

# Tail and Feather

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Indian Waters Council

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*"True Scouts are the best friends of animals, for from living in the woods and wilds, and practising observation and tracking, they get to know more than other people about the ways and habits of birds and animals, and therefore they understand them and are more in sympathy with them." – Lord Robert Baden-Powell*

## OPEN LETTER TO UNIT LEADERS

Dear Unit Leaders,

We hope this newsletter finds you in high spirits and brimming with enthusiasm for the wonderful world of Scouting. As the leaders guiding the next generation of Scouts, you play a pivotal role in shaping their experiences and unlocking their full potential. That's why we wanted to take a moment to emphasize the importance of contacting your Order of the Arrow Muscogee #116 Unit Election Team to schedule this year's visit.

The OA is a prestigious national honor society that recognizes Scouts who embody the ideals of Scouting through their leadership, service, and character. It is an organization that fosters personal growth, encourages service to the community, promotes leadership development, and cultivates a sense of brotherhood among its members.

The Unit Elections are a key aspect of the OA membership process. During these elections, eligible Scouts within your Troops, Crews, and Ships can vote for their peers, those whom they believe exemplify the qualities required for OA membership. These elections are conducted by our certified team of dedicated officers from Muscogee Lodge #116.

At Muscogee Lodge #116, we are committed to nurturing the next generation of leaders and fostering an environment that promotes the values of Scouting. By contacting our election team, you contribute to the growth and recognition of your Scouts, allowing them to embark upon an incredible journey of personal and communal transformation.

We encourage you to reach out to our election team today and ensure that your Scouts can be considered for OA membership. Let us celebrate their achievements, encourage their potential, and guide them on a path of excellence. Please contact the chapter team for

your district using the link in the QR code below. If your unit is not in need of an election, it is easy enough to opt-out, and we will be back in touch with you next year. Whatever the case may be, we want to connect with you, as even a brief response lets us know that our communication is effective and helps us remain a high-performing lodge.

Yours in Scouting,

Gabe Gainey, VC Chapter Support  
Muscogee Lodge #116



## CHIEFLY SPEAKING

Grace Franklin, Lodge Chief

Hello everyone!

I am so thrilled with how well the Spring Fellowship went. Through the hard work of our many officers and chairmen, I am proud to say it was a major success. From the Quest events to service projects, everything was well organized and fun. Personally, I thoroughly enjoyed the new photography/social media competition that we held. For each of you who attended, thank you so much for coming out.

Without each and every one of you, the event would not have been a success.

But, enough of looking at the past; it is time to look to the future! In just a few short weeks, we are hosting the Summer Super Fellowship (SSF) at Camp Barstow. We have many great things to look forward to, including what is likely to be our largest event of the year. I know Joshua has lots of amazing fun planned for you, and Madelyn is hard at work organizing the Ordeal.

However, program and inductions are not the only things we have in-store for you at SSF. Attached to this email and linked through the QR code, below, you will find a list of amendments to the Lodge Rules. The Merger Committee did a lot of amazing work, but we have now had over half the year to figure out what works (and what could work better) for us. Please at least skim the changes and be prepared to discuss them during the Business Meeting at SSF. Until then, email me at [chief@muscogeelodge.org](mailto:chief@muscogeelodge.org) with any feedback.

I look forward to seeing you all at SSF! Enjoy your summer and keep being your awesome selves.



## THE SECRET INTRODUCTION

Nathan Arant, VC Comms

Everyone is one step closer. I am proud to see a lot of you have figured out where to go after the last hint. I'll go a bit further and say that you must not only look deeper into the first link, but you must also look deeper into the website. Good luck everyone on the next step!

## ACROBATS AND BUDGETS AND BROTHERHOOD...OH, MY!

Nathan Arant, VC Comms. & Comms. Team

On Friday, May 19th, Arrowmen from Muscogee #116 were transported to Camp Barstow, which turned into a veritable Land of Oz for the 2023 Spring Fellowship weekend. In the early evening, Brothers slowly converged on the council ring for the opening campfire, first in one's and two's, then all together, singing and chanting to show their chapter spirit. Vikings, firemen, disco balls, and bright lights contributed to the wonder; skits, a trivia gameshow, and two Vice Chiefs of Unicycling added amusement. To say it was the greatest opening show in years would be an understatement. The Program Team wielded OA Magic in delivering promised fun, before



*A unicyclist is born!*

sending the lodge on its way, down the camp's main road.

With heads abuzz, slowly making their way past the activity field, the Arrowmen eventually arrived at the dining hall, where none were



*The Greatest show of all time. Kudos to all who helped with it, it was a whole lot of fun!*

denied entry. The sounds of chapter spirit, the sights of Brothers trading patches, and the smells of hot food were in the air. Indeed, in what may be a new Friday night tradition, the Muscogee Cook Team used their ample power and wizardry to serve piping hot mozzarella sticks with marinara dipping sauce, barbeque-drenched meatballs, an assortment of cheeses, and fresh fruit.

"Seconds," cried the Wizards, as eager Arrowmen quickly lined-up, gently loosening their belts a notch. After everyone filed through, "how about thirds," the Wizards inquired, with friendly, daring smiles. Only moments later, with growing amazement, the Wizards incredulously asked, "fourths?!" As the remaining Arrowmen sat down over a final plate of vittles, their eyes slowly glazed-over with thoughts of waiting Adirondack bunks and the sounds of Barstow wildlife.

