VOICE OF THE PINES

NA TSI HI LODGE 71 - ORDER OF THE ARROW FALL 2026

From the Lodge Chief

Hello Arrowmen!

I hope the beginning of the fall and of the school year has been treating you all well and that you are all looking forward to upcoming activities in Scouting and the OA in general. Na Tsi Hi had a very successful Fall Service Weekend in September, and I just recently went to the Section E17 Council of Chiefs on behalf of Na Tsi Hi Lodge to get an idea of the upcoming section events for the next year. Despite the delay of our Lodge Inductions Experience, we still have many events to look forward to. The Lodge Leadership Development on December 13 will be an excellent time to grow as an individual and a leader, and the annual Winter Carnival on January 3rd, 2027 will be a time to celebrate the year and win games and prizes. I am excited to see you all at events and our monthly LEC's and as always, feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have at all regarding anything OA related.

Yours in Service,

Colin S. - Lodge Chief

From the Vice Chief of Administration

Hello fellow Arrowmen, it was awesome to see all the enthusiastic new members at the Fall Service Weekend and all of the returning Lodge members. It was a wonderful weekend. Something I am looking forward to is the new Lodge Induction Experience from March 5th - 7th. It will be a great time for members to prepare themselves to help run the official spring induction weekend for new members or just get to see what it's like. I highly recommend all members to come. I'd like to take this time to remind you that life moves quickly, take the opportunity when you have one. You never know if you don't try. To all scouts have a great school year and scouters have fun at work. I hope to see everyone throughout the year at various Lodge events.

Yours in Brotherhood,

Rayna M. - Vice Chief of Administration

Just a simple reminder

Have you paid your DUES yet?

Mark the date

Na Tsi Hi Winter Carnival

January 3, 2027

More information to come!

From the Vice Chief of Inductions

Hello Arrowmen!

It's been a great start to the year and I'm so glad to see all the hard, dedicated work each of you have put into the Lodge so far. I can't wait to see how the year continues and see how each of you grow to become your own person.

To the new members who recently completed their Ordeal, congratulations! I personally am so proud of every one of you for taking the step into your OA journey. The Order has so many opportunities, and I can't wait to see and be there for everything you all accomplish. If I could leave you a piece of advice, it would be to put your heart into everything you do. Once you do that, there's no limit to what you can accomplish. Believe in yourself and make it happen!

To our returning Lodge members, thank you! These new members would not have been able to complete their Ordeal if it wasn't for you all. Dedicating your time to make it possible for them to come into our circle. You all have put so much hard work into each of your committees and our Lodge wouldn't be able to function without it - whether you're a youth or an adult, you play a vital role in our Lodge. Your love for the Lodge is what gives others the inspiration to feel the same. Never let that go. My piece of advice for you all is to connect with one new member. Grow a bond with them, make them feel like they belong - embody that circle of Brotherhood and love one another.

Although there are many changes and things we must adjust to, I strongly believe we as a Lodge will be able to persevere through that - but only if we have each other. Continue that flame of Brotherhood, and all within that will unfold and blossom. I'm excited to see what's to come!

Yours in Brotherhood,

Gabe V. - Vice Chief of Inductions

NOAC Update

The National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC) is the flagship national Order of the Arrow event. It is held every two years at a major university campus and is attended by as many as 8,000 Arrowmen from all 50 states. NOAC 2027 will be held from July 26-31st, 2027 at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. The Lodge already has a core contingent for the event, and it is actively looking to add attendees (youth and adult).

The estimated total cost is $1,500 per attendee. This covers air transportation to/from NOAC, shuttle from airport to/from college, lodging in campus residence halls, meals in campus dining halls, conference registration fees, contingent SWAG (including contingent patch sets), and other costs.

If you're interested in attending NOAC please send an email to Mr. Nudelman, our adult contingent leader, at snudelman@greenbaumlaw.com and Mr. Philipczak, our Lodge Adviser (lodgeadviser@natsihi.org). You will be asked to make an initial $150 deposit. The Lodge has a payment plan to make things easier for everyone. Also, we will have fundraisers so that each attendee may defray their own cost.

Youth members who have any questions should email Colin S., our Lodge Chief (chief@natisihi.org) or Jack N., our youth contingent leader (noac@natsihi.org). Adult members should email Mr. Nudelman or Mr. Philipczak.

