

the DEERPATH

Echeconnee Lodge



Lodge Secretary: Hunter W.

December 2023

Table Of Contents

1.....	Title page
2.....	Table of Contents
3-4.....	Fall Fellowship
5.....	NLS/DYLC
6.....	LLD
7.....	Indian Winter
8-9.....	OA High Adventure
10.....	Lodge Banquet
11.....	Kids in the OA
12.....	Adviser's Minute
13.....	Calendar

Fall Fellowship 2023

Fall Fellowship was held November 3-5 at Camp Benjamin Hawkins (CBH). If you were there, you know how much fun it was. If you weren't, you should have been! This is the one event we hold each year that is all about relaxing and having fun with our fellow Arrowmen.

Friday night everyone gathered at CBH. We had an exciting opening campfire with songs and entertainment. The human pyramid was great fun. Fortunately, when it collapsed no one fell into the fire! Cracker barrel was great as always, especially the chocolate pudding. Board games capped it all off. When we played manhunt, we thought JT must have been a ghost. He knows camp better than anyone, so he was great at hiding.

Saturday morning was filled with training session including Ceremonies, and a preview of Conclave sports. Our ceremonies team is very committed to make their performances very professional, and they are always looking for new members, so reach out to Victoria B. if interested.

Saturday afternoon focused on sports, practicing for sporting events that will be held at Conclave. There we compete against other lodges, so we want to be as good as we can be before Conclave Brotherhood



Photos: Hunter W.

conversions: At Fall Fellowship we had two Ordeal members solidify their membership in OA by making their conversion to Brotherhood. They were Landon H. and Ora Wyttenbach. Congratulations to both!

We also had one Arrowman honored with Vigil membership. Beau H. was inducted into the 2023 Vigil class which is named in honor of Mr. Bill Hall. As an adult, Mr. Hall has been very dedicated as both a volunteer and a professional Scouter, and he was the only person in our history to serve as both Echeconnee Lodge Adviser and Camp Ben Hawkins Camp Director. The Vigil honor is described as "the highest honor that the Order of the Arrow can bestow upon its members for service to lodge, council, and Scouting." It is "a high mark

of distinction and recognition reserved for those Arrowmen who, by reason of exceptional service, personal effort, and unselfish interest, have made distinguished contributions... to their Lodge, the Order of the Arrow, the Scouting community, and/or their Scout Camp.” Congratulations Beau!

Meals were great as always. Shrimp and grits for breakfast – what??!! Fresh-made chicken sandwiches, hamburgers, home-made potato chips, and milkshakes made one of the best lunches we’ve had in a long time. Dinner Saturday night was roasted pork or onion-encrusted fish or onion-encrusted chicken. All were fantastic! Many thanks to our Lodge’s excellent cook team.

Fall Fellowship and other Lodge events are great fun, so be sure to join us for the next one! Our next event will be Indian Winter in January. See elsewhere in this Deerpath for more details. This is a very fun and exciting event focused on Indian traditions, fellowship with you OA friends, and fun!



Photo: Michael Grace

Beau H. (left), Echeconnee Lodge’s newest Vigil honoree. The 2023 Vigil class is named in honor of Scout, Scouter, and Echeconnee Arrowman, Bill Hall.



National-Level OA Leadership Training, and One Leader's Experience

Two regional weekend seminars offer both youth and adults in the OA excellent opportunities to learn valuable skills. For youth and adults there is the National Leadership Seminar (NLS), and for adults there is the Developing Youth Leadership Conference (DYLC). NLS is an intensive weekend of training designed to foster leadership skills in youth, and it prepares Arrowmen to be more effective leaders both in and outside of the OA. Youth attending NLS should be at least 14 years old or a Lodge officer. While adults can also attend NLS, DYLC is specifically designed to help adults be more effective mentors of youth, especially youth who have attended NLS. Below is the personal experience of one of our newest adult Arrowmen, Mr. Eric Windhom of Troop 235, who attended the most recent DYLC.

According to Mr. Windhom, "DYLC was an excellent experience for me. Being very new to the Order of the Arrow, it gave me the opportunity to network and fellowship with experienced adult advisers. Everyone attending was able to share their experiences and offer invaluable insights into leading youth. The conference gave me more knowledge and a better understanding of OA, as well as a clearer outlook of what my role is. My experience attending DYLC helped me gain a greater appreciation and understanding of the importance of mentoring and supporting our youth. This conference gave me the tools and resources to accomplish being an active and productive adviser/mentor."

