This Summer was filled with a lot new! From a new ceremony to a new location, it was a pleasant change that meant a lot to the lodge. As we look towards the future, we expect these changes to affect our lodge and bring towards a very successful year.

The Haunted Forest was one of the most successful we have had of all time! As we prepare for hosting Section Conference in 2016, we see a lot of forward progress for our lodge.
“Chiefly Speaking”

A Letter from our chief...

September was a great month for the O-Shot-Caw Lodge. We had our Fall Ordeal at Camp Elmore, where we had 140 brothers come out, 13 sealed their ties in Brotherhood and 38 were ordeal candidates. There was a lot of service done throughout the weekend. Some of the projects that we completed were; building a few more walk bridges, putting mulch around the COPE course, putting a waterline to the Dance Arbor, cleaning Boy Scout Road, and preparing for the Haunted Forest. This Fall Ordeal we mixed things up, by moving the ceremonies earlier so we could have a bigger brotherhood bash. And the turnout was amazing! We had roughly 60+ youth waiting around the game to have their chance to play “Musical Chair Dodgeball,” which Hnu-Ra-Con so successfully put on. Then the following morning we had our Business meeting and cleaned up camp.

Following the Ordeal, O-Shot-Caw put on the Haunted Forest, which is our biggest fund raiser for our Lodge and the Joseph Arron Abbott Campership Fund. We had record setting numbers that weekend, from 351 campers from packs around the council to 235 brothers that came out to put on this huge event! It went off without a scratch, Clayton Fischer was able to handle everything that came his way and made sure it was dealt with swiftly. We have already begun planning for next year and we are hoping to have over 500 campers come out for a weekend full of fun and activities.

November was a slow month for us, with only have the Section Summit at Camp Tanah Keeta. We had 23 brothers go and enjoy the training sessions that were put on. I heard great feedback from several members. The most memorable was from Preston Byk who told me, “This was the greatest event I have been to yet and cannot wait to for the next Lodge event!” Overall it was a great weekend.
This year the Fall Ordeal was held on the weekend of September 19th through the 21st at Camp Elmore for a change to prepare for two big events in the future! Work projects involved preparing for the Haunted Forest that would be held at Camp Elmore in the soon future. Other work projects were done to prepare for Section Conference which O-Shot-Caw Lodge will be hosting in two years in 2016!

On Saturday afternoon, Chapter Chiefs walked throughout camp with the Lodge Officers to go over what and where will go into the Haunted Forest. After that Saturday, each chapter was prepared to put on a great show at Haunted Forest.

The biggest story of the weekend was about Saturday night. Though this Fall Ordeal focused mainly on preparing for many first such as Haunted Forest at Elmore and the first section in O-Shot-Caw for quite a while, there was a last that weekend as well. On Saturday night, the ceremonies team performed the last Brotherhood Ceremony O-Shot-Caw Lodge will perform for that format. That right, the Brotherhood Ceremony has changed and starting at Winter Ordeal, It will follow a new format! Hopefully all brotherhood members were able to view this ceremony and for all arrowmen in O-Shot-Caw, we are excited to see the new ceremony!

The Fall Ordeal was concluded on Sunday with the business meeting as every ordeal. The business meeting went over how the weekend went and introduced our newest brothers and our brothers who have sealed their ties in brotherhood.
This year the Haunted Forest was different than many others in the past. Since I can remember, the Haunted Forest was always held at Markham Park. Now with our camp finally restored, we moved Haunted Forest to Camp Elmore for the first time in a very long time! Not only was Haunted Forest a success, but it was one of the biggest ones we’ve had in years! With people going through the display all through the night and having midway packed and bustling, we only heard great reviews of the Haunted Forest. It was a consensus throughout all that attended that they will be going again.

Along with Haunted Forest happening Saturday night, we also gave the opportunity for scouts to camp for the weekend at a reduced price. With Haunted Forest tickets and a weekend of camping and relaxing, how could someone say no to that deal? We had hundreds of scouts spend the weekend camping who also attended on Saturday night for some great family fun!

As we look back on this years’ Haunted Forest, we can only improve on what was one of the best Haunted Forest in quite some time. Ideas came pouring in on what we can add next year from dance events to costume contests.

One arrowman was asked about his time participating in the Haunted Forest and he was able to give some time writing about his experience. Not only was this his first Haunted Forest, but he was able to see the Haunted Forest from another perspective where he was the one scaring other and not the one being scared.
2014 Haunted Forest

This year was my first ever year working with the OA on the Haunted Forest. I had an amazing time experience going to the haunted forest not to attend it, but to build a house and see the reactions of people passing through our display. Sure, along the way we had struggles on building it, but we all worked well together and got the job done. The food that was served this weekend was great too!

I went to help out Friday night setting up scaffolding necessary to build our display with my chapter Pooca-Tooka. The rest was finished up on Saturday. When putting up the scaffolding, some of the crossbeams happened to be broken, but we didn’t let that deter us. Once we finished setting them all up, we were done Friday. Saturday morning came and my chapter placed the scaffolds in their proper places. Once we finished that we began to cover them in this black plastic. It was like covering them all up in trash bags! After we set up lights and decorations, everyone got their costumes on and got in their places and we were ready for the night to begin.

