

New Member Information



**Alapaha Lodge #545
Immokalee Lodge #353
South Georgia Council**

Joint Spring 2013 Ordeal, Edition

Prepared by J. Michael Greene

Who Are We?

We are Alapaha Lodge #545 and Immokalee Lodge #353 of the Order of the Arrow, South Georgia Council, Boy Scouts of America. We are the Scouting's National Honor Society in South Georgia Council who were chosen by our fellow scouts to receive that honor. We are a service organization aiding and assisting Camping in the Council whenever and wherever needed. We are bound together by a unique experience in the lives of young men, one of the last true tests of both physical and mental endurance, which is known as The Ordeal.

Letter from the Chiefs

New Brothers,

Welcome to the Lodge and congratulations upon the completion of your Ordeal! We are pleased that you are a new member of our brotherhood. Alapaha Lodge and Immokalee Lodge are outstanding lodges and you should take pride in having been accepted into our circle. Shortly, we will combine the lodges into one lodge with a new name and totem.

This pamphlet and your Order of the Arrow Handbook should be your guides in the next few weeks as you establish yourself as an Order of the Arrow brother. An amazing amount of information is located within these pages and should give you the basis you need to become an active and vital member of Immokalee. If any questions you have are not answered within this booklet or the handbook do not hesitate to ask another brother, as they will most likely be able to answer your inquiry or know someone who can. It is imperative to your Order of the Arrow experience to become involved, whether it is in your chapter, in a committee, or as an active promoter of the OA within your troop.

We encourage you to attend every event you can be present at with excitement, curiosity, and optimism. We also beseech you to, after the appropriate time period; instill your membership in the Order of the Arrow by becoming a Brotherhood member. We are excited to become acquainted with each and every one of you in the weeks to come, and eager to see the amazing contributions all of you will make to your troop, your chapter, the Council and the Lodge.

Each new member should go to www.jumpstart.aa-bsa.org as soon as possible to learn about The Order.

Wimachtendienk, Wingolauchsik, Witahemui,

*Lodge Chiefs
Alapaha Lodge
Immokalee Lodge*

Types of Membership

Ordeal Membership

Whether your goal is to serve others, lead, learn about leadership or to learn more about yourself, you will find it in the order. Become involved in the lodge by attending meetings and serving on one or more of its committees. Active membership includes: 1. Serving your troop, 2. Serving the Order, 3. Setting the example, 4. Becoming a Leader, and; 5. Promoting Camping.

Brotherhood Membership

You must meet five challenges before you can enter the Circle of the Brotherhood. The first of these you should meet now. The next three require steady effort over a period of months. The last challenge you must meet after you are satisfied that you are meeting the first four.

1. **Memorize the signs of Arrow membership.** Memorize the Obligation of the order, the official song, the admonition, the sign of the ordeal membership and the arrow handclasp.
2. **Advance in your understanding of the Ordeal.** Gain through understanding the ordeal which you have just passed.
3. **Serve your unit.** Retain your registration in Scouting. During the period of at least 10 months strive to fulfill your obligation by continuing and expanding your service to your own troop or team.
4. **Plan for service in your lodge.** Retain your registration in the Order of the Arrow lodge and keep your dues paid. Be aware that acceptance of Brotherhood membership involves a pledge of service to the lodge. Develop a concrete idea of how you plan to fulfill this pledge.
5. **Review your progress.** When you earnestly feel that you have met the four challenges above, write a letter to your lodge secretary. In this letter:
 - Explain what you think the obligation means.
 - Describe how you have been fulfilling this Obligation in your troop or team and in your daily life, and how you have used your understanding of the ordeal to aid in this service.
 - Describe your specific plans for giving service in the lodge program. Include in this letter your advance registration application and fees for the next Brotherhood ceremony according to the instructions given by the lodge. Brotherhood membership can only be conferred by an arrowman's home lodge – the lodge which serves the council in which the arrowman's unit is chartered.

Becoming Involved in the Lodge

A large and varied number of ways to become active in Immokalee Lodge exist. Some are:

OA Troop Representative

What is the OA Troop/Team Representative?

