

**WITHLACOOCHEE LODGE CHAPTERS**



Withlacoochee Lodge is divided into three Chapters: Ichauway Chapter, which corresponds with Chehaw District; Blackwater Chapter, which corresponds Eight Rivers District, and Crooked River Chapter, which corresponds with Alapaha District. Each Chapter elects a Chapter Chief to represent it on the Lodge's Executive Committee.



**2015 Lodge Officers & Advisors**

Chief	Noah Phillips
Vice Chief of Programs	Joshua Chappell
Vice Chief of Administration	Caleb Phillips
Lodge Secretary	Matthew Stokes
Lodge Treasurer	John Crowder
Lodge Advisor	Mr. Merrill Dickinson
Asso. Lodge Advisor	Mr. Rick Green
Asso. Lodge Advisor	Mr. Dale Wilson
Lodge Staff Advisor	Mr. Preston Parker

***New Member Information***

***Firm Bound in Brotherhood***



**WITHLACOOCHEE**  
**South Georgia Council**  
*2015 Fall Ordeal, Edition*



New Brother: \_\_\_\_\_

## Who Are We?

We are Withlacoochee Lodge of the Order of the Arrow, South Georgia Council, Boy Scouts of America. We are members of Scouting's National Honor Society all of whom 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*.

We are the

**WIMACHTENDIENK**

**WINGOLAUCHSIK**

**WITAHEMUI!**

## 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 of the Arrow. 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. Ordeal membership is signified by the red arrow on a white sash worn over the right shoulder.



### Brotherhood Membership

Soon you will want to meet five challenges and 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. These challenges are: 1. Memorize the signs of membership; 2. Advance in your understanding of the Ordeal; 3. Serve your unit; 4. Plan for service in your lodge; and, 5. Review your progress. Brotherhood membership is signified by bars at each end of the arrow on your sash.

### The Vigil Honor

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 of office to one or more of the following: lodge, Order of the Arrow, Scouting community, Scout Camp" The Vigil Honor is awarded by the National Order of the Arrow Committee upon recommendation of the lodge. The Vigil Honor is signified by a triangle in the center of the arrow on your sash.



# History of Withlacoochee Lodge



Withlacoochee Lodge (#98) was chartered in 2013 as a result of the formation of South Georgia Council. The lodge was named for the river, really a creek, of the same name which runs through the Council and not for the river of the same name in Florida or the literal meaning of the word. The Withlacoochee River in Georgia originates northeast of Valdosta and flows south through Berrien, Cook, and Brooks counties in Georgia and into Florida. It eventually merges with the Suwannee River at Suwannee River State Park. The river is 115 miles (185 km) long. The name "Withlacoochee" probably stems from the Muckhogeian dialect. It is a compound of the Creek words "we" (water), "thlako" (big), and "chee" (little), or "little big water." The word combination signifies *little river* in the Creek language. "Welako" or "wethlako" may also refer to a lake or a river of lakes.

The gopher tortoise was selected as the lodge totem because it is indigenous to the part of the state that makes up South Georgia Council. There are active gopher tortoise burrows at both Camp Osborn and Camp Patten. The gopher tortoise is also the Georgia State reptile. Its range includes small parts of southern Alabama, South Carolina, Louisiana, Mississippi, Georgia, and a larger area in north and central Florida. A gopher tortoise can live up to 60 years.

Currently, our Withlacoochee Lodge has 222 active members, both youth and adult, consisting of 70 Ordeal members, 92 Brotherhood members and 60 Vigil members. We are based at "The Burrow," which is our lodge's headquarters located at Camp Osborn.



For more of the history of Withlacoochee Lodge  
and our predecessor lodges, see

[WITHLACOOCHEELODGE.ORG](http://WITHLACOOCHEELODGE.ORG)

## A letter from the Chief

New Brothers,

Welcome to the Withlacoochee Lodge and congratulations upon your completion of *The 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 Withlacoochee. 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.aa-bsa.org](http://www.jumpstart.aa-bsa.org) as soon as possible to learn about The Order and to [www.withlacoocheelodge.org](http://www.withlacoocheelodge.org) to learn more about our lodge. Our lodge has a Facebook page which is used to keep brothers updated on current events and announcements. You should *Like* us to follow the lodge.

Wimachtendienk, Wingolauchsik, Witahemui,

Noah Phillips  
Lodge Chief  
Withlacoochee Lodge



Date	Event	Location / Information
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 with the South Ga Council University of Scouting.	Planned for FUMC Tifton during the Lodge Leadership Development training which begins Friday PM and continues until Saturday's Banquet. The catered banquet is Saturday evening during which we install new lodge officers, announce Founder's Award Recipients, and publicly recognize the new Vigil Honor members. Hosted by Blackwater Chapter
February 5-7, 2016	Endurance Ride	Camp Osborn (Lodge supports with trail guides.)
March 4-6, 2016	Lodge Spring Ordeal and Fellowship	Camp Patten (Ordeal and Brotherhood Saturday, LEC Sunday AM)
April 15-17, 2016	Section SR9 Conclave	Camp Rainey Mtn., Clayton, GA (Mowogo Lodge) (Support our Section SR9 at Conclave which provides opportunities to lead, learn, and grow.)
August 12-14, 2016	Lodge Summer Fellowship / Brotherhood	TBA Team Building, Position-Specific Youth Training, Brotherhood Ceremony Saturday PM, LEC Sunday morning.
November 11-13, 2016	National Leadership Training and 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 Lodge), Columbus, GA
April 2018	Section SR9 Conclave	TBA, (Withlacoochee Lodge <i>Our first chance to host a Conclave since becoming a lodge!!!</i> )

## ***Important Upcoming Events***

### **2016 Indian Winter**

Indian Winter is a Section SR9 event that provides Arrowmen American Indian Activities and Ceremonies related training sessions. These sessions will focus on providing a base of knowledge to each participant and will be interactive. There will be multiple sessions with "make and take" style training. If you are interested in performing OA ceremonies, Native American dance or drum, or Indian Lore as a hobby, then this is the place for you.

### **2016 Lodge Banquet**

Plan on joining all of your brothers at the 2016 Lodge Banquet on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 in Tifton.

### **2016 Endurance Ride**

Each year the Lodge provides support for the nationally sanctioned Endurance Ride at Camp Osborn. We need your help this February 5<sup>th</sup> through the 7th at Camp Osborn.

### **2016 SR9 Conclave**

**As a new brother we encourage you to plan on attending the Section SR9 Conclave in April.** Held since 1945, this annual gathering of lodges from Georgia and north Alabama is the highlight of the year. This year we travel to back to Camp Raney Mountain near Clayton, Georgia (Mowogo Lodge of Northeast Georgia Council) for the first time since 1988, where we will gather with the ten other lodges of our Section.

### **2016 Registration Forms**

Registration forms and information are always on the lodge website.