We had people go through all night, I was surprised at how many people were there. I had fun participating because for our display, we made it really scary as if there was a rabid dog at the end, but it turned out to be a small little dog which was funny. I knew it was success because everybody who walked through our part were very scared until the end where they saw the joke of it all. I'm excited for next year and I'm sure it will be just as awesome as it was this year!
The inaugural Section Leadership Summit was held on 7-9 November, 2014 at Tanah-Keeta Scout Reservation in Tequesta, Florida. The Section Leadership Summit is a re-branding of the annual Section Seminars, one of two annual section events.

At this weekend the Council of Chiefs, which consists of eight lodge chiefs from the state of Florida and the section officers, meet to plan next year’s Section Conference.

In addition to the COC meeting, there have always been a wide selection of classes presented by our section’s leading authorities on each respective subject. Despite the event’s new name, which includes the word “Leadership,” there was no leadership training offered. Instead, the majority of the classes were American Indian crafts and other miscellaneous classes such as “World Scouting” and “Patch Trading.” To the frustration of many adult brothers, there was a lack of adult and advisor oriented seminars or activities. Beside the name change, literally nothing has changed about the event.
In addition, there was a poor turnout for the event - with one of the possible factors being lack of promotion. At the time of this article’s writing, the Section S-4 website has not been updated. Besides being hosted on a free website domain, it still does not display a date or location for the 2014 Section Leadership Summit (which still says Section Seminars) or for the upcoming 2015 Section Conference. Not surprising, I was the only participant from my chapter at the event.

On the bright side, there were some bouncy houses and outdoor activities on Saturday after lunch. And some first time participants, who had not experienced past Section Seminars, reportedly had fun at the event. Aal-Pa-Tah 237, the host lodge, did a great job by providing excellent catering, fellowship activities, and host services.

In summation, everyone who is in a position of leadership should look at, and reflect on the “theme” of this Section Leadership Summit - “Rekindle The Fire.” And even though the theme was not utilized at all this weekend, this is a perfect opportunity to take a step back and rekindle the fire in our section, lodges, and chapters. Real changes need to be made to ensure that that more Arrowmen attend a more meaningful event.

- Frank Gamez
Upcoming Events

We have a lot in store for O-Shot-Caw lodge in the months of December, January, and February. With the holiday season approaching chapters will be participating in multiple drives to provide meals and gifts for families who can’t afford to have one this year. As we go into January, we have events such as the Lincoln Marti Camporee, where the Lodge hosts one of our Indian Villages.

At the Indian Village we have our dance, ceremonies, and drum team explaining what they do and showing everyone a little bit of what goes into being on a team such. The dance and drum team will also be performing throughout the day.

Along with Lincoln Marti, we also have Scoutmaster’s Camporee, where we hold our second Indian Village of the year. This one is much bigger and grander than Lincoln Marti, with the Dance Team and Drum Team performing, as well as the Ceremonies Team showing off a lot of cool things they wear during their ceremonies and offer fun Native American games for everyone to participate in. Along with the teams, we also have vendors come and offer a wide assortment of unique souvenirs for purchase. It’s a great time for the lodge and those attending.

Lastly, we have the Coconut Grove Arts Festival. At this event, our lodge provides cheerful service as we volunteer all weekend as we take ticket stubs from patrons eager to go in and look at some incredible art. This event will help raise money for our contingent to go to NOAC. We hope to see every Arrowman there that weekend, especially if you plan in going to NOAC!
“Editor’s Notes”

Happy Holidays Brothers!

It’s great to see how this year has turned out so far! As Publications Chairman, it is my duty to remind everyone to keep turning in articles on time! I wish everyone enjoys a happy Holiday break and spends time with those that are closest to him. With so much happening within the next three months such as Lincoln Marti and the Coconut Grove Arts Festival, the lodge will be hard at work and we are going to need each and every Arrowman to help make our lodge functions go as smoothly as possible.

Yours in Brotherhood,

Ryan Rodriguez

Patch Corner

For this Patch Corner, we have a patch for a special event that has not been around for quite a while. Conch Craziness was created by the Nok-Su chapter many years ago as a way to get the lodge to come together and enjoy a weekend of sun and brotherhood. This year they decided to bring it and back and restart the tradition. Hosted at the sunny keys of south Florida, Conch Craziness was a blast and a huge success! Thanks to the Pinkley family and the rest of the Nok-Su chapter, we will be seeing a lot more of Conch Craziness in the near future. If you had the opportunity to go, then you were able to receive this awesome patch, but if you didn’t, don’t worry, you can go next year!
Lodge Calendar

Winter Ordeal
Where? Camp Elmore
When? January 9-11, 2015
Check Website for details

Lincoln-Marti Camporee Indian Village
When? January 24, 2015
Check Website for details

Scoutmasters Camporee Indian Village
When? February 14, 2015
Check Website for details

Coconut Grove Arts Festival
When? February 14, 2015
Check Website for details

Special Olympics
When? February 28-29, 2015
Check Website for details