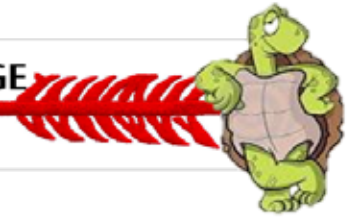


TORTOISE TALES



WITHLACOOCHEE LODGE

South Georgia Council
1841 Norman Drive
Valdosta, Georgia 31601



2015 No. 4 (SEPTEMBER)

Highlights of the National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC)

NOAC was an incredible experience for the 27 Withlacoochee Arrowmen privileged to attend. Michigan State University was filled to available capacity with nearly 15,000 Arrowmen from across the country for a week of fellowship, training, competitions, patch trading, inspiration, and Scouting fun. Our contingent partnered with our brothers in Chattahoochee Lodge and traveled by charter bus stopping at Kings Island Amusement Park in Mason, Ohio for a day of fun before continuing on to East Lansing, Michigan. The travel arrangements could not have been more perfect with great weather, comfortable accommodations, and many laughs as the two lodges strengthened the ties of brotherhood.

There was more to do at NOAC than there were hours in the day. In addition to formal classroom instruction there were workshops on crafting Native American costumes, sports competitions, demonstrations, Native American Dance competitions, inspirational evening shows, live music, venter displays, climbing walls, and the Goodman-Edson museum experience. There was something for everyone.

Withlacoochee Arrowmen took full advantage of the opportunity by participating in many events and celebration activities. Caleb Phillips and Aaron Lever participated in the wood dedication ceremony for the centennial fire. Matthew Stokes performed in the Brotherhood Band. Sam Usrey, AJ Graber, and Davis Comer were members of the OA Press Corps. David Stokes received honors in the Vigil Honor Ceremony competition. Several of our adult members volunteered at the Goodman-Edson OA Museum. Our lodge received exemplar for our lodge history and display. Withlacoochee Lodge took first place in our division in OA Jeopardy and we made the semi-finals in the lodge ball competition. We had many visitors to our lodge's booth at the Centennial Festival.

The most rewarding experiences, however, were the interactions between Arrowmen and the kindness rendered to a new friend. We were surrounded by Arrowmen who live by the Scout Oath, Scout Law, and OA Obligation. You could see it everywhere. Patch traders were ensuring each transaction was fair. Arrowmen helping each other navigate the campus. Young Arrowmen giving up their seat on the bus. Adult Arrowmen re-connecting with childhood friends. It was truly an experience where you could see the OA admonition in practice. The challenge now is for the Arrowmen who attended NOAC to apply what they learned to strengthen Withlacoochee Lodge and Scouting in South Georgia Council as we enter the next century in the Brotherhood of Cheerful Service. NOAC2015.org contains numerous photographs of the event and NOAC videos are on YouTube.



#DARE toDO

National Chief Alex Call used his keynote speech at NOAC to introduce #DareToDo – the Order of the Arrow’s service initiative for the 100 days following NOAC. This movement is committed to spreading the message of the admonition across the globe through small acts of service and sharing over social media. While most of NOAC was about celebrating the first 100 years of the OA, Alex challenged Arrowmen to pivot to the future.

“We must also plot the course of what we will do and what we will be in the future,” Alex said. “When we leave here in the next couple days, we will leave with the responsibility of laying the foundation for our next century of service.”

That foundation is the notion of love embodied in the admonition; as Alex put it, recognizing that “love is simply the act of making others matter.” Rather than asking Arrowmen to add one more activity to their schedules or assigning lodges a complicated project, #DareToDo empowers all people to take advantage of the daily opportunities they are already presented with and post their stories on social media.

Participating in the #DareToDo project is easy: make a difference in the lives of others by doing one act of service every day for 100 days. Arrowmen are then asked to add a photo or post to their social media with the hashtag #DareToDo. The acts of service themselves do not need to be monumental. The power of #DareToDo comes from the reach of all 165,000 Arrowmen posting about it together – and the hundreds of thousands of other Scouts and ordinary Americans who will follow their example.

