

New Member Information



Withlacoochee Lodge #98 South Georgia Council

2013 Fall Ordeal, Edition

Prepared by J. Michael Greene

Who Are We?

We are Alapaha Withlacoochee Lodge #98 of the Order of the Arrow, South Georgia Council, Boy Scouts of America. We are the Scouting's National Honor Society in South Georgia Council who 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.

Letter from the Chief

New Brothers,

Welcome to the Lodge and congratulations upon the completion of your 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 Immokalee. 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.oa-bsa.org as soon as possible to learn about The Order.

Wimachtendienk, Wingolauchsik, Witahemui,

*Jay Turk
Lodge Chief
Withlacoochee Lodge*

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. 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.

Brotherhood Membership

You must meet five challenges before you can 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.

1. **Memorize the signs of Arrow membership.** Memorize the Obligation of the order, the official song, the admonition, the sign of the ordeal membership and the arrow handclasp.
2. **Advance in your understanding of the Ordeal.** Gain through understanding the ordeal which you have just passed.
3. **Serve your unit.** Retain your registration in Scouting. During the period of at least 10 months strive to fulfill your obligation by continuing and expanding your service to your own troop or team.
4. **Plan for service in your lodge.** Retain your registration in the Order of the Arrow lodge and keep your dues paid. Be aware that acceptance of Brotherhood membership involves a pledge of service to the lodge. Develop a concrete idea of how you plan to fulfill this pledge.
5. **Review your progress.** When you earnestly feel that you have met the four challenges above, write a letter to your lodge secretary. In this letter:
 - Explain what you think the obligation means.
 - Describe how you have been fulfilling this Obligation in your troop or team and in your daily life, and how you have used your understanding of the ordeal to aid in this service.
 - Describe your specific plans for giving service in the lodge program. Include in this letter your advance registration application and fees for the next Brotherhood ceremony according to the instructions given by the lodge. Brotherhood membership can only be conferred by an arrowman's home lodge – the lodge which serves the council in which the arrowman's unit is chartered.

Becoming Involved in the Lodge

A large and varied number of ways to become active in Immokalee Lodge exist. Some are:

OA Troop Representative

What is the OA Troop/Team Representative?

The Troop/Team Representative program was begun in 1999, and is a program of the Order of the Arrow that has been officially adopted by the Boy Scouts of America. The OA Troop representative is now an official leadership position within the troop or team, and boys can earn time towards their leadership rank requirements, just as with Den Chief, Troop Scribe etc.

What are the Responsibilities of the Troop/Team Representative?

There are numerous possibilities for the job description of the OA Representative. The Beauty is that it is flexible enough to allow your unit to fine-tune the exact responsibilities. However, the most basic tasks of the Representative will be to coordinate service opportunities within the unit, to coordinate unit involvement with the Order of the Arrow, including Unit Elections, Camp Promotions and Inductions, and request lodge and chapter resources to help meet units' needs.

Who can serve as a Troop/Team Representative?

Anyone in the unit who is under the age of 18 can serve as the OA Representative for the unit, provided he is a dues-paid member of the Order of the Arrow. He should be appointed by the Senior Patrol Leader or Varsity Team Captain, and will be a member of the Patrol Leaders Council and attend lodge and chapter meetings.

Elangomat

What is an Elangomat?

The Elangomat (translated "Friend") is a brother who leads a clan. This brother has already completed their ordeal but is looking for a deeper understanding of the ordeal. He serves as a guide for the clan as they complete their ordeal much like a patrol leader. They are the most important link between the lodge and the

new candidates. The elangomat is the first brother whom the new candidates relate with as they spend the day together.

What are the Responsibilities of an Elangomat?

The main responsibility of an elangomat is to serve as a guide and friend to the Candidates undergoing their ordeal. They are responsible for making sure the candidates ordeal is a good overall experience. He is familiar with the induction principles and how an ordeal is carried out. Many brothers choose to be an elangomat more than once each time gaining for them a deeper understanding of the ordeal.

Who can serve as an Elangomat?

Any Brother can serve as an elangomat! The best possible candidate for an elangomat is a brother who is looking to seal their vows in brotherhood. This way they can re-experience their own ordeal and fully appreciate what the ordeal means.

Committees

Programs - Coordinates the program content for all Lodge events to include Fellowship Weekends, POW-WOWs, and Banquets.

Activities – Coordinates activities at lodge events.

Training – Coordinates Lodge Leadership Training, Elangomat training and other similar training.

Service – Coordinates service projects of the Lodge and in particular Camp Osborn summer camp staff.

Communications – Coordinates issuing *The Owl Hoot* and other mass communications with members.

Indian Affairs – Coordinates the Dance and Drum Team and regalia.

Finance – Operates the Lodge trading post and reports on the lodge's finance.

Inductions – Coordinated the Ceremony Team and is responsible for Lodge inductions.

2014 Lodge Events

January 10-11	Lodge Banquet/LLD	Camp Patten
February 14-16	Endurance Ride	Camp Osborn
March 7-9	Lodge Spring Fellowship/Ordeal	Camp Patten
April 26-28	Section SR9 Conclave	Moundville, AL

2013 - 2014 Lodge Officers

Chief	Jay Turk
Vice Chief of Programs	Dakota Kirkland
Vice Chief of Administration	Saul Crumpton
Lodge Secretary	David Stokes, III
Lodge Treasurer	Noah Phillips

