

# Tail and Feather

Vol. I, No. 4

Indian Waters Council

September 2023

*"No one can pass through life, any more than he can pass through a bit of country, without leaving tracks behind, and those tracks may often be helpful to those coming after him in finding their way."* – **Lord Robert Baden-Powell**

## CHIEFLY SPEAKING

Grace Franklin, Lodge Chief

Hello, Muscogee 116! We are just slightly over halfway through the lodge year, and I am so impressed by everything we have done so far. We can only keep improving!

I want to talk about our communications with our local units. Each and every one of you is a vital part of this information channel. The way we talk to our patrol mates and leaders affects how they view the OA. If you are working through your badges of rank on the way to Eagle or simply looking for a way to better support the lodge, I have the perfect job for you: OA Unit Representative.

The OA Unit Rep was an underutilized position in both of our legacy lodges. While I was working towards Eagle, I served as my Troop's OA Rep. Since then, we have gone from zero to 14 Arrowmen. This level of OA participation is the culmination of time and effort from many people to foster relations between my unit and the OA.

Time and effort are the keys to building and bettering our unit relationships. All it takes is a few simple conversations to improve a relationship. There are so many units across our council that do not have OA Unit Reps. The most basic job of an OA Unit Rep is to have those conversations.

If your unit does not have an OA Rep, speak to your leader and SPL/Crew Leader about the position. It is eligible for advancement tenure and allows you to support both your lodge and unit in equal measure. I hope that each of you can enjoy working with your unit as the OA Unit Rep as much as I did.

## FIRST CAMP COKER EVENTS

Joshua Prevette, VC Program

On September 15<sup>th</sup>, Muscogee Lodge #116 will hold the Fall Induction Weekend at Camp Coker, outside Society Hill, SC. The event marks a special occasion in our new lodge's history: the first lodge-wide event at Camp Coker. While those legacy Santee Lodge members have many fond memories of the many nights spent under the stars at Camp Coker, this is the first time many Arrowmen, new and old, will experience the Pee Dee Area's finest Scout camp. Scan the QR code below to register today!



Just three weeks later, October 6-8, the lodge will hold the Fall Fellowship, the first fellowship at Camp Coker since the lodge merger earlier this year. Your Program Team has a great campfire program planned for Friday night, where we recognize our most recent Ordeal Honor members. Saturday activities include a service project, Quest for the Golden Arrow, and lodge officer elections! Saturday night starts with a campfire program and finishes long after the cracker barrel and patch trading. So, register today to secure your spot at the year's most popular fall event.



## GET BEHIND BARS!!!!

Noah Morris, Brotherhood Chairman

That's right, put yourself behind bars. Not the bars of a cold prison, but the bars of a Brotherhood sash. Earn your Brotherhood bars by taking the Brotherhood Challenge at the upcoming Fall Induction Weekend or at the Fall Fellowship. The

requirements are outlined in the OA Handbook, and we have also made them available on the lodge website. On the homepage, click on the 'Path to Brotherhood'. If you have any questions or concerns, you can email our team at [VCInductions@MuscogeeLodge.org](mailto:VCInductions@MuscogeeLodge.org).

## OFFICER ELECTIONS AT FALL

Nathan Arant, VC Communications

For all those interested Brothers, the annual officer elections are scheduled for the Fall Fellowship during Saturday's lodge business meeting. In addition to those for Lodge Chief and all Vice Chief positions, elections are held for all Chapter officer positions. As part of the Lodge Rules, adopted during the lodge business meeting at the recent Super Summer Super Fellowship, interested candidates will meet with the Lodge Key 3 on Saturday at the Fellowship to discuss their qualifications for office. Later, during the election in the business meeting, candidates considered by the Key 3 to be qualified are identified by the Lodge Chief and announced to the lodge at large.



SUMMER SUPER FELLOWSHIP  
TOP 5 IN HISTORY

Nathan Arant, VC Communications

Though the Summer Super Fellowship (SSF) is the longest lodge event of the year, from Thursday to Sunday, it went by fast this year, perhaps owing to the huge schedule of activities held during the event.

Each SSF starts with an Ordeal on Thursday and runs through dinner on Friday. The lodge inducted 47 new Ordeal Honor members during the Ordeal, and there were 46 Arrowmen in attendance, providing cheerful service beside their future Brothers.



Ordeal candidates and Brothers clear a drainage ditch by the main shower house

In a characteristic show of support, the Section E7 Chief, Michael Tiedman, and Vice Chief, Elijah Aiken, attended the Ordeal, helping to prepare the campfire ring (and identify a yellowjacket nest – the hard way). Many thanks to Michael and Elijah for their cheerful service and for joining the Brothers of Muscogee #116 for dinner on Friday night.

The Friday night opening campfire lived up to expectations, as it included Chapter skits, a lodge gameshow, and special recognition of our newest Ordeal Honor members. The campfire program closed with Muscogee 116's first Vigil Call-out, with seven candidates identified for this significant honor (see pg. 3, *Vigil Call-out Spotlight*). The Friday night cracker barrel did not disappoint, with fresh mozzarella sticks, marinara sauce, assorted cheeses, fruit, and crackers.

