

# TORTOISE TALES



## WITHLACOOCHEE

South Georgia Council  
1841 Norman Drive  
Valdosta, Georgia, 31601



2017 No. 5 (DECEMBER)

## OUR 2017 FALL INDUCTION WEEKEND

Withlacoochee Lodge held its fall induction weekend at Camp Patten November 10-12, 2017 and it was a fantastic event. Seventy-three members attended representing 16 troops. The weather was near perfect and everyone enjoyed being at our beautiful Scout camp. The lodge inducted 23 new Ordeal members and 9 members completed the inductions process and achieved Brotherhood membership. We also had the Vigil Call-out Ceremony for 5 of our distinguished members. Section SR-9 Vice Chief Austin Clark spent the weekend with us to enjoy the Withlacoochee Lodge fellowship. Arrowmen worked diligently to clean up fallen limbs and debris so Ranger Rusty can safely mow areas around camp and candidates replaced boards on the Patten Pond dock. Chapter competitions were intense and the Crooked River Chapter won the Lodge Spirit Stick Award. The lodge would like to thank everyone who provided service to our camp and especially Elangomats: Jansen Bryan, Kyle Fish, and Allen Lehman; and Nimat: Kameron Nez for their cheerful service.



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW MEMBERS WHO COMPLETED THE ORDEAL  
AT OUR FALL INDUCTION WEEKEND IN NOVEMBER**



- |                   |                 |                  |                    |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Adam Kelly        | Michael Dale    | Alex Collins     | Giacomo Palazzolo  |
| Micah Peters      | Andrew Dingler  | Isaac Ingle      | Simon DeMott       |
| Lucas Barajas     | Aiden Beckman   | Cory Ingle       | Chance Carroll     |
| Caden Woodcock    | Benjamin Harris | Nickolas Faaborg | Samuel Spano       |
| Benjamin Anderson | Kayden Nez      | Gregory Olson    | Mr. Ricky Fletcher |
| Cameron Buckner   | Caleb Ukaonu    | Timothy Scott    |                    |



When an Ordeal member has learned about the ideals of the Order of the Arrow and makes them part of his life, he is ready to become a Brotherhood member. Brotherhood membership is sought by Arrowmen seeking to reaffirm their belief in the high purposes of our Order. After an Ordeal member continues to serve his troop for at least 10 months, he may become a Brotherhood member by accepting the Obligation and continue serving the lodge. Big congratulations to the following Arrowmen for achieving Brotherhood membership during the Fall Induction Weekend:

- |                      |                        |                     |                     |                 |
|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Michael Frost</b> | <b>Travis Shipley</b>  | <b>Alex Buckner</b> | <b>Logan Shook</b>  | <b>Ty Horne</b> |
| <b>James Beckman</b> | <b>Boyd Loudermilk</b> | <b>Reid Brinson</b> | <b>Nick Gladden</b> |                 |

Five exceptional Arrowmen kept the Vigil on a special evening at Camp Patten December 1-2, 2017. 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 or office to one or more of the following: their lodge, the Order of the Arrow, Scouting, or their Scout camp. The 2017 Vigil Honor members pictured in order are:



- Mr. Troy Lehman**
- Caleb Phillips**
- Allen Lehman**
- Matthew Collins**
- Mr. Jeff Scott**



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2018 LODGE OFFICERS**

- Chief – Jonathan Lewis
- Vice Chief of Administration – Allen Lehman
- Vice Chief of Programs – To be appointed
- Secretary – David Stokes, III
- Treasurer – Aiden Beckman
  
- Ichauway Chapter Chief – Boyd Loudermilk
- Crooked River Chapter Chief – Kameron Nez
- Blackwater Chapter Chief – Eli Lapeza



**LODGE DUES REMINDER.** Annual lodge dues will increase from \$10.00 to \$15.00 per year effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 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.

## Lodge Leadership Development

Who: By Invitation: 2018 Lodge Officers, Committee Chairman, Chapter Chiefs.

What: Withlacoochee Lodge Leadership Development

Where: Activity Center, Tifton First United Methodist Church, 115 West 12th St.