Saturday morning came too soon, though the overnight rain shower cooled the morning air and helped carry the aroma of fresh coffee across those assembled on the parade field. After raising the flag and asking a blessing, the Arrowmen filed-in to enjoy fluffy eggs, fresh biscuits, sausage, grits, and fresh berries. With bellies once again full, the Arrowmen gathered by chapter as they embarked upon the Quest for the Golden Arrow, a series of way-stops where chapters competed in field day style events.

Stop 1: Tarp & corn carry – team of four wins by carrying the greatest amount of corn on a tarp over a defined distance.

Stop 2: Square knot relay – two Brothers trade-off tying knots; the fastest pair wins.



Stop 3: Four-legged race – a rendition of the classic three-legged race but with one more leg added.



Stop 4: Pair tent pitch – two teams of two pitch a tent while tied together; fastest team wins.





Stop 5: Paper Tower – 1 person builds a tower of paper on a floating table, held-up by 2 people; highest tower wins.

After completing the Quest's feats of strength and fortitude, Arrowmen split-up to test their wits in carefully prepared Knowledge and Training sessions.

- Brotherhood Readiness – Madelyn Ridley, VC of Inductions, helped prepare candidates to complete the Brotherhood Challenge later in the afternoon
- Enhanced Elangomat Program – Reagan Millman, Ordeal Chairman, instructed Brothers who may be interested in serving as Elangomats during an upcoming Ordeal
- Patch Design – Gio Sambenedetto and Tiwai Funchess instructed Arrowmen in the finer points of lodge patch design
- National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) – Joshua Ridley and Christian Castellanos shared leadership skills and experience that Arrowmen can use in their home units

With a morning of Quest events and training sessions completed, Arrowmen broke for a welcome lunch of BBQ pork sandwiches. As Arrowmen devoured the slow-cooked BBQ, it was easy to taste the care and attention paid by

the Cook Team Wizards, who slept with one eye open, tending their cookfires overnight and into Saturday morning.

Refreshed by the food and revived by a soda from the lodge store, Arrowmen returned to the trail, embarking upon an afternoon of cheerful service to better prepare Camp Barstow for the Summer season. With the camp improved, the Arrowmen returned to the dining hall for a lodge business meeting, where they reviewed and approved the first operating budget created in many years. A lively discussion ensued regarding a possible National Jamboree lodge flap, but the lodge decided in the end to forego the flap's creation.

In the late afternoon, after retreating the colors and asking a final blessing, the lodge enjoyed a baked chicken dinner, replete with roasted potatoes, green beans, dinner roll, and a brownie. Didn't know they had brownies in the Land of Oz? Sure do. The Brothers of Muscogee #116 would need their rejuvenating powers for the final leg of the night's journey. For soon they departed to welcome 24 new Brotherhood Honor members into the lodge, the largest group to seal their membership in recent memory. It seemed only fitting that Muscogee #116 would welcome a record number of Brotherhood Honor members, given the Fellowship's "Brotherhood" theme.

On Sunday morning, the accolades continued, with Chief Wizard, Grace Franklin, tentatively stepping out from behind the curtain to bestow various honors.

- Quest for the Golden Arrow: Tschitanek Aptonagan
- Chapter Spirit: Tschitanek Woakus
- Chapter of the Fellowship: Tschitanek Woakus

Instagram Photo Competition:

- #BrotherhoodAt116 – Michael O'Neal, Tim Hellaby
- #SpiritAt116 – Joshua Prevette, Christopher Wagner
- #NatureAt116 – Grace Franklin, Kyle Hughes

Awards and accolades are appreciated, but as it would turn out, the Arrowmen of Muscogee #116 didn't need those outward assurances of the deep bonds of Brotherhood shared by all. Indeed, as discovered at Camp Barstow throughout the Spring weekend, they're a pale substitute for the time spent together in fellowship, working toward a shared purpose. For as Allowat Sakima admonishes us, for service freely given, an Arrowman requires neither praise nor credit.

## ADVISER'S CORNER

Mason Thomas, Lodge Adviser

Born and bred from the summer camp experience, the Order of the Arrow knows no better home than this transformative place for Scouts and Scouters alike. As we build upon the foundations of our new brotherhood, we must look to our Order's founding for inspiration, motivation, and rejuvenation, for it is at summer camp that we dedicate ourselves to the ideals and teachings of Scouting in their purest form. As Scouting's National Honor Society, it is incumbent upon us to not just cheerfully serve, but to direct that service where it is both most needed and where it will have the greatest impact on others.

Our lodge's bond with the summer camp program is one where we must resolve to focus greater effort, energy, and passion if we wish to grow our own organization and that of Scouting as a whole. Muscogee's lodge leadership has worked closely with that of Camp Barstow's to ensure a quality OA experience at camp this summer and to set the stage for greater cooperation and support for years to come. We have a long-range vision for what this relationship can and should look like, but it will take the efforts of many to realize this vision for what it has the potential to be.

Aside from summer camp, the summer months offer an opportunity for us to recharge and prepare for the remainder of the lodge year. We have several more exciting events remaining including the Summer Super Fellowship at Camp Barstow and the Fall Induction Weekend and Fall Fellowship both held at Camp Coker. These events, and indeed all the work in between, will determine whether we will achieve the distinction of High Performing Lodge by year-end. Your lodge leadership is working tirelessly to raise the bar high so that, together, we can grow into the top-tier lodge that will be held up as a model for all others to emulate. We invite you to join us in this vision so that we can share in the fruits of our labor, as one.



Tschitanek Woakus on a Victory March, having thoroughly entertained the lodge with their 'Viking' Theme

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**REGISTER FOR SUMMER  
SUPER FELLOWSHIP!**

### 2023 Lodge Calendar

