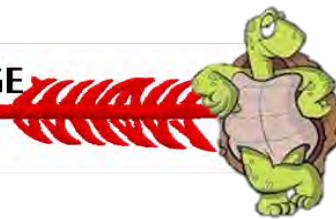


TORTOISE TALES



WITHLACOOCHEE LODGE

South Georgia Council
1841 Norman Drive
Valdosta, Georgia 31601



2015 No. 2 (May)

A Great SR-9 Centennial Conclave Celebration

Sixty-two Withlacoochee Lodge Arrowmen converged on beautiful Camp Sidney Dew 24-26 April to celebrate the Order's centennial anniversary with our brothers from SR-9. Our contingent included Arrowmen from 23 South Georgia Council troops. Activities included: formal training sessions, American Indian Activities, area shows, patch trading, competitions, and great fellowship. The weather cooperated and the evening rains didn't hamper the daytime activities. Withlacoochee Lodge took 1st place in the Plan Book competition and 2nd place for our Facebook page. Ceremonialist David Stokes, III and Jonathan Thomas received HONORS for performing the Pre-Vigil Ceremony. Our lodge cook team placed 2nd and 3rd in the adult fellowship BBQ Chicken competition and 1st place in the BBQ Rib competition. Videos of the shows, provided by Coosa Lodge, are on YouTube by searching "SR-9 2015 Conclave". Mark your calendars right now for the 2016 SR-9 Conclave to be held at Camp Rainey Mountain 15-17 April.



Sunday
July 5,
2015



ARROWTOUR



Bert Adams
Scout
Reservation

2015 marks Order of the Arrow's 100th anniversary. Arrowmen will commemorate this exciting anniversary milestone with a U.S., cross-country, tour to help reflect, connect and discover the OA's past, present and future. ArrowTour will make 110 stops across the country during the summer of 2015, to give current and former OA members, Scout and adult volunteers and Scouting alumni a chance to be a part of the 100th anniversary celebration. The tour stops are free and open to the public. On July 5th, 2015, ArrowTour will be at Bert Adams Scout Reservation near Covington, Georgia where you are invited to attend as a guest of Withlacoochee Lodge, South Georgia Council.

"For almost 100 years, being a servant leader is what the Order of the Arrow has been all about," said Alex Call, national chief of the Order of the Arrow. "It is our hope that ArrowTour will be an opportunity to tell the story of the Order of the Arrow by reflecting on our past and at the same time motivating others to give of themselves in service to others in the future."

ArrowTour guests will have an opportunity to participate in a program that will include a show that recognizes the Order's rich history and empowers participants to help shape the organization's future. The tour stop also includes interactive exhibits with activities such as silk-screening and branding and challenge games. Participants will have a chance to meet some of the OA's national youth leaders, and alumni can learn about the Scouting Alumni Association and local alumni efforts to supporting Scouting in our area. An exclusive ArrowTour trading post will carry ArrowTour and OA centennial merchandise for sale. More information about the ArrowTour routes and program can be found at <http://arrowtour.oa-bsa.org>. You can also keep up with the tour as it makes its way around the country by following @ArrowTour on Twitter. Withlacoochee Lodge will provide school bus transportation to and from the Bert Adams Scout Reservation ArrowTour stop for a nominal fee. Details of the one-day travel will be posted on the lodge website and emailed to all active members. Please email our ArrowTour contingent chairman, Aaron Lever, at oalm@withlacoocheelodge.org, for more information.

Arrowman Service Award

Congratulations to the following Withlacoochee Lodge Arrowmen for earning the ASA:

Joshua Chappell, John Crowder, Mitchell Menard, Aaron Lever, Ms. Misty Chappell, Mr. Tony Crowder, Mr. Dennis Menard, Mr. Rick Green, Mr. Dale Wilson, Mr. Lance Lever, and Mr. Stephen Waddell.

The Arrowman Service Award (ASA) is a program to recognize those Arrowmen who seek to recommit themselves to the principles of the Order, support their local units and councils and participate in the centennial celebration. Arrowmen, both youth and adult, must work to complete a set of requirements across three categories to earn the award. ASA requirement cards are available at any lodge functions or on the lodge website at www.withlacoocheelodge.org. Arrowman working towards the ASA must present his completed requirement card with all supporting signatures to the lodge adviser. The lodge adviser is the key person to determine if the requirements have been met successfully, and will grant the award as appropriate. Arrowmen can work towards the Arrowman Service Award until December 31st, 2015.