Mr. Steve Nudelman

Adult Contingent Leader - NOAC 2027

From the Lodge Secretary

Transitioning to College:

Our Obligation In Action

Howdy Arrowmen! For any new members who may not know me, my name is Ed Stuart and I'm serving as our 2026-27 Na Tsi Hi Lodge Secretary. You may have seen myself and the other officers out and about at the Fall Service Weekend, helping to ensure operations ran smoothly. But at the same time, I recently began something monumental in my life. I've started my freshman year at The College of New Jersey, and as exciting as this is for me, I'm

(Continued on page 4)

Election Season is Coming!!

Hello everyone, it is Jordan and I am your Unit Elections Chair! I am very excited to be in this position and to work with all of you. I have a lot of things planned for this year as we begin preparing for election season.

To help us stay organized I am putting together a Google Spreadsheet that will list all upcoming elections that need to be run. I also created a Google Form for anyone interested in joining the Unit Elections Committee. You can contact me to get more information at elections@natsihi.org

Also, if you would like to be added to our WhatsApp group to stay updated on announcements and upcoming elections please let me know at the next LEC. As a quick recap 54 candidates completed their Ordeal during Fall Service Weekend. Each of these candidates had to be elected through the election team. Without the hard work and dedication of our Unit Elections Committee we would not have been able to induct these new members into the Order of the Arrow.

(Continued on page 4)

Communications Update

Hello Brothers,

I am happy to announce that I am your 2026-2027 Communications committee chair. I have been in the Lodge for almost 3 years now and it blows my mind how fast the time has flown from my Induction to now. It feels like just 2 months ago I joined, then I went through my ordeal, then suddenly here writing an article to all of you. In the Communications committee we are in charge of putting out the Lodge newsletter that we call the Voice of the Pines. We also produce everything you see on social media. The webmaster also operates under communications to upkeep the Lodge website. We also have a fantastic team that goes around and takes all of the pictures for the Lodge. I'm very excited for this upcoming year with the Lodge. What would make it even better would be you, yes you. You make the Lodge year better, be active. Go to our events. Our service weekends and fellowships are a great way to meet new Arrowmen you haven't talked to and make new friends. None of our events can happen without you. The more Arrowmen that come the more fun the events are and the only way to completely see what the OA has to offer. With this merger of Monmouth and Jersey Shore Councils it brings a lot of new opportunities to meet new Arrowmen and talk to them about their experiences. Every Arrowman I have met has had something different to say when I say something as simple as "what did you get out of this weekend/event" and it creates a topic of conversation because we share what we thought and everyone's view is right so taking the time to listen to what they have to say you have a friend forever.

Yours in Brotherhood

Robbie M. - Communications Chair

Lodge Secretary (Continued from page 3)

being reminded of our Order in so many ways.

I, along with many others, have been living in a communal space where I see my floormates about a third of the day (give or take). I've met so many great people here, although many forget that we're all "brothers" to the respect of ourselves being away from home, getting situated to the new college routine, and various other things. This really opened my eyes to the scope of personalities TCNJ brings. While many appear confident and optimistic for their new lifestyle, I've seen plenty of others struggle and always look back to home. Na Tsi Hi hasn't only taught me the importance of brotherhood, but the idea that everything that shapes who we are hearkens back to "home." Why frankly, it's almost as if our Obligation is coming into effect!

You might've heard the phrase "home is where the people are" come up in many places, but as the OA reminds us, strengthening the bond of brotherhood can make a person abandon that longing and feel excited to become part of a greater community. Plenty of things that can help us live a fulfilling life (i.e. the Scout Oath and Law) are found within our ceremonies. Remember... Nutiket stands for some of the final points in the Scout Law: being cheerful, thrifty, brave and clean.

Most people can witness another struggling with something, it can even be expressed in the slightest way, yet they only observe at a distance. They may feel concern, but hardly take that initiative to approach somebody and simply check in with them. Scouting encourages us to be mentally awake and morally straight - you NEVER truly know how somebody is feeling until you ask them how they're doing. Not out of amusement, but because you truly care. They may need it more than you think.

Edward S. - Lodge Secretary

Unit Elections (Continued from page 3)

As members of the committee we are the face of the Order of the Arrow. We play an important role in welcoming new members. I am very excited for this upcoming election season and I hope you are all too.

Yours in Scouting,

Jordan A. - Unit Elections Chairman

Membership Update

Hello Na Tsi Hi,

For those who don't know, we are the first smiling faces you'll see as you're checking into a lodge event. We track dues and registration and run check in at events.

We had a great Service Weekend in September. 54 new candidates completed their Ordeal , and had 87 members were in attendance. Congratulations to our new members!

We would always be more than happy to take on additional committee members! If you are interested in joining us, or have any questions related to dues or registration, contact us at membership@natsihi.org. We look forward to hearing from you!

