



15 July 2019

**WITHLACOOCHEE LODGE**  
 South Georgia Council  
 1841 Norman Drive  
 Valdosta, Georgia 31601



## 2020 Conclave Prep Newsletter #1

Dear Arrowmen,

This is the first in a series of newsletters to prepare you to support Withlacoochee Lodge when we host the Southern Region Section 9, 2020 Conclave to be held April 17-19 at Camp Patten in Lakeland, GA. These updates will be communicated on an as-needed basis as our best attempt to keep you informed. The lodge leadership welcomes constructive feedback on how we can better serve you.

**1. What is a Conclave?** Conclave is the annual weekend camping experience of the 11 Order of the Arrow lodges in our section. (There are four Scouting "Regions" in the US. Each "Region" is divided into "Areas" with councils adjacent to each other. The OA lodges in the areas are referred to collectively as a "Section"). The Conclave location rotates to a different camp in the Section each year and, in 2020, Withlacoochee Lodge will host the SR-9 Conclave at Camp Patten April 17-19. The section conclave experience is like no other in Scouting, as Arrowmen new and old gather yearly to learn, remember, enjoy, meet, lead, do, compete, consume, watch, elect, and rededicate, all packed into the short span of a weekend. Specific activities include: leadership training; Native American craft instruction; ceremony, dance and drum competition; evening shows; patch trading; sporting event competitions; great fellowship; and much more.

**2. How many Arrowmen will come to Conclave?** We expect between 650-700 Arrowmen to attend the 2020 Conclave at Camp Patten. For many Scouts, Conclave is the largest Scouting event they will ever attend. The last time a conclave was held at Camp Patten was in 2008 when Alapaha Lodge was part of Section 4 North and there were 485 participants.

**3. What do we have to do to host Conclave?** Our responsibilities as Conclave Host Lodge are extensive. In short, we are *Arrowmen Serving Arrowmen* to ensure participants have a mountaintop OA experience. Withlacoochee Lodge responsibilities include:

- Preparing Camp Patten and all its facilities
- Greeting participants as they arrive
- Directing unloading of camping gear and parking
- Guiding lodges to their campsite
- Registration and distributing of memorabilia and programs
- Food Service, Medical and First-Aid, Sanitation
- Setting up venues for events and competitions

**Please help us prepare for Conclave by participating in the Camp and Conclave Service days:**

**September 14, 2019 - Service day at both camps**  
**October 12, 2019 – Conclave Svc. Camp Patten**  
**February 1, 2020 – Conclave Svc. Camp Patten**  
**April 4, 2020 – Conclave Service Day Camp Patten**

**4. Who is in charge of Conclave?** Section SR-9 Chief Joseph Barnes is ultimately responsible for the 2020 Conclave under the advisement of Mr. Greg Moore, Section SR-9 Adviser. But they have a lot of help, including Section Officers, Vice Chiefs, and Committee Chairman. The Arrowman responsible for our success as Host Lodge is current Lodge Chief Jonathan Lewis under the Advisement of Mr. Rick Green, Host Lodge Adviser. Mr. Merrill Dickinson is the Associate Host Lodge Adviser. Their contact information is:

- Jonathan Lewis – (229) 894-4948 or email: [jonathanl1324@gmail.com](mailto:jonathanl1324@gmail.com)**
- Mr. Rick Green – (229) 834-2594 or email: [rgreen65@gmail.com](mailto:rgreen65@gmail.com) or [oalm@withlacoocheelodge.org](mailto:oalm@withlacoocheelodge.org)**
- Mr. Merrill Dickinson – (229) 347-6120 or email: [merrill.dickinson@usmc.mil](mailto:merrill.dickinson@usmc.mil)**

**5. If I am helping with Conclave will I still be able to participate in the events and activities?** Yes. We are going to do our best to fill a contingent of Withlacoochee Lodge Arrowmen to participate in Conclave events. Many Withlacoochee Lodge Arrowmen will serve on a team and be greeters, vehicle parking crew, food service team, sanitation team, program area preparation team, etc. but there will be time for you to have lots of fun during Conclave between your host lodge duties.