2015-2016 WITHLACOOCHEE LODGE EVENT CALENDAR

Date	Event	Location / Information
Sunday, July 5, 2015	ArrowTour	Bert Adams Scout Reservation (Full day centered on the OA centennial. From branding and fun activities, to free giveaways and interactive exhibits. School bus provided)
Jul-Sept, 2015	Troop OA Elections	Units
August 3-8, 2015 (w/ travel 1-9 Aug)	National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC)	Michigan State University E. Lansing, MI
August 21-23, 2015	Summer Fellowship / Lodge Centennial Event / Brotherhood	Camp Osborn (Extra special events to celebrate OA centennial, LEC Sunday)
August 29, 2015	SR-9 Council of Chiefs	Columbus, GA (Planning for 2016 Conclave)
September 12, 2015	Camp Osborn Service Day	Camp Osborn (Ichauway Chapter helps parking and preparing lunch)
September 25-27, 2015	South Georgia Council Fall Camporee	Reed Bingham State Park (OA Cracker Barrel Friday Night, Vigil Nomination Committee meets Fri night, Call-out Ceremony at Saturday night campfire)
October 10, 2015	Camp Patten Service Day	Camp Patten (Crooked River Chapter helps parking and preparing lunch)
November 6-8, 2015	National Leadership Seminar National Lodge Adviser Training Seminar	Joe C. Davis YMCA Camp, Antioch, TN (Great training for future lodge officers and advisers)
November 13-15, 2015	Lodge Fall Ordeal and Fellowship	Camp Osborn (Ordeal and Brotherhood Saturday, Vigil Callout after Ordeal Ceremony, 2016 Officer Elections, LEC)
December 4-5, 2015	Lodge Vigil Night / Vigil Reunion Breakfast	Camp Osborn (Vigil Honor Friday PM, Saturday AM Vigil Reunion Breakfast)
January 8-10, 2016	Section Indian Winter	Camp Thunder, Flint River Council (Ceremony, dance, drum, costume workshops. Section Council of Chiefs)
January 22-24, 2016	Lodge Banquet/LLD in conjunction w/ South Ga Council U. of S.	Planned for FUMC Tifton (LLD) (LLD begins Friday PM and continues until Saturday's Banquet. Catered Banquet Saturday PM to install new lodge officers, Founder's Award Recipients, and Vigil Honor members' public recognition. Hosted by Blackwater Chapter, LEC)
February 5-7, 2016	Endurance Ride	Camp Osborn (Lodge supports with trail guides. Fundraiser opportunity)
February 11, 2016	South Ga Council Annual Banquet	TBA (Lodge Chief presents annual review to Council Board. OA Color Guard for banquet)
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. (Mowogo is service lodge) (Support Section SR9, provide opportunities to lead, learn, and grow. Conclaves are great fun!)
August 19-21, 2016	Lodge Summer Fellowship / Brotherhood	TBA Team Building, Position-Specific Youth Training, Brotherhood Ceremony Saturday PM, LEC Sunday AM

“Never expect credit tomorrow for what you did yesterday.”

“Be Prepared... the meaning of the motto is that a scout must prepare himself by previous thinking out and practicing how to act on any accident or emergency so that he is never taken by surprise.” - Robert Baden-Powell



WITHLACOOCHEE

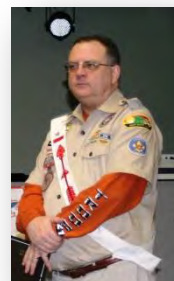
PRESENTING:
THE CENTURION AWARD



Withlacoochee Lodge is honored to announce five recipients of the Centurion Award. The recipients are:

Noah Phillips, Jonathan Thomas, David Stokes, III, Mr. J. Michael Greene, and Mr. Richard Green

For nearly 100 years, the Order of the Arrow has purposefully recognized Scouts and Scouters who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives. Therefore, our organization's centennial provides a unique opportunity to commemorate those among us who are exemplars of the "high ideals and purpose of the Order of the Arrow." The Centurion Award aims to highlight "Hometown Heroes," or Arrowmen who have meaningfully contributed to the forming, maturing and ongoing operational excellence of their local council's lodge, and who, in doing so, inspired others to follow in their footsteps. This award is a one-time recognition associated with the centennial anniversary of the OA that is bestowed by the national Order of the Arrow committee. These honorees serve as exemplars of leadership, modeling to others a commitment to cheerful service as the Order of the Arrow enters its second century. Each recipient will receive a certificate and recognition ribbon consisting of a red and white ribbon and a metallic totem symbolizing the centennial anniversary of the Order of the Arrow. Centurion Award recipient will be honored during special events at NOAC including: the Centennial Show, a special reception at the Centennial Festival and the Centennial Gala banquet. In addition, a digital publication on the national OA website chronicling the stories of each of these Arrowmen will be published. Each entry will include a photo of the Centurion in service, a listing of the lodge, council and hometown, as well as an anecdote provided from the nomination on this Centurion's unique exemplary service to the lodge. This publication will be made available after all nominations have been submitted, but before the 2015 National Order of the Arrow Conference. During ArrowTour, part of each region's static display will be reserved in order to recognize local Centurions from that particular geographic area. Lastly, the five Withlacoochee Lodge Centurion Award recipients will be honored at our Centennial Celebration held during our Summer Fellowship 21-23 August at Camp Osborn. Please take the time to congratulate our Centurion Award honorees the next time you pass them on the Scouting trail.



