



Council of Chiefs

August 23, 2025

Bert Adams Scout Camp

- I. Pledge and Obligation
- II. Roll Call
 - a. Chief - Present
 - b. Vice Chief - Present
 - c. Secretary - Present
 - d. Alibamu - Present
 - e. Aracoma - Representative
 - f. Chattahoochee - Representative
 - g. Coosa - Present
 - h. Echeconnee - Representative
 - i. Egwa Tawa Dee - Present
 - j. Ini-to - Present
 - k. I-Tsu-La - Present
 - l. Mowogo - Present
 - m. Waguli - Representative
 - n. Withlacoochee - Present
 - o. Administrative Events - Present
 - p. Ceremonies - Adviser
 - q. Fellowship - Present
 - r. Quest Events - Adviser
 - s. Shows - Adviser
 - t. Special Events - Present
 - u. Tailypo Festival - Present
 - v. Training - Present
 - w. OAHA - Present
- III. Introduction & Approval of Agenda
- IV. Officer Reports
 - a. Secretary
 - i. Compiled list of lodge communication and social media contacts. Created SLS promotional toolkit. Keeping up with social media and emails
 - b. Vice Chief
 - i. Busy planning Section Leadership Seminar & Service Beyond the Fire. Moved into Georgia Tech. Attained Eagle Scout
 - c. Chief

Scan here for all supporting materials:





- i. Had a productive Section Officers and Advisers Retreat (SOAR) in June to plan the year ahead. Staffed summer camp at Spanish Trail Scout Reservation in the Gulf Coast Council TSR. Staffed NCOC as Comms EVC. Attended E17 Conclave in Puerto Rico. Planning up to this COC. Started sophomore year at Wallace State.
- V. Lodge Reports
- a. Alibamu
 - Recently had the August Ordeal with 9 candidates and 5 brotherhood
 - Lodge-run Merit Badge Day and banquet happening in September
 - b. Aracoma
 - Beaver Day hosted in May with 75 attendees
 - 2 callout ceremonies at summer camp, 31 people called out
 - 25 candidates attended the recent Induction
 - One representative at NCOC
 - c. Chattahoochee
 - Held Spring & Summer Induction with 13 candidates & 3 brotherhood
 - Michael Jackson Themed Fall Fellowship happening Oct 17-19
 - d. Coosa
 - Lodge Summer Camp Operations team held weekly callouts, 5 total
 - Chief and adviser attended NCOC
 - Upcoming “Spring” Fellowship Sept 12-14
 - Final Induction last weekend; 96 candidates and 41 brotherhood (largest induction since COVID)
 - e. Echeconnee
 - Held summer Fellowship
 - Lodge Adviser attended NCOC
 - Callout at upcoming council camporee (Sept 13th)
 - Fall Ordeal the following weekend (Sept 19-21)
 - Fall Fellowship in November
 - f. Egwa Tawa Dee
 - Held Spring Induction at Woodruff; 186 new members, 19 brotherhood
 - Held Summer Induction with 58 candidates in conjunction with SLS
 - Upcoming “Egwa Park” (dinosaur) themed Fall Fellowship (Sept 12-14)
 - Trailblazer weekend October 3-5
 - November Induction and Winter Banquet upcoming
 - g. Ini-to
 - 70 candidates, 4 brotherhood at previous Induction
 - Planning for Fall Fellowship
 - Preparing for the Winter Banquet and Unit Elections



- Adviser met with local tribe in an effort to continue AIA
- h. I-Tsu-La
 - Recently held an Induction and offered Brotherhood at Summer Camp
- i. Mowogo
 - 240 attendees at previous Induction
 - OA Callout at Camp Rainey Mountain Summer Camp
 - Chief and Adviser attended NCOC
 - Eastern Band of Cherokee signed agreement for AIA
 - Powwow in September
- j. Waguli
 - Watermelon Monday at Sidney Dew for OA summer camp program
 - 60% of camp staff were OA members
 - 110 members, 28 candidates, 10 brotherhood, 5 vigil called out at previous Induction
- k. Withlacoochee
 - Chief & Adviser attended NCOC
 - Held summer fellowship last weekend
 - Preparing for November Induction; expecting 20 candidates
 - Callout at Camporee Sept 26-28
- VI. Region/National Updates
 - a. National Council of Chiefs - Emma Wright
 - i. [NCOC Take Home Guide](#) produced by Communications Committee; contains tools to help lodges implement ideas from NCOC
 - ii. [Inductions Experience](#) - Zion Tipton
 - I. New inductions experience piloted at NCOC. Features new ceremonies, new experiences, but same meaningful message. Changes are positive and will help with retention and understanding of the OA. Several kinks to work out, but step in the right direction. Feedback gathered at NCOC will be used to rework scripts with the goal of launching the new ceremonies in fall 2026
 - b. NLS/DYLC & Promotion - Elijah Aiken / Emma Wright
 - i. October 3rd - 5th - Rockville, RI
 - ii. December 5th - 7th - Greensboro, NC
 - iii. Scholarships
 - I. Section once again offering 50% Scholarship. Form will open ASAP
 - c. [OAHA](#) - Eli Leaders
 - i. This year our Section sent 4 youth to OATC, 1 youth to OANT, and 8 youth to OASE