“Each day, opportunities to demonstrate unselfish service present themselves,” Alex told the conference. “A classmate who sits alone on the school bus, hoping that someone will strike up a conversation. A co-worker who stays late every night, wishing they could make their daughter’s soccer game instead of an extra shift. A homeless teenager who stands at the street corner during your daily commute, looking for a warm meal – or even just a warm smile. With just a few words and a few minutes of our time, we can live out the admonition of the OA through everyday acts of service.”

#DareToDo has a website, dareto.do, as well as social accounts on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). These accounts will highlight acts of service posted using the hashtag and the website includes an interactive map to see the spread of the movement across the world. Arrowmen and their friends are encouraged to follow these accounts for inspiration and to encourage others participating in #DareToDo.

Now is the time for every Arrowman to accept Alex’s dare. Join the movement that is #DareToDo and help your brothers impact the world by living the Admonition each day. It starts with us.

Centurions Honored at Summer Fellowship

Withlacoochee Lodge held its summer fellowship and centennial celebration at Camp Osborn August 21-23, 2015 and it certainly was a memorable weekend. Activities included a scavenger hunt, GaGa Ball, branding, silk-screen t-shirts, a centennial cake, a visit from the Southern Region Chief, Alex Leach, and activities at the waterfront. We honored our Centurion recipients with their medal and certificates. The Ceremony Team performed the original Order of the Arrow Induction Ceremony and three of our Ordeal members completed the final stage of their induction by achieving Brotherhood membership. Thank you to everyone who made the weekend a success; especially our lodge cook team who prepared and served delicious meals.



Withlacoochee Centurion Award Recipient
with Southern Region Chief



Our New Brotherhood Members

Annual membership dues for Withlacoochee Lodge are \$10.00. You may pay your dues at either service center or through the mail by sending a check to the SGC Valdosta Service Center. Make checks payable to “South Georgia Council-OA Dues”. OA members may only wear the lodge flap of the lodge where their dues are paid.



Get your Withlacoochee Lodge Pins. Pins are \$5.00 each. Proceeds will benefit the great South Georgia Council.



Withlacoochee Lodge T-Shirts and pins will be available at both camp service days, the council camporee, Fall Ordeal, and the Winter Banquet in January 2016. Cost per T-Shirt is: \$12.00. You may pay with cash or a personal check made out to: *“South Georgia Council”*.

Withlacoochee Lodge Officer Elections

Elections for Chief, Vice-Chief of Program, Vice-Chief of Administration, Secretary and Treasurer will be conducted on Sunday morning November 15th during our lodge meeting at our Fall Fellowship and Ordeal at Camp Osborn. Arrowmen desiring to serve as a Lodge Officer must meet the mandatory eligibility requirements as stated in the current printing of the Order of the Arrow *Guide for Officers and Advisers*:

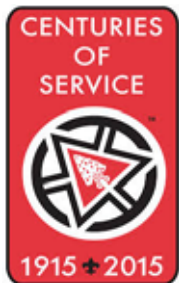
- a. Be registered in Scouting, in the council that charters the lodge.
- b. Be a member in good standing in the lodge.
- c. Be younger than 21 for the entire term of service.

All nominees shall have the willingness to fulfill the duties of the position and attend the Lodge Executive Committee meetings. No experience is necessary.

All nominees must agree to attend the next Lodge Leadership Development course near the start of their term of service and consider attending the next available National Leadership Seminar. Per the Withlacoochee Lodge by-laws, all candidates must meet individually with the Lodge Adviser and Lodge Staff Adviser prior to nomination to ensure he meets the eligibility requirements and discuss responsibilities and expectations of that office. The candidate must get the approval of the Lodge Adviser in order to run for office. Candidates should have held a conference with their Unit Leader to discuss the duties and obligations of the Arrowman to their unit and the duties and responsibilities of the Lodge Office and review potential conflicts as well as benefits to the unit.

(Serving as a lodge officer is a great opportunity for you to apply what you learned at NYLT!!)

** Time is Running Out to Earn Your ASA **



The purposes of the Arrowman Service themselves to the ideals of the Order, and strengthen their commitments to their local councils. The ASA is one of the few patches that have ever been approved by the national committee to be worn on one's Order of the Arrow sash.

