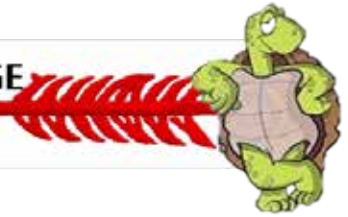


# TORTOISE TALES



**WITHLACOOCHEE LODGE**

South Georgia Council  
1841 Norman Drive  
Valdosta, Georgia 31601



2016 No. 1 (February)

## ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL ANNUAL LODGE BANQUET

The Withlacoochee Lodge annual banquet was held Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 at the First United Methodist Church Social Hall and we had a great crowd of Arrowmen and guests. The event was scheduled to coincide with the Lodge Leadership Development Course and the South Georgia Council's University of Scouting in order to further integrate Order of the Arrow programs into council events and give our membership a chance to attend more than one Scouting event at the same location. The catered meal was superb and members and their guests had a great evening of fellowship. We were honored to have Patrick Mapp, the SR-9 Section Chief and Clayton Carte, the SR-9 CVC, join us for the day. The program included a slide show of our 2015 events; awarding certificates and cards to our new Vigil Honor members; recognizing the 2015 LLD graduates, Centurion Award recipients, and ceremony team; presentation of two Founder's Awards; presentation of a James E. West Fellowship; and installation of the 2016 Withlacoochee Lodge officers. Every attendee had the opportunity to purchase a raffle ticket for camping items, patches, and outdoor gear. A special thanks to Vigil Honor member Mr. Tim Griggs for orchestrating the raffle. The lodge would also like to thank the Blackwater Chapter, and especially the Arrowmen of Troop 62, for hosting such a successful event.



2016 Order of the Arrow Founder's Award Recipients  
David Stokes, III and Mr. James Turk



2014-2016 Withlacoochee Lodge Chief Noah Phillips  
receiving the James E. West Fellowship from  
Lodge Adviser Mr. Merrill Dickinson



Centurion Award Recipients Mr. Rick Green, Jonathan Thomas,  
Mr. Mike Greene, Noah Phillips, David Stokes, III



## LODGE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



Sixteen youth members from Withlacoochee Lodge completed the Lodge Leadership Development training course held on 22-23 January 2016 in order to better prepare them to lead Withlacoochee Lodge into the Order of the Arrow's second century. Lodge Leadership Development or LLD is an intense course which includes formal classroom instruction and team-building exercise. Participants learned the structure of the Order of the Arrow, effective communication, chapter management, Journey to Excellence Program, budgeting and lodge finance, goal-setting, and time management. Participants had an opportunity to fellowship and learn from current and past SR-9 section officers and really understand the purpose of why Arrowmen are devoted to a life of cheerful service. Lodge Leadership development is the highest level of formal leadership training offered at the lodge level. Mark your calendar now for the 2017 LLD. It will be held the same weekend at the University of Scouting and Lodge banquet.



## SR-9 2016 CONCLAVE

**Who:** All active (dues paid) Withlacoochee Lodge Arrowmen.

**What:** Conclave is an annual gathering of the 11 lodges in SR-9. There will be a variety of activities for all Arrowmen offered at conclave: camping at a beautiful camp, formal training, multi-media shows, ceremony competitions, dance and drum team competitions, sporting events, and patch trading.

**Where:** Camp Rainey Mountain, Clayton Ga, hosted by Mowogo Lodge. (We will have transportation.)

**When:** April 15-17, 2016

**Why:** An opportunity to take advantage of the best the OA has to offer: fun, fellowship, and camping.

**How:** Event fee is \$33.00 if paid by 22 March.

Registration forms on our website at: [www.withlacoocheelodge.org](http://www.withlacoocheelodge.org) and our Facebook page.



## SR-9 2016 CONCLAVE



Annual membership dues for Withlacoochee Lodge is \$10.00. You may pay your dues at either South Georgia Council Service Center or through the mail by sending a check to the South Georgia Council Valdosta Service Center.

Make checks payable to "South Georgia Council-OA Dues".

OA members may only wear the lodge flap of the lodge where their dues are paid.




### WITHLACOOCHEE LODGE SPRING ORDEAL AND FELLOWSHIP

Mark your calendars for the Withlacoochee Lodge Spring Ordeal and Fellowship weekend, March 4-6, 2016 at Camp Patten in Lakeland, Georgia. Member registration is \$20.00 if paid by February 29<sup>th</sup>. Check-in is between 6:00-8:00 PM on Friday evening in the Copeland Conference Center. We will depart camp not later than 2:00 noon on Sunday. Activities include: Ordeal ceremony, chapter competitions, a Brotherhood training session and ceremony, patch trading, and lots of fellowship. And you'll get a VERY cool event patch. Your 2016 dues must be paid to attend this event.

The registration form is attached to this newsletter.

(Scoutmasters - Consider bringing all Arrowmen in your troop!)



 Becoming a Brotherhood member marks the completion of a member's induction into the Order of the Arrow. If you have been an Ordeal member for more than ten months, you are eligible to take the next step and become a Brotherhood member of Withlacoochee Lodge. The requirements to seal your membership can be found in the *OA Handbook* under **THE CHALLENGES OF BROTHERHOOD MEMBERSHIP**. The next opportunity to become a Brotherhood member will be at the Spring Fellowship Weekend, March 4-6, 2016 at Camp Patten. Finish what you've started and experience the best the OA has to offer!



[oa-bsa.org/jamboree](http://oa-bsa.org/jamboree)

#FuelScoutingsAdventure

The Order of the Arrow will seek to make history with Operation Arrow at the 2017 National Scout Jamboree. Over 750 youth Arrowmen will answer the call to serve as part of Operation Arrow - the largest jamboree staff team ever assembled by the Order of the Arrow!

