

TORTOISE TALES



WITHLACOOCHEE

South Georgia Council
1841 Norman Drive
Valdosta, Georgia, 31601



2017 No. 2 (MAY)

WITHLACOOCHEE LODGE HOLDS SPRING INDUCTIONS WEEKEND

Withlacochee Lodge held its Spring Inductions Weekend March 3-5, 2017 at Camp Patten near Lakeland, GA. Fifty-two Arrowmen participated for a weekend of camp service and fellowship. Camp service projects included clearing brush to expand the amphitheater, cleaning out the storage shed and assembling canopies, which were used during Merit Badge University. Members enjoyed fine cuisine prepared by the lodge cook team and there were plenty of activities to keep members engaged in the program. The lodge also welcomed 8 new Ordeal members:

Harris Sharon
Tanner Dziedzic

Phillip Millerd
Patrick Dziedzic

Mohonri Millerd
Elijah Lapeza

Micajah Steedley
Tim Lull

In addition to our new Ordeal members, 3 members completed the induction process and achieved Brotherhood member status. Our new Brotherhood members from the Spring Inductions Weekend are:

John Frost

Dylan Teel

Thomas Rischar

Two of our members kept the Vigil during our Spring Inductions Weekend and received the highest level of membership, the Vigil Honor, during an early morning ceremony on Saturday. The new Vigil Honor members are: Mr. Bob Roquemore and Jonathan Morey.

"The founders of both the Scouting Movement and the Order of the Arrow valued camping as a way to teach Scouting skills. But each Scout who has truly experienced the outdoors while camping will value camping for its own sake. True, it is in the outdoors that many Scouts learn how to tie their knots and their bandages, and first use a compass. But it is also true that the outdoors is where a Scout's self-reliance is fostered."



Congratulations to the following Withlacochee Lodge Arrowmen for earning the Outstanding Arrowman Award during the 2016-2017 program year:

Alex Walker
Walter Bryan
Allen Lehman
Caleb Phillips

J. Michael Greene
Richard Green
Matthew Stokes
Darren Williams

Dale Wilson
David Vaughan
Andrew Smith
Noah Phillips

Dennis Menard
Matt Hart
Jim Halter
Tim Griggs

The next opportunity to earn the Outstanding Arrowman Award will be during the 2017-2018 program year starting at our Summer Fellowship in August 25-27, 2017 at Camp Patten.

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WITHLACOOCHEE LODGE ATTENDS SR-9 HEARTLAND GATHERING

Forty-one Withlacoochee Lodge Arrowmen attended the SR-9 inaugural Heartland Gathering April 21-22, 2017 at Camp Frank G. Lumpkin near LaGrange Georgia. Our Arrowmen came from 12 different units in South Georgia Council and included several new Ordeal members. We would especially like to thank the adult leaders of Troops 898, 270, 454, 416, and 1 for integrating OA events into their troop program and for bringing such a large number of their Arrowmen to the event. It is clear that participating in OA events strengthens a unit's overall program.

We had a great adventure with over 800 other Arrowmen from Alabama and Georgia. Camp Lumpkin is a splendid property. We had a perfect campsite location, enjoyed fine meals, reconnected with Arrowmen from across the section, and were recognized for placing in several competitions. Not only did we compete well, but our seasoned Arrowmen contributed to the program. Noah Phillips served as Conclave Vice Chairmen for Training. David Stokes, III served as Conclave Vice Chairman for Ceremonies and also performed the Vigil Honor Rededication ceremony on Friday evening. Mr. Jim Halter served on the security staff. Three of our Arrowmen prepared and facilitated training sessions on Saturday morning that were well received by all who attended. Our Lodge Chief spent some of his time supporting the Shows Committee. Withlacoochee Lodge Arrowmen made significant contributions to the success of Heartland Gathering and our contributions are testimony to our strong brotherhood. For many Arrowmen, Heartland Gathering is the largest OA event they will ever attend. Be sure to mark your calendars now to attend the 2018 SR-9 Heartland Gathering schedule for April 20-22, 2018 at Comer Scout Reservation near Mentone, Alabama.

