HAUNTED FOREST
O-Shot-Caw’s Biggest (and Scarriest) Event of the Year

The O-Shot-Caw Lodge Executive Committee & Haunted Forest Committee have been working on making the annual Haunted Forest event the best weekend of the year. Chapters quickly began their specific preparations for Haunted Forest on Friday, October 23.

It took multiple members to come out and show their pride for the lodge and dedication to this event. Although Haunted Forest did suffer from some inclement weather over the weekend, the turnout was hardly effected at all. Haunted Forest Chairman, Nick Gammara, reported an incredibly successful weekend.

This year, the Lodge had welcomed all kids (and adults) who wanted to come out to experience Haunted Forest. Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts were both allowed to camp on site as well.

With Haunted Forest being hosted on one of our own Council’s Camps, (Camp Elmore) this occasion was made even more special. With this being the site for the up and coming Section Conference in 2016, the preparation and promotion of our recently renovated camp has been at the top of everybody’s list of priorities.

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The past few months have been an outstanding time for the O-Shot-Caw lodge. We recently held our annual Haunted Forest and attended the Section Seminars. The Vigil honor members also hosted their annual Vigil Breakfast.

On October 24, 2015, at Camp Elmore, O-Shot-Caw Lodge held our annual Haunted Forest, one of the largest service events in scouting. Over the course of a day, Arrowmen put together a massive display to entertain Cub Scouts and families across South Florida. The 2015 Haunted Forest was extremely successful due to all of the hard work and dedication from the brothers of our Lodge. We raised over $27,000 to support the Joseph Aaron Abbott Campership Fund! This helps to make it possible for scouts with financial needs to attend summer camp.

Following the Haunted Forest, the O-Shot-Caw Lodge attended the Section S4 Seminars in Tallahassee. We got to meet Arrowmen from all over the section as well as attend the training sessions. The weekend was hosted by Simialachee Lodge, which did an excellent job running the event.

It is my pleasure to announce that the O-Shot-Caw Lodge is a Gold Level Lodge for the 2015 year! This is an outstanding achievement for our lodge, and is something we aim for because it fully resembles the vision the Order of the Arrow has for Brotherhood, Cheerfulness, and Service.

It has been an extraordinary year for us. I have enjoyed serving as your chief and I look forward to serving you in 2016.

Yours in Brotherhood,
Mike Brignola
More of the Lodge’s finest were hard at work on improving Camp Elmore in preparation for April’s Section Conference. New Arrowmen and Brothers got accustomed to both the acts of brotherhood and cheerful service alongside other youth and adult volunteers. The Winter Ordeal serves as one of the last work days and the last formal ordeals before we welcome scouts from all over the state to Camp Elmore. In addition to individual improvements on Chapter campsites, renovations to the Ron Bell Ceremonies Ring as well as the amphitheater were completed during day-long work efforts from our Ordeal members.

Without the determination of our new arrowmen and brothers, the progress on Camp Elmore thus far wouldn’t have been anything close to a reality. The efforts of many committees and volunteers have been established in order to secure some of the heavy-duty equipment you see below.

Focus on select areas of the camp are also exhibited on the map below. This includes the chapel, camp grounds, ceremonies ring, and amphitheater.
This year served as the pinnacle of creativity. Chapters from around the Lodge included two types of themes, including one geared for a younger audience and another for some of our older guests. With each chapter being responsible for creating their own walk-through tent. The themes mentioned in previous issues of the Patchwork like “Bombs Away”, “Pirates of the Caribbean”, and “Shark-Nado” were executed extraordinary well, leaving all guests struck and impressed with the skills and capabilities of these South Florida Arrowmen.

The chapters do a great job at rendering special effects to be included in their tent. This can be anything from chain saws, to fake blood, to blacklights and strobe lights. Just the thought of all these tools may start to sound scary to some, there are always rules in place for the volunteers to be aware of. For instance, there has to be clear and accessible exits in case of an emergency. Also, volunteers are highly encouraged to not come within four feet of the guests. This ensures optimal safety procedures, something that is at the top of every event hosted by the O-Shot-Caw Lodge.

Every penny collected at Haunted Forest goes straight into the Joseph Aaron Abbott Campership Fund, allowing worthy scouts with financial assistance to go to summer camp. Even though we as scouts have a great time hosting the event, we’re even happier to know that it’s for a good cause.
SECTION SEMINARS
Lodges Unite in the Suwannee River Area Council

You may recognize the lyrics “Way down upon the Swanee River, Far, far away. That’s where my heart is turning ever. That’s where the old folks stay”. Although all Floridians are familiar with this old tune, the Suwannee River Area Council was home to anything but old folks on November 6th-8th. Scouters from around the state united in Quincy Florida at the Wallwood Scout Reservation.

O-Shot-Caw Lodge Chief, Mike Brignola, stated that the Semialachee Lodge did a fantastic job at hosting. He was excited to have met other Arrowmen from around the state in anticipation for our own up and coming Section Conference.