Arrowmen can fill out a requirement card that is available for download on oa-bsa.org, withlacoocheelodge.org, or at any lodge event. After the lodge adviser has approved completion of the ASA requirements, the Arrowman will receive a patch to recognize the Arrowman's recommitted to our three principles. You can continue working towards completing your ASA requirements through December 31st, 2015.

SECTION SR-9 ANNOUNCES “INDIAN WINTER”



Section SR-9 will host Indian Winter January 8-10, 2016 at Camp Thunder, in Molena, Georgia, Flint River Council. All Arrowmen invited to attend. Cost is \$25.00 per Arrowmen and includes four meals, cracker barrels, and a patch. Indian Winter builds on the success of the 2015 Section Winter Activity Gathering (SWAG) and will focus on training for ceremony teams, drum teams, and dance teams as well as make and take regalia crafts. The SR-9 Council of Chiefs to finalize planning for the 2015 Conclave will also be held during Indian Winter. Registration forms for this special SR-9 event will be published in the near future.

Date	Event	Location / Information
September 2015	Troop OA Elections	Units & Chapter Election Teams
September 12, 2015	Camp Osborn Service Day	Camp Osborn (Ichauway Chapter helps parking and preparing lunch)
September 25-27, 2015	South Georgia Council Fall Camporee	Reed Bingham State Park (OA Cracker Barrel Friday Night, Vigil Nomination Committee meets Fri night, Call-out Ceremony at Saturday night campfire)
October 10, 2015	Camp Patten Service Day	Camp Patten (Crooked River Chapter helps parking and preparing lunch)
November 6-8, 2015	National Leadership Seminar National Lodge Adviser Training Seminar	Joe C. Davis YMCA Camp, Antioch, TN (Great training for future lodge officers and advisers)
November 13-15, 2015	Lodge Fall Ordeal and Fellowship	Camp Osborn (Ordeal and Brotherhood Saturday, Vigil Callout after Ordeal Ceremony, 2016 Officer Elections, LEC)
December 4-5, 2015	Lodge Vigil Night / Vigil Reunion Breakfast	Camp Osborn (Vigil Honor Friday PM, Saturday AM Vigil Reunion Breakfast)
January 8-10, 2016	Section Indian Winter (Attendance goal is 18 WL Arrowmen)	Camp Thunder, Flint River Council (Ceremony, dance, drum, costume workshops. Section Council of Chiefs)
January 22-23, 2016	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 Chapter, LEC)
February 5-7, 2016	Endurance Ride	Camp Osborn (Lodge supports with trail guides. Fundraiser opportunity)
February 11, 2016	South Ga Council Annual Banquet	TBA (Lodge Chief presents annual review to Council Board. OA Color Guard for banquet)
February 26-28, 2016	National Leadership Seminar National Lodge Adviser Training Seminar	Galveston Sea Base, Galveston, TX (Great training for future lodge officers and advisers)
March 4-6, 2016	Lodge Spring Ordeal and Fellowship	Camp Patten (Ordeal and Brotherhood Saturday, LEC Sunday AM)
April 1-3, 2016	National Leadership Seminar National Lodge Adviser Training Seminar	Haw River State Park, Browns Summit, NC (Great training for future lodge officers and advisers)
April 15-17, 2016	Section SR9 Conclave	Camp Rainey Mtn., Clayton, GA (Mowogo) (Support Section SR9, provide opportunities to lead, learn, and grow.)
August 1-5, 2016	NEXT: A New Century – Lodge officers to be inspired how they can be the driving force in the OA's second century.	Indiana University, Bloomington, IN Lodge Chief and two additional youth Lodge Adviser and one additional adviser
August 12-14, 2016	Lodge Summer Fellowship / Brotherhood	TBA Team Building, Position-Specific Youth Training, Brotherhood Ceremony Saturday PM, LEC Sunday AM
November 11-13, 2016	National Leadership Seminar National Lodge Adviser Training Seminar	Shocco Springs Conf. Center, Anniston, AL (Great training for future lodge officers and advisers)
April 21-23, 2017	Section SR9 Conclave	Camp Lumpkin (Chattahoochee) (Support Section SR9, provide opportunities to lead, learn, and grow.)
April, 2018	Section SR9 Conclave	TBD (Withlacochee). Yes, this is our opportunity to host our first Conclave!

