



VOICE ^{OF} THE PINES

NA TSI HI LODGE 71 - ORDER OF THE ARROW

FALL 2025

From the Lodge Chief

Hello to all Na Tsi Hi Lodge members! My name is Colin and I serve as the 2025-26 Na Tsi Hi Lodge Chief. So far this year, we did an excellent job over the summer to prepare ourselves for the coming Lodge year: planning out the entire Lodge calendar, working out details of the Fall Service Weekend and the Fall Fellowship, and helping to establish committee responsibilities. Our fall service weekend was quite successful, and our current membership is now larger than last year's, which is the first step in a continual positive trend for years to come.

Na Tsi Hi has a very exciting Lodge calendar for the upcoming year, and it will culminate in us hosting Conclave at Forestburg next June. I know with the amazing section team combined with our Lodge, we will be able to have one of the best conclaves yet.

I am very excited to get to know the other chiefs in our section, as well as planning to invite them and our section officers to our events throughout the year so that you all get the chance to meet them as well.

Na Tsi Hi has a lot of upcoming events and activities, so be sure to keep an eye out for updates on our website and Instagram page. As always, if you'd like to try to find more ways to get involved with the Lodge, feel free to reach out to me at chief@natsihi.org or to any of our youth committee chairs.

Yours in Service,
Colin S. - Lodge Chief



From the Lodge Adviser

Taken from my recent Lodge Adviser Minute, but I think it is an important message that the wider audience should take to heart. I'm holding a crisp twenty dollar bill. Who wants it?

If I crumple up the \$20 dollar bill, who still wants it? What if I drop it on the ground and start to grind it into the floor with my shoe. As I pick it up, it is now crumpled and dirty. Now, who still wants it? More than likely most of you readers are still raising your hand.

No matter what I did to the money, you still wanted it because it did not decrease in value. It is still worth \$20. Many times in our lives, we are dropped, crumpled, and ground into the dirt by the decisions we make and the circumstances that come our way. We may fail at something, lose a friend or two, get fired from a job. In that moment, we may feel worthless. But no matter what has happened or what will happen, you will never lose your value. Remember this on your life's journey, because life is full of ups and downs.

Christopher Harris -Lodge Adviser



Just a simple reminder.

Have you paid your DUES yet?



Mark the date

Na Tsi Hi Winter Carnival

January 4, 2026

More information to come



From the Vice Chief of Inductions

Hello, Arrowmen!

My name is Edward S., and I am excited to serve our Lodge as the Vice Chief of Inductions! It is my pleasure to be working with you for the 2025-26 term! My first year in the Lodge, I began as a ceremonialist who only attended service weekends. I had assumed pre-Ordeal, Ordeal and Brotherhood ceremonies were where I was required most, yet there were plenty of other opportunities to take part in. I've later come to learn that there is more to the OA than what first occurred to me, and the importance of looking beyond "visible" things.

However, and most importantly, you may ask yourselves what I intend to accomplish in this position. I intend to remind us of what our founder, E. Urner Goodman, expressed. Goodman advised us on many occasions that the sash itself does not define the Order, but instead it is one's willingness to live a life of cheerful service. The sash does not, nor should, dictate membership. Particularly, he reminds us that "the Order of the Arrow is a thing of the spirit rather than of mechanics." I find that many candidates, after attaining membership, seek only the material things in front of them rather than what lies beyond such.

Kichkinet exemplifies these ideas in the Pre-Ordeal ceremony, asking if you have seen the arrow. The arrow itself does not exist in a physical sense: it is an experience in serving your brothers. My philosophy is to best assist you in your journey of seeing the arrow. I encourage you all to attend events beyond service weekends. You are bound to find benefit in each and every one of them! LECs, for instance, place you near the helm of our Lodge's activities. They allow you to contribute your ideas, learn how our Lodge operates, and help shape its future. By attending, you gain a deeper appreciation for how every event, ceremony, and service project comes together through teamwork and dedication. Your voice matters, and the insight you bring can inspire real change. I look forward to seeing many of you there as we continue to strengthen the bonds of brotherhood and carry our Lodge forward in the true spirit of cheerful service.

