



Bear Tracks



December 2024

Ohkwaliha-Ká Lodge #34, Leatherstocking Council #400

2025 Winter Fellowship – Lock-In @ Clark Sports Center

Registration is now open for our Winter Fellowship Lock-In at Clark Sports Center in Cooperstown! We will have access to the gym, bowling alley, climbing wall and more for a whole night! Pizza and other snacks will be provided.

When: January 4th 7:30PM – January 5th 6:00AM

Cost \$40

Register by: 1/2/2025 <https://www.scoutingevent.com/400-OALockin2025>

Vigil Committee News

The Vigil Honor selection committee met at Octobearfest and selected three members to receive the Honor. The paperwork will be filed soon with National, and a public announcement will be made soon.

Unit Elections

Starting in January, units can begin to schedule their annual OA Elections. All unit Key 3 members should receive an e-mail from OA Lodgemaster requesting information on scheduling an election. If anyone would like to assist with elections or the communication with elections and unit visits, please reach out on Slack [#unit elections](#) or send an e-mail to elections@oalodge34.org

Lodge Calendar and Slack

Always up to date:

<http://oalodge34.org/wp2/calendar/>

Questions or help with Slack:

support@oalodge34.org

2025 Lodge Dues

You can now pay your Annual Lodge Dues (Jan-1-Dec 31) for 2025! The \$15 can be paid at any lodge event or at the scout office. Checks can be made out to Leatherstocking Council. Pay online: <https://scoutingevent.com/400-OADues2025>

Lodge Performance Metrics Program (PMP)

As the year is coming to an end, we are finalizing our reports and tracking our year over year statistics. We would like to report that for the fourth year in a row we have attained the THRIVING Lodge status in the Performance Metrics Program. Each year we are measured in fifteen areas of development and our scores are continuing to be better each year. Thank you to the Lodge Officers, Committee Chairpersons, and their Advisers for making our Lodge a successful one.

Order of the Arrow High Adventure Opportunities (OAHA)

Do you need an escape from that 9-5 job, summer classes, or the monotony of staring out of your bedroom window longing for something new? If your answer is yes, the Order of the Arrow has the answer for you!

Each summer, the Order of the Arrow offers a myriad of different High Adventure opportunities to meet your summer needs. Maybe it's wetting your appetite by going for a plunge in the Atlantic Ocean with the Ocean Adventure at the Florida Sea Base. Or maybe hiking is your passion; if so, what better place to go than the Philmont Scout Ranch, where you can hike the same trails as your Scoutmaster or Scouting ancestors as a part of your Trail Crew experience? Have you ever thought about what the Native Americans and early explorers did to be avid traders? Maybe the OA Voyage is your calling. Whatever your summer aspirations may be, these National High Adventure bases have put together a multitude of options for you.

Along with your one-week trek completely designed by you, each Arrowman will be afforded the opportunity to leave their mark in history by helping to sure up portage trails, backpacking trails, or coral reefs. Aside from providing a good deed to each of these high adventure bases, every participant will have the opportunity to work closely with other Arrowmen from across the country, who have a similar interest in the future of both the program and the adventure base.

You may be thinking that this is a daunting task, but it is an experience unlike any other afforded to you in Scouting, in that it takes you out of your world and places you with people who want to do something different. It's not every day that you can tell your friends that you climbed into Cypher's Mine, watched the Northern Lights from a canoe, or went scuba diving in the Florida Keys.

These programs help to ensure that the future of Scouting has a place to live, work, and interact. This summer, try something new or do something you thoroughly enjoy! Your destiny awaits you...

For more information contact adviser@oalodge34.org

National & Section News

Save the date for the E15 Section Conclave!

June 6th-8th, 2025 at Camp Woodland in Constantia NY.

Conclave theme: Hollywood

New Vision and Mission from National:

For over 100 years, the Order of the Arrow (OA) has recognized Scouts and Scouters who exemplify the Scout Oath and Law daily. The OA is Scouting's National Honor Society. As an integral part of Scouting America, the OA delivers peer-led advanced leadership experiences that help to build lifelong bonds through service and enrich each member's Scouting journey. OA members are defined by the fellowship they share, service to others, commitment to personal growth, and self-driven initiative to make a difference in their community.

Vision

To be why Scouts want to stay in scouting.

Mission

To achieve the mission of Scouting America through transformative fellowship that ignites limitless Scouting journeys.

Purpose

As Scouting's National Honor Society, we forge lifelong bonds among the leaders in Scouting and:

Recognize those who exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives and, through that recognition, cause others to act in the same way.

Reinforce a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.

Create and deliver peer-led, adult-guided, advanced leadership experiences for Scouts and Scouters that positively impact their unit, community, and ultimately our nation.

Be an integral part of Scouting America and encourage participation in all it offers through units, outdoor adventures, and national events to further the Scouting experience.

SCOUTING'S NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Join the Conversation – Join us on Slack!

What is Slack? – Slack is a communications hub that can bring us all together. Slack gives us a common communication platform to chat, share, and work together. As a Lodge we will be using slack as our primary place for discussion and planning of all Lodge activities. Slack is free and available on all types of devices from phones to desktop computers. All you need to do to connect to us is follow the link: https://join.slack.com/t/oalodge34lec/shared_invite/zt-7zyox54g-MMdB0b6lhV8H1omPfaLpfA If you have questions or need help joining slack please contact: support@oalodge34.org

2025 Active Slack Channels:

We have been working to streamline the channels on slack for the new year (feel free to join them):

[#activities](#) will be used for planning all non-induction events

[#ceremonies](#) will be used for the ceremonies committee

[#conclave](#) will be used for all conclave planning

[#elangomat](#) will be used for the Elangomat committee

[#finance](#) will be used for the finance committee

[#inductionevents](#) will be used for planning induction weekends

[#merchandise](#) marketing ideas

[#patchdesigns](#) patch ideas

[#unit_elections](#) unit election planning and scheduling

[#voiceofthetroops](#) units can post their local events, OA Unit Representatives

[#general](#) this chat, global to all members announcements and calendar things will post here

[#random](#) post anything

There is also a Vigil channel that is by invite only. @bun0014 for more information



Role	Name	E-Mail
Lodge Chief	Jacob Eschenbach	chief@oalodge34.org
Vice Chief & CVC	Santino Tomasi	vicechief@oalodge34.org
Secretary	Morgan Knight	secretary@oalodge34.org
Treasurer	Jon Deitchman	treasurer@oalodge34.org
Lodge Adviser	Ben Obernesser	adviser@oalodge34.org
Staff Adviser	Keith Knight	staffadviser@oalodge34.org

Our Lodge Calendar is available at <http://oalodge34.org/wp2/calendar/>

Visit us online:

<http://www.facebook.com/oalodge34>

<http://www.oalodge34.org/>

Up to date info is available on slack!

Join us on Slack:

https://join.slack.com/t/oalodge34lec/shared_invite/zt-7zyox54g-MMdB0b6lhV8H1omPfaLpfA