Organizational Structure of the Order of the Arrow

The Order of the Arrow has three distinct organizational levels; lodges, sections, and regions. Lodges carry out the Order of the Arrow program at the local level and are closely tied with Boy Scout Councils. Sections consist of several lodges within a geographic region and Regions in turn consist of Sections within a geographic region of the United States. Lodges, Sections, and Regions each have a distinct set of responsibilities which ensure that the OA program runs smoothly.

Chapters

If a lodge has chapters, generally there is one chapter created in each district of the council. Each chapter has its own officers and advisers, the officers being elected by the youth OA members within the chapter, and the advisers being appointed by the Scout executive often with the consultation of the lodge adviser and district executive(s). Chapters provide the ability to have meetings closer to home and meetings and events can be scheduled to coincide with the district events. The chapter is central to providing quality unit visits for camping promotion, and unit elections.

Lodges

At the local level, lodges exist to serve BSA councils and individual units. The key leaders in the lodge are the youth lodge chief, volunteer adult lodge adviser, and staff adviser. The lodge chief presides over the Lodge Executive Committee, which is responsible for executing the annual program of the lodge. While each lodge is different, many lodges have one or more vice chiefs, a secretary, and a treasurer, as well as committee chairmen responsible for various aspects of the lodge's program. Chapters align with BSA districts and execute the program of the lodge on a community level.

Sections

An Order of the Arrow section consists of lodges within a geographic area of the region. Each section is led by a chief, vice chief, and secretary, who play a crucial part in making the annual Conclave a success. The section may lead training seminars, promote national programs of emphasis, and provide resources to local lodges. The section chief presides over the Council of Chiefs, attended by delegates of each member lodge. Each year the approximately fifty elected section chiefs are invited to a national planning meeting in Dallas, TX. The section chiefs form the conference committee for a national Order of the Arrow event, such as the National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC), which is held under the guidance of the national Order of the Arrow committee.

Regions

The Order of the Arrow, like the Boy Scouts of America, is organized into four geographical regions: Central, Northeast, Southern, and Western. Each region is led by a youth region chief, a volunteer region chairman, and a region staff adviser. The region leadership helps execute the national program on a more local level, implements the National Leadership Seminar and National Lodge Adviser Training Seminar, provides its member sections with resources, and facilitates communication between local organizations and the national OA committee.

National

At the national level, the Order of the Arrow is governed by the national Order of the Arrow committee. The national committee sets policy, directs the national program of the Order, and broadly manages the organization above the local lodge level. The committee is composed of the national chief and national vice chief (and their immediate predecessors), who are elected annually at the national planning meeting; the chairman, who is appointed annually by the chairman of the national Outdoor Adventures committee; other volunteer members, appointed by the chairman; and two staff members, the director of the Order of the Arrow and the OA specialist.

The Bridge Builder by Will Allen Dromgoole

An old man going a lone highway,
Came at the evening, cold and gray,
To a chasm, vast, and deep and wide,
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.

The old man crossed in the twilight dim;
The sullen stream had no fear for him;
But he turned, when safe on the other side,
And built a bridge to span the tide.

"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim, near,
"You are wasting strength with building here;
Your journey will end with the ending day;
You never again will pass this way;
You've crossed the chasm, deep and wide-
Why build you this bridge at the evening tide?"

The builder lifted his old gray head:
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,
"There followeth after me today,
A youth, whose feet must pass this way.

This chasm, that has been naught to me,
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be.
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him."

Cups and Water Bottles

Our lodge leadership asks that all Arrowmen start bringing their personal camp cups and water bottles to our lodge fellowship weekends. The lodge can save money by not having to purchase so many Styrofoam cups for our meal beverages. It is also a great way to be more environmentally conscious. Please remember to put your name and unit on your camp cup or water bottle.

**"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen."
- Winston Churchill**

