



THE FLYING EAGLE

ISSUE 01 - VOL. 88 - EPHRAIM RODENBACH, EDITOR
WA-HI-NASA LODGE #111 - MTC 560 - NASHVILLE, TN

SPRING SUMMIT

BY SAM WEBBER

Join us at Spring Summit, March 6th-8th at Boxwell Reservation, for an unforgettable weekend where training meets fun! This event seeks to encourage Arrowmen by giving them practical instruction and leadership skills that they can utilize in their chapters, units and beyond the barriers of Scouting.

There will be five core training treks offered at Spring Summit, each of which develops fundamental skills necessary for Lodge leadership, service, and personal development.

- Ceremonies - Enhance your ability to conduct memorable and significant ceremonies.
- Chapter Operations & Culture - Find ways to build and sustain strong, engaged chapters using established techniques and existing tools.
- Inductions - Learn the inner details of the Induction process and the best ways of welcoming new members into the Order of the Arrow.
- Publications - Gain experience creating effective communications and promotional materials.
- Kitchen & Trading Post (Concessions) - Learn essential food-safety practices for lodge events and operations, (required training to work in the Kitchen and with Trading Post concessions)

Training Meets Fun at the 2026 Spring Summit! Whether you are an experienced or First Year Arrowman, Spring Summit offers training geared for you! Join us this spring and take the next step in your journey as an Arrowman towards the Summit!

Visit the Wa-Hi-Nasa website to register for Spring Summit today!



MEET THE NEW SUPREME CHIEF OF THE FIRE

BY EPHRAIM RODENBACH

Robert Johnson was introduced as Middle Tennessee Council Scout Executive in 2025, after the retirement of long-time Scout Executive Larry Brown.

Johnson, an Eagle Scout who has been involved in the Scouting program since the age of six, brings 23 years of professional experience to the Mid-State. Middle Tennessee marks his fifth state of service.

"This is a great place to live, a great place to raise a family, and a great place to do Scouting," Johnson said.

The Council's biggest priority moving forward, according to Johnson, is sustaining membership growth after the significant losses that followed the COVID-19 pandemic. A key part of that effort is the Order of the Arrow.

"The Order of the Arrow represents excellence," Johnson said. "It gives younger Scouts something to strive for and keeps them engaged in the program."

(cont. on pg 3)

FOLLOW OUR SOCIALS

  **@WAHINASA**



CHIEFLY SPEAKING

BY EMERSON EIGE
LODGE CHIEF



The feeling of loneliness is not the absence of people; it is a longing for connection.

This year will be the first year I will not be with my immediate family for Christmas. My dad changed jobs a few months ago, and they are living in Florida. I am still here in Tennessee, living with my nana. I love my nana, but as you might expect, the “over 55 active living community” is not a bustling paragon of youth engagement. I miss my family and it’s hard sometimes without them, even if they’re just a call away.

I realize you’re not here to read a mopey diary entry, so allow me to tie this into the OA. If you recall your induction, you were tasked to spend a night alone. At that time in my life, it was something I had scarcely done, let alone under the stars. However, I completed my induction, and you, brother, likely have as well.

You will be lonely in your life—whether it be your first semester of college away from home, your first full-time job that you have to spend half of your waking hours thinking about and performing, or just the quiet loneliness you feel when you fall asleep at night.

As simple as it may sound, remember that you completed your induction. Remember that you can do hard things, and remember that the moments of brotherhood that we do experience will be what you remember when your loneliness wanes away.

We who hear the Admonition, we who bear the Obligation, let this be our resolution: reach a hand to those who need us, walk in brotherhood beside them. Help them choose from many choices ways—

that lift them out of darkness, as an arrow, loosed in shadow, leaps into the light of morning!”

Though I missed my family, my Christmas was not a lonely one. I spent it with my friends that I made in the OA. They graciously let me into their homes and made that day one of hope and love rather than sorrow. I thank them and I want to embody them.

Be a friend. Be a brother. Because we will all be lonely and we will all need them one day.

