

Tortoise Tales

2018 Lodge Annual Winter Banquet

On January 20th, 2018 Withlacoochee Lodge gathered for our annual winter banquet at First United Methodist Church in Tifton to celebrate another successful year of cheerful service. That morning we also held our Lodge Leadership Development Course as well as the South Georgia Councils University of Scouting to further integrate Order of the Arrow programs with council events and give the opportunity to attend more than one Scouting event in one location. Highlights from the evening included:

- ✂ Honoring our 2017 Vigil Class
- ✂ Presentation of the James E. Fellowship Award to Mr. Merrill Dickinson
- ✂ Recognizing the 2017 Lodge officers and Lodge Executive Committee
- ✂ Installation of the 2018 Lodge officers
- ✂ Recognizing the 2017 Lodge Ceremony Team
- ✂ Honoring Outstanding Arrowman Award Recipients
- ✂ Presentation of a Native American painting to Saul Crumpton by Mr. David Vaughan
- ✂ Closing remarks by Mr. Matt Hart, Council Executive

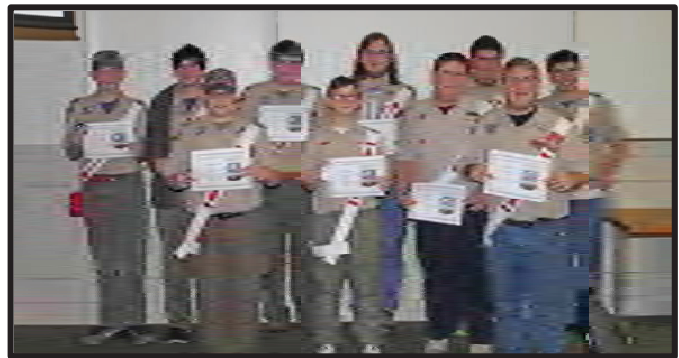
Attendees enjoyed a delicious meal while they viewed a slide show of last year's events. The Lodge would like to thank Arrowman Matthew Collins for helping us schedule the church facility and for operating the audio-visual equipment. We would also like to thank everyone who was involved in and contributed to the raffle and patch auction.

Outstanding Arrowman Award

There is still plenty of time to earn the Withlacoochee Lodge Outstanding Arrowman Award before the end of our program year which is the 2018 Heartland Gathering 20-22 April, 2018. Award requirements are on the lodge website at www.withlacoocheelodge.org



Winter Banquet Pictures



Spring Induction Weekend

Our Spring Inductions Weekend was held March 2-4 at Camp Patten in Lakeland, Georgia. Arrowmen from across South Georgia Council came together for a weekend of food, fun, and fellowship. We inducted seven new Ordeal members as well as four new Brotherhood members. We completed many service projects around camp, including burying an electric cable in camp, relocating lots of supplies and tools to the barn, and cleaning up some limbs around camp. We had an LLD training session on Unit Elections. As usual, we had amazing food, thanks to the Lodge Cook Team. A great time was had by all in attendance!

Camp Osborn Service Days

Our arrowmen have been giving many hours of service to help return Camp Osborn to its former glory. Please plan to help out at the next service day in August.



Heartland Gathering

This year, the Annual Section SR-Heartland Gathering was hosted by Coosa Lodge at Camp Comer. It took place April 20-22, 2018. Arrowmen participated in athletic competitions, training sessions, and more. There was a lot of patch trading too! Withlacoochee Lodge took 1st place in the Lodge Planbook and 3rd place in Newsletters. All in attendance had an amazing time.

National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC)

Arrowmen 2018 is the year of the National Order of the Arrow conference! It will be held the beautiful Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. NOAC gives opportunities like nothing else from training and competitions to activities there's always something fun to do at NOAC! If you are interested in attending NOAC feel free to ask any of your Lodge Executive Committee members or Advisors on how to sign up. The slots are limited so make sure that you are going to attend NOAC 2018 this is something you don't want to miss!

Encouraging Brotherhood Conversion

Did you complete your Ordeal without flinching? Are you ready now to seal your membership? If you are currently an Ordeal member who is eligible to complete his Brotherhood conversion now is the time! There are three chances in 2018 for you to complete your Brotherhood next being our Summer Fellowship weekend August 24-26, 2018. You will also be able to again in August at our Fall inductions weekend in November. We encourage all members to complete their Brotherhood to help strengthen them in the Order of the Arrow. Make sure to contact you Elangomat to see when you are eligible.



Lodge Ceremonies

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

Follow us on Social Media!

Withlacoocheelodge



Withlacoochee98



@withlacoochee98



Annual membership dues for Withlacoochee Lodge are \$15.00. 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.

LODGE CHIEF JONATHAN LEWIS ESTABLISHES 2018 GOALS FOR WITHLACOOCHEE LODGE

Brothers,

Thank you for electing me for 2018 Lodge Chief. I am excited to serve you in this position for the next year and I will do my best to make this a great year as we celebrate the five-year anniversary of our lodge. I look forward to working with the new lodge officers to build on the work of past Chiefs. Thanks to Matthew Stokes, our 2017 Lodge Chief, and all the other Withlacoochee Lodge officers for their hard work to make 2017 a great year.

-Jonathan Lewis,
2018 Withlacoochee Lodge Chief

Goal 1			
Short Title: Retain New Members			
S	Have at least 10% of new members come to at least one of the next two events immediately following their ordeal		
M	This can be measured using OALM to see how many new members are coming back after their ordeals and/or going through their brotherhood conversion		
A	This is very reasonable.		
R	Keeps new members engaged		
T	This will be done by the LEC throughout the year		
Objectives		Leader	Completion Date
1	More meaningful service projects for the candidates	Service Chairman	Each event
2	Ask new members to help with ceremonies, serve as an Elangomat, supporting Unit visitations, etc.	Chairman and Chapter Chiefs	Throughout the year and prior to each event
3	Contact each new member approximately one month after their ordeal(implement extended Elangomat program)	Chapter Chiefs	One month after each ordeal weekend
4	Have members welcome candidates to camp on their ordeal weekend	Inductions Chairman	Each ordeal weekend
Goal 2			
Short Title: Prepare Camp Osborn for future Section events			
S	The Lodge will be working to restore Camp Osborn.		
M	This can be measured by checking the completion of the projects listed below.		
A	We can work on these projects at our events and camp service days.		
R	Withlacoochee Lodge will be hosting 2 Section events in the near future.		
T	This needs to be done by the end of the year since we'll be hosting Indian Winter in early 2019.		
Objectives		Leader	Completion Date
1	Monthly Camp Osborn Workdays	Lodge Chief	Each month
2	Plant trees	Each Chapter Chief	Each induction / fellowship weekend
3	Repair picnic tables	Service Chairman	Each induction / fellowship weekend
4	Establish each Campsite with a table, campsite sign, and fire ring	Service Chairman	Each induction / fellowship weekend
5	Support the Properties Committee as requested	Service Chairman	Each induction / fellowship weekend