



Winter Banquet Recap

On January 6, Dzie-Hauk Tonga Lodge had their Winter Banquet to recognize Arrowmen from this past year. The event opened with a wonderful meal by Chris Wagner. After the meal, lodge secretary Kaylin P. and the Master of Ceremonies welcomed the Arrowmen. As is tradition the ceremony started with *The Passing of the Bonnet* from former Lodge Chief Andrew K. to Brenner P. After this Brenner gave his State of the Lodge Address.

After the Passing of the Bonnet, Nate W. announced the recipients of the OA Unit of Excellence award. The Unit

of Excellence award seeks to identify those Units that

excel at incorporating the Order of the Arrow into their annual planning. The 2024 recipients of the Unit of Excellence Award were Troop 81 BT, Troop 180 BT, and Troop 89 GT.

Later, Jaffer A. recognized Arrowmen who received the Uncas award. The Uncas society was started to increase participation and raise funds toward the purchase of the OA cargo trailer.

After the Uncas Award, Charles Edington announced the James E. West Award. The James E. West Fellowship Award is a national recognition created in 1993 and presented to individuals who contribute \$1,000 or more in cash or securities to their local council endowment trust fund. Every year, Dzie-Hauk Tonga makes a donation to Jayhawk Area Council in an Arrowmen's name. The recipient of the James E. West Award was Andrew K.

The Founder's Award is the highest award a lodge can present to recognize outstanding service to the Order of the Arrow. This year, Ethan K. and Chris W. received the Founder's Award for Dzie-Hauk Tonga Lodge.

The banquet was concluded with the Vigil Callout Ceremony. The Arrowmen that will be receiving the Vigil Honor later this year are Charles E., Michal C., Matt W., and Paul R.

During the whole event, we also had a silent auction which raised funds for the trip to NOAC. Thank you to all who participated in or donated to the auction, and congratulations to all the Arrowmen who received an award.

– Charles E.



Camping Spotlight

Discovered in 1846, Alcove Springs served as a key stop on the Oregon Trail for pioneers. Now in 2024, Alcove Springs is a go to camping spot for many of the surrounding locals and visitors. 2023 recipient of the Unit of Excellence Award, Troop 180, use Alcove Springs as a campsite and a worthy spot to host their Spring Camporee. From the rock carvings of pioneers stuck in time to the beautiful cliff faces and rivers, Alcove Springs is worth a visit.

—Brenner P.



2024 LLD Recap

Recently, the Lodge held our 2024 Lodge Leadership Development seminar at Matre Dei Parish Hall in Topeka. The morning started off with a training session from George W. regarding our Unit visits and elections processes; what we are doing good in this area, and what we could be doing better. Then we had a training given by Ian L. on how we can better retain members and keep them interested and involved in the Lodge once they go through their ordeal. We then took a break for a delicious chili and cinnamon roll lunch prepared by Lynda R.

After lunch, we had a training conducted by Lynda on building, maintaining, and strengthening our relationships. These relationships could be inside the Lodge, within scouting more broadly, or in our personal lives. Next, we had a training given by Nathan B. on the experience of an Arrowmen from the time of their election, getting them to their ordeal with everything



they need and how to make sure they want to come back to get their brotherhood and learn more about the lodge. We then had a training given by Josh E. where he not only taught us how we should be setting goals for the lodge but also had us sit down and work through creating practical, attainable goals for the next scouting year, which we hope to be able to achieve. To conclude LLD, Matthew R. gave a training on how we can best understand and perform effectively in our various positions within the lodge.

—Charles E.

Adapt Collaborate Thrive

Hello, my name is Zeke S., and I had the opportunity to attend G6 Section ACT conference. During the conference I got to bunk with some cool people from neighboring lodges. (I can't remember the lodge dude was in) The distance from home wasn't that bad with an hour drive from Topeka. The food for lunch and dinner was great Nachos with pork and BBQ sauce mixed well and the breakfast burritos were amazing. The training was extremely valuable and taught me some applicable skills to bring home, my favorite was the training on social media. There was a perfect balance with fun activities and instruction time. I sat with some amazing Arrowmen from lodges all around our section and they really helped me do some research and other fun things. It was an amazing experience and I'm excited for next year!



Arrowmen Spotlight

Brenner P. was elected Lodge Chief on October 5th, 2023, at Falley Scout Reservation. Brenner was inducted into the Order on October 5th of 2019, received his Brotherhood Honor on October 3rd, 2020, and kept his Vigil on April 1st, 2023. Brenner has attended two of the OA High Adventure programs; OA Summit Experience in 2020 and Northern Tiers OA Wilderness Voyage in 2023. His first introduction to the Lodge Executive Committee was serving as the Oregon Trail Chapter Vice Chief for one year, then in 2020, becoming Chapter Chief. In 2023, Brenner served as Vice-Lodge Chief. During this time, Brenner also served as a ceremonies team member, portraying the principle Alloway Sakima, and a callout guide for many years. Thank you, Brenner, for all the hard work you have done and will do in the upcoming year.

—Kaylin P.



Up-Coming Events

- Council Annual Recognition Dinner,
February 10, Washburn university
- FSR workday
February 17, FSR
- Washburn Merit Badge Conference,
February 17, Washburn University
- Wilderness First Aid
March 1-3 FSR
- Wood Badge / NYLT Reunion Dinner & Auction
March 2, Town and Country Christan