Yours in Brotherhood,

Edward S. - Vice Chief of Inductions

From the Vice Chief of Administration

Boots, Shoehorns, ACTION!

As we reflect on our successful Fall Service Weekend, it makes us ponder our purpose in the Lodge. Each of us stands at a different place in our journey, some have served on committees and sealed their membership, while others have only just begun, having taken their Ordeal and now seeking the path of Brotherhood. Wherever you stand, your journey continues, so I urge you to imagine this story to guide you on your journey:

We awaken to the bugler's call, but we are late to retreat. My friends swiftly laced their boots dashing out of the cabin, while I struggled to catch up. Reaching for a shoehorn feeling self-conscious and anxious about being left behind. Panicked, I rushed outside with laces undone. Consequently, I stumble, and darkness overcomes me. I went unconscious and began to dream...I encountered an elder who told me, "If you are willing to walk through the night alone, take this bowstring and use it to lace your boots. You will not walk in fear, for though you may journey in solitude, you are never truly alone." Suddenly, all the distress I was feeling went away, and even though I was still alone, I didn't feel alone.

With courage I approached the parade field, strangely now prepared for colors, only to find a figure who looked a lot like me standing there. I was curious why, but the principal insisted on inspecting the soles of my boots. "The sole lies beneath all, it bears the weight of the burdens, touches the earth first. So must you walk as a servant leader, strong and humble, grounded yet steadfast." After this encounter, the sun began to rise. I was awakened by these my brothers from my trance, breathing the same breath. And it is only right that I looked down on my new pair of boots, smiling.

Next time you stumble on your journey, recall this encounter of the vigilant character. Perhaps the most fulfilling purpose in our Lodge you can have is to be these encounters for someone else. Let this be the real mystery of our Order!

Yours in Akinship,

Thomas O. - Vice Chief of Administration

From the Lodge Secretary

Hello Arrowmen!

Congratulations to all newly inducted members! My name is Philip R., and I am honored to serve as your Lodge Secretary this year. Previously, I have served as our Lodge's Vice Chief of Inductions and Membership Chair. As Secretary, my main role is to prepare agendas and take minutes for our LECs to keep our members informed.

Speaking of LECs—I encourage all of you to stay active in the OA. One of the best ways to do this is by attending our Lodge Executive Committee Meetings, also called LECs. These meetings are where we discuss what's happening in the Lodge, plan upcoming events, and review past ones. If it wasn't for attending the LECs, I would have never been able to do what I've done in the OA. The OA has taken me to many places, from the National Order of the Arrow Conference in Colorado to our Section E17 Conclave in Puerto Rico. These experiences have not only been fun and memorable, but have also shaped my character, leadership, and made me who I am today.

Yours in Brotherhood,

Philip R. - Lodge Secretary

Election Season is Coming!!

Hello everyone, election season is fast approaching, we need every member to help us get the word out. We elected over 140 scouts last year, let's break this number!!! Convince your troop to run an election. Get Scouts excited about the OA!! Running an election is fun and a great opportunity to meet Scouts from other units throughout council!! If you are interested in helping out with elections, please contact us at elections@natsihi.org

Scoutmasters, be on the lookout for your Unit Election sign up link in the next coming months!!

Hope to see you all at elections!

Rayna M. - Elections Chair

Communications Update

Hello Arrowmen!

Congratulations to all of our new Ordeal Members! You probably saw me at the ordeal with the rest of Communications Committee taking pictures and managing our socials.

Being in a Committee makes your Lodge experience a lot more fun so if you haven't joined one already make sure you contact Membership.

Can't wait for the new year,

Beth S. - Communications Chair

Activities Update

Hello Arrowmen!