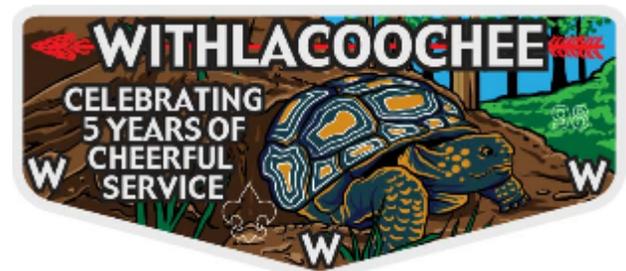
When: Saturday, 20 January 2018 8:30 AM-5:00 PM

Why: To provide lodge youth leaders with the tools, resources, and inspiration to lead Withlacoochee Lodge

How: LLD is limited to the 2018 Lodge Officers, Committee Chairman, Chapter Chiefs. University of Scouting will be held at the same time and location so non-LLD Arrowmen are encouraged to attend the University of Scouting training sessions. LLD participants will meet at the Activity Center at 8:30 AM on Saturday, 20 January 2018. There is no cost to attend LLD. Lunch will be provided. Uniform is Class A. At the conclusion of LLD at approximately 5:00 PM, we'll move to the Social Hall for our annual lodge Winter Banquet. Participants should arrive on time and with lots of OA enthusiasm.



**THE BIG REVEAL** – The Withlacoochee Lodge LEC approved the release of a 5-year anniversary lodge flap. Withlacoochee lodge was formed on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013 by the merger of Alapaha Lodge and Immokalee Lodge and in 2018, we will celebrate our 5-year anniversary. The special issue flap is an easily recognizable variation of our current honor flap and will be a great addition to every Arrowman's collection. The anniversary flap will be available for purchase starting at the Lodge Winter Banquet on January 20<sup>th</sup> for \$5.00 each. Initial limit is 2 flaps per Arrowman.



**Our popular Withlacoochee Lodge T-Shirts will be available at the Winter Banquet in January 2018. Cost per T-Shirt is \$12.00.**

### CAMP OSBORN SERVICE DAY

We've been waiting almost one year and the time has come for us to return to Camp Osborn and start the detailed restoration of the property and facilities. The first of several camp service days will be Saturday, December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The service day is a council-wide event but the OA projects will include cleaning up the OA Ring, pulling weeds and removing debris from around the buildings, and planting trees. The entire list of projects was posted on lodge Facebook and the council website. Enter camp at Ranger Eric's house and we will park along the road to the shotgun range. Bring your lunch and drinks. The only running water and latrine is in the A-Frame. Please help get the word out in your troops. Family members are welcome. It is an exciting time to be Scouting and to rebuild Camp Osborn better than it was!

**Lodge Raffle and Patch Silent Auction.** This year again at our annual winter banquet on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018 in Tifton, we will hold a raffle and a patch silent auction in order to raise lodge operating funds. For the raffle, we are looking for new or slightly used camping gear or other outdoor equipment (sleeping mats, cook stoves, lanterns, etc.). If you have items for the raffle, please bring them to the banquet and give them to Mr. Tim Griggs. If you have patches for the patch auction, you can bring them as well and give them to either Mr. Jim Halter or Mr. David Vaughan. If you have items for either the raffle or auction and cannot attend the winter banquet you can give the items to someone who is attending and they can bring them for you. We greatly appreciate everyone who supports the raffle and patch auction.

## Indian Winter, February 2-4, 2018, Black Creek Scout Reservation

Indian winter is an American Indian activity focus and will offer Arrowmen a hands on approach to the American Indian aspects of our Order. Indian Winter will feature a program that offers “make and take” style training classes as well as instructional classes. The classes will cover a wide range of topics including ceremonies, dance and drum, beadwork, and regalia. The instructors will be top-notch experts from throughout Section SR-9 and ready to help you expand your American Indian knowledge. Section SR-9 leadership will also deliver training sessions on the three areas during Indian Winter. This year’s areas of focus are membership retention, unit election rate, and lodge event attendance. We highly encourage the newly elected lodge and chapter officers to attend so that we can assist them through this program. It is the hope of the section leadership we can make a meaningful positive impact on your local programs shortly afterwards.

Indian Winter will offer something for all Arrowmen to enjoy and the section looks forward to seeing you there!