All Arrowmen are encouraged to attend NLS and/or DYLC. For more information, visit:

<https://oa-bsa.org/training/national-leadership-seminar-nls>

<https://oa-bsa.org/training/developing-youth-leadership-conference-dylc>

NLS and DYLC occur throughout the year at a variety of sites across the United States. Each year there is usually a session in our geographic area. Your Lodge leaders can help you find an opportunity nearby.

The only way to experience NLS/DYLC is to be there. Why should I attend? NLS gives all scouts the ability to learn how to be a leader and share those values to the Lodge and their Troops. NLS helps youth of the OA learn the importance of leadership. Adults in attendance also learn valuable lessons and grow in their commitment to BSA.

Lodge Leadership Development Weekend

LLD (Lodge Leadership Development) was held for the new Lodge Executive Committee (LEC) members in December. Our LEC members include our Lodge Chief, Vice Chiefs, Secretary, Treasurer, and Chapter Chiefs, and others with important leadership roles in our Lodge. These members take on their positions to make sure the Lodge is performing well, events are well planned, and important information is shared with members.

For new Arrowmen unfamiliar with LLD, it is a weekend when new members of the LEC meet with each other, outgoing LEC members, and Advisors (who help guide LEC members), and they all work together to plan the coming year. LEC members spend the weekend planning, choosing dates for events, and bonding over games and discussions. Most important, they all work together on a variety of leadership activities to grow as leaders, and to help them learn leadership skills that can last a lifetime.

This year, LLD was held in Warner Robins in early December. Look forward to an exciting year of events ahead!



LLD 2023



Photos: Michael Grace

Indian Winter 2024

What is Indian Winter, and why should I attend?

Section E6 Indian Winter is taking place at camp Bert Adams in January. Indian Winter is when all of the Lodges in Section E6 (Georgia and Alabama) come together for a weekend of fun and training focused on American Indian affairs.

Indian Winter is similar to Fall Fellowship as a time of fellowship along with leadership activities and classes. There is a wide variety of training classes, all of which are fun and interesting.

All Arrowmen are welcome (and encouraged!) to attend Section events. It is a great idea because it allows youth members and adults to meet new people from other lodges. Games are played and memories are made along with the chance to make a difference in your lodge and troop by learning how to become an efficient, hard-working, and overall better leader.

Indian Winter will be January 5-7. Although registration is closed, make sure to watch for upcoming Conclave announcements at <https://sectione6.oa-bsa.org/>. Registration is now open for Conclave!



Photo: Michael Grace

OA High Adventure: An Interview with Past Lodge Chief Ben Lilley

Hunter: *What is OA High Adventure?*

Ben: OA High Adventures are treks offered through High Adventure bases, but put together specifically for Order of the Arrow members. They are focused on servant leadership, which means doing service projects along with the high adventure. They offer these adventures at a variety of bases, but I did mine at Seabase out of Key West.

Hunter: *What was fun about your experience?*

Ben: We went out to Munson Island, 6 miles off Key West. Seabase is advertised as based in Key West, but the real home base of this OA Seabase adventure. We paddled war canoes out there – these are essentially two canoes lashed together for ocean travel. I was in a group of 8 Scouts from all over the country. I didn't know anyone else before going but now I keep up with my contacts. One thing that was really fun was fishing. I caught a 76" nurse shark, setting the week's record for the biggest catch. All fishing was catch-and-release. We went snorkeling at midnight, and we also kayaked at midnight out to an old plane crash site to see the bioluminescent organisms glowing in the water. We went shark fishing off of a floating dock, and also deep sea fishing. One person caught two barracuda! We spent every night sleeping in hammocks on an island. The only problem was the bugs and the sargassum, the awful-smelling seaweed that circled the island.



Photo courtesy of Ben Lilley

Hunter: *What else was unique about your adventure?*

Ben: The staff took all of our electronics so we couldn't communicate with the outside world. They also scrambled the time stamps on our cameras so we never knew what time it was until we returned.

Hunter: *What does it mean to do service on these adventures?*

Ben: In our case, we cleared brush that was left behind from tropical storms. Cleared brush across the whole Munson island as part of maintaining it for future Seabase participants.



Photo courtesy of Ben Lilley

Hunter: *How can we get more information?*

Ben: Go to the national BSA website and search “high adventure.” Look for OA high adventure. My trek was actually called OAOA – Order of the Arrow Ocean Adventure!

