

WITHLACOOCHEE LODGE CHAPTERS



New Member Information *2016 Fall Ordeal*

Withlacoochee Lodge



Order of the Arrow **South Georgia Council, BSA**

Withlacoochee Lodge is divided into three Chapters: Ichauway Chapter, which corresponds with Chehaw District; Blackwater Chapter, which corresponds with Eight Rivers District, and Crooked River Chapter, which corresponds with Alapaha District. Each Chapter elects a Chapter Chief to represent it on the Lodge's Executive Committee.

2016 Lodge Officers & Advisors

Chief	Saul Crumpton
Vice Chief of Programs	Matthew Stokes
Vice Chief of Administration	Caleb Phillips
Lodge Secretary	David Stokes
Lodge Treasurer	Gabe Merritt
Lodge Advisor	Mr. Merrill Dickinson
Asso. Lodge Advisor	Mr. Rick Green
Asso. Lodge Advisor	Mr. Herschel Collins
Lodge Staff Advisor	

SCOUTING'S NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Who Are We?

We are Withlacoochee Lodge 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!

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. These challenges are: 1. Memorize the signs of membership; 2. Advance in your understanding of the Ordeal; 3. Serve your unit; 4. Plan for service in your lodge; and, 5. Review your progress. Brotherhood membership is signified by bars at each end of the arrow on your sash.

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 a triangle in the center of the arrow on your sash.



History of Withlacoochee Lodge



Withlacoochee Lodge (#98) was chartered in 2013 as a result of the formation of South Georgia Council. The lodge was named for the river, really a creek, of the same name which runs through the Council and not for the river 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 River at Suwannee River State Park. The river is 115 miles (185 km) long. The name "Withlacoochee" probably stems from the Muckhogeian 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.

Withlacoochee Lodge has 188 active members, both youth and adult, consisting of 59 Ordeal members, 82 Brotherhood members, and 47 Vigil members. The Lodge is based at "The Burrow," which is our lodge's headquarters at Camp Osborn in Worth County.



For more of the history of Withlacoochee Lodge
and our predecessor lodges, see

WITHLACOOCHHEELODGE.ORG

A 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.aa-bsa.org as soon as possible to learn about The Order and to www.withlacoocheelodge.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,

Saul Crumpton
Lodge Chief
Withlacoochee Lodge

WITHLACOOCHEE LODGE CALENDAR

November 11-13, 2016	National Leadership Seminar National Lodge Adviser Training Seminar	Shocco Springs Conference Center, Talladega, AL Cost is \$210.00, ½ NLS Scholarships available if registered by 15 July. Final registration by October 28 th , 2016. (Great training for future lodge officers and advisers)
December 2-3, 2016	Lodge Vigil Night / Vigil Reunion Breakfast	Camp Osborn (Vigil Honor Friday PM, Saturday AM Vigil Reunion Breakfast)
January 20-21, 2017	Lodge Banquet/LLD in conjunction w/ South Ga Council U. of S.	Planned for FUMC Tifton (LLD) (LLD begins Friday PM and continues until Saturday's Banquet. Catered Banquet Saturday PM to install new lodge officers, Founder's Award Recipients, and Vigil Honor members' public recognition. Hosted by Blackwater)
February 3-5, 2017	Section Indian Winter	Camp Tukabatchee, Prattville, AL (Ceremony, dance, drum, costume workshops. Section Council of Chiefs)
February 4, 2017	South Georgia Council Annual Banquet	Tifton (Lodge Chief presents annual review to Council Board. OA color guard for banquet)
February 10-12, 2017	Endurance Ride	Camp Osborn (Lodge supports with trail guides. Fundraiser opportunity)
March 3-5, 2017	Lodge Spring Ordeal and Fellowship	Camp Patten (Ordeal and Brotherhood Saturday, LEC Sunday AM) Camp Service
April 21-23, 2017	2017 Heartland Gathering (SR-9 Conclave)	Camp Lumpkin, Lagrange, GA (Chattahoochee Lodge) (Support Section SR9, provide opportunities to lead, learn, and grow.)
April, 2018	2018 Heartland Gathering (SR-9 Conclave)	Location TBD (Withlacoochee is Service Lodge). Yes, this is our opportunity to host our first Conclave!

2017 Lodge Banquet - Plan on joining all of your brothers at the 2017 Lodge Banquet on January 20, 2016 in Tifton.

2017 Endurance Ride - Each year the Lodge provides support for the nationally sanctioned Endurance Ride at Camp Osborn. We need your help this February 10th through the 12th at Camp Osborn.

2017 Registration Forms - Registration forms and information are always on the lodge website.

2017 Heartland Gathering (SR9 Conclave)

As a new brother we encourage you to plan on attending the Heartland Gathering (SR9 Conclave) in April. Held since 1945, this annual gathering of lodges from Georgia and north Alabama, is the highlight of the year. In 2017, we travel to Camp Lumpkin near LaGrange, Georgia which is the home of Chattahoochee Lodge of Chattahoochee Council, where we will gather with the ten other lodges of our Section.