Summer 2011 Special Edition

O-Shot-Caw.org

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On July 3rd through the 9th O-Shot-Caw Lodge participated in a national community service project on the New River Gorge Mountain in West Virginia known as SummitCorps 2011. We had a contingent of 13 Arrowmen consisting of 8 youth and 5 adults. We all woke up early Saturday morning for a long road trip from the BSA Council Office to our stop for the night in North Carolina. After spending the night in North Carolina, we began to head to West Virginia for the first day at the campsite, Glen Jean Armory on Mount Hope. We split out into many different crews, giving us the opportunity to meet many other Arrowmen from throughout the country. Monday marked our first day of work; each crew was given a Philmont breakfast and then went into a bus to be transported to the work area. Work projects included many things from making rock bridges to creating bike trails for people to ride on in the future. Each crew had a nice Philmont lunch in their work area while learning about the evolution of a leader. 4PM marked the end of work for the day and we all loaded onto the bus and rode back to the armory very exhausted. At the armory, there were many things to do like play cards or board games in the recreation tent, buy snacks or souvenirs at the trading post or everybody’s favorite thing to do after a long day of work, take a hot shower. Dinner, which was at 6PM for our group, was more than exceptional and a well deserved meal for a day of arduous labor.

O-Shot-Caw Lodge also participated in a recreation day together on Friday, and decided to all go white water rafting as a Lodge. Each raft seated 8 people, so the youth decided to raft together. Even though there were low level white waters at the beginning, our Section Chief, Frank Gamez, was scared for his life because of the fact that he had never gone white water rafting before. After a hearty lunch of cheeseburgers and cookies, we all boarded onto the rafts again to go straight into the first level 5 white waters of the day. We went through many different areas with very unique names like “Surprise!” and actually getting the chance to experience this with. At the Summit we were split up into crews and assigned to different projects. I myself was put into Crew 21 and met some amazing Arrowmen from across the country that I hope to catch up with later in the future. Our crew worked on a segment of trail that included rock work and lots of bench cut on almost 500 feet of bike trail.

There is no doubt that this is a fantastic event that I will remember since I helped lay the ground work of the future site of National Jamboree and the fourth High Adventure Base. My favorite part of the entire trip was spending Friday whitewater rafting on the New River and at the lake, which everyone looked forward to after a long and toilsome week of trail building. I would definitely suggest for anyone to attend a National event, whether it is NOAC, National Jamboree, or even attend 2 weeks at one of the High Adventure Bases.

—William McKinley

SummitCorps was a great experience I made a lot of friends meet national officers had fellowships and a ton of fun. This was an event that I will never forget. The best part of the trip was waking up every morning and working with your crew members who you have befriended at the beginning of the week. SummitCorps I did a few projects which included rock arming cutting bench and naturalizing the trails. I suggest that all members of the Lodge attend the next national event for they are experiences like no other.

—Robert Slapikas

At SummitCorps, we did one primary project: build mountain biking trails. We completed miles and miles of trails that are now being enjoyed by mountain bikers from far and wide. At the experience, I made plenty of new friends from across the country, one was from Texas and the other from San Diego, CA. Back at base, there were several programs throughout the week, my favorite was definitely the live bluegrass on Monday and also Wednesday night’s concert of bluegrass band The Wild Rumpus.

—Jonathon Yost

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Ryan Rodriguez, SummitCorps contingent leader
This week was a once in a lifetime experience and you can ask anyone who attended the trip just how amazing it was. From July 31 through August 7, 2011, twenty-six Arrowmen from O-Shot-Caw Lodge participated in this summer’s second National Event, Indian Summer. We were the largest contingent in the Nation, an enormous feat on behalf of O-Shot-Caw Lodge! Indian Summer was geared towards expanding Arrowmen’s knowledge of Native American Indian culture. The week offered a variety of courses, split into three different categories; Ceremonies, Dance and Independent Study. The Conference supplied a wide variety of hands on activities, such as finger weaving, sewing and metalwork. Members from the Ceremonies Team were in full attendance and took back many skills and expanded their options of regalia items taught by the outstanding instructors at Indian Summer. Each of our Brother’s that participated gathered valuable skills and information that they are excited to bring back to O-Shot-Caw. The knowledge of the Conference Staff will help the Lodge benefit greatly in the future. Also during this week most of our Lodge’s member’s cheerfully served the Ridgecrest Conference Center by attending the Conservation Project on either Tuesday or Thursday afternoon. We helped with the reconstruction and upkeep of the trail on the mountain.

