

TORTOISE TALES



WITHLACOOCHEE

South Georgia Council
1841 Norman Drive
Valdosta, Georgia, 31601



2017 No. 4 (OCTOBER)

LODGE SUMMER FELLOWSHIP RECAP

Withlacochee Lodge Arrowmen gathered at Camp Patten August 25-27, 2017 for the lodge's summer fellowship. The weekend included fellowship, service, patch trading, chapter competitions, and great food. Arrowmen worked diligently to clean up fallen limbs and debris so Ranger Rusty can safely mow areas around camp. Chapter competitions included canoe races, Ga-Ga ball, and OA trivia. The best cook team in the country led by Mr. Walt Bryan served delicious all you can eat meals which included barbeque ribs and chicken for Saturday evening. During a special ceremony Saturday evening, former lodge chief Saul Crumpton received his Wood Badge beads from Ranger Rusty Redshaw and Mr. Britt Brinson.And the winner of the Withlacochee Lodge Spirit Stick was Ichauway Chapter! Everyone who attended the weekend enjoyed spending time with their fellow Arrowmen and the very best Scouts in South Georgia Council. Check out the Withlacochee Shows video of the Summer Fellowship on YouTube!



Want to get in on this kind of fun? Then register for the Withlacochee Lodge Fall Induction Weekend November 10-12, 2017 at Camp Patten. On-line registration is fast, easy, and safe at www.sgcbbsa.org



NOAC 2018

The 2018 National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC) will be held at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana July 30 through August 4, 2018. The National Order of the Arrow Conference is Scouting's second-largest national program event. Youth involvement ensures that the conference program will be exciting, relevant, and non-stop fun. The conference fee is \$525.00 plus our transportation costs which will include a bus or van and hotel rooms. Participants will return home with:

- A deeper understanding of the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Order of the Arrow Obligation.
- A renewed spirit, pride, and enthusiasm for Scouting and the Order of the Arrow.
- Ideas their lodge can use to better serve Scouting at the unit, district, and council levels.
- New programs, knowledge, and skills to improve lodge and chapter operations.
- Enhanced leadership skills and a better understanding of how to carry out the work of the lodge.
- The latest information on outdoor and high-adventure and how to successfully promote camping.
- New friendships with fellow Arrowmen from throughout the nation.

The contingent size for Withlacoochee Lodge is 12 youth and 3 adults. Since it is clear that not everyone who wants to attend NOAC will be able to be part of the Withlacoochee Lodge contingent, the LEC is providing some general guidance in composing the lodge's contingent. Specifically,

- Consideration will be given to the contributing 2018 elected lodge officers and chapter chiefs. The elected lodge officers are the core of our lodge program. It is important for the key youth to attend NOAC in order to learn ideas to strengthen our lodge.
- Consideration will be given to those Arrowmen who demonstrate the commitment and passion to become the next lodge leaders.
- The remaining youth quotas will be reserved for newer Ordeal members who possess great excitement for the OA and, although perhaps are not yet leaders, will be critical for the sustainability of our lodge. We must maintain a steady stream of youth leaders.
- Youth described above contemplating attending NOAC should not base their decision to attend solely on their ability to pay the registration fee and transportation costs. A limited number of scholarships are available to selected youth to help pay for their transportation costs.
- We will attempt to provide equity amongst our troops and chapters.
- Adults attending NOAC as part of the lodge's contingent will be those with the skills and resources to best serve the lodge.
- Arrowmen who have attended a previous NOAC are encouraged to apply for a NOAC staff position.

Withlacoochee Lodge Arrowmen who will attend NOAC will be registered by the NOAC Contingent Adviser through the national registration system since individual registrations will not be accepted. Additional information on NOAC 2018 can be found on oa-bsa.org.