Most notable about this year’s Section Seminars was the appointment of a new secretary for the section. They will work alongsie Chief Aaron Gluck into the new year. In addition to that, the Lodge’s Second Vice Chief, Josh Semander, commented that the main goal for O-Shot-Caw was so that we could have the Lodge Plan Book for Section Conference approved. Will McKinley, the head of Section Conference, went with the Lodge to personally present the plan book, which was approved with flying colors.

Josh also commented that the entire experience was great for him, especially getting to engage in seminars that pertained to leading and executing Section Conference as well as leading your lodge/chapter. For him, one of the most memorable parts about the weekend was the Indian Pow-Wow that was hosted on Saturday evening.

Acknowledgement to our very own adult leaders should be given as well. Both Bobby Brown and George Cairo (among others) rented vans and drove arrowmen on the eight-hour journey to the state's Panhandle.
CHAPTER REPORTS
Get Your Updates on the Lodge’s Nine Different Chapters

**Tomoka**
Biscayne Bay District

Keanu Orfano - Chapter Chief

This month Tomoka was very busy with Haunted Forest. We decided on roles on what we had to do for our theme of the Not-So-Fun House. We planned for future work days for Haunted Forest. We also discussed our duty in Section Conference. We talked about what we have to build and what we need to do that weekend.

**Elgixin**
Light House District

Nick Gregory - Chapter Chief

Elgixin had a very active month this past month working on planning and building for the Haunted Forest. We had a great time and everything we planned looked great when it came to be.

**Gokhos**
Pine Island District

Justin Schultz - Chapter Chief

No Chapter Report was Submitted for this Issue

**Paldani Chapter**
Seminole District

Arturo Fernandez - Chapter Chief

I am happy to report that the Paldani chapter has been very busy since we last met. We staffed the kitchen for fall ordeal happily serving the lodge and feeding everybody. We just held our chapter meeting this past Monday where we talked mostly about Haunted Forest and our ideas for our bunny trail.

In addition we had the individual dance team come out and give a presentation, thank you Jake, Jacob, and Mr. Cairo. We also appointed the unit elections and OA rep chairmen for the chapter. We have started to call all the units in our district to schedule unit elections. I spoke to the unit leaders at roundtable last week when I was selling haunted forest tickets.

In addition we just had secretary elections and I am proud to announce that Jake Lopez is the new Paldani secretary. On a separate note, as we are in charge of the section conference gatherings, we have had a couple of committee meetings where we have almost completely solidified the storyline in great detail for Friday night and the 2 pre-shows.

In the coming month I will get with Preston to give him the service hours we have done thus far as a chapter. Last but not least, we are also still discussing ideas for what Paldani will do for the fun zone idea that was presented to the LEC. Some ideas include: Ping Pong, an obstacle course, and Tetherball.
Pooca-Tooka has continued with our normal chapter meetings allowing us to expand on the amount of attendees we had. We were to finalize the amount of members that will be helping out with parking at the Haunted Forest. Parking was a huge success! We were able to set up early and facilitate everything throughout the day. As the sun set and people came rolling in, things definitely picked up and we were prepared.

Despite what felt like torrential rain with wind that would make it feel like it was freezing, we stayed in our places and directed what traffic we needed to up until the end of the night. We even had enough time throughout the night to tear down and put everything where it needed to be so that it can be picked up. I decided to give my chapter members Sunday off and come to finish our responsibilities on my own.

We plan on helping out in November for the Webelos Jamboree and we are also planning on doing another parking event in December.

The chapter’s OA candidate election was a great turn out. We have recruited five youth from Troop 16 and 4 youth from Troop 43. More OA candidate elections for O Shot Co Chee will be held soon with other troops.

Our chapter has been starting to work on the O Shot Co Chee chapter newsletter with the help of our Lodge Officer Josh Samander. The newsletter is currently work in progress and we hope to have it finalized by next month. We also discussed the many service projects that are coming up soon, in particular tomorrow November 7th, the chapter will be helping our Second Vice Chief, Andrew Llovet on his Eagle Project.

We are looking to having a great year with the Lodge and Chapter.
Contact Information

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Find the Lodge on Facebook:
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Lodge Calendar

IOLS (Indoor Weekend)
October 10
Scout House 7 - Coral Gables

IOLS (Outdoor Weekend)
October 16-18
Camp Elmore - Davie, FL

Lodge Executive Committee Meeting
October 15
SCFBSA Office - Miami Lakes, FL

Haunted Forest
October 23-25
Camp Sawyer - Big Pine Key, FL

Lodge Executive Committee Meeting
November 19
SCFBSA Office - Miami Lakes, FL

Lodge Executive Committee Meeting
December 17
SCFBSA Office - Miami Lakes, FL

Quotes

“‘We must change boys from a ‘what can I get’ to a ‘what can I give’ attitude.’”

- Baden-Powell
Boy Scouts of America Founder

“My father was a very good Boy Scout. He was very skilled with knots, and he showed me how to tie a bow tie.”

- Bill Nye,
Scientist

“Divide and rule, the politician cries; unite and lead, is watchword of the wisel”

-Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
Writer and Statesman

“Action is the foundational key to success.”

- Pablo Picasso,
Painter and Artist

“Success is how high you bounce when you hit the bottom.”

- George S. Patton
Senior Officer, U.S. Army