On Sunday morning Contingent members met at the Scout Office at 7:30 a.m. where we began our journey to Indian Summer in Ridgecrest, NC. That night we stopped in Orangeburg, North Carolina, where we stayed the night. The next day we continued our trip to Ridgecrest while stopping at our contingents’ first side trip, the Rose Hill Plantation in Union, SC. We learned about the history of the Plantation and the surrounding area and who lived in the house during key points of our Nation’s history. The plantation had a very interesting history and everyone enjoyed a couple of hours to relax and get out of the vans. After the tour we continued on towards our final destination, Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina. Although two of the vehicle had some trouble and got off on EXIT 64, we were able to finally reach Ridgecrest just as our check-in time was approaching.

During the week we were split up into Nations, Tribes, and Clans with Arrowmen from around the Nation. These meetings happened every day of the week but after the first day O-Shot-Caw Lodge decided to have our own meetings at the Nibble Nook which was a little Ice Cream shop at the Conference Center that had a huge variety of flavors that everyone enjoyed. On every night there were other activities offered to the participants of the event such as the Brave Cave, Indian Pow-wow’s, movies and forums to name a few. The Brave Cave was a small hangout spot where Arrowmen could chill and play videogames or play organized sports. Throughout the week there were two Pow-wow’s offered in which O-Shot-Caw had a few members dance. Jake Cairo and Lydia Pinna were chosen to dance in the Closing Show on Friday. Many of the opportunities planned for the evening gave Arrowmen the chance to meet and talk with other Arrowmen from around the Nation. When the Ceremonies Team attended the ICE (Inductions and Ceremonies Events) Forum on Wednesday night we spent a good hour discussing the Ceremonies with Jay Dunbar, the author of the Pre-Ordeal Script. Most of our Lodge also met the National Chief, Jonathon Hillis; National Vice Chief, Dan Dick; and Southern Region Chief, Dwayne Fontenette Jr. in addition to having the opportunity to meet with the other National Officers throughout the week. This event was one that you should not have missed. Without a doubt, our contingent cherished the Brotherhood that we found during this week with members all over America.

At the end of the week O-Shot-Caw Lodge packed up and began our trip home with two extra people, Ivan Lopez and Chris Miller. Both of them were attending Indian Summer as Staff and each of them past O-Shot-Caw Lodge Chief’s. On our way home we stopped at the Nanthahala River for a two hour whitewater Rafting trip down the river. Everyone enjoyed the trip on the river although it could have been a little bit warmer! After the river we had lunch and headed down to Keystone Heights, Florida where Mr. Gundlach, our Lodge Advisor has a home where he allowed us to stay for the night. In the morning we slept in, had breakfast and made our final trek down South to South Florida where we were still excited from the past week but ready to start a new one back home.

I would like to thank all who attended yet again, I hope we have another experience like this in the future. It was an amazing trip and enjoyed leading every one of you. I would like to extend another thank you to the people who worked behind the scenes with me and my Advisor, Mr. Gomez through this endeavor.

Will McKinley
Indian Summer

This pass summer I went to Indian summer with the largest contingent in the nation O-Shot-Caw Lodge. There we all took classes educated us on American Indian dance, crafts, and the ceremonies of our order. My favorite classes were the finding the arrow classes that was taught by are very own ceremonies team advisor Ivan Lopez, and the Individual coaching class were you had the opportunity to have a one on one class on your performance in the ceremonies. After the week had come to an end we went white water rafting in the Nantahala River. I had a lot of fun at Indian summer, and I can’t wait to go to N.O.A.C next summer. —Matthew Braun

At Indian Summer, I took most of the classes offered for improving Ceremonies. Many of them were taught by amazing Ceremonialists from around the nation. I also attended a few craft classes like metalwork and finger weaving to help improve my regalia. Without a doubt, my favorite classes that I attended were the “Finding the Arrow” classes taught by Ivan Lopez, the Ceremonies Team Advisor and past Lodge Chief. I met lots of fellow Arrowmen from around the country including all of the National Officers and a few Section and Lodge Chiefs from all across the nation. I also caught up with a few of my Crew members that I spent a week with at SummitCorps. This will definitely be an event that I will remember in my life because I was privileged to be O-Shot-Caw Lodge’s Contingent Leader. The trip went by without any problems and it was an amazing week that I am sure everyone from our Lodge will remember for years to come. My favorite part of the trip was sharing this once-in-a-lifetime experience with my fellow O-Shot-Caw Lodge members. I myself will be attending NOAC in 2012 and would definitely invite any member of O-Shot-Caw, new or old, to attend this week full of fun and fellowship with a massive gathering of Arrowmen from across the nation! —William McKinley

