



THE FLYING EAGLE

ISSUE 07 - VOL. 88- EPHRAIM RODENBACH, EDITOR
WA-HI-NASA LODGE #111 - MTC 560 - NASHVILLE, TN

WELCOME TO FALL FELLOWSHIP!

BY AJ CASON, FALL FELLOWSHIP CHAIR



Welcome to this year's Fall Fellowship! We are excited to have you all here for this eventful weekend of fun, fellowship and elections!

As you all know, we are on the lookout for our missing scouts, so be vigilant as we work as a team to bring them back safely in a responsible manner. Act fast and work hard on the upcoming challenges, as the mountains are treacherous!



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

- THE BASE CAMP BRIEF
- AWARD NOMINATIONS
- EDITOR'S NOTE
- WHY YOU SHOULD GO TO NOAC 2027
- PUZZLE PERCH
- LEARN HOW TO STAFF WINTER CAMP 2026
- AND MUCH MORE!

THE CLIFF NOTES



DIDN'T ATTEND THE SECTION INDUCTION EXPERIENCE?

A firsthand perspective from Lodge Chief Emerson Eige on the Order of the Arrow's reimagined induction experience, what has changed and why members should experience it before passing judgment.

[READ MORE ON PG. 2](#)



PREVIEW: GOING TO THE MOVIES

Learn more about the Conclave 2027 theme, what you can expect throughout the weekend and the many ways you can get involved. Whether you want to attend with the lodge or help make the event happen as a staff member, there's a place for everyone at Conclave 2027!

[READ MORE ON PG 6](#)

CHIEFLY SPEAKING

BY EMERSON EIGE, LODGE CHIEF



As you may know, our Order is going through one of the biggest changes in its history. I'm referring, of course, to the reimagining of the induction and new member experience.

Several lodge members and I recently had the opportunity to attend the Section Induction Experience at Camp Buck Toms and experience the new induction firsthand. The most important thing everyone should know is that the core principles of the OA have not changed at all. Brotherhood, Cheerfulness and Service remain the underpinning of everything we do in the OA. In fact, I think those principles are even more apparent in the new induction.

I went into the weekend with no spoilers, and I was somewhat skeptical that the new induction could be better than the old one. After completing it as a participant, I came away with several insights I would like to share.

First, I can confidently say that it will be a better experience for new members.

First impressions matter. When we invite new members into the OA, we work them, deprive them of food and explain to them what the OA is about rather than allowing them to experience it for themselves. I don't know about you, but that is not the first impression I want the OA to make.

We, as members, know the significance of the induction and its challenges. Candidates do not. No matter how we explain it, the experience itself shapes their impression of our organization. I have personally watched the optimism disappear from candidates during the old Ordeal process, only to never see them at another event.

We must also remember that we are the ones who came back after that Ordeal. That makes us an inherently biased sample of the people who experienced the old induction. When evaluating whether the old process worked, we cannot look only at those of us who stayed. We must also consider those who did not.

Second, it should be clear that these changes do have some downsides. From my current understanding, those are primarily related to symbolism and the ceremonial elements of the induction.

Nearly everything related to Native Americans has been removed, with very limited exceptions for things such as the OA song. This represents a legitimate loss in some of the richness of the ceremonial meaning behind the induction.

However, as stated earlier, the core tenets of the Order have not changed. There are still entire paragraphs of the old ceremonial text that remain in the new ceremonies. Much of the previous lore has been replaced with the founding story of the OA rather than the Native American-inspired story used in the old ceremonies.

Many ceremonialists know that nearly every aspect of the old ceremonies had meaning imbued within it. At first glance, the new ceremonies appear to contain less of that symbolism, although I must admit that we have not yet had the opportunity to thoroughly scrutinize the new text.

Finally, I want to call upon every member to embrace these changes because the reality is that we cannot go back.

**FLIP TO PAGE 6 TO READ THE
REST OF THIS ARTICLE!**



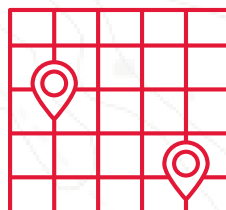
THE BASE CAMP BRIEF

Curious about where to start from base camp this weekend? Check out a preview of the activities below.



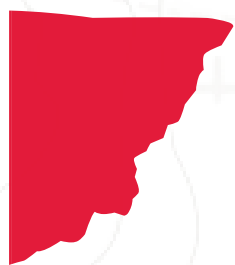
RESCUE RELAY

Race to save your fellow Arrowmen!



SEARCH GRID

Compete to save your fellow Scouts!