VII. Old Business

a. [2025 Conclave Minutes](#)

- i. I-Tsu-La moves to approve the 2025 Conclave Minutes, Egwa Tawa Dee seconds. Motion passes unanimously

b. [2025 Conclave Feedback](#)

- i. Good: Tailypo, food, AIA, fellowship
- ii. Bad: Streamline awards, sunrise hike

c. [2025 Conclave Budget Closeout](#)

i. Conclave Rollover

- I. 2025 conclave resulted in a \$3,300 surplus due to better-than-expected trading post sales, a higher percentage of arrowmen paying the late registration fee, and donations from host lodge, Egwa Tawa Dee. Section leadership recommends rolling over all \$3,300 (maximum allowed by Field Operations Handbook) to the 2026 conclave in order to help cover increased rental equipment costs associated with hosting the at a location other than a Scout camp. The other option is having the surplus refunded to the lodges proportionally to their conclave attendance, but the section recommends against this option.
- ii. I-Tsu-La moves to approve the 2025 Conclave budget and rolling over the \$3,300 surplus to the 2026 Conclave budget. Echeconnee seconds. Motion passes unanimously

VIII. New Business

a. [Service Beyond the Fire: January 9-11 @ Camp Sidney Dew](#)

i. Program Information/Presentation – Stephen Leach

- o Cannot continue with AIA Indian Winter due to national policy
- o Service event offers opportunity for a unique experience
- o Medical personnel will be available at worksite locations
- o Saturday Dinner COC (tentative)

ii. Coosa moves to approve the Service Beyond the Fire Proposal. Mowogo seconds.

I. Discussion

- a. Budget coming soon; will be voted on during virtual COC
- b. Working to get PPE donated
- c. Several DNR & USFS properties have been identified as potential work sites
- d. Still exploring transportation options to get to work sites
- e. Each year's COC will have the option to decide whether to continue with a winter service event



2. Motion passes unanimously
 - iii. Service Lodge Presentation – Jacob Davis
 1. Bring tents or hammock, some campsites have Adirondacks
 2. Limited cell service
 - iv. Lodge Promotion/Registration – Matthew Sutton
 1. Promotional toolkit coming soon
 - b. Conclave: April 17-19th @ Moundville State Park
 - i. [Theme Presentation and Selection](#) - Emma Wright and Landen Scott
 - ii. I-Tsu-La moves to adopt the USA 250th Anniversary theme for the 2026 Conclave. Echeconnee seconds
 1. Discussion:
 - a. Several members expressed concerns over the USA theme citing the current state of US politics, the contradiction of having that event on Native American burial grounds, and the potential repetition of the USA theme across other Scouting events. Others pointed out the Duck Dynasty and golf themes wouldn't resonate with youth arrowmen. Proponents of the Duck Dynasty theme suggested the theme would resonate more strongly with younger arrowmen if it were a general "red neck" theme. Section Adviser, Ken Barton, expressed concern over the use of that term and urged the group to adopt a theme that wouldn't be considered offensive.
 2. Roll Call Vote for 250th Anniversary Theme
 - a. Chief – Abstain
 - b. Vice Chief – Abstain
 - c. Secretary – Abstain
 - d. Alibamu – Nay
 - e. Aracoma – Yea
 - f. Chattahoochee – Nay
 - g. Coosa – Nay
 - h. Echeconnee – Yea
 - i. Egwa Tawa Dee – Nay
 - j. Ini-to – Nay
 - k. I-Tsu-La – Yea
 - l. Mowogo – Nay
 - m. Waguli – Yea
 - n. Withlacoochee – Yea
- Nays – 6; Yeas – 5; Abstentions – 3. Motion rejected