Yours in WWW,

Silas G. - Membership Chair

Cheerful Service

Hello everyone,

This past service weekend was a great success. Thank you all who helped with the projects. Don't forget about our cheerful service request form where you can request us to help you with your Eagle project. It can be found on the Na Tsi Hi website. The great thing about it is it's not just for OA members, it's for anybody. So make sure to tell your troop.

Yours in Brotherhood

Griffin H. - Cheerful Service Chair

Quartermaster News

Hello Na Tsi Hi,

We sold a lot of merchandise at the most recent Fall Service Weekend. I would like to thank all the people who had helped me during the weekend (special shout out to Kyle [AKA the Machine]). To those who would like to join Quartermaster you can just come to an event and talk to me (preferably talk to me during a L.E.C. meeting if you can). Again thank you to not just all who helped but all who bought some merchandise. Make sure all of you have a SUPER day!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Alec R. - Quartermaster

Sanctuary of the Heart, Mind and Spirit

Leaping — rock to rock, my cloak misted, mineral -like wisp brewing in the wind, wrestling with the smell of the hemlock boughs ahead. Onward, the moonlight shimmered on the surface of calm blue water — ever guided, by the flickering torchlit path in deep resolve. Hearing the trickle of the stream, the footsteps of my companions — beneath the stars, the heavens, brought us inspiration forthcoming. Laboring each step up the mountain: growing closer to the ring, my circle, our sanctuary. Here lies the place: the power to search the ultimate depths of my physical strength, mental vigilance, and moral compass within.

Emerging from the dark shadows, from this great and honored summit — blazing the passage of hemlock: behold the totem pole ahead! A faint smell of smokey pinewood brings us hope from our strained muscles. Dancing across the pit, the animating warmth and glow of the fire encourages us all. The fortitude of those who visit reminds us the ring is our body, and to search within, beyond physical abilities.

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Kichkinet and the Triforce

Okay okay… this article may get a little nerdy, an Order of the Arrow ceremonialist meets a Legend of Zelda enthusiast.

The Triforce is a sacred golden relic made of three triangles: Power (top), Wisdom (lower-left), and Courage (lower-right). Together they form one triangle with an inverted center. Think of Power as Allowat Sakima, Wisdom as Meteu, and Courage as Nutiket. The Triforce represents three virtues. Likewise, Kichkinet embodies the other three principals. As the principal of Leadership, Kichkinet reflects Brotherhood, Cheerfulness, and Service. The Triforce expresses Power, Wisdom, and Courage, Power = Service, Wisdom = Brotherhood, Courage = Cheerfulness.

The Triforce is known as the Golden Power, symbolized by gold. Similarly, Kichkinet's color is yellow: yellow for the sun (fitting, as Kichkinet stands in the EAST, the sunrise), yellow for the central fire, and yellow for the golden center of an archery target where arrows are aimed. The inverted triangle at the center of the Triforce represents one who leads, true leadership through service.

The Triforce of Power aligns with Allowat Sakima, the principal of Service. Allowat Sakima stands in the NORTH, like Polaris: the Eagle soaring in the sky, just as Power is the top triangle. Blue symbolizes calm authority, trust, and the sky. Allowat Sakima reflects Trustworthy, Loyal, Obedient, and Reverent. A chief's power lies in mastery of conscience and mind, leadership through service.

The Triforce of Wisdom aligns with Meteu, the principal of Brotherhood. Meteu stands in the WEST, like the sunset and the western moun-

(Continued on page 6)

Sanctuary (Continued from page 5)

I proceed with measured steps walking around the illuminated ring, eyes drawn to the light within the center. The contrast of the cool breeze and hot fire catches my attention. An invisible beat — rhythm — exists on this sacred land. Alert to every sound, and to the mind and body, the mark of a vigil.

The curling smoke lifts my eyes towards the carved faces on the totem. The taste of woodsmoke lingers on the tongue, the scent of stone and moss reminds me of nature all around, and the warmth of the fire nurtures me. Silence reverent echoes through my heart as I sit on a cold wet rock. My moral compass points north, towards the polestar.

As the fire grows brighter, the spirit becomes clearer. As I hike closer to the center of the grassy circle, I've reached the center of myself. I've discovered that going within has brought me to the point where inside and outside are the same. Reaching the center of self I become one with this world. Here lies the place: the power to search the ultimate depths of my physical strength, mental vigilance, and moral compass within — not of the body or of the mind — but of the spirit; and from my own place of solitude, I returned, chanting in perfect unison.