Withlacoochee Lodge Awards at 2017 SR-9 Heartland Gathering	
	First Place for our lodge newsletter, <i>Tortoise Tales</i>
	First Place for our 2017-2018 Lodge Planbook
	Third Place for Chief's Annual Lodge Report
	Second Place Overall Admin Competition
	First Place Tug-of-War Competition
	Third Place Lodge Ball Competition
	Third Place Overall Quest Events
	Third Place Training Participation
	Mr. Walt Bryan won Second Place for People's Choice Dessert (5-Layer Cake)
	Mr. Chet Lapeza won Third Place for People's Choice Dessert (Cherry Chocolate Cake)
	David Stokes, III received Honors for performing the Vigil Ceremony



REDSHAW'S MAKE LODGE HISTORY - Two very special Withlacoochee Arrowmen were inducted into the Vigil Honor during a ceremony on Saturday, April 8th, 2017. Ranger Rusty Redshaw and his son, Rhett, kept the Vigil on the same evening at Camp Patten. This was the first Withlacoochee Lodge father-son Vigil induction in our lodge history and we could not be prouder of these two fine Arrowmen. Rusty and Rhett were recommended to the national Order of the Arrow committee as Vigil Honor candidates in the fall of 2016 but due to other commitments, were unable to keep the Vigil until this spring. *"It was important to Rhett and Rusty to keep the Vigil at Camp Patten and on the same evening"*, said lodge adviser Merrill Dickinson. *"We worked hard to honor their wishes and by the efforts of our very committed ceremony team, we were able to provide them an experience I know they will cherish for the rest of their lives,"* he added. 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 or office to one or more of the following: their lodge, the Order of the Arrow, Scouting or their Scout camp.

Lodge Leadership Announces Dues and Event Registration Fee Increase

The Lodge Executive Committee (LEC) voted unanimously on March 5th, 2017 to increase the annual lodge dues from \$10.00 per year to \$15.00 per year effective January 1st, 2018. The decision to increase the annual dues was in response to a national dues increase from \$3.00 to \$5.00. Withlacoochee Lodge is required to pay annual national dues for each of its active members when we submit our annual re-charter application. Members can pay \$10.00 for their 2018 annual dues before the end of 2017 prior to the increase to \$15.00 on January 1st, 2018 if they so desire. Members may pay their annual lodge 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.

The LEC also examined our event registration fees for our two induction weekends and summer fellowship and voted to increase event registration fees by \$5.00 for each of these three events. The new event registration fees will be:

Registration Type	From	To
Member Event Early Bird	\$20.00	\$25.00
Member Event after Early Bird deadline	\$25.00	\$30.00
Ordeal Candidate Early Bird	\$40.00	\$45.00
Ordeal Candidate after Early Bird deadline	\$45.00	\$50.00
Brotherhood Candidate Early Bird	\$35.00	\$40.00
Brotherhood Candidate after Early Bird	\$40.00	\$45.00

The early bird deadline is typically one week prior to the event. Early bird registration helps us have an accurate headcount to purchase food and prepare the event program.

The event registration fee increase is to cover the cost of food, camp supplies and program material. According to Withlacoochee Lodge Treasurer Caleb Phillips, "Withlacoochee Lodge has not had an event registration fee increase in over 4 years. If we want to continue serving quality meals, we must keep up with escalating food costs. In addition, we typically resupply the camp's consumable supplies so they are on-hand for the next event. The LEC acted very responsibly to increase the event registration fees so we can continue to offer the same quality program to our members."

The event registration fee increase will be effective starting at the lodge Summer Fellowship in August 25-27, 2017 at Camp Patten. (And remember to always register before the early bird deadline so you can save money for other Scouting activities!)

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 David Stokes, III, Withlacoochee Lodge Ceremony Team Chairman, at: davidstokes3@gmail.com



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 Summer Fellowship Weekend, August 25-27, 2017 at Camp Patten. Finish what you've started and experience the best the OA has to offer!

