

Tail and Feather

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Indian Waters Council

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"Happiness doesn't come from being rich, nor merely from being successful in your career, nor by self-indulgence. One step towards happiness is to make yourself healthy and strong while you are young so that you can be useful and so you can enjoy life when you are old." – **Sir Robert Baden-Powell**

CONCLAVE CONQUEST

Nathan Arant, VC Comms.

A delegation of 106 Muscogee #116 Arrowmen from across the Pee Dee and Midlands regions converged on Wadmalaw Island, SC for what would be the first Cornerstone Conclave attended by the newly constituted Muscogee #116. Created through a merger of Santee #116 and Muscogee #221 at the beginning of 2023, in four short months Muscogee #116 has begun its rise to levels of brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service not seen in recent years across the other lodges in Section E-7. Indeed, it was a good weekend for the foxes and parakeets.

Friday night's opening show kicked-off the weekend, with Section Shows Coordinator and #116's own, Gabe Gainey, presiding as emcee. Conclave host, Unali'Yi lodge, treated the delegations assembled at Camp Ho Non Wah's Council Ring to a collection of original skits and audience-led games, with a massive fireworks display to end the show. Later in the night, after a cracker barrel of nachos, patch trading continued into the wee hours of Friday night, while most retired to their bunks for a night of fitful sleep, light rain, and the occasional sand flea.

Saturday morning dawned clear and bright, with the smell of fresh coffee, cheese omelets, and lowcountry grits (truly manna from heaven). Administrative events and ceremonies competitions opened the day, with Muscogee #116 ready to perform the Pre-Ordeal and Brotherhood ceremonies and showcase a new lodge display, video, newsletter, and website. The balance of the morning was spent in the recently reintroduced knowledge & training sessions, where Preston K. (VC Admin) and Aidan D. (VC Finance) presented "Extended Elangomat Program" training to those in attendance. Meanwhile, further down the Bohicket River's western bank, Muscogee's totem pole carving team used hand tools to create a design, judged second to only one other lodge.

After lunch of chicken filet sandwiches, chips and a cookie, the Muscogee #116 delegation began a truly remarkable run through the Quest for the Golden Arrow, a tournament of field day style Scout events. Of the 11 Quest events, Muscogee #116 won first place in six of 11, a feat not seen since 2019, when Santee won six of the 12 Quest events. It may be worth noting that Muscogee shared a three-way tie in the ultimate frisbee competition, due to a late afternoon rainstorm, which prevented completion of the final games.

The afternoon thunderstorm didn't dampen spirits, and the sky cleared just in time for dinner.

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Muscogee #116 Hand-carved Totem Pole

CHIEFLY SPEAKING

Grace Franklin, Lodge Chief

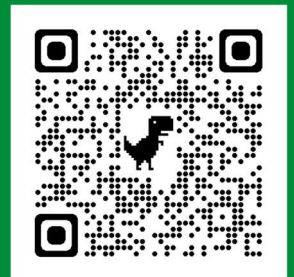
It is my pleasure to share some updates and news with you in this edition of Chiefly Speaking.

Firstly, congratulations to everyone who participated in the recent Section E-7 Conclave! Our lodge had an amazing time, and I am proud to announce that we brought home several awards, including 1st Place in Quest for the Golden Arrow, 3rd Place for Lodge of the Year, and 3rd Place for Spirit. Well done to our delegation, and let's keep up the great work as we prepare for next year's event at Belk Scout Reservation from April 26-28, 2024. Our goal is to bring home the Lodge of the Year award!

Our Spring Fellowship is coming up soon at Camp Barstow on May 19-21, and I hope to see many of you there. The theme for the weekend is "Brotherhood", which is the first this year's series of themes, "Keep the Fire Burning." We have many exciting activities, shows, and training sessions planned, and an opportunity to seal your membership in the OA through the Brotherhood Challenge and Ceremony. Don't forget to register today to secure your spot for a fantastic weekend!

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UNIT ELECTIONS



**CONTACT YOUR
CHAPTER TEAM**



Muscogee #116's Cornerstone Conclave contingent, basking in the glory of another successful showing

CONCLAVE PATCH ECONOMY

Michael O'Neal

The lodge's spirit theme for this year's Cornerstone Conclave's was "Muscogee Flight #116." Preston K. and Aidan D. designed the delegate patch set, featuring a parakeet plane with parakeet and fox co-pilots. The delegation appreciated the set's appearance, and it shows the artists' dedication to their work. This year's Muscogee Lodge Cornerstone Conclave patch set traded well with other lodges, making this a successful year for patch trading.