Hunter: *What did the experience teach you?*

Ben: On the last day we did an activity called Solace at Sunrise. We woke up early, hiked across the island to its highest point, and wrote letters to ourselves at sunrise. The staff took our letters, and then mailed them to us 6 months later so that we could relive our adventure and think again about our experiences. I wrote about following through on my word, on promises to myself. We also did a daily activity called Personal Information, sometimes at night under the stars, sometimes sitting in trees. Each time, a different person told their entire life story – bad and good, things that worried them, things that made them happy. It was fascinating to learn so much about other people.

Hunter: *Would you recommend OA High Adventure?*

Ben: I certainly would recommend the Seabase OA High Adventure program. It was great. I haven’t been to others, but I’ve heard that the Philmont trek is much more strenuous!



Photo courtesy of Ben Lilley

Lodge Banquet – Jan. 20th – *Join us!*

The annual Echeconnee Lodge banquet is an evening of inspiration and fun in celebration of the past year, and a preview of what's to come. Members of the Lodge Executive Committee (LEC) are sworn into their new positions and members of the Lodge hear about the things the lodge has done over the previous year. And importantly, the banquet treats everyone to great tasting food, and get to hear from a guest speaker with amazing experiences to share and fascinating stories to tell. All arrowmen can benefit from the banquet by learning more about how the lodge is run and how each member can make a difference. The upcoming banquet will be held on January 20th, 2024, so reserve the date. Although a location is not yet official the lodge will keep you updated as information develops. For arrowmen who hold an annual event pass, there is no additional cost to attend the banquet. For all others, the cost is \$10. Please consider joining us. **Register online at echeconnee.org.**

*Lodge
Banquet
2023*



Photos: Michael Grace

Insight from the New OA Generation

Background: Noah M. had his first OA campout at Fall Fellowship. He was one of the newest and youngest members at the event. Hunter W. asked some questions about his experience at camp:

Hunter: What was your first OA camp?

Noah: Fall Fellowship

Hunter: Was it fun for you?

Noah: It was fun. I really liked being with multiple people that were new to the OA.

Hunter: What was your favorite thing of the weekend?

Noah: The sports (wischixen).

Hunter: What was the best food we had this weekend:

Noah: Definitely the flapjacks we had for breakfast!

Hunter: If you could change anything about this weekend, what would it be?

Noah: I wouldn't change anything. It was a great weekend.

Hunter: What did you learn this weekend?

Noah: I learned how to play wischixen, met new people and learned a lot about the other members including other new members like me.

Hunter: Who was the person you connected with the most?

Noah: I'd probably have to say another kid named Josh. It was his first event too.

Adviser's Minute

Arrowmen,

A few years ago, I had the privilege of being trained as a facilitator in OA's Polestar Leadership Training. This course turned upside down everything I learned about the OA back in my younger years. I won't say exactly what years but suffice to say that since Dr. E. Urner Goodman formed the OA in 1915, by the 1980's the OA had started to lose some of his vision of the program. Polestar was meant to refocus us back to his intent, which was to further develop the brotherhood of cheerful service. We often describe the OA as the honor society of Scouting, but this doesn't truly capture what he intended as selfless service. He watched a Scout named Billy Clark step up and volunteer to take care of a sick Scout during summer camp. Despite Billy giving up his time at camp, and a nasty incident with a bed pan, Billy smiled through it all. What Dr. Goodman observed was a youth being a role model for another youth, sacrificing his own opportunities with no intent of reward or expectation of recognition. Cheerful service, being positive and resilient with no desire for personal gain.

This course has many other lessons to offer, and I encourage each of you to explore a deeper understanding of who we are and why we do what we do. We were selected to be role models, to help others, and to do it cheerfully. A good lesson for all citizens. Let's not disappoint those who chose us.

Yours in WWW,
Lou Lilley, Echeconnee Lodge Adviser



Photo: Anna Lilley

Calendar

January 2024

5-7 – Section E6 Indian Winter. Location: Camp Bert Adams

20 – Echeconnee Lodge Banquet - 6:00pm. Location: TBD

27 - Tree Planting Conservation Day. Location: Camp Benjamin Hawkins

February 2024

3 – Tree Planting Conservation Day #2. Location: Camp Benjamin Hawkins

March 2024

1-3 – Spring Ordeal. Location: Camp Benjamin Hawkins

April 2024

19-21 – E6 Conclave. Location: Camp Thunder, Molena, GA