I personally had an amazing time at Indian Summer 2011 and I can't wait for the next one. I really enjoyed all the classes I took. One of the most interesting classes i took was about the vigil selection committee. At this training session, Patrick Rooney, the 2008 National Vice Chief, taught arrowmen all about the vigil selection process and led a very colorful discussion with other arrowmen across the nation on the way they conduct their vigil selection. I also really enjoy a class I took with Jon Yost on how to run an Ordeal. This class allowed me to think outside the box on how to improve our Lodges ordeal weekends

Besides the classes, there were many other fun things to do at Indian Summer. For the first time ever in the history of the Order, the National committee planned to have a forum on Inductions and Ceremonies with a panel made up of all the National officers and many other Nationally ranked experts on ceremonies. At this forum I was given the opportunity to ask questions about how the ceremonies and inductions should be conducted. We were also given the opportunity to suggest different practices on inductions or ceremonies that we think would be helpful for other Lodges. If the panel liked our ideas, they encouraged us to send them in to the National website, where they will be posted for Lodges across the nation to utilize. And of course, no OA event is complete without patch trading. It was a great event and I can’t wait for the next national OA event - NOAC 2012! —Lenny Schrager
Indian Summer

I had an awesome experience at Indian Summer. I took multiple ceremonies classes to help when I am performing them. I also took a taut belt construction class, a silverwork class, and a woodworking class, so I now have new items for ceremonies. I met two youth that became friends and still communicate today. Neil, and John. John was trying to bring together a national team from the drum and dance and ceremonies teams from all over.

I will defiantly remember the Wednesday night there was a ceremonies meeting and I joined the ceremonies team. My favorite part of this whole week was doing cheerful service at the one day conservation project and making one of the walking trails much nicer and helped make a new section of the trail. It was here where I met Neil who is mentioned above who is also a patch fanatic. To all of the arrowmen who read this I strongly urge you to go to NOAC next year for you will always remember the experience.

—Randall Martinez

At Indian Summer, I took a variety of classes; most of which were ICE or AIA. Since I am on the ceremonies team I learned some of the new gestures and pronunciation for the character I am playing.

I also have learned how to make some of the patchwork for my ceremonies team. Indian Summer was an awesome experience and I recommend anyone who wants to help with ceremonies or dance Indian Summer is a great place to be.

—Joshua Semmander

At Indian Summer, I took an OA Boy Scout event called Indian Summer, is about Boy Scouts going to this event and learning about things in OA. The classes I took were Silver working, Grass dancing, and many more. A person I met who I befriended was Matt. He was a good friend.

Although this is my second national event I had a great time and recommend that if you can, you really should go. I really didn't have one favorite part about the trip, so I'll tell you about my favorite parts of the trip. One was patch trading because I had a lot of fun bargaining with other people, I even got my friend into patch trading. Another of my favorite parts was Hanging out with my friends. Last but not least White water rafting event though it was a class 2 it was fun because I had never been white water rafting before that.

—William Ray

At the Closing Show

Some of the classes I took were, bone work, woodcraft, Northern Traditional Regalia, Northern Traditional Dancing, and Basic Feather Care to name a few. I really can't say that I had a favorite class I liked them all. In woodworking class I finished my dance staff; I decorated it with horse hair, eagle feathers, and beads using my color scheme. The Instructor also allowed me to use his eagle wing fan for one of the pow wows, that was a big honor for me. During the week I met the members of Tim Caster's Chicken Dancer's and they were all very friendly to me. They took me into their circle and helped me with my gear. They showed me how to put on my roach. I got some of their emails, including Tim Caster.

My favorite part of Indian Summer was the dancing, the Northern Traditional. Dancing at the Pow Wow’s, I danced with some of the best, and it was very cool. I appeared in the front cover of the Indian Summer newsletter along with Mr. Pina, that was very cool. I also got a chance to dance in the closing ceremony; they picked me for that big honor. I hope I brought honor to our Lodge for that.

Another big memory for me was when one of my instructors gave me a part of his regalia! Two roach scalp feathers, which I wore proudly. That was a huge honor for me.

I would like to go to NOAC next year, and my goal is to place, in Northern Traditional Competition. And bring more honor to my troop and the Lodge.

All in all I had one awesome week!

—Jake Cairo

At the First Pow Wow
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