2017-2018 WITHLACOOCHEE LODGE EVENT CALENDAR

Date	Event	Location / Information
November 10-12, 2017	Lodge Fall Induction Weekend	Camp Patten (Ordeal and Brotherhood Saturday, Vigil Callout after Ordeal Ceremony, 2018 Officer Elections, LEC), Camp Service
December 1-2, 2017	Lodge Vigil Night / Vigil Reunion Breakfast	Camp Patten (Vigil Honor Friday PM, Saturday AM Vigil Reunion Breakfast)
January 20, 2018	Lodge Banquet/LLD in conjunction w/ South Ga Council University of Scouting	Planned for FUMC Tifton (LLD 8:30 AM-4:30 PM. Catered Banquet Saturday 6:00 PM to install new lodge officers, Founder's Award Recipients, and Vigil Honor members' public recognition. Hosted by Blackwater)
February 2-4, 2018 (Section SR-9 Event)	Section SR-9 Indian Winter	Black Creek Scout Reservation (Ceremony, dance, drum, costume workshops. Section Council of Chiefs) I-Tsu-La is service lodge.
February 3, 2018	South Georgia Council Annual Banquet	Tifton (Lodge Chief presents lodge annual report to Council Board)
March 2-4, 2018	Lodge Spring Induction Weekend	Camp Patten (Ordeal and Brotherhood Saturday, LEC Sunday AM) Camp Service
April 20-22, 2018 (Section SR-9 Event)	Section SR-9 Heartland Gathering	Comer Scout Reservation (Coosa is service lodge). (Support Section SR-9, provide opportunities to lead, learn, and grow.)
July 30-August 4, 2018	National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC)	Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana (12 Youth & 3 Adults)

Withlacochee Lodge Officer Elections

Elections for the 2018 Chief, Vice-Chief of Program, Vice-Chief of Administration, Secretary and Treasurer will be conducted on Sunday morning November 12th during our lodge meeting at our Fall Inductions weekend at Camp Patten. 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 Withlacochee Lodge by-laws, all candidates must meet with the Lodge 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 Scoutmaster 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!!)

WHERE YA BEEN?

Have you moved? Changed your email address?

Changed telephone numbers? If so, please send an email to: oalm.admin@withlacochee.org so we can find you.

“Nothing worthwhile was ever accomplished without the will to start, the enthusiasm to continue and, regardless of temporary obstacles, the persistence to complete.”

- Waite Phillips

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Cups and Water Bottles

The lodge leadership asks that Arrowmen bring their personal camp cups and water bottles to our lodge weekends. The lodge can save money by not having to purchase so many styrofoam cups for our meal beverages. Please remember to put your name and unit on your camp cup or water bottle.



Becoming a Brotherhood member marks the completion of a member's induction into the Order of the Arrow. If you have been an Ordeal member for more than ten months, you are eligible to take the next step and become a Brotherhood member of Withlacoochee Lodge. The requirements to seal your membership can be found in the *OA Handbook* under **THE CHALLENGES OF BROTHERHOOD MEMBERSHIP**. The next opportunity to become a Brotherhood member will be at the Fall Induction Weekend November 10-12, 2017 at Camp Patten. Finish what you've started and experience the best the OA has to offer!

ANNUAL LODGE DUES

Annual lodge dues will increase from \$10.00 to \$15.00 per year effective January 1st, 2018. The decision to increase the annual dues was in response to a national dues increase from \$3.00 to \$5.00. Members can pay \$10.00 for their 2018 annual dues before the end of 2017 prior to the increase to \$15.00 on January 1st, 2018 if they so desire. Members may pay their lodge dues at Albany Scout Shop or South Georgia Council Service Center or through the mail by sending a check to the South Georgia Council Service Center.

A special THANK YOU to the Withlacoochee Lodge Arrowmen who participated in the Camp Patten Service Day on September 12th. Using funds we received from the 2017 OA Service Grant, we were able to install brand new tables and finish the landscaping at the new Camp Patten pavilion. The pavilion is a beautiful facility and will serve the needs of our Scouting program for many years to come.



INDIAN WINTER 2018

I-Tsu-La Lodge will host the 2018 Indian Winter at Black Creek Scout Reservation located near Sylvania, Georgia, February 2-4, 2018. Indian Winter is designed to highlight the American Indian Affairs program of the Order of the Arrow. During this one of kind event participants will be able to learn more about the American Indian culture, learn drumming and dancing, and ways to enhance ceremony performances which includes an in-depth study of each principle. If you have an interest in Native American Culture, you don't want to miss Indian Winter.

Registration for Indian Winter is \$25.00 if paid before January 15th, 2018 and \$30.00 after January 15, 2018. All registrations will be on the SR-9 website at <http://sr-9.org>. Registration will open on October 15th, 2017. Lodge leadership will have visibility of all Withlacoochee Arrowmen who register so we can arrange transportation.