**6. Will there be a cost for me to attend Conclave as part of the Host Lodge or Withlacoochee Lodge Contingent?** Yes. The regular Conclave registration fee, established by Section SR-9, applies to every Arrowman at Camp Patten regardless of their role. The Early Bird registration fee is currently \$39.00

**7. What positions are available for me to serve in the Conclave Host Lodge?** There are meaningful positions for every age, member level, and skill level. Before you eagerly volunteer for a team, below are some of the responsibilities of each team:








Team	Responsibilities
Greeter	<p>Duties are Friday Afternoon-Evening on 17 April. Greeters are the first contact participants have with the Host Lodge and it is an important position. The Greeter Team will be in BSA Field Uniform (Class A) with OA Sash and establish a greeting point on Burnt Church Road before the curve in order to: (1) welcome participants, (2) give directions to gear drop point, (3) warn and advise vehicle driver to slow down negotiating the curve. Greeting point will have a canopy, sign, and lights. Greeters must wear a high visibility vest, smile, and speak loudly. (Participant vehicle route will be to enter Camp Patten through the gateway, follow road to behind Copeland Center, drop gear, drive out of camp on service road, cross Burnt Church Road and enter parking lot directly across street). We plan to ask Lakeland Law Enforcement to close the northbound traffic on Burnt Church Road for the entire weekend.</p> <p><b>Youth Team Lead:</b> _____ <b>Adviser:</b> Jim Halter</p>
Lodge Guide	<p>Duties are Friday Afternoon-Evening on 17 April. Every visiting lodge will have a Lodge Guide. Lodge Guides will greet participants behind Copeland Center as they unload gear. Smile. Welcome them to Camp Patten and the SR-9 Conclave. Inform Lodge Advisers to register their lodge contingent at Roquemore Pavilion. Escort participants to designated campsite. Lodge Guides will visit the lodge campsite several times throughout the weekend to see if they need anything that would make their conclave experience even more special.</p> <p><b>Youth Team Lead:</b> _____ <b>Adviser:</b> _____</p>
Gear	<p>Duties are Friday Afternoon-Evening on 17 April. The Gear Team will help participants load their camping gear on the trailer to be taken to their lodge campsite.</p> <p><b>Youth Team Lead:</b> _____ <b>Adviser:</b> Chris Rigg, Jay Blanton</p>
Parking	<p>Duties are Friday Afternoon-Evening on 17 April. The Parking Team will guide vehicles into the parking lot and show drivers where to park. Parking lanes will be marked with road cones and or tape. Parkers will in BSA Field Uniform (Class A) with OA Sash must wear a high visibility vest, smile, and speak loudly.</p> <p><b>Youth Team Lead:</b> _____ <b>Adviser:</b> _____</p>
Registration	<p>Duties are Friday Afternoon-Evening on 17 April. The Registration Team will be in the Roquemore Pavilion. Duties are to check-in the lodge, settle any outstanding fees, collect and file lodge participant roster and AHMR, give them their memorabilia pre-orders, conclave program, credentials, etc. This is where the Lodge Key 3 will be serving on Friday evening. Lodge Key 3 will personally welcome each lodge.</p> <p><b>Youth Team Lead:</b> 2020 Withlacoochee Lodge Chief <b>Advisers:</b> Lodge Adviser and Lodge Staff Adviser</p>
Food Service	<p>Duties begin Friday evening at Cracker Barrel and end Sunday after breakfast clean-up. With the exception of the two Cracker Barrels, meals will be catered (B,L,D Saturday and B Sunday). Duties include preparing and serving Cracker Barrel on Friday and Saturday night and serving the other four catered meals. Catered meals will be delivered to camp in bulk trays. Food Service Team will transfer the food portions into foam boxes for easy and quick serving.</p> <p><b>Youth Team Lead:</b> _____ <b>Advisers:</b> Mr. Walt Bryan, John Moore, Tim Griggs</p>
Sanitation	<p>Duties begin Saturday morning until clean-up on Sunday mid-day. Every lodge campsite will have a trash bag when the lodge arrive son Friday evening. Latrines will be well-stocked with hand soap, paper towels, trash bags and TP before the lodges arrive on Friday evening. Saturday duties include disposing full trash bags in the dumpster, restocking latrine supplies throughout the day, light cleaning of latrines mid-day Saturday and thorough cleaning of latrines after everyone departs on Sunday. The lodge will contract for 4-6 porta-potties with handwashing stations to be placed in program areas.</p>