For those of you who don't know who I am, I'm Gabe V., your new Activities Chair. Here at Activities, we plan the fellowship for Na Tsi Hi. From planning the fellowships at the Service Weekends, to Fall and Spring Fellowship, to even our Winter Carnival (our Lodge's biggest event)!! We had an awesome Fall Service Weekend fellowship with activities ranging from inflatable axe throwing, to "Boston Tea Toss" bean bag cornhole. All the new members and current members had a great time and it was a really good turn out. A hilarious memory from setting up Saturday Night's fellowship was when some of us thought the inflatable Axe Throwing set would fit underneath Bishop Pavilion, but it ended up not fitting. In fact, it didn't even inflate halfway before reaching the ceiling of Bishop. Most of us (including myself) broke out into laughter as we watched the half inflated Axe throwing station. But not to worry, the team and I were able to move it so it could be put to use.

If you have any ideas or want to get more involved with the Lodge through this committee, please reach out to activities@natsihi.org. We started to plan for the year and would greatly appreciate some more help.

Yours in Brotherhood,

Gabe V. - Activities Chair

Vive Puerto Rico!

It's been a little over a month since we returned home from Puerto Rico's 2025 Conclave!! Woo hoo!! What a great time the twenty of us had. From the hikes through Old San Juan to the Yunque National Forest to the Playa Crash Boat, the experiences were the best. The details that the Puerto Rican Lodge put into Conclave made our experience exceptional. But it would not have been this successful without our fearless leaders here in NJ. Thank you to Matt Anderson and Matt R. for all the behind the scenes work that had to be done. Thank you to all the adults who made the trip fun and to our brothers in OA, I hope you had a great experience. We have personally invited the Yokahu Lodge to come early next June and enjoy a little of New Jersey and New York. Come join us at Conclave 2026 when our very own Lodge, Na Tsi Hi, will host it.

Mrs. Kiss

Snakes!

I have been terrified of snakes for as long as I can remember. It has been something that I've always just dealt with as a part of life, and avoided as much as possible. Somehow though, it would seem as though some people absolutely adore these nibbling garden hoses, and many of those people happen to also be involved in Scouting. Just my luck.

The situation of seeing a snake was pretty unavoidable in the outdoors, but I preferred to keep my distance in any snake interaction while at FSR. I tended to do a pretty good job, and kept my only snake-filled interactions to those discussing first aid and prevention of snake and wild animal bites.

Ultimately, the period of avoidance this summer came to a close, much to my disappointment. A number of Ecology & Conservation (Econ) staff members had taken an interest in fostering serpents within their area to take care of for a few weeks, and I was more than happy to never take them up on their offer of going for a visit. More close call interactions with snakes popped up throughout the summer, like visiting a reptile store in a nearby mall on one of our days off (I stayed comfortably outside, thank you very much) or even seeing a garter snake deciding to lay its claim on Scoutcraft's fire ring (he was safely evicted in a bucket, and transferred to the care of the Econ staff).

You may now be beginning to see the problem I was

(Continued on page 5)

Na Tsi Hi at Forestburg

This year was quite special to me in regard to Scouting, as I recently completed my first summer as a Forestburg staff member! Arrowmen, if you would like to extend the role of our Lodge within the Scouting community, I highly recommend applying for the 2026 season.

During the summer, we hold multiple activities related to the Order. OA day, for one, is held every Thursday. There is a service project held then, which gives scouts the opportunity to earn an OA Service Award. During the summer, I've seen a large body of participants that consisted both of members and non-members. This was a great effort, as it fostered an immense interest in the OA among plenty of scouts.

We also welcomed a total 14 new Brotherhood members, each of whom strengthened the bond of Brotherhood within our Lodge. I hope to see even more take the next step on their journey next summer, continuing to pursue the OA's high ideals!

Edward S. - Lodge Vice Chief of Inductions

Vigil Honor

I'm glad that I was asked to be a member of the Vigil Committee this year.