Saturday got off to a productive start with lodge-wide service projects, aiming to return Barstow to its post-summer camp condition. Light clouds and the threat of rain did nothing to prevent the lodge from completing a Quest for the Golden Arrow. The events included a heave bar, canoe sink, and (of course) ultimate frisbee. In a narrow win over Tschitaneu Aptonagan, the Maskek Woakus Chapter took home first place overall in Quest.

In the late afternoon lodge business meeting, the assembled Arrowmen carefully considered and adopted an array of changes and updates to the lodge rules. The lodge approved a new service award for those Brothers who provide cheerful service throughout the year in the name of Muscogee Lodge #116.

Saturday night saw Muscogee award 14 Brotherhood Honor sashes to those who passed the Brotherhood Challenge earlier in the day. The lodge celebrated all honors at the evening cracker barrel of personal pizzas and a marathon patch auction.



Arrowmen at SSF help paint a commemorative lodge flap

Sunday started with a breakfast of cinnamon rolls, followed by the chapel service, where the Sukeu Sipo Chapter (pictured below) claimed the Spirit Award and Chapter of the Fellowship. After a final round of fellowship event patch purchases at the lodge store, the Brothers of Muscogee Lodge packed-up and headed for home, having enjoyed an extended weekend of fun, food, and fellowship.

Chapter of the Fellowship – Sukeu Sipo

- Quest Overall – Maskek Woakus
- Heave Bar: Tschitaneu Aptonagan
  - Greased Watermelon Relay: T. Woakus
  - Canoe Sink: Maskek Woakus
  - Fire Build Relay: Maskek Woakus
  - Ultimate Frisbee: Tschitaneu Aptonagan

- Spirit Award – Sukeu Sipo
- Instagram Photo Contest:
- 1st Andrew Joseph
  - 2nd Jackson Duke
  - 2nd Casey Joseph



Arrowmen from Sukeu Sipo win Chapter of the Fellowship!!!

## VIGIL CALL-OUT SPOTLIGHT

David Wiman, 2023 Vigil Committee Chair

For its inaugural Vigil class, Muscogee Lodge 116 called out seven Vigil Honor Candidates, who were selected for their dedication to their home unit, Muscogee Lodge, and the Scouting movement.

### Youth Candidates

Eli Bostick  
Joshua Ridley  
Madelyn Ridley

### Adult Candidates

Troy Bostick  
Sara Clayborne  
Jerusha Keisler  
Terry Skipper



## THE SECRET INTRODUCTION

Nathan Arant, VC Comms

Hello everyone... This edition of the Secret Officer introduction is special, it may either be the last one, or NOT! There is a 50/50 chance that this article contains the information needed to solve the final step of the puzzle. Find my officer introduction and claim the prize (should you find it first). Anything within this article may be a hint, look at the letters, the number of letters, the number of times I use certain words, and even this QR code! Maybe it means something...



You never know...

## AWARD NOMINATIONS DUE

Grace Franklin, Lodge Chief

Each year, members of the lodge are asked to submit nominations for those Brothers whom they deem to be deserving of our highest honors. The Special Awards Committee is accepting nominations through noon on Saturday of the Fall Fellowship for the following awards:

- Founder's Award – the lodge's highest honor, given for an outstanding and distinguished lifetime of service to the OA.
- Jimmy Duffy Legacy of Service Award – presented yearly to the youth member who provides exemplary service.
- Bernie Moore Legacy of Service Award – presented yearly to the adult member who provides exemplary service.

Nomination forms can be found on the lodge website at [MuscogeeLodge.org/forms](https://MuscogeeLodge.org/forms). The committee may only consider an active lodge member for which a nomination form is received, so please take a moment today to complete and submit nominations to [Awards@MuscogeeLodge.org](mailto:Awards@MuscogeeLodge.org)!

## SIGN-UP FOR 2024 NOAC

Michael O'Neal, NOAC Chair

The National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC) is the flagship national Order of the Arrow event. It is held every two years at a major university campus and is attended by as many as 8,000 Arrowmen from all 50 states. It is second only to the BSA National Jamboree in size and scope.

The event features Hollywood-level shows, an entire convention hall of patch traders, Quest-style events, and OA-related training. Also, this is the event where attendees from legacy Muscogee Lodge won the last four straight ultimate frisbee titles.

Our next NOAC is at the University of Colorado in Boulder (near Denver) from July 29 – August 3, 2024, and our lodge is taking a delegation. Spots on the delegation are available on a first-come-first-served basis, and you can find out more (including costs and travel plans) by joining the #noac channel on Slack.

## ADVISER'S CORNER

Mason Thomas, Lodge Adviser

As Summer fades to Autumn and the days grow shorter, it is a time for each Arrowman to refocus their attention on the most fundamental part of the Scouting experience - service to our home unit. Each of you was first selected by your peers as an example of servant leadership, not as recognition for the past. Your fellow Scouts were encouraged to select you in expectation of the cheerful service you would give in the future, so the attention you give to the needs of others must naturally start at home.