Yours in WWW,
Emerson Eige
2026 Lodge Chief

2026 LODGE CALENDAR

**SPRING SUMMIT
MARCH 6-8, AT BOXWELL**

**SECTION E3 CONCLAVE
APRIL 17-19, AT CAMP CURRIER**

**JUNE INDUCTION WEEKEND
MAY 29-31, AT BOXWELL**

**SUMMER CAMP CRACKER
BARRELS
JUNE 10,17,24 AND JULY 8 AT
BOXWELL**

**AUGUST INDUCTION WEEKEND
AUG. 7-9 AT BOXWELL**

**FALL FELLOWSHIP
SEP. 18-20 AT BOXWELL**

**MIDDLE TN COUNCIL JAMBOREE:
ARROWCORPS 111
NOV. 6-8 AT BOXWELL**

**WINTER BANQUET
DEC. 5**



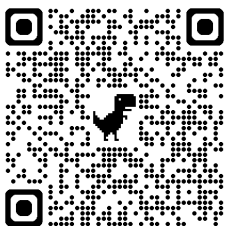
ADVISERS CORNER

BY BRAD GOODWIN

Zig Ziglar once said, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." As we begin a new year, your Lodge Chief, Emerson Eige, has boldly taken that first step and is leading the Wa-Hi-Nasa Lodge into 2026 with purpose and intention. His vision is clear: "to make the Wa-Hi-Nasa Lodge the best organization in the Middle Tennessee Council for developing youth—and a place where members want to stay in Scouting."

That vision is already becoming reality. Along with his fellow officers, Chief Eige has assembled the largest Lodge Executive Committee in our history, launching an incredible 50 committees. Yes, 50! This means more youth leadership development, more adult mentorship, and more opportunities than ever before to serve our lodge and council. If you have been looking for a way to get involved, this is your moment. There is a place for you in the lodge, and we want you to be part of this journey. I encourage you to get active in your chapter, find a lodge committee that interests you, and volunteer to help. The best way to do this is by attending chapter and lodge events and stepping forward to serve.

Although the year has just begun, the momentum is unmistakable. Our officers gathered for a leadership retreat where they set direction, built trust, and committed themselves to the success of this lodge. That energy carried into December's Lodge Leadership Development event, where excitement and pride were on full display. The passion in the room made one thing clear—this lodge is ready to do great things.



Wa-Hi-Nasa is built on a proud legacy of leadership. We are here today because generations of Arrowmen before us chose to serve, lead, and live the values of our Order. Now it is our turn. By embracing the principles of Brotherhood, Cheerfulness, and Service, and by investing in the youth of our lodge, we ensure that this legacy not only continues—but grows stronger.

So let us move forward together. Let us take that next step on the journey, support our Lodge Chief, and see just how far this path can take us.

In WWW,
Brad Goodwin
2026 Lodge Adviser

NEW SUPREME CHIEF OF THE FIRE CONT...

Johnson, a Vigil Honor member, reflected on his own OA induction as a challenging but memorable experience. During his time as a Scout Executive, he received the Vigil Honor with the Vigil Name "Supreme Chief of the Fire." Which is given to Scout Executives by lodges, so technically, he is the Supreme Chief of the Fire twice.

"Being elected into the Order of the Arrow carries responsibility," Johnson said. "Your peers believe you are worthy to serve others. Don't forget why you're really here."

Looking forward, Johnson highlighted the continued investment in the council capital campaign. Following the opening of the Harwell Leadership Center last year, the council's next focus is on the family and staff lodge that will be located in Camp Stahlman. Camp must continue to evolve to meet the changing needs of Scouting families, Johnson said.

Johnson expressed a heartfelt appreciation for the Wa-Hi-Nasa lodge and its members, describing the OA as an essential partner in the mission of Scouting America.

**WANT TO WRITE? HAVE A STORY? CONTACT
THE EDITOR AT FLYINGEAGLE@WA-HI-
NASA.ORG OR SCAN THE QR CODE.**