TREACHEROUS RIDGE

Navigate across dangerous obstacles!



DENALI DEN

Build a shelter in harsh conditions!



FUN RUN

Escape an incoming avalanche!



ROCK CIMBING

Climb the mountain!



SHOOTING SPORTS

Learn how to take aim!



KAYAK

Explore the open water!



LODGE ELECTIONS

On Sunday morning, each chapter will gather for the annual Lodge Business Meeting, where youth members will elect the 2027 lodge officers.

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE OFFICER POSITIONS? VISIT PAGE 7!

AWARD NOMINATIONS

Every year, our lodge recognizes people who have gone above and beyond in various areas of the lodge by presenting them with awards at our annual Winter Banquet in December.

With the exception of the First-Year Arrowman Award, a member must be nominated to receive an award, so if you feel that someone you know is worthy of such an award, feel free to nominate them. This can be done by visiting our lodge website or by scanning this QR code, and filling out a form for the person you would like to nominate. A list of prior recipients of each award can also be found on our website. The following are the awards which may be presented by our lodge:



First-Year Arrowman Award - Complete a set of requirements within their first year of joining the Order. To apply for this award, go to the awards section of the lodge website to fill out the application and submit it to awards@wa-hi-nasa.org.

Josh Sain Memorial Award - Named to remember the late National Vice Chief, Josh Sain, this award is presented to members for exceptional service to their chapter and lodge. Nominations are due by November 10.



Tom Parker Memorial Award for Excellence in Camp Promotions - This award recognizes a lodge member for outstanding contributions for camp promotions at the chapter or council level. Nominations are due by November 10.

Unsung Arrowman Award - This award is presented to one youth member in the lodge who has devoted time and efforts to the lodge despite never holding a lodge position. The recipient must attend 80% of Wa-Hi-Nasa lodge events within the last two years. Nominations are due by November 10.



Excellence in Ceremonies Award - This award recognizes a youth member of the lodge who demonstrates excellence in lodge and chapter ceremonies. Nominations are due by November 10.

Founder's Award - Awarded by the National Committee of the Order of the Arrow, the Founder's Award recognizes Arrowmen who best exemplify the qualities described by the founder of the Order, Dr. E. Urner Goodman. Nominations are due by September 19th.



QUESTIONS ABOUT AWARDS?



Email awards@wa-hi-nasa.org for more information on award nominations and requirements.



WANT TO WRITE? HAVE A STORY?

**CONTACT
FLYINGEAGLE
@WA-HI-NASA.ORG**

ARROWCORPS AT THE COUNCIL JAMBOREE!

**BY AUSTIN WALTER,
ARROWCORPS CHAIR**

This year, we are taking a different approach to ArrowCorps. The goal is to serve our council by assisting with the upcoming Middle Tennessee Council Jamboree.

Instead of running ArrowCorps alone, we will run two events to support the Jamboree. The first will be ArrowCorps on Oct. 17th, where we will spend the day helping set up Boxwell for the event.

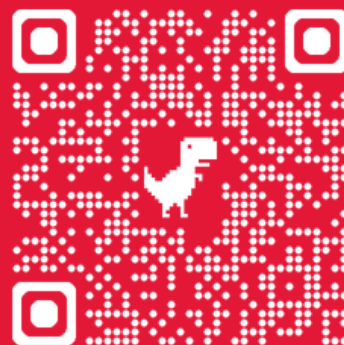
The all-new Operation Eagle will be a volunteer effort from our lodge to help run stations at the Jamboree itself. Operation Eagle will have rotating shifts so you can still enjoy the Jamboree while volunteering.

ATTEND ARROWCORPS ON OCT. 17 TO RECEIVE THIS PATCH!



NOVEMBER 6-8

**AT BOXWELL SCOUT
RESERVATION**



CHIEFLY SPEAKING

BY EMERSON EIGE,
LODGE CHIEF

(CONT. FROM PG 2)

Embracing this new process with the full support of our lodge members, rather than allowing a slow and messy adoption to stretch over several years, will make our inductions infinitely better. We cannot allow the challenges of adapting to change to affect our ability to share the OA — and what we love about it — with our new members.

At the end of the day, the spirit of the Order of the Arrow is why I keep coming back to this organization. I do not come back because I was thoroughly tested or because I feel I “earned it.” I come back because I have made friends for life and because I love giving back to Scouting.

Those ideas reach much deeper than symbolism and tradition. They are the foundations of leadership in service, and they do not depend on a particular induction process to have an impact.