Although it was our first Conclave, we were able to snag The Golden Arrow, and I am genuinely proud of you all. I hope everyone was able to enjoy Conclave and trade up all their patches!



"Muscogee Flight #116" Delegate Set

AN ULTIMATE FRISBEE STORY

Nathan Arant, VC Comms.

The tension was palpable as the Muscogee #116 Ultimate Frisbee team took the field at the Conclave 2023 tournament. Head coach, Kevin Tidwell, had spent countless hours preparing his team for this moment, and now it was time for them to shine. Team captain, Casey J., led the charge, with Jay S. as co-captain. With Tidwell serving as Head Coach, they were determined to give it their all and bring home a victory for Muscogee Lodge.



Ransom N. takes flight during Ult. Frisbee

Their first match was against AKK Lodge, and it was a nail-biter from start to finish. The two teams were evenly matched, and it seemed like the game could go either way. But with a score of 4-4 at the end of regulation, it was time for overtime. The tension was at an all-time high as the two teams battled it out on the field. Muscogee Lodge managed to score the winning goal, securing a hard-fought victory with a final score of 5-4.

Their next opponent was the team from Bob White Lodge, an historically strong team. Both

teams were well-matched, and the score was 5-5...again, going into the dreaded overtime. But our team kept pushing and kept fighting! With the roar of the crowd and an extraordinary effort, Muscogee's teamwork finally paid off, as the lodge secured the win. We can congratulate these athletic heroes for their victory on behalf of Muscogee Lodge, as we look forward to securing another win at next year's Cornerstone Conclave.

LOCAL SHARPSHOOTER!!

Nathan Arant, VC Comms

Gabe Gainey had always been a bit awkward when it came to archery. But when it came time at legacy Santee Lodge to call upon someone to fire a ceremonial flaming arrow for tap-outs he was on call. Unfortunately, he had a bitter experience that haunted him for years. It all started when he was just a young Scout, eagerly waiting to shoot his first EVER flaming arrow to signal the Chief's entrance on the lake. But things quickly went wrong. He fired too low. The audience didn't see the arrow. What's worse, he hit the lake's weak spot! A small fire broke out, burning the entire lake and only leaving one single drop of water. Ever since that incident, Gabe has been too scared to pick up a bow and arrow.

Fast-forward to Saturday at Conclave. Muscogee Lodge called upon an archer to compete and found none willing. Sensing an opportunity, Gabe once again accepted the challenge. At first, he was hesitant to participate, but with encouragement from his fellow Arrowmen and the opportunity to face his past, he was eventually persuaded to give it a try. To everyone's surprise, Gabe quickly

showed signs of expert marksmanship, hitting the target with ease.

But it wasn't just his physical ability that impressed the Lodge. It was the fact that he was willing to face his fear head-on and overcome it. Gabe took no less than 10 minutes to warm-up, barely time to hone his rusty skills, and pushed past his own limitations. Congratulations, Gabe, for finishing first place!



"Sharpshooter" hat foreshadows victory

CAMPAIGN PROMISES INCOMING!

Joshua Prevette, VC Program

Get Ready for the most Fun-tastic Spring Fellowship Yet! Hello, Muscogee Lodge! This is your Vice Chief of Program here, and let me tell you, I am beyond excited for Spring Fellowship. You might be thinking, "Oh, it's just another Fellowship," but I promise you, this is going to be the most fun-tastic event you've ever experienced.

First, we've got a killer theme: "Brotherhood." And, no, we're not just talking about the ceremony (although that's going to be awesome too). We're talking about creating a bond between all of us that's stronger than super glue, duct tape, and bungee cords combined. We're going to be doing activities that will make you feel like you're a part of something bigger than yourself, something that makes you want to shout from the rooftops, "I am an Arrowman, and I am proud!"

But that's not all. We've got shows that will make your sides hurt from laughing and your heart burst with joy. We've got training sessions that will make you a better leader, a better team player, and an all-around better person. We've got fellowship (duh) that will create memories that will last a lifetime. And let's not forget about the food. Oh, the food. Let's just say you won't be going home hungry.

THE SECRET INTRODUCTION

Nathan Arant, VC Comms

Congratulations to all who discovered the secret to the QR code in last month's newsletter, though I am sorry to report that nobody found my secret article. You must dig deeper. Look for a sign, a totem even. For those that did not figure out the QR code, it was a hyperlink hidden by conversion to Base64. Good luck to you all in the search for the hidden article!