Operation Arrow staff members will support the jamboree program by joining one of three primary OA program areas: the Service Corps, the Trek Guides and the Indian Village. Serving on OA staff at a jamboree is a demanding, yet rewarding experience. Staff members should be prepared to work full days, with at least one full day off to enjoy the exciting jamboree program. Interested Arrowmen should apply to join the Operation Arrow team through the BSA jamboree registration system and pay the required deposit. Jamboree staff requirements include:

- Be at least 16, but not yet 21 years of age by July 19th, 2017
- Be able to commit to the full length of the jamboree (staff session 1)
- Be physically fit and meet the BSA height & weight guidelines
- Obtain approval from their lodge adviser

## Lodge Chief Establishes 2016 Goals

Lodge Chief Saul Crumpton has established his goals for 2016. The goals are under the SMART format (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time frame). Each goal has a set of objectives and each objective has a leader, or person responsible for managing the completion of the objective. Saul presented his goals to the lodge officers at the Lodge Leadership Development Course in January. Please take the time to read and understand the Chief's goals for Withlacoochee Lodge in 2016 and decide what you are going to do to help the lodge achieve the goals.

Goal 1			
Short Title: Improve Member Participation at Events by at Least 10%			
S	This is a key goal for almost any group or club.		
M	Goal will be measured using OA Lodge Master attendance numbers		
A	Going from 30% to 40% is achievable		
R	Highly attainable and realistic- will help make a better lodge by reaching more members		
T	Complete by end of 2016		
	Objectives	Leader	Completion Date
1	Develop a plan for training Elangomats and Nimats in order to enhance quality of program	Inductions Chairman	Nov 30 2016
2	Personally invite Arrowmen to our next event	Chapter Chiefs	Two weeks before each event
3	Survey the membership about what LLD classes they would like to attend	Training Chairman	Dec 31 2016

Goal 2			
Short Title: Improve Communication with Lodge Membership			
S	Linked to the communication committee/ lodge secretary		
M	Goal will be measured using Website counter, likes on Facebook posts and Twitter tweets		
A	All objectives are definitely attainable		
R	Will also go along with Goal 1 in making the lodge better by reaching more members		
T	Complete by end of 2016		
	Objectives	Leader	Completion Date
1	Have at least one virtual LEC using collaborative or web conferencing	Communications committee/Secretary	Dec 31 2016
2	Send out 2 mass texts as event reminders	Communications committee/Secretary	Two weeks before each event
3	Better utilize social media accounts to better communicate with the lodge membership	Communications committee/Secretary	Dec 31 2016

Follow us: [withlacoocheelodge](#)

@withlacoochee98



"Question not, but live and labour,  
Till yon goal be won,  
Helping every feeble neighbour,  
Seeking help from none;  
Life is mostly froth and bubble,  
Two things stand like stone,  
KINDNESS in another's trouble,  
COURAGE in your own." -Adam Lindsey



### WITHLACOOCHEE LODGE CEREMONY TEAM

Participating in lodge ceremonies can be the most meaningful and rewarding way to contribute to the lodge and serve your fellow Arrowmen. You will have a chance to meet and work with outstanding young Arrowmen, gain a deeper understanding of our Order's customs and traditions, and learn about Native American culture and craft. If you are interested in joining the lodge ceremony team, please contact Jonathan Thomas, Withlacoochee Lodge Ceremony Team Chairman at: [thomasjonathand@gmail.com](mailto:thomasjonathand@gmail.com)

## Upcoming Lodge Events

Date	Event	Location / Information
March 4-6, 2016	Lodge Spring Ordeal and Fellowship	Camp Patten (Ordeal and Brotherhood Saturday, LEC Sunday AM)
April 1-3, 2016	<b>National Leadership Seminar &amp; Developing Youth Leaders Conference</b>	Haw River State Park, Browns Summit, NC (Great training for future lodge officers and advisers)
April 15-17, 2016	Section SR9 Conclave	Camp Rainey Mtn., Clayton, GA (Mowogo) (Support Section SR9, provide opportunities to lead, learn, and grow.)
August 1-5, 2016	NEXT: A New Century – Lodge officers to be inspired how they can be the driving force in the OA's second century.	Indiana University, Bloomington, IN Lodge Chief and two additional youth Lodge Adviser and one additional adviser
August 12-14, 2016	Lodge Summer Fellowship / Brotherhood	TBA Team Building, Position-Specific Youth Training, Brotherhood Ceremony Saturday PM, LEC Sunday AM
November 11-13, 2016	<b>National Leadership Seminar National Lodge Adviser Training Seminar</b>	Shocco Springs Conf. Center, Talladega, AL (Great training for future lodge officers and advisers)
April 21-23, 2017	Section SR9 Conclave	Camp Lumpkin (Chattahoochee) (Support Section SR9, provide opportunities to lead, learn, and grow.)
April, 2018	Section SR9 Conclave	TBD (Withlacochee). Yes, this is our opportunity to host our first Conclave!

### OUR 2016 - 2017 LODGE EVENT CALENDAR

*Withlacochee Lodge exists to support South Georgia Council. As such, the lodge event calendar is nested in the council program year calendar. While the dates for all lodge events have not been finalized; 2016 will prove to be an exciting year. We will support unit elections August-September, host service days at each of our camps, be an integral part of the council's fall camporee, hold a fall fellowship and ordeal weekend, and have an LLD and banquet. The council's 2016-2017 program year calendar will reflect the dates and locations for these events.*

### Technological Advances

The lodge will be trying to take advantage of new technological trends this year, including QR codes and mass texting. Please be sure that the Lodge has your cell phone number so that we can add you to the blast texter!

Also: be sure to follow us on social media! QR codes for all websites are below-just download a scanner app!