The lodge leadership is seeking two committed youth Arrowmen from each chapter to deliver the OA portion of the District Program Kick-off presentations on Thursday evening, July 13th, 2017 at each district Program Kick-off. The locations and times will be provided at a later date.

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 lodge adviser, Mr. Merrill Dickinson at email: dickinsons112@gmail.com if you'd like to take advantage of this great opportunity to represent our great lodge and promote the Order of the Arrow.

2017-2018 WITHLACOOCHEE LODGE EVENT CALENDAR

Withlacoochee Lodge exists to support the South Georgia Council. As such, lodge events are nested in the council's calendar so Order of the Arrow events remain an integral part of Scouting. While the lodge has several fun and inspiring events planned for this fall; 2018 is certainly shaping up to be a particularly exciting year. Withlacoochee Lodge will celebrate its five year anniversary. We will attend the 2018 Heartland Gathering at Comer Scout Reservation, Alabama. And..... we will send 15 Arrowman to the National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC) July 30th – August 4th at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana. We sure have a lot to look forward to!!

Date	Event	Location / Information
August 25-27, 2017	Lodge Summer Fellowship	Camp Patten (Team Building, Camp Service, Position-Specific Youth Training, Brotherhood Ceremony)
August-September 2017	Troop OA Elections	Units & Chapter Election Teams
September 9, 2017	Camp Patten Service Day	Camp Patten (Crooked River Chapter helps parking and preparing lunch)
September 8-10, 2017 (OA Region Event)	National Leadership Seminar (NLS) & Developing Youth Leadership Conference (DYLC)	Fruitland Park, FL Cost is \$210.00, ½ NLS Scholarships <i>may</i> be available. (Great training for future lodge officers and advisers)
September 22-24, 2017	South Georgia Council Fall Camporee	Camp Patten (OA Cracker Barrel Friday Night, Vigil Nomination Committee meets Fri night, Call-out Ceremony at Saturday night campfire)
November 10-12, 2017	Lodge Fall Induction Weekend	Camp Patten (Ordeal and Brotherhood Saturday, Vigil Callout after Ordeal Ceremony, 2018 Officer Elections, LEC), Camp Service
December 1-2, 2017	Lodge Vigil Night / Vigil Reunion Breakfast	Camp Patten (Vigil Honor Friday PM, Saturday AM Vigil Reunion Breakfast)
January 20, 2018	Lodge Banquet/LLD in conjunction w/ South Ga Council University of Scouting	Planned for FUMC Tifton (LLD 8:30 AM-4:30 PM. Catered Banquet Saturday 6:00 PM to install new lodge officers, Founder's Award Recipients, and Vigil Honor members' public recognition. Hosted by Blackwater)
February 2-4, 2018 (Section SR-9 Event)	Section SR-9 Indian Winter	Black Creek Scout Reservation (Ceremony, dance, drum, costume workshops. Section Council of Chiefs) I-Tsu-La is service lodge.
February 3, 2018	South Georgia Council Annual Banquet	Tifton (Lodge Chief presents lodge annual report to Council Board)
March 2-4, 2018	Lodge Spring Induction Weekend	Camp Patten (Ordeal and Brotherhood Saturday, LEC Sunday AM) Camp Service
April 20-22, 2018 (Section SR-9 Event)	Section SR-9 Heartland Gathering	Comer Scout Reservation (Coosa is service lodge). (Support Section SR-9, provide opportunities to lead, learn, and grow.)
July 30-August 4, 2018	National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC)	Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana (12 Youth & 3 Adults)

You were elected to the Order of the Arrow because you are a proficient camper and you display the Scout Oath and Scout Law. If you are attending summer camp with your troop, remember that those who elected you need you. Lend a helping hand to your fellow Scouts; especially the young Tenderfoot first-year campers. If you are going to Jamboree 2017 or visiting a BSA high-adventure base, remember to be a good teammate to your fellow Scouts and show them cheerful service. You are a valued member of Scouting's National Honor Society and you are expected to fulfill the OA Obligation and set the example of cheerful service. Our nation needs Scouting and Scouting needs Arrowmen. Have a safe and adventurous Scouting summer and we look forward to seeing you at our Summer Fellowship!