If you recall, you were told as much during your own induction: “These high places are within you.”

I truly feel that this new induction more accurately reflects how I experience the OA in my daily life. It is not without issues, and it should be scrutinized. Even so, I ask everyone to reserve judgment until they have the opportunity to experience it firsthand. That is truly the only way to understand its effectiveness.

Our lodge will provide that opportunity early next year during our Lodge Induction Experience.

As we navigate these changes together, remember our Admonition:

“To love one another.”

Emerson Eige

WHY YOU SHOULD GO TO NOAC 2027

BY HUNTER MCMILLIAN



Imagine a weeklong event with thousands of Scouts from across the country. NOAC 2027: Our Time is an opportunity to make new friends, grow as a leader and create memories that will last a lifetime.

The National Order of the Arrow Conference, or NOAC, is the Order of the Arrow's flagship national event, bringing together more than 8,000 Arrowmen from all 50 states.

This is our time to come together as Arrowmen and experience everything NOAC has to offer, including training, patch trading and evening shows.

NOAC 2027 will be held July 26-31, 2027, at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. The cost to attend with the lodge contingent is \$699, which is lower than the national conference cost thanks to support from the lodge.

Spots won't last forever — NOAC 2024 sold out by January. Don't miss your chance to join Arrowmen from across the country for an unforgettable week. Claim your spot with the contingent and get ready, because this is our time!





LIGHTS. CAMERA. CONCLAVE!

BY EPHRAIM RODENBACH, EDITOR
AND CONCLAVE 2027 CHAIR

Roll out the red carpet — Section E3 Conclave is returning to Boxwell Scout Reservation April 16-18, 2027!

Whether you enjoy action-packed thrillers or lighthearted rom-coms, there is something for everyone in the movie-filled excitement of Conclave. Nine lodges from across the Southeast will come together in Wilson County for a weekend packed with fellowship, training, competition and, of course, the infamous Wa-Hi-Nasa slip-and-slide!

For the first time since 2017, Wa-Hi-Nasa will host more than 500 Arrowmen at Boxwell — and we need YOUR help to make the weekend a blockbuster success.

Every lodge member has a role to play. Join the staff and help bring Conclave to life behind the scenes, or join the Wa-Hi-Nasa contingent, compete in the Quest for the Golden Arrow and experience everything the weekend has to offer.

Keep your eyes tuned to our social media to see our flap design and reserve your tickets soon!

LODGE OFFICERS 101: WHAT DO THEY ACTUALLY DO?

BY EPHRAIM RODENBACH, EDITOR

- **Lodge Chief:** Leads the lodge and oversees the entire lodge program, including officers, committees, meetings and activities. The chief serves as the lodge's principal youth leader and holds final responsibility for the lodge's operations.
- **Lodge Vice Chiefs:** The Lodge has three vice chief positions: service, program and training. Each vice Chief oversees the lodge's standing committees and program areas while supporting the chief in carrying out the lodge program. A vice chief may assume the chief's responsibilities if needed.
- **Lodge Secretary:** Maintains the lodge's official records, including meeting minutes, membership information, attendance and correspondence. The secretary also helps oversee registration for lodge events and keeps lodge leadership informed of membership and registration.
- **Lodge Treasurer:** Oversees lodge finances, including fees, dues, financial reports and budgeting. The treasurer also works with the secretary to manage registration and funds for lodge events.

2026 LODGE CALENDAR

ARROWCORPS
OCT. 17 AT
BOXWELL

**MIDDLE TN
COUNCIL
JAMBOREE**
NOV. 6-8 AT
BOXWELL

WINTER BANQUET
DEC. 5

WINTER CAMP
DEC. 26-31 AT
BOXWELL

ADVISER'S CORNER

BY BRAD GOODWIN, LODGE ADVISER

As I think about the future of Wa-Hi-Nasa Lodge, there is one thing I believe very strongly: we have an incredible tradition worth protecting, and an incredible future worth building.

Recently, a group of Wa-Hi-Nasa youth and adult leaders attended the Section Induction Experience. I was especially proud of those who gave up their time to be there. They didn't simply attend a training event — they made an investment in the future of our Lodge.

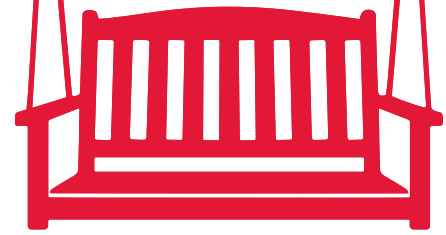
I understand that whenever we change something as important as the induction experience, there can be some hesitation. Many of us have experienced ceremonies that made a lasting impression on us. The words, the symbolism, the mystery, and the feeling of becoming part of something bigger than ourselves are memories we carry for years.