I would like to especially thank Rob P. Stawicki, Rob M. Stawicki & Heidi K. for their organization, inspiration and spirit during Vigil. You don't realize how much hard work is placed into Vigil until you witness it from a different perspective. They truly made this Vigil one to remember for all.

There are moments in scouting that you never can plan for or don't know how well it will turn out. You prepare the best you can and do the best with the situation you have.

Colin S, Theo D-S, Thomas O, Julia A, Mr. Matt Anderson, Mr. Steven Nudelman & Mr. Mark Ugi experienced some of the most wet, rainy weather, I have ever seen in camp. Their resolve during Vigil was inspiring.

Another moment you can never plan for was the welcoming cheers the whole Lodge gave the Vigils during the business meeting. Thank you Lodge members for making that a moment that I'll remember.

Yours in Brotherhood,

Mr. Curt Philipczak - Associate Lodge Adviser

Crew 71 Update

The past couple of months, the crew has been really active. We have met up for a select number of meetings, recruited even more members, and have even gone on a few outings.

Up at FSR, the crew participated in an overnight at Indian Ridge outpost. We all had a blast, setting up our hammock city, and even waking each other up in an interesting manner.

The crew also participated in a crew hike. We all had a great time exploring the old war tunnels and navigating on the path.

We also participated in the NJ Run For The Fallen which was a special event. We took a tour that really boosted our knowledge of the time leading up to, during, and after the Vietnam war.

Our latest event, being Dino Day, was a really fun and an enjoyable experience. We helped young children learn knots and ate many, many cookies made by Mr. Stawicki.

If you want to join venturing and have a great time, talk to Mr. Stawicki or anyone in a green uniform.

Yours in Venturing,

Charlie R.

If Only

If I were not at Forestburg I wonder where I'd be? If I were not at Forestburg; I wish...If only I could sing my heart out again, as the sun drops behind the rock-face at the opening campfire. If only I could lose my voice again, echoing across the lake. If only I could tell a silly joke in the pit again that makes us all shriek deviously. If only I could visit the Ring of Brotherhood again, in the presence of the Great and Mighty Chief. If only I could spend one more night in Quack again, in our stinky, smelly room. If only I could feel the Brotherhood of my closest friends together. If only I could be stung by a yellowjacket again; it marks me being alert to the needs of others. If only I could cross the monkey bridge again, seeing reflections of the CITs in the water. If only I could jump into Burnt Hope Lake again and feel the squishy mud between my toes. If only I could stand on Tecumseh Rock again and drink Trader Joe's Snake Oil Elixir. If only I could hike to Darlington again, hearing the white noise. If only I could go to High Rock again; it is only right to lie among the cubes. If only I could teach a merit badge again and see a Scout take an interest. If only I could do KP again and practice leadership in service. If only I could fold canvas again, chanting silently in perfect unison. If only I could move cots again with my bestest of buddies. If only I could be on work crews again, turning hard work into fun and cheerful service. If only I could clean the latrines again, to keep my home proper. If only I can take a beautiful hike to Willowemoc Sunday morning again. If only I could ham it up in the radio shack again and listen to the ba-da-booeys over the air. If only I could hug my friends again and not let go so fast. If only I could have the time of my life at Forestburg again, I'd do anything for that.

A Forestburg Staff Member



Resident Assistant Rigamarole

For anyone that worked with me at FSR and especially those that I was a Resident Assistant for in 2024, they know how much I enjoyed that, to say the least. I enjoyed it so much that this past August I left FSR on Wednesday to then move back out to Indiana that following Friday in order to go through RA training here at Purdue. That week of training and the semester so far has definitely been a challenge and a test to my artistic abilities, social stamina and time management skills. I have been hosting weekly events, keeping up with my fifty-four residents all while taking care of myself and my academics. It for sure is a challenge, but it feels like it is exactly what I should be doing. It would be silly to think that I am perfect at my job, that is why I am always open to constantly improving, which is a skill that I have most definitely taken to heart from Scouting and the OA.