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Unali'Yi served a fine plate of barbequed pork, hash, rice, and green beans, including a dinner roll to sop-up any last morsels of pork meat. Throw-in a bottomless cup of iced tea, and the delegation was in a virtual food coma heading into the closing show.

Saturday night's closing show started with an American Indian dance demonstration, featuring two Women's Fancy Shawl dancers and a drum team, both from Unali'Yi lodge. After hotly contested Section officer elections, the contingent moved to the activity field to enjoy the Bohicket Bash and a night full of patch trading. Unali'Yi capped off a day full of wonderful meals with a cracker barrel of chocolate sheet cake, ice cream, and some oddly familiar plates of leftover barbeque pork and chicken filet sandwiches.

Oh, what a weekend to be parakeets and foxes from #116. A Scout is kind, so we won't say we were the envy of Section E-7. But, throughout the weekend it wasn't uncommon to hear members of our delegation ask one another, "aren't you glad you're with #116?" Was this an old school reference to the iconic, 90's era Santee Conclave themes (e.g., "Orange you glad we're back", "we gold you we'd be black")? Perhaps. Or, perhaps, it was just an honest admission by any one of the 106 delegates (by far the largest contingent) from across the Pee Dee and Midlands that it just felt right to be a delegate with #116.

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If you haven't paid your annual dues yet, please do so as soon as possible. The dues are only \$15, and this will ensure that you have access to all lodge events, memorabilia, and special members-only communications.

I also want to remind you about the Path to the Brotherhood Honor. This is an important step in every OA member's Scouting journey, and it seals your membership in the OA. The Brotherhood Challenge is offered at every lodge Induction Weekend and Fellowship, and I encourage you to learn more about the upcoming opportunity at the Spring Fellowship.

I'm excited to see each of you at Spring! Let's keep up the momentum for this year. Keep being your awesome selves, everyone!

SPRING FELLOWSHIP – COME HAVE FUN!



ADVISER'S CORNER

Mason Thomas, Lodge Adviser

As the lodge year marches on, our new brotherhood has experienced tremendous success in many facets of our Order. The 54 new members inducted at the Spring Induction Weekend have an outstanding year ahead of them, filled with fellowship, fun, service, and discovery. Our delegates to the Section E-7 Conclave took home the Golden Arrow, placed 3rd in Lodge of the Year, voted 3rd in Spirit, and brought back eight first place ribbons.

The youth leadership and their advisers have launched new initiatives including the Arrowman Financial Assistance Program, the OA Lodgemaster Member Portal, and a reimbursement system that will enable us to create and maintain an accurate budget and balance sheet. We have professionalized many processes behind the scenes to ensure youth engagement, accountability, and good stewardship of our lodge resources.

While we have already come so far, we must not let our momentum abate. Now is the time to raise the bar and set a new standard for how our lodge can and will be for the future. As the Spring Fellowship and Summer Camp approach, we must redouble our efforts to engage our members, grow our ranks, contribute to our camps and council, and fan the flames of brotherhood. Our challenge now is not to rest on our achievements, but to find ways to go above and beyond in service to the Order and to Scouting.

To position ourselves to be named a High Performing Lodge and be competitive for Lodge of the Year honors, the Lodge Executive Committee is working hard to visit every unit, encourage every candidate to go through their induction, convert more members to Brotherhood, and increase attendance at our fellowships. We can and will achieve these high ideals through our new bond and the determined effort of all. Join us now on this adventure as we aim for new heights in our shared future.

Muscogee Lodge No. 116
Indian Waters Council
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Dear Arrowmen:

Every youth should have the opportunity to benefit from Scouting and its programs. There may be circumstances where a youth and their family need a little help financially to take part in Order of the Arrow (OA) activities. To address this, our lodge allocates part of the annual budget to help. The lodge helps in the areas of OA lodge membership and program activities, such as Fellowships, Cornerstone Conclave, and National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC).

You should also see if your unit and its Chartering Organization can help. Many units and charter partners already offer financial support, and we want to make sure we prioritize our available funds at the lodge level to help as many Scouts as possible, especially those who can't get help elsewhere.

If approved, Muscogee Lodge will generally provide an annual membership at no charge or up to half of the program activity cost on a reimbursable basis (not to exceed \$250). Again, in certain circumstances, full assistance may be provided. All financial assistance is subject to the availability of funds.

A request form can be found at: <https://muscogeelodge.org/resources/forms/>.

Yours in WWW,

Grace Franklin | Lodge Chief
Muscogee Lodge #116
chief@muscogeelodge.org



2023 Lodge Calendar