I don't want Wa-Hi-Nasa to lose that. In fact, I believe the new induction process gives us an opportunity to protect it.

The purpose of this change isn't to erase what came before us. It is to take the spirit and meaning of what we have always believed in and present it in a way that connects more effectively with today's Scouts. Most importantly, it gives us a better opportunity to keep those Scouts involved after their Ordeal.

Because ultimately, the success of an induction isn't measured by how many people we bring into the Lodge. It is measured by how many we inspire to stay.

I want every new Arrowman who comes through Wa-Hi-Nasa's induction process to leave knowing that they belong here. I want them to understand that being an Arrowman isn't something that ends when the weekend is over. It is an invitation to return, to serve, to lead, to make friends, and to make a difference.



That is what I believe the OA has always been about.

Those of us who attended the Section Induction Experience now have a responsibility to lead this change with enthusiasm, patience, and a positive spirit. We will undoubtedly have questions along the way. We may have to learn new things. We may even miss some of the things we have done in the past.

That's okay.



Tradition is important — but tradition was never meant to keep us from moving forward.

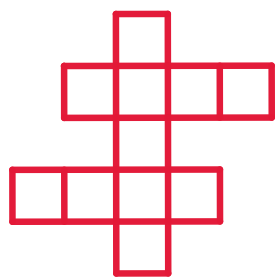
Our founders gave us a spirit, not a script.

Our responsibility is to carry that spirit forward and make sure the next generation of Arrowmen has the same opportunity to experience the brotherhood, service, leadership, and fellowship that have meant so much to all of us.

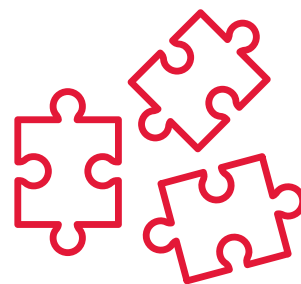
I am proud of Wa-Hi-Nasa. I am proud of the Arrowmen who stepped forward to learn something new. And I am excited about what we can accomplish together.

Let's honor those who came before us by building something worthy of those who will come after us.

The spirit of Wa-Hi-Nasa is not being left behind: We are carrying it forward.

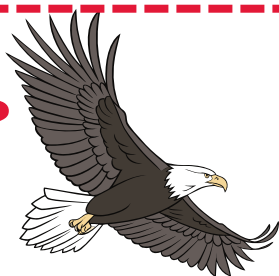


PUZZLE PERCH



WHERE IS THE EAGLE?

**AN EAGLE IS HIDING
SOMEWHERE IN THIS
ISSUE. CAN YOU FIND
IT?**



WINTER CAMP

BY PATRICK MCLANAHAN

As the leaves begin to change and the air begins to chill, a mighty expedition is brewing at Boxwell — for this year's Winter Camp theme is The Curse of Stahlman's Gold!

Each year Wa-Hi-Nasa staffs and leads the program for Middle Tennessee Council's Winter Camp.

Winter Camp represents a pinnacle camping experience open to all enthusiastic Scouts. Crafted and manned by members of the Wa-Hi-Nasa Lodge, this Council event promises unforgettable moments and invaluable growth opportunities.

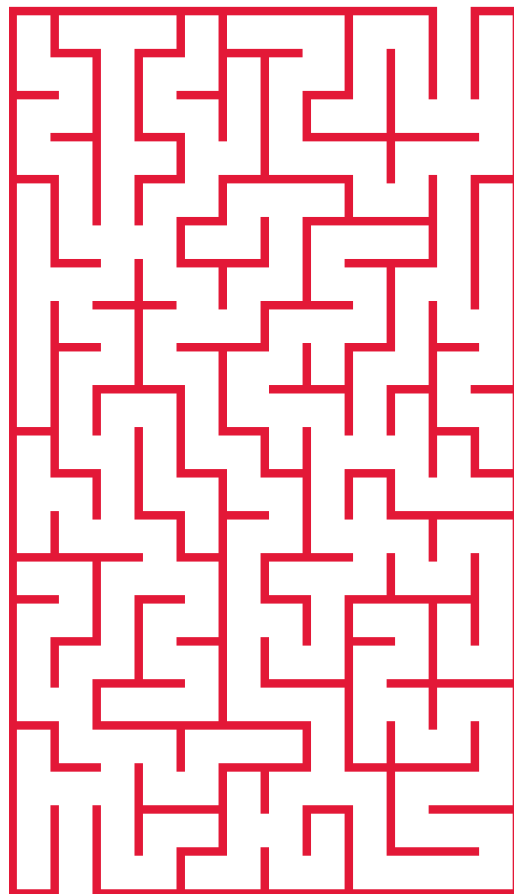
Lodge members who are interested in staffing the event can fill out the QR code on this page. Staffing areas include: trading post, training, service, registration and kitchen.