The vast forests, fields, oceans, and mountains of the United States have become our most vital resources in the Boy Scouts of America and the Order of the Arrow; they are, for us the staging grounds to learn life's most precious lessons for every Scout and Scouter. As an Arrowman, one of our central obligations is to be mindful of our duty to the outdoors, to not only preserve them but also to interpret the deeper messages that nature leaves behind.



From its humble beginning, the Order of the Arrow was designed as a resource to Scouting. It is often credited with maintaining the interest of older youths in Scouting and retaining many as they reach adulthood, providing a pool of leadership and resources to Scouting in the council. Withlacoochee Lodge is very fortunate to have many adult members who make valuable contributions to the lodge. Adult members give freely of their time and talents to support the lodge's programs, prepare and deliver quality training, provide financial support, assist in transporting youth to and from events, cook meals at lodge council events, and apply their knowledge and skills to help maintain our camp facilities. Many Scoutmasters integrate the OA into their troop program to maximize the Scouting opportunities for Scouts of all ages. Some Scoutmasters take full advantage of the OA program and bring their entire troops to camp when there is an OA event. The troop's leaders work with young Scouts in their campsite while the Troop OA Representative Adviser and the troop's Arrowmen participate in the lodge event. Adults are inducted into the OA because they have the potential to make a positive contribution. Specifically,

- ✦ The ability to perform the necessary functions to help the Order fulfill its purpose, and not for recognition of service, including current or prior achievement and positions.
- ✦ The individual will be an asset to the Order because of demonstrated abilities that fulfill the purpose of the Order.
- ✦ The camping requirements set forth for youth members are fulfilled.
- ✦ The adult leader's membership will provide a positive example for the growth and development of the youth members of the lodge. (Every adult is not an adviser, but every adult can set a positive example of character and servant leadership.)

One of the most important contributions adults make to our lodge is providing opportunities for the youth to learn and grow. As a youth led organization, it is essential to remember that the success of the lodge and its program rests with the Lodge Chief and his subordinate leadership. Adults may provide resources and set the conditions for success; but the youth leadership owns the process and outcome. If you are an active adult member of the lodge, we thank you for your strengthening our lodge and encourage you to continue enjoying the fellowship and providing opportunities for the youth members to experience the best that Scouting has to offer.

Withlacoochee Lodge membership dues are \$10.00. You may pay your dues at any lodge event, at either SGC Service Center, or through the mail by sending a check to the SGC Valdosta Service Center. Make checks payable to "South Georgia Council, BSA". OA members may only wear the lodge flap of the lodge where their dues are paid.



WITHLACOOCHEE LODGE SUMMER FELLOWSHIP AND CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Fresh air, sunshine, boating on Keenan Lake, great food, chapter competitions, OA historical display, Iron Arrowman competition, patch trading, burying a time capsule, Brotherhood ceremony, and lots of fellowship with your brothers. That is just a small sample of what you will be able to do if you attend the Withlacoochee Lodge Summer Fellowship / Centennial Celebration August 21-23, 2015 at Camp Osborn. The cost for the weekend is only \$25.00 if paid by August 17. The event registration form is on the lodge website. Join us for the celebration and bring a fellow Arrowman !



Lodge Chief Noah Phillips is seeking two committed Arrowmen from each chapter to deliver the OA portion of the District Program Kick-off presentation on the following evenings:

Thursday, 16 July 2015 - 8 Rivers District, Location TBD
Thursday, 23 July 2015 - Alapaha District at Camp Patten
Thursday, 30 July 2015 - Chehaw District, Location TBD

Arrowmen will be provided with "speaker's notes" for the 5-7 minute presentation which highlights the value of the OA program, upcoming lodge events, and what the OA does to enhance Scouting in South Georgia Council. Uniform is Class A with OA sash. Please contact Noah Phillips at scout97@bellsouth.net if you'd like to take advantage of this great opportunity to promote Withlacoochee Lodge and the Order of the Arrow.