Team	Responsibilities
Medical & First-Aid	Duties begin Friday afternoon and end Sunday mid-day. Medical and First-Aid will be established in the Copeland Center and be manned by a qualified medical professional. An AED will be at camp for the entire weekend. <b>Youth Team Lead:</b> _____ <b>Adviser: Dr. Chet Lapeza</b>
Emergency Maintenance	Duties begin Friday afternoon and end Sunday mid-day. Emergency maintenance will be performed on an as-needed basis for repair minor plumbing and electrical problems. This team only needs 1-2 youth Arrowmen to help Ranger Rusty. <b>Youth x2:</b> _____ <b>Adviser: Ranger Rusty</b>
Commissioner Corps	Duties begin Friday afternoon and end Sunday mid-day. Conclave Commissioners will perform duties to link the needs of the lodges to services of the host lodge. They will basically be problem solvers to resolve issues that may emerge throughout the weekend and help other teams where needed. The Conclave Commissioner Corps will be manned by 3-4 South Georgia Council Commissioners. <b>Rick Green, Merrill Dickinson, Darren Williams</b>
Food Concession	Duties begin Saturday mid-morning and end right before the Saturday evening show. The plan is we will stock and man a concession stand on the north side of the Copeland Center and sell to participants, at reasonable costs, sodas, snack food, and prepackaged ice cream. Profits from the food concession will benefit the Withlacoochee Lodge OA program. <b>Youth x4:</b> _____ <b>Adviser x2: Sharon Scott, David Vaughan</b>
Vigil Rededication	Duties will be Friday Evening at the Vigil Rededication Ceremony. A Withlacoochee Lodge Youth Vigil will prepare and deliver the Vigil Rededication Ceremony to participants. <b>Youth Vigil: Kameron Nez</b> <b>Adviser: Mr. Eric Miller</b>

Several of the teams require multiple members due to the workload or to accommodate shifts, such as with the food service and sanitation teams. It is preferred, where feasible to maintain troop integrity. For example, Arrowmen from one troop may want to volunteer to serve on the Greeter Team together and the team would be all from the same troop and provide the Youth Team Lead, Adviser and Arrowmen to perform the duties.

**8. Will there be a special patch for the Host Lodge?** Oh Yes! We will begin work to order a commemorative Withlacoochee Host Lodge flap that will only be available to Arrowmen who volunteer to serve other Arrowmen at the 2020 Conclave. Additional information is forthcoming.






**9. What preparations do we need to do at Camp Patten to host the 2020 Conclave?** That is a good question. Once we have a clearer picture on the requirements, we will be able designate areas on camp for the various activities and programs. For starters, we must:

-  Clear brush in Stevens Amphitheater for more camp chairs.
-  Clear brush on banks of Patten Pond near the fire ring and Margaret Miller Chapel.
-  Open up the Cherokee Campsite (this is where the host lodge youth will camp).
-  Designate and mark the lodge campsites.
-  Measure and mark the spaces in packing area
-  Ensure every campsite has a table and trash bag
-  Test Electrical connections in Stevens Amphitheater

**Task Thursday 16 April prior to arrival:**

- \* Put out directional signs from I-75
- \* Put up Feather Flag and 3 OA banners
- \* Set up Chapel for Vigil Rededication
- \* Fill coolers with ice and water
- \* Stock latrines
- \* Mark latrines Youth Adult, Male Female

**10. So what should I be doing now to prepare for hosting the 2020 SR-9 Conclave?**

-  Join the excitement over Withlacoochee Lodge's opportunity to demonstrate the meaning of cheerful service and showcase beautiful Camp Patten to SR-9 Arrowmen!
-  If you have been an Ordeal member for 6 months or longer as of 17 August 2019, you are eligible to seal your membership in the OA and finish the induction process by going through the Brotherhood process. Come to the Withlacoochee Lodge Summer Fellowship at Camp Patten 16-18 August and complete the final step of your induction into the Order of the Arrow.
-  Mark the conclave dates and conclave prep dates on your calendar and commit to attending the prep days.
-  Promote the OA in your troop and encourage your fellow Arrowmen to pay their 2019 and 2020 annual lodge dues.
-  Consider the team that best matches your interest of talents and decide on which team you'd like to serve