- iii. Ini-To moves to approve the Duck Dynasty Theme, Egwa Tawa Dee seconds
 - I. Motion adopted by voice vote
- iv. [Program Overview](#) – Emma Wright
- v. Lodge Promotion / Registration – Matthew Sutton
- vi. [Service Lodge Presentation](#) – Landen Scott
 - I. Aracoma gave an overview of the Moundville facilities and suggested locations for each major conclave event. Availability of electricity could be limited especially for training locations. Cell service is decent but there are some dead zones on property. A suggestion was made to use QR codes for trainings so arrowmen could view presentations on their phone
- vii. Program Vision and Overview
 - I. Administrative Events – Sophie Branscome
 - a. Retention efforts (Brotherhood, new members, old members) will have its own judging
 - b. More open than social media & website.
 - i. Email templates
 - c. Newsletter
 - d. Removing Planbook (materials judged as website content)
 2. Ceremonies – Chris Arnold (adviser)
 - a. Continue with current ceremony scripts. No change until fall 2026.
 - b. Need 8 sites with tables, chairs, and tents
 - c. No regalia; black dress or uniforms only
 - d. Requesting \$150 for recognition items for judges
 3. Fellowship – Sankalp Yeleti
 - a. Refocus QR game to Conclave program
 - b. Adding more adult fellowship opportunities
 4. Quest Events – Logan Leach
 - a. Keeping all games; adding adult tug of war
 - b. Aracoma will get clarification on whether spray paint can be used on the grass at Moundville
 5. Shows – Aaron Sadowski
 - a. Requesting \$1,200 budget to compensate for lack of facilities. Additional details being discussed with Aracoma
 6. Special Events – Hagan Rudolf
 - a. Similar to last year
 - b. Add individual costume competition related to theme



- c. Escape Room
 - i. Very popular at NOAC
 - ii. May not be feasible due to cost/logistics
 - iii. Need to accommodate a significant number of arrowmen to be worthwhile
 - d. Adult Cookout, add to BAAL
 - i. Hagan expressed an interest in adding the adult cookout to the BAAL competition, but several members expressed a desire to keep BAAL centered around youth competitions
 - e. Patch Auction info to be sent out
 - i. Have patches by SBTF
7. Tailypo Festival – Del Gaines
- a. Every lodge has booth
 - b. Requesting \$300 budget for dunk tank
 - c. May ask Alex Sutter to come back as a DJ
 - d. Requesting the Section also have a booth
8. Training – Tommy Phillips
- a. Establish high quality trainings
 - b. Each lodge provides 1-3 trainers
 - c. Suggested adding training attendance to BAAL competition with 5 pts for participation, 10 pts for 3rd, 15 pts for 2nd, and 25 points for 1st. Need to determine how best trained lodge would be calculated and how to record attendance. A concern was raised that ceremonialists who had to perform during training would be disadvantaged. Egwa suggested that training is already accounted for in the BAAL through the judges requirement.
 - d. Alternatives for those who do not want to do trainings
 - i. Service & Conservation based trainings for those who do not wish to attend traditional trainings
 - e. Requesting initial budget of \$300, but would appreciate an additional allocation if budget allows
9. OAHA - Eli Leaders
- a. Promoting OAHA
 - b. OAHA training session
 - c. Booth at Tailypo
 - i. Posters & flyers to hand out
 - d. Egwa suggested tying OAHA into the service project



- viii. [Best All-Around Lodge Criteria Approval](#) – Emma Wright
1. Coosa moves to approve BAAL, Echeconnee 2nd
 - a. Motion rejected on voice vote
 2. Discussion:
 - a. Egwa suggested reworking BAAL. System feels broken and several requirements disadvantage larger lodges. Scrapping BAAL and adapting to an honor lodge award. Would be more even
 3. Egwa moves to table BAAL rework to give section additional time to consider changes. Mowogo seconds. Motion passes unanimously
- ix. [Award List Approval](#) – Emma Wright
1. 14 lodge flaps
 2. Any new awards for new program will require amendment to the awards list
 3. Replacing planbook with retention
 4. Removing AIA award
 5. Individual awards for CVCs & OAHA coordinator
 6. Egwa Tawa Dee moves to table Award List Approval, I-Tsu-La seconds. Motion passes unanimously
- x. [Budget Approval](#) – Emma Wright
1. Emma reviewed the proposed budget. Increase in conclave fee due to rental equipment costs (restrooms, dining tent, etc.), increased committee budgets, and usage fee. Propose removing belt buckle and hiking medallion from memorabilia list due to declining sales for those items and a significant cost increase from tariffs.
 2. I-Tslu-La moves to approve the Budget. Coosa seconds. Motion passes unanimously
- c. [Scholarships](#)
- i. NLS Scholarship will be \$150
 - ii. New scholarship for OAHA
 1. \$250 (~50%)
 - iii. No set number of scholarships. \$5,000 total funds available
 - iv. Estimated at by Ryan
 1. 8 OAHA (\$2000)
 2. 10 fall NLS (\$1500), 10 spring NLS (\$1,500)

- IX. Closing
- a. Adviser's Minute



EASTERN REGION SECTION 6

ORDER OF THE ARROW



- i. Craig Rotter announced that he would be stepping down as an associate section adviser at the conclusion of the 2026 conclave. The entire COC expressed their appreciation for Craig's efforts with a standing ovation
 - ii. Ken: Thanked everyone for their hard work and reminded the group of the importance of taking care of yourself and "refilling your cup."
- b. Adjourn
 - i. Waguli moved to adjourn. Mowogo seconds. Motion passes unanimously
- c. Meeting concluded with the song of our Order