Yours in Scouting,

Cole P.

Snakes (Continued from page 4)

now facing: Econ had far too many snakes for their area and began to spread the "joy" of serpenthood. It was one fateful Monday evening after Scoutcraft's night off that we eagerly returned to camp. Monday night also featured astronomy in the parade field, hosted by Econ. Much to my surprise upon stopping in to say hello to some fellow staff members, I realized that they had, in fact, brought company (I believe it was a common water snake).

I reacted in a similar way to most normal people, which was of course to leap backwards five feet and scream like a baby. Naturally, this reaction shocked many staff members, who up until then I don't believe ever fully believed me that I was severely scared of snakes. Loren, the area director, vowed to help me overcome my fear, at least in some part.

Loren was true to his word, as during our camp breakdown week he managed to locate a tiny ring-necked snake with a mouth far too small to bite. For the first time in many years (or perhaps even ever), I was successfully able to touch a snake, and I even was able to hold said snake on my own very briefly.

Thank you to the good people of Econ, who successfully kept me on edge all summer and helped me to overcome a very small part of my fear of snakes. My biggest takeaway has been this: I still don't like snakes, but it's been nice to explore the realm of getting over it.

Yours in Brotherhood,

Colin S.

Na Tsi Hi Arrowmen support Treasure Island and Unami Lodge ONE

Na Tsi Hi Arrowmen support Treasure Island and Unami Lodge ONE From September 19-21, Thomas O. and Mr. Ugi were invited as honorary Camp Staff and attended the Unami Lodge ONE Vigil Honor Service Weekend at historic Treasure Island Camp. Situated in the middle of the mighty Delaware River near Pipersville, PA., Treasure Island is home to the original Order of the Arrow Ceremony back in 1915.

Saturday we worked to down several large, dangerous trees on the property, learning skills such as rigging, geometry of fall, rope-slinging and proper cutting techniques to safely drop trees and ensure campsites and buildings remain safe for Scouts.

Saturday night we were invited to witness the Unami Vigil Callout Ceremony, explore the historic grounds and visit the marvelous Goodman-Edson Museum located on the island. Sunday morning, we were invited to the Vigil Honor Ceremony and everyone on camp attended the Interfaith Worship before boarding the boat to go back to the mainland.

Possibly the best part of the weekend was meeting a former brother from Na Tsi Hi, all the way from Florida. Mike Steinberger was inducted in 1972, completed Brotherhood and served on Forestburg Dan Beard Staff in the mid-1970's. If you haven't been to Tecumseh Rock at Forestburg lately, Mike made a very generous donation to help with the renovation, it was great to meet him and share stories with him and Arrowmen from other lodges!

Do you have skills that you want to pass on to a new generation of Scouts, do you have the desire to be involved in a Scouting program role that has a smaller time commitment, would you like to live on an island for a weekend?!? To find out more about joining Treasure Island Camp Staff, stop by TI any weekend in October and talk with Camp Director Nate Burvainis or email:

nathanb@friendsoftreasureisland.org.

Treasure Island Camp is not in any way affiliated with or operated by Scouting America, or any council.

Yours in Brotherhood,

Mr. Mark Ugi

NLS/DYLC, Camp Yawgoog, Rockville RI

I could not have been more proud of the participants that came for NLS [National Leadership Conference] at Camp Yawgoog, Rockville RI, on the first week of October.

Despite the Connecticut traffic, (Route 95 was a challenge) the weather could not have been nicer.

I was fortunate to be able to participate in DYLC [Developing Youth Leadership Conference]. The conferences were being held at the same time, and we all shared dinning and Cracker Barrel together. During those times, I had the opportunity to share the enthusiasm and the OA camaraderie of being in the best Lodge with our youth and adults. I was simply very proud of how our participants interacting with the Staff and other Lodges in the learning environment.