Members selected to serve on staff will be contacted with more information by the Winter Camp Chairman.

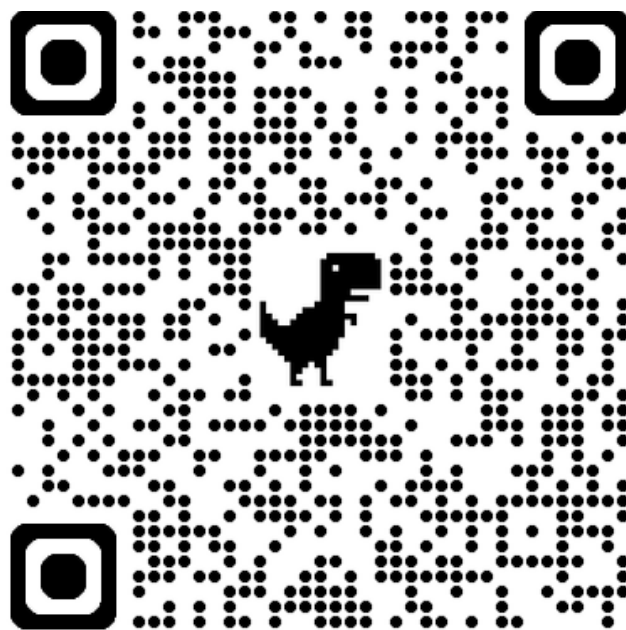
**FILL OUT THE
STAFF FORM
TODAY!**



MAZE START



FINISH



EDITOR'S NOTE

BY EPHRAIM RODENBACH, EDITOR

Congratulations, you've made it to the last page of the Flying Eagle! If you see me in person, tell me, and I'll give you a high five.

On a more serious note — which, granted, is rare for me — I would like to highlight an issue that is growing not only within our Scouting community but across the United States: the preservation of local media.

Whether you realize it or not, the newsletter you have in your hands is local media. It is specifically tailored to our shared interest in Wa-Hi-Nasa Lodge and the people who make it what it is.

The Flying Eagle has been published for decades. Across those years, its pages have documented the history of our lodge as it happened. It has celebrated our successes, remembered the deaths of lodge giants, promoted countless events and tackled complex issues facing our organization. Today, that includes conversations surrounding the new induction experience and what those changes could mean for the future of our Order.

Years from now, when someone wants to know what Wa-Hi-Nasa was like in 2026, they won't just have patches or shaky cell-phone pictures to look back on. They will have the words written by the Arrowmen who were here.

In a sense, those pictures and these publications serve as an important pillar of local media: preserving the story of a community.

Across the country, that role is becoming increasingly difficult. Newspapers have closed, newsrooms have shrunk and communities have lost publications that once documented everything from government meetings and high school football games to births, deaths and the everyday lives of their neighbors.

At the same time, trust in the media has become part of our national conversation. You have undoubtedly heard phrases such as "fake news" or criticism directed toward journalists and news organizations. I am not asking you to blindly trust everything you read. In fact, you shouldn't. Read critically. Ask questions. Compare sources. Challenge journalists when they get something wrong, because trust me — we do.

But most importantly. Form your own opinion, don't let others force you into one line of thinking.

Without people willing to document what happens in our communities we lose a place to celebrate accomplishments, a way to share information during emergencies and stories that might otherwise never be told. And, little by little, we lose part of our collective memory.

The Flying Eagle may never investigate the governor (although that would be neat) or report tomorrow's weather, but it serves our shared community. It tells the story of Wa-Hi-Nasa Lodge. It gives Arrowmen a place to discuss where we have been, what we are doing and where we are going.

And as the Order of the Arrow evolves, this publication must evolve with it.

That means telling more stories. It means asking difficult questions when necessary. It means celebrating the people who make this lodge special. Most importantly, it means ensuring that when the next generation of Arrowmen looks back on this period in our history, there is something for them to find.

And maybe take a few minutes to read your lodge newsletter, too.

After all, you're holding a little piece of lodge history in your hands.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ephraim Rodenbach". The script is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'E' and 'R'.