsibilities." These are shown by colors of paint worn on the end of their claws, and represent specific responsibilities Tribesmen do for Micosay during the summer.
- Orange Paint – Firebuilders
- Green Paint – Tom-Tom Beaters
- Blue Paint – Runners (Messengers and induction process guides)
- Yellow Paint – Keepers of the Sacred Bundle (Instructors of customs and traditions)
- Purple Paint – Shamans (Counselors in training)
- White Paint – Tribal Council: Sachems, Keepers of the Wampum, Sagamores, Medicine Men (Adult counselors and Tribal Leaders)
- Red Paint – Chieftains (Board of Directors)

### What about Scouts with disabilities?

Scouts who attend the Heart of America Council's Rotary Camp may participate in Micosay. Those Scouts who qualify for Micosay membership are offered the opportunity to go to the Bartle Reservation (with a family member) for induction and recognition with the Tribe of Micosay, at no additional cost to their Rotary Camp fee. Contact the Presiding Medicine Man for more details.

### Can I observe my child's Micosay journey?

Micosay is a part of the H. Roe Bartle Reservation summer camp program and, as such, is for those participating as registered campers or leaders who are members of Micosay. Parents of Scouts may, of course, register as Scout Leaders and attend camp as participants. Even first-time leaders at camp may be eligible for Micosay induction and thereby witness all the campfires and ceremonies.

There simply isn't room to allow the families of all Scouts to attend and witness the campfires and ceremonies at camp, most of which are after visiting hours. While parents would justifiably be proud to witness their child's "calling out," there is an important component of growth, of recognition in front of your peers that could be lessened by the unexpected arrival of parents which could signal an anticipated "calling out."


# Parry Lodge

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THE TRADITION  
OF FRIENDSHIP  
AND WARMTH  
IS STRONG  
IN PARRY LODGE,  
YOUR OFFICIAL  
MIC-O-SAY  
TRADING  
POST  
◆

We are very excited for the upcoming camp season and look forward to serving you at the new and improved Parry Lodge!



Parry Lodge has a large selection of items to outfit any Tribesman. If you can dream it, our craftsman can help you create it! If you have no idea where to start, if you need help creating attire, or if you want to add that special piece for this year, our staff of Tribesmen has the talent and knowledge to assist you. We have the largest selection of painted feathers. In addition to our wide selection of Coveted Coups, we will carry new colors this year. Parry is the most affordable source for all the items for a Call Warrior, and the craft area is available to construct all tribesmen attire. Stop by and see us - we are ready to serve you. All proceeds stay in the Tribe!

 Join us on Facebook. Watch for updates and events.

## Want to learn to bead?

Parry Lodge will be conducting instruction for anyone wanting to learn to bead (or refresh your skills). The beading instruction will be outside of Parry Lodge on Day 5, and 7. The times will be at 8:30am, 9:30am, 2:00pm and 3:00pm. Tribesman and non-tribesman are welcome.