I have learned that each scout event we share time together is very unique in itself. I simply wanted to thank everyone that came, drove other scouts and wanted to participate in additional training opportunities.

It was the biggest circle that I have ever saw, in doing the "Song of the Order" at the conclusion.

(That part always gets to me when I see all the Lodges together as one).

Yours in Brotherhood,

Mr. Curt Philipczak - Associate Lodge Adviser



New Jersey Run for the Fallen

For the last 17 years, during the last week in September, a group of active military service men and women run from Cape May to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Holmdel, paying respect to those service men and women who died in the line of duty during the Global War On Terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Running over 195 miles during the 4 days, the running teams stop at each of the 200+ markers to honor that military person and to pay respect to his/her Gold Star Family.

The runners end their journey at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and upon their arrival there is a closing ceremony thanking the runners and the support team and one last opportunity to honor those fallen and the Gold Star Families.

I have been involved in the closing ceremony program for more than 15 years. Each year is a wonderful experience for me, and I have been grateful to have scouts and scouters participate with me. This year was not any different as Venture Crew 71 came out in full force to provide any support needed.

Prior to the runners arriving, the Crew had some down time and we were able to have a tour of the Vietnam Veterans Museum. The Docent giving the tour was a Helicopter pilot who served in Vietnam and was able to add some personal anecdotes to the museum exhibits.

The crew also visited some of the monuments including the Gold Star Family Monument. As the Docent was explaining to the crew the meaning and the significance of the Gold Star Family monument, 2 Gold Star Mothers came over and explained to the crew what it meant to be a Gold Star Family and how grateful they were for the Crew wanting to participate in this event that honored their child and also paid respect to the 200+ gold Star Families.

During the Closing Ceremony, the Crew was invited to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

To sum up the event, the Afternoon was educational and emotional and each member of the crew (and Adult scouters) was glad that they came and want to come back again next year.

If you would like to get more insight about the run, talk to anyone wearing this patch or go to the website: <https://www.njrff.org>

Mr. Kain

**Leadership is not about being the best.
Leadership is about making everyone
else better.**

The Strands

What is the Guide without the Chief, Medicine Man, and Guard? What is the North without the West, South, and East? What is the Earth; Wood without the Air; Sky, Water; Moon, and Fire; Sun? What is the Winter without Autumn, Summer, and Spring? What is the Past without the Future, Present, and Continuity? What is the Heart; Blood without the Mind; Conscience, Body; Bone; Muscle, and Spirit; Inmost-Self? What is the Arrow without the Quiver, String and Bow? What is the Work without the Silence, Self-Denial, and Aloneness? What is the Generosity; Bravery without the Resolution; Will, Listening, and Self-Reliance? What is the Brotherhood without Service, Cheerfulness, and Leadership? What is the Fire without the Hand-On-Shoulder, The-Ties, and Entrance; Kindling? What is The Song without the Obligation, Admonition; Handclasp, and Hailing Sign? What is the Feet; Legs; Mouth without the Head; Arms; Shoulders, Left-Hand; Ears, and Right-Hand; Eyes? What is the Green without the Blue, Red, and Yellow? They're all so different... yet all so alike. It's hard to choose, isn't it? One moment you feel like one, the next you feel like another. "Well, I'm really good at this," you say, "but I want to be that." You start to wonder which one am I? Then you see someone else and think, "Oh yeah, he's definitely one of those." Would they all get along drinking coffee at a table? I think so... I think eventually they realize they've always been part of the same conversation. Some folks think they're one, trying really hard to be another. You are not a quartered self. Seek to reach the center of yourself, and you will discover that going within will bring you to the point where inside and outside are the same. Reaching the center of self you become one with the world. Let them shine through your spirit!

Yours in Brotherhood,

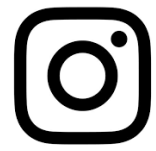
The Spirit of the Arrow

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