The Troop/Team Representative program was begun in 1999, and is a program of the Order of the Arrow that has been officially adopted by the Boy Scouts of America. The OA Troop representative is now an official leadership position within the troop or team, and boys can earn time towards their leadership rank requirements, just as with Den Chief, Troop Scribe etc.

What are the Responsibilities of the Troop/Team Representative?

There are numerous possibilities for the job description of the OA Representative. The Beauty is that it is flexible enough to allow your unit to fine-tune the exact responsibilities. However, the most basic tasks of the Representative will be to coordinate service opportunities within the unit, to coordinate unit involvement with the Order of the Arrow, including Unit Elections, Camp Promotions and Inductions, and request lodge and chapter resources to help meet units' needs.

Who can serve as a Troop/Team Representative?

Anyone in the unit who is under the age of 18 can serve as the OA Representative for the unit, provided he is a dues-paid member of the Order of the Arrow. He should be appointed by the Senior Patrol Leader or Varsity Team Captain, and will be a member of the Patrol Leaders Council and attend lodge and chapter meetings.

Elangomat

What is an Elangomat?

The Elangomat (translated "Friend") is a brother who leads a clan. This brother has already completed their ordeal but is looking for a deeper understanding of the ordeal. He serves as a guide for the clan as they complete their ordeal much like a patrol leader. They are the most important link between the lodge and the

new candidates. The elangomat is the first brother whom the new candidates relate with as they spend the day together.

What are the Responsibilities of an Elangomat?

The main responsibility of an elangomat is to serve as a guide and friend to the Candidates undergoing their ordeal. They are responsible for making sure the candidates ordeal is a good overall experience. He is familiar with the induction principles and how an ordeal is carried out. Many brothers choose to be an elangomat more than once each time gaining for them a deeper understanding of the ordeal.

Who can serve as an Elangomat?

Any Brother can serve as an elangomat! The best possible candidate for an elangomat is a brother who is looking to seal their vows in brotherhood. This way they can re-experience their own ordeal and fully appreciate what the ordeal means.

Committees

Programs - Coordinates the program content for all Lodge events to include Fellowship Weekends, POW-WOWs, and Banquets.

Activities – Coordinates activities at lodge events.

Training – Coordinates Lodge Leadership Training, Elangomat training and other similar training.

Service – Coordinates service projects of the Lodge and in particular Camp Osborn summer camp staff.

Communications – Coordinates issuing *The Owl Hoot* and other mass communications with members.

Indian Affairs – Coordinates the Dance and Drum Team and regalia.

Finance – Operates the Lodge trading post and reports on the lodge's finance.

Inductions – Coordinated the Ceremony Team and is responsible for Lodge inductions.

History of Immokalee Lodge

Immokalee Lodge (#353) of the Order of the Arrow was officially chartered in Chehaw Council on January 17, 1947. It remained the chartered Order of the Arrow lodge when the Council changed its name to Southwest Georgia Council and when the Council changed its name back to Chehaw Council.

Immokalee Lodge was actually organized in 1945, although it was not officially chartered until 1947. The known charter members were: Luther Wood, Jr. (Albany), Jimmy Buchanan (Americus), Billy Morton (Tifton), Henry David "Sonny" Collier (Tifton), and a scout with the last name of Williams (Colquitt). These members were selected by the Council and went through the Ordeal at the Area J Conclave in Jacksonville, Florida, the weekend of November 2 to 4, 1945. Luther Wood, Jr. was Lodge Chief from 1945 through 1947.

According to Luther Wood, Jr., the Council professionals gave the Lodge the name of Immokalee with no input from the boys. No one knows if they researched the meaning of the name or if they just picked the name out of a book on Indian history. The word "Immokalee" originated from the Miccosukee Indian word "Ah-mo-gee," which means "my home" or "my place." The Miccosukee language was not a written language, which made it easier for the words to change pronunciations over time. As the Miccosukee and Seminole tribes began to merge in the 1800s, the word became "Immokalee." Thus, Immokalee is considered a Seminole word. The word "Immokalee," nor anything with a similar spelling, is found in the Creek Indian language. In the Creek Indian language, "house" is "Cuko" rather than something similar to Immokalee. The totem of Immokalee Lodge is the long-eared owl.

