

# *New Member Information*



**Withlacoochee Lodge #98  
South Georgia Council**

*2014 Spring Ordeal, Edition*

## **Who Are We?**

We are Withlacoochee Lodge #98 of the Order of the Arrow, South Georgia Council, Boy Scouts of America. We are members of Scouting's National Honor Society all of whom 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. We are the Wimachtendienk, Wingolauchsik, Witahemui!

## **Letter from the Chief**

New Brothers,

Welcome to the Withlacoochee Lodge and congratulations upon your completion of *The Ordeal!* We are pleased that you are a new member of our brotherhood. Withlacoochee Lodge is an outstanding lodge and you should take pride in having been accepted into our circle.

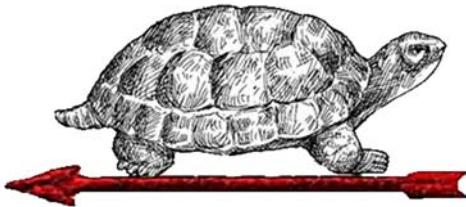
This pamphlet and your Order of the Arrow Handbook should be your guides in the next few weeks as you establish yourself as an Order of the Arrow brother. An amazing amount of information is located within these pages and should give you the basis you need to become an active and vital member of Withlacoochee. 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.oa-bsa.org](http://www.jumpstart.oa-bsa.org) as soon as possible to learn about The Order and to [www.withlacocheelodge.org](http://www.withlacocheelodge.org) to learn more about our lodge. Our lodge has a Facebook page which is used to keep brothers updated on current events and announcements. You should *Like* us to follow the lodge.

Wimachtendienk, Wingolauchsik, Witahemui,

*Noah Phillips*  
Lodge Chief  
Withlacoochee Lodge



## History of Withlacoochee Lodge

On November 1, 2012, Alapaha Area Council merged with Chehaw Council to form South Georgia Council. BSA policy required Alapaha Lodge and Immokalee Lodge to merge within six months of the Councils. On March 9, 2013, at the joint Immokalee Lodge and Alapaha Lodge Ordeal and Fellowship, the lodges voted to take the new name of Withlacoochee and the number 98, which was the council number of South Georgia Council.

The lodge was named for the river, really a creek, of the same name which runs through the South Georgia Council. It was not named for the creek of the same name in Florida or the literal meaning of the word. The Withlacoochee River in Georgia originates northeast of Valdosta and flows south through Berrien, Cook, and Brooks counties in Georgia and into Florida. It eventually merges with the Suwannee at Suwannee River State Park west of Live Oak. The river is 115 miles (185 km) long. The name "*Withlacoochee*" probably stems from the Muckhogean dialect. It is a compound of the Creek words "we" (water), "thlako" (big), and "chee" (little), or "*little big water*." The word combination signifies *little river* in the Creek language. "Welako" or "wethlako" may also refer to a lake or a river of lakes.

The gopher tortoise was selected as the lodge totem because it is indigenous to the part of the state that makes up South Georgia Council. There are active gopher tortoise burrows at both Camp Osborn and Camp Patten. The gopher tortoise is also the Georgia State reptile. Its range includes small parts of southern Alabama, South Carolina, Louisiana, Mississippi, Georgia, and a larger area in north and central Florida. A gopher tortoise can live up to 60 years.

The lodges voted on officers for the new Withlacoochee lodge at the 2013 SR-9 Section Conclave in April of 2013. The election was led by Andrew Smith a member of Alapaha Lodge and past Section SR-9 Secretary. The new officers and lodge were effective May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013. The lodges attended the Conclave as the last official acts of the separate lodges. At the time of chartering, the initial lodge roster had 279 members.

For the history of our predecessor lodges and lots of photos see

[WITHLACOCHEELODGE.ORG](http://WITHLACOCHEELODGE.ORG)

# 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 of the Arrow. 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. Ordeal membership is signified by the red arrow on a white sash worn over the right shoulder.



## Brotherhood Membership

Soon you will want to meet five challenges and 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 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.

Brotherhood membership is signified by the red arrow on a white sash with bars worn over the right shoulder.

### **The Vigil Honor**

The Vigil Honor is a high mark of distinction and recognition "reserved for those Arrowmen who, by reason of exceptional service, personal effort, and unselfish interest, have made distinguished contributions beyond the immediate responsibilities of their position of office to one or more of the following: lodge, Order of the Arrow, Scouting community, Scout Camp. The Vigil Honor is awarded by the National Order of the Arrow Committee upon recommendation of the lodge. The Vigil Honor is signified by the red arrow on a white sash with bars and a triangle in the center of the arrow worn over the right shoulder.



### **2014 - 2015 Lodge Officers**

Chief	Noah Phillips
Vice Chief of Programs	Ian Bennett
Vice Chief of Administration	David Stokes
Lodge Secretary	Chip Burleson
Lodge Treasurer	John Crowder

### **2014 - 2015 Lodge Advisors**

Lodge Advisor	Mr. Merrill Dickinson
Asso. Lodge Advisor	Mr. Rick Green
Asso. Lodge Advisor	Mr. Dale Wilson
Professional Advisor	Mr. Preston Parker

# Becoming Involved in Withlacoochee Lodge

## **OA Troop 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.

## **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.

## **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.
- 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.

## **Chapters**

Withlacoochee Lodge is divided into three Chapters: Ichauway Chapter, which corresponds with Chehaw District; Blackwater Chapter, which corresponds Eight Rivers District, and Crooked River Chapter, which corresponds with Alapaha District. Each chapter offers a number of avenues for service, including Chapter Chief, District Committee OA Representative, and Chapter service projects.



## 2014 Section SR-9 Conclave

Each year the Order of the Arrow Lodges from a section meet in the spring for a weekend of games, Indian lore, and fellowship. Conclave is one of the highlights of the year as it is one of the few events that involve more than just one council or lodge. In 2014, our Section S9 Conclave will be April 25 to 27 in Moundville, Alabama, and will be hosted by Aracoma Lodge. Section S9 includes most of Georgia and northern Alabama. Other lodges in Section S9 are: Alibamu, Aracoma, Chattahoochee, Coosa, Echeconnee, Egwa Tawa Dee, Ini-To, Mowogo, Pilthlako, Waguli, and, Withlacoochee



Every two years, all lodges from around the country gather for a national conference. This gathering is referred to as the National Order of the Arrow Conference or NOAC. In 2015, NOAC will correspond with the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Order of the Arrow. This very special NOAC will be held at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan from August 3<sup>rd</sup> until August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Planning for this anniversary NOAC has already begun both here at Withlacoochee Lodge and on the National level. If at all possible you should try and attend this historic event.

*Pamphlet prepared by Withlacoochee Lodge  
member J. Michael Greene*