In order to properly plan for food and other necessary program items for Indian Winter, the late fee begins on January 15, 2018 and final registrations close on January 26, 2018. Registration is on-line at [www.sr-9.org](http://www.sr-9.org). The lodge will arrange transportation based on demand for the event.

(Edited from the *Nine Feathers* SR-9 newsletter)



Outstanding Arrowman Award Pin for subsequent awards.

The Outstanding Arrowman Award recognizes Arrowmen who make contributions to the lodge, support its programs, and uphold the principles in the Order of the Arrow Obligation. The Withlacoochee Lodge Outstanding Arrowman Award is a special lodge patch for active (current year’s dues paid) youth and adult Arrowman. Arrowmen have the opportunity to earn one award each program year. The period to earn the Outstanding Arrowman Award corresponds to the lodge’s program year which starts at the lodge’s summer fellowship in August and ends at the Section SR-9 Heartland Gathering in April. The contributions must be completed in one single program year. The Lodge Chief will formally present the Outstanding Arrowman Award to the recipient at a lodge event. Recipients will have an opportunity to purchase one additional Outstanding Arrowman Award patch when they receive their first award. Subsequent Outstanding Arrowman Awards after the first award will be in the form of a distinctive pin that can be displayed on the patch. The award registration form for the 2017-2018 program year and details of the program can be found on the lodge Facebook page and website. Start to earn your award today!

## 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 in the planning 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.

The contingent size for Withlacoochee Lodge is 12 youth and 3 adults and there are still seats available. If you are interested in or considering attending NOAC 2018 as part of the Withlacoochee Lodge contingent, please contact the Lodge Adviser.

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# 2018-2020 WITHLACOOCHEE LODGE EVENT CALENDAR

| Date   | Event   | Location / Information   |
|--|---|--|
| January 20, 2018   | Lodge Banquet/LLD in conjunction w/ South GA Council U. of S. | 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 Chapter) |
| February 2-4, 2018<br>(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 may be asked to provide Color Guard)   |
| March 2-4, 2018  | Lodge Spring Induction Weekend                                | One of Our Camps (Ordeal and Brotherhood Saturday, LEC Sunday AM) Camp Service   |
| April 20-22, 2018<br>(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   |
| Future Section Events                                      |   |  |
| February, 2019<br>(Section SR-9 Event at one of our Camps) | Section SR-9 Indian Winter                                    | <b>Withlacoochee is service lodge.</b> (Ceremony, dance, drum, costume workshops. Section Council of Chiefs)   |
| April, 2019<br>(Section SR-9 Event)                        | Section SR-9 Heartland Gathering                              | Black Creek Scout Reservation, Sylvania, GA. I-Tsu-La is service lodge. (Support Section SR-9, provide opportunities to lead, learn, and grow.)  |
| February, 2020<br>(Section SR-9 Event)                     | Section SR-9 Indian Winter                                    | Location? (Ceremony, dance, drum, costume workshops. Section Council of Chiefs) Alibamu is service lodge   |
| April, 2020<br>(Section SR-9 Event at one of our Camps)    | Section SR-9 Heartland Gathering                              | <b>Withlacoochee is service lodge.</b> (Support Section SR-9, provide opportunities to lead, learn, and grow.)   |

## INVITATION TO ATTEND THE LODGE WINTER BANQUET

Please make plans to join us at our annual Winter Banquet 6:00 PM, Saturday, January 20, 2018 in the Tifton First United Methodist Church Social Hall, 107 12<sup>th</sup> St. West. The Social Hall is behind the sanctuary on North Central Avenue. (If you're attending University of Scouting, you'll already be there!) Arrowmen may bring guests. You may register using the 2017-2018 event registration form on the lodge website, directly on-line at the South Georgia Council website, or using the form below.



**Registration Form for 2018 Withlacoochee Lodge Winter Banquet**

Event is 6:00 PM, Saturday, January 20, 2018 in the Tifton First United Methodist Church Social Hall

**Cost is \$12.00 if received by January 15, 2018, \$15.00 if received after January 15, 2018**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ BSA ID \_\_\_\_\_

One form per person. Arrowmen may bring guests.

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:**

Please pay at a Council Office or send payment to:

**South Georgia Council, BSA**

**1841 Norman Drive**

**Valdosta, GA 31601**

**LODGE USE ONLY**

\_\_\_\_\_ Entered into OALM