Active membership in Immokalee Lodge has varied over time. Currently it averages 200 scouts at any given time, including both youths and adults. The earliest recorded lodge membership is from December, 1960, when the Lodge had 98 members. These 98 members consisted of 65 Ordeal members, 31 Brotherhood members, and 2 Vigil members.

Immokalee Lodge publishes its news in *The Owl Hoot*, which was first published in 1960. A number of these publications can be found on the Lodge's website. In 1998, Ben Horton took Immokalee Lodge into the internet age by starting the Immokalee Lodge website. The website was one of the first for an

individual lodge and is still operating today at www.immokalee353.org .

The Order of the Arrow is a youth-lead organization, even at the national level. Scouts are considered “youth” for purposes of the Order of the Arrow until they reach the age of 21 rather than 18 years of age. Each Lodge elects a Lodge Chief, several Vice-Lodge Chiefs, and a Secretary who run the Lodge. Each youth is assigned an adult advisor to assist him in carrying out his duties. A list of current Immokalee Lodge officers and advisors can be found at the end of this pamphlet.

While the arrow sash is the identifier of a member of the Order of the Arrow, a patch for the right shirt pocket (usually with the totem and lodge name) was used as an identifier for the individual lodge into the 1950s. In the late 1950s, a patch designed to fit on the flap of the right pocket became the standard Order of the Arrow identifier. These patches are commonly referred to as “flaps.” The first patch Immokalee Lodge used was an hourglass-shaped right pocket patch with the owl emblem. In 1958, under the direction of Miles T. Clements, a member of the Lodge, Ken Hancock, a talented Tifton artist (but not a scout), designed the first pocket flap. All lodge patches can be seen on the lodge website at www.immokalee353.org .

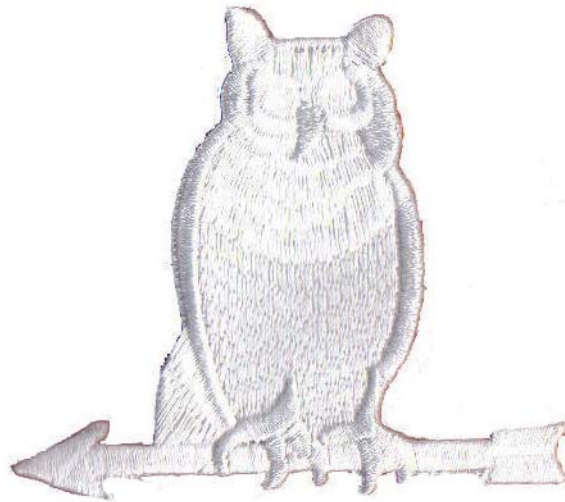
Upon completion of your Ordeal, you will be entitled to wear the Immokalee Lodge flap (patch) on the flap of your right shirt pocket.



Immokalee Ordeal Member Pocket Flap

The Legion of Immokalee Lodge

Native Americans living in Southwest Georgia during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries believed that a spring called Skywater (now Radium Springs, near Albany, Georgia) had magical healing powers. During the sixteenth century, these natives heard news that strange men with pale faces who dressed in hard, shiny clothing were in the land south of Skywater searching for a spring that would give long life. With this news also came tales of terrible deeds that these strangers were inflicting upon the land and natives in that area.



Afraid that these men would hear of Skywater and come north, a council of chiefs was assembled. After much discussion, the Great Spirit appeared before the council with a solution. Taking the form of Immokalee the Spirit Owl, he would fly south and appear in a dream to Ponce de Leon their leader and instruct him to follow a flying owl which would lead him to the magic spring. Ponce de Leon had the dream and followed the owl further south into Florida, away from Skywater.

Spanish legend mentions a great owl that guided Ponce de Leon and his men on their journeys. The image of an owl can be found on the tombstone of Ponce de Leon. Our lodge takes its name from Immokalee the Spirit Owl which protected the springs called Skywater.