As a leader, you serve as an example to others, both as a Scout and as an Arrowman. During this most crucial first step, the time, effort, and energy you put into Scouting will help others follow a path similar to your own. In time and through your good works, Scouting will grow, and only upon that new growth will you find the Brotherhood of Cheerful Service.

The service you provide to your unit can take many forms. While many of you faithfully serve your unit in a position of direct responsibility, others may no longer have close ties to their troop, crew, or ship. This does not mean that the service you provide to your unit has ended. On the contrary, many of you have poured countless hours into making sure that the Scouting experience for our local units is nothing short of life changing. You have ensured an optimal Scouting experience by enhancing District Roundtables, improving our camp facilities, helping youth with rank advancement, and by recognizing our unit leaders.

Likewise, taking an active role in the Order of the Arrow can strengthen and honor your unit. For it is through the OA that youth and adult Arrowmen alike can continue to learn and grow, finding new meaning in their journey through Scouting, as they build upon the skills fostered in their home units. When your home unit thrives, the OA can and should thrive with it. This is not a guarantee, but rather a reminder that there is a symbiotic relationship between the two, each benefiting the other, each supporting the greater good of Scouting.

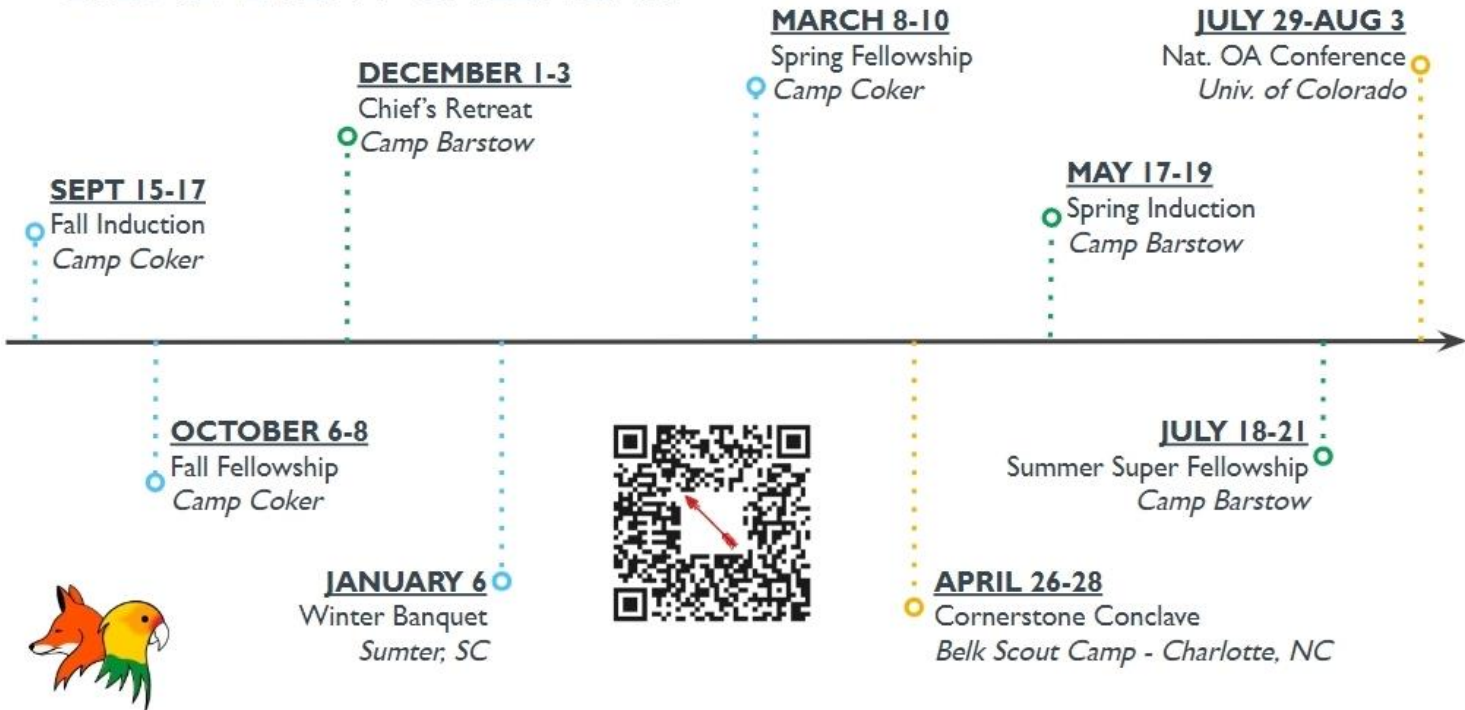


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# 2023-24 EVENT CALENDAR



\* Fall 2024 dates to be announced upon publication of fall sports schedules