Yours in Wimachtendienk,

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

Kichkinet (Continued from page 5)

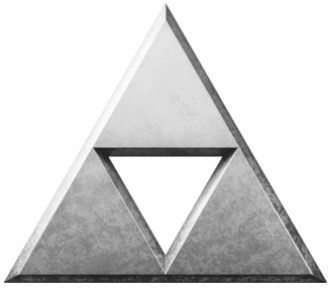
tains, and Wisdom is the left triangle. Meteu's sign is the admonition to love one another, symbolized by red: the color of love. Love and wisdom reinforce one another: love motivates care for others, while wisdom guides actions that truly benefit all. Meteu appears as an elder, medicine man, storyteller, and shaman: all symbols of wisdom.

The Triforce of Courage aligns with Nutiket, the principal of Cheerfulness. Nutiket stands in the SOUTH, the entrance of the circle and the earth below, and Courage is the lower triangle. Nutiket reflects Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, and Clean. Green symbolizes summer, earth, and life, and is tied to these virtues. Bravery is courage, and Nutiket, the Guard, protects the fire of cheerfulness within each Arrowman. Like Link (the protagonist in The Legend of Zelda) with his sword, the guard fights, but Nutiket guards the spirit.

The Legend of Zelda follows the Hero's Journey. Likewise, the Order of the Arrow Induction is a Hero's Journey: Ordinary World (troop) → Call to Adventure (election) → Refusal (choice) → Mentor (ceremonial principals) → Threshold (testing the bow) → Tests (ordeal challenges) → Allies (elangomats & nimats) → Approach → Ordeal → Reward (sash, arrow sought) → Road Back (return to troop) → Resurrection (living the OA Obligation) → Return with the Elixir (Brotherhood).

So, is Kichkinet the Triforce? As The Drum says: "Oh who can say what a vision is!"

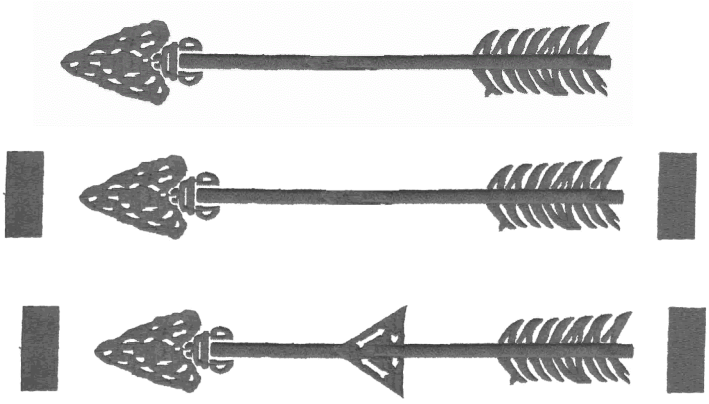
Yours in Akinship,
Thomas O.



All I Ever Needed to Know, I Learned at Philmont

By an anonymous staff member of Philmont Scout Ranch

Most of what I really need to know about life and how to live I learned while working at Philmont. Wisdom was found atop a real mountain where the air is a bit thinner and your mind is clearer. These are the things I learned while hiking the mountain: Different is good. Take pride in what you do. People talk too much. Map and compass skills are good to have. Live simply. Avoid redundancy. Be flexible. Know how to drive a stick and on a mountain road. Sometimes when you go camping in July, it snows. Appreciate nature. Share your water and food with strangers. You can cure most ills with a cup of cocoa and a star-filled night. All you need in this world is food, water and good friends to stop by and see you once in a while. Everything tastes better after you've been hiking for three days. To make a burro do as you please, you have to bribe him with something. You do not need electricity or running water or cable or computers or telephones to live an enjoyable life. Thoreau was right. Getting dirty is OK. Dirt in food won't kill you. God is everywhere. It doesn't matter where you're from or what you do for a living. You're only lost when you don't know where you're from and you don't know where you're going. Sleeping under the stars is more meaningful if you have a warm sleeping bag. Campfire entertainment is better than concerts you pay for. All you need on your days off is a shower. You can carry everything you need to survive on your back. Take pictures. Hike slowly and quietly or you'll never see anything. Try not to hike in cowboy boots. Always have dry boots, comfortable shoes to change into and clean socks. Be prepared. E-mail and reunions are no substitute for the real thing. Dream big. If each person does just a little bit more than expected, everyone has less to do. While it may be a lot of work, the view is best from the summit. A good view is more important than privacy. Never take mornings for granted. Every person has something to share. The more often you quit something, the longer it takes to get done. It's worth hiking over the next ridge to see friends. There's no better feeling than knowing that almost anywhere you can go in the world, you have a friend who will want you to stay with them. Drink lots of water. Always have TP. And always take a buddy.



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VOICE OF THE PINES

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