

The Osprey



April - May 2007

Yustaga Lodge 385, Order of the Arrow

Gulf Coast Council #773

2006/2007 Officers

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Gulf Coast Council
Boy Scouts of America
9440 University Pkwy
Pensacola FL 32514
(850)476-6336

Lodge Website
www.yustaga385.com



2007 Lodge Ordeal

Michael Kirkland, Lodge Chief

The annual lodge Ordeal will be held during the weekend of May 4th-6th, 2007 at Spanish Trail Scout Reservation. I encourage all lodge members to come out and support our new candidates as they complete their Ordeal experience.

The Service Corps committee has been working hard to develop projects for the candidates and members attending the Ordeal. The official list of projects will be available during check in on Friday night. However, most of the projects will focus mainly on camp erosion and basic grounds maintenance. I believe the projects being developed this year will be the best that we have had in years.

For those of you who are eligible for Brotherhood, I encourage you to seal your membership in the Order of the Arrow by obtaining Brotherhood. Brotherhood classes are available on Saturday and cost only \$18. This fee covers the class training material, ceremony, and your new sash.

For more information about Ordeal 2007 visit
www.yustaga385.com/ordeal2007.htm

Chiefly Speaking

Dear Fellow Arrowmen,

Who is ready for another great Conclave? I know I am. Conclave 2007 is just around the corner and I hope you are ready. It should be the best one ever. Pilthlako Lodge has been working very hard over the past year to be ready to host this great event. If you are interested in attending Conclave and have not signed up yet please contact me at lodgechief@yustaga385.com. I will try my best to get you a spot; however, registration has ended for the event and slots are limited. If you have signed up, they have recommended that you bring a camp chair for the training sessions and afternoon activities. They have also told us that everyone attending must submit a Class 1 medical form and adults over the age of 40 must submit a class 3 medical form. These forms can be found under the Resource section of the Lodge Website and will need to be given to me when you arrive at the meeting location, which will be discussed later in this article. The form is required to participate in the event and will probably not be returned to you. All information on the forms will be kept confidential. If you have any questions about this requirement please fill free to contact me at lodgechief@yustaga385.com.

Our lodge has established a meeting location just outside of Camp Tolochee. We will be meeting at the McDonald's just off of Georgia (I-95) Exit 36a between 3:00 and 3:30 pm (Eastern Time) on Friday, April 20. A map can be found on the Conclave page of the website. Please arrive at the meeting location on time. If you believe you will be late please notify your Chapter Chief and Adviser. For more information about Conclave 2007, visit the lodge website.

I would like to take a minute to encourage everyone to sign up for the Ordeal. Every year we talk about how it is important for members to come to the Ordeal and support the candidates as they go through. This idea still has not changed. I would like you to remember when you went through your Ordeal. Who was there helping and guiding you through it? You may not realize it, but you now have become that person. You are the one who can help a candidate succeed. The Service Corps has developed a very extensive list of projects with their main focus on camp erosion and basic camp maintenance. The projects will take a lot of man power to complete them all during the weekend. They are not hard but will take everyone's help. To learn more about the Ordeal and the projects that will take place visit the Ordeal 2007 page at www.yustaga385.com/ordeal2007.htm.

In Cheerful Service,
Michael Kirkland
Yustaga Lodge Chief

Around the Campfire

Dear Brothers,

Here we are with three months of 2007 already in the history books! We had another very successful year with our OA elections. After tallying up all the election reports and adult nominations that were submitted this year, I am very happy to report that 116 youth members were elected and 16 adults were selected as candidates for membership in the Order of the Arrow. I would like to urge our chapter leadership to make contact with each and every one of those elected and ensure that they will be attending the Ordeal in May! The Ordeal is the opportunity we have, each and every year, to welcome new members into our Brotherhood. Let's make our candidates feel welcome and make sure that they attend the Ordeal!

Just a reminder that the Ordeal is not just for our newly elected members; each and every Arrowman is encouraged to attend the weekend and pitch in as we provide cheerful service to our council camp. This year, we will be assigning all members to specific work projects at check-in time. This way, we can make sure that we have enough Arrowmen available to assist with all the projects the lodge is undertaking.

In addition, any Arrowman who has not yet sealed his or her membership by becoming a Brotherhood member will have the opportunity to do so during the weekend.

We have many opportunities for brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service. I will see many of you at the upcoming Conclave this month and then again at the Ordeal in May.

Yours in Cheerful Service,

Jim Matson
Lodge Adviser

PANZACOLA REPORT

Chris Werre, Chapter Chief

Panzacola chapter has been busy. We finished elections and have over 50 eligible for Ordeal. We held our call out at the Esca-Rosa Camporee which was held at the zoo. At our January meeting we had a police officer with a "working" bomb dog; at our next meeting we'll work with Elangomats for Ordeal. We've got a good group going to Conclave and know we'll have a good time. I'd like to see every member from Panzacola sign up for Ordeal. See you at the next meeting and at the ordeal on May 4th.

APPALACHEE REPORT

Chandler Young, Chapter Chief

Appalachee Chapter recently held a chapter camp out at Torreya State Park. The weather was perfect and the fellowship around the fire was even better. We had a great time walking the woods and exploring the many trails that this state park has to offer. We took time to stop and watch a pair of American Bald Eagles tend to their nest. There were eaglets in the nest and we could hear them chirping as one of the parents flew in and landed on the side of the nest. As this eagle took care of the eaglets the other eagle took off and we watched as it soared in the sky circling the nesting area. It was quite remarkable to see and the highlight of our camp out.

We also took a walk to the site where the Torreya Trees are and we walked around the old home that is on the place. It was interesting to see and we learned more about it from the ranger in the gift shop on the property. Mr. Payne made sure that we did not go hungry. We enjoyed a variety of foil pack dinners that we made and the breakfast burritos were perfect! None of us went home hungry, that's for sure.

We spent a good amount of time around the fire sharing stories and just enjoying the great weekend. We all agreed that we need to do this more often.

TECHAKIN REPORT

Kurt Neidigh, Chapter Adviser

The Techakin Chapter Call-Out was held in the Ceremony Circle at the Paquette campsite on Saturday, March 10th. After the evening campfire, with skits and other entertainment, the drum began to beat slowly. Guides, carrying torches, led the Ceremonial party to the fire. There, at a podium flanked by more torches, the ceremony began. One by one, the candidates were brought before the Ceremony team. After all 9 of the youth and both of the adult candidates were "interviewed," they were placed behind the fire. The candidates were then led off into the darkness, followed by the Ceremony team. The onlooking Scouts & Scouters returned to their campsites, ending the (public part of the) Techakin Call-Out Ceremony.

SPRING FELLOWSHIP RECAP

Michael Kirkland, Lodge Chief

Yustaga held its annual Spring Fellowship March 2nd-4th, 2007 at Spanish Trail Scout Reservation. We had 91 lodge members in attendance with 18 of them sealing their membership in the Order of the Arrow by obtaining Brotherhood. The weather was perfect and the day was filled with great training sessions and activities. Training sessions had a low attendance rate; however, for those who did attend, they had the opportunity to participate in sessions ranging from Future of Yustaga to a Group Dynamics class. If you have ideas for future training sessions please feel free to email Brad Brock, Lodge Vice-Chief of Training at vicechief1@yustaga385.com. The activities committee was also busy throughout the weekend presenting some great activities and an excellent Saturday night campfire program, which they hope to continue during other lodge events in the future. If you would like to help with future campfire programs, please email Geoffrey Helms, Lodge Vice-Chief of Activities at vicechief2@yustaga385.com. With your help we will be able to continue this and many more great activities in the future. If you missed this great event, don't worry, another great lodge event is just around the corner. Sign up today to help us support our future lodge members while they complete their Ordeal in May. If you attended the Spring Fellowship in March and have photos from the event please email them to webmaster@yustaga385.com. Help us keep our website up-to-date with your photos.

CHOCTAW REPORT

The Choctawhatchee District held its Spring Camporee on March 9-11, 2007, at Camp Euchee. On Saturday evening, March 10, 2007, the Choctaw Chapter conducted their Call-Out Ceremony to recognize each elected Scout as a candidate for membership in the Order of the Arrow. This ceremony was in a form of public recognition used to communicate the high ideals, standards, and the honor of being selected for membership into our Order. The Chapter placed special emphasis on the performance of the Call-Out Ceremony to make sure the ceremony was well presented. The Chapter made a great impression with the candidates and showcased the OA to non-members.

The Call-Out Ceremony was held at the Archery Range. A key factor about the Call-Out Ceremony was safety. It was conducted in a safe manner. Careful consideration was given to the location. It was within an easy walking distance for all audience members. The area was also handicapped accessible. There was a clear path for a vehicle in case of an emergency. First Aid and Fire Protection resources were adequate and well deployed. Immediately after the Call-Out Ceremony, each candidate was provided with brief information about the upcoming Ordeal and received a copy of the Spirit of the Arrow booklet No. 1, "Upon a Lofty Journey."

There were several OA Choctaw Chapter members who helped with the framework. Special thanks to: Sam Ammons, Patrick Bagby, George DeCoste, Bobby Difronzo, Zach Kuhl, Kyle Lusk, David Snyder, Daniel Syfrett, David Syfrett, Chance Winn, Will Yanni, Benny Banegas, Bill Britt, Terry Cook, Shirley McElroy, Joe Snyder, and Tom Yanni. Thank you all for a job well done!

David Snyder
Choctaw Chapter Chief

OA NIGHTS AT SUMMER CAMP

Geoffrey Helms, Lodge Vice Chief

It appears that summer camp is almost here again, and that means OA nights at STSR. This year, the OA nights will be on Wednesday and will involve some of the same activities that we have had in the previous years, and hopefully something new. I am currently looking for some Arrowmen that will be willing to help with the OA nights at STSR by running activities and helping out wherever needed. If you can help out in any way, please contact Geoffrey Helms at 850-624-9595 as soon as possible.

VIGIL HONOR NOMINATIONS

Attention all Arrowmen: The due date for all Vigil nominations is May 4, 2007, which happens to be the Friday night of the Ordeal. The Vigil Honor is a recognition that is bestowed only upon the members of the lodge that have given exceptional service to the lodge and other groups over time. The only requirement for the Vigil Honor is to be a Brotherhood member for at least two years. I strongly encourage all of you to look at your fellow Arrowmen in the lodge and ask yourself if they have given exceptional service to their lodge. If you believe that you have found someone that is worthy of the Vigil Honor, please fill out the Vigil Honor nomination form, available on the lodge website or in the lodge planbook, and please turn it in Friday night of the Ordeal to either Geoffrey Helms or Mr. Steve Kolek. The Vigil Callout will be held the Friday night of the Fall Pow Wow. If anyone has any questions they can contact me at 850-624-9595.

W.W.W.

Geoffrey Helms

Vigil Committee Chairman

ELANGOMAT TRAINING

At the October 2006 LLD, newly appointed Lodge Committee members met to establish their respective committee goals. As the Elangomat Committee Adviser, I have been tasked to develop a quality, intensive, and mandatory Elangomat Training Program for dedicated Arrowmen who want to serve as Elangomats. As in the past, the Elangomat Program plays a major part in determining the success of the Ordeal. The Elangomat Training Program will prepare YOU to encourage and inspire each candidate to the ideals of Brotherhood and Cheerful Service. This training program will be in conjunction with the Brotherhood Committee in developing a New Arrowman/First Year Program and instituting a post-Ordeal plan to encourage new Ordeal member participation at future events.

Benny Banegas

Elangomat Committee Adviser

BROTHERHOOD CONVERSION

As Chairman of the Inductions Committee, I am responsible for coordinating and conducting Brotherhood Training. I encourage all eligible members to seal their Brotherhood membership. Also, our Committee works closely with the Elangomat program to implement membership retention plans and to encourage future participation by new Ordeal members. The challenge our Inductions Committee and Lodge faces is to attain the minimum 30 percent Brotherhood conversion of eligible members. I highly encourage you to get the word out to our Ordeal members and provide them the skills needed to attain membership into our Brotherhood. I challenge you to invite them to our upcoming events. Let's meet our goals!

Travis Hornsby
Inductions Committee Chairman

Event Schedule for Ordeal 2007

<u>Friday</u>	<u>Event(s)</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Event(s)</u>	<u>Location</u>
5:00-8:30	Members Check-In	Henson Hall	5:00-5:30	Candidate Light Supper	Big Heart
6:00-7:00	Mini-LEC & Dinner	Dining Hall	5:00-5:15	Assembly and Colors	Dining Hall
7:00-8:30	Candidate Check-In	Dining Hall	5:30-7:30	Brotherhood Hike/Ceremony	TBA
8:30-9:30	Pre-Ordeal Ceremonies	Lake Sylvia	6:00-8:30	Ordeal Ceremonies	TBA
9:30-10:30	Cracker-barrel	Dining Hall	8:45-10:30	Ordeal Feast	Dining Hall
11:30	Taps			Games	Dining Hall
				Lodge Box	Dining Hall
				Night Activity	TBA
			10:00-10:30	1 st Yr. Arrowman Presentation	Dining Hall
			10:30-11:30	Taps	
			11:45		
<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Event(s)</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Event(s)</u>	<u>Location</u>
6:30	Reveille		6:30	Reveille	
7:00-7:15	Assembly and Colors	Dining Hall	7:00-7:15	Assembly and Colors	Dining Hall
7:15-7:45	Candidates Breakfast	Big Heart	7:15-8:00	Breakfast	Dining Hall
7:15-7:45	Members Breakfast	Dining Hall	8:00-8:15	Religious Service	Whipple Cir.
8:00-11:45	Projects	TBA	8:15-9:00	Chapter Meetings	Whipple Cir.
8:30-5:30	Brotherhood Training	Dining Hall	9:00-10:00	Break Camp	Campsites
11:30-12:45	Vigil Luncheon	Henson Hall	10:00-11:00	LEC	Henson Hall
11:45-12:30	Candidate Lunch	Big Heart			
11:45-12:30	Member Lunch	Dining Hall			
12:45-4:30	Projects	TBA			
4:30-5:00	Candidates Prepare for Ordeal	Campsites			

All activities, times, and locations are subject to change. A final schedule will be available during check in.

Lodge Registration Form

Quantity Totals

2008 Dues (until November 30)	\$7.00	_____	_____
Ordeal Early Registration (Members) [Must be received in the Scout office by 4/27/07]	\$15.00	_____	_____
Ordeal Late Registration (Members) [Received on or after 4/28/2007]	\$20.00	_____	_____
Extra Ordeal patches	\$3.00	_____	_____
Brotherhood Conversion Fee	\$18.00	_____	_____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Name _____
 Address _____

 E-mail _____

Mail to the Scout Office (Address Below)

Please use a separate form for each Lodge Member. Do NOT use for reactivation.

Gulf Coast Council #773
 Boy Scouts of America
 9440 University Parkway
 Pensacola, FL 32514

SIGN UP FOR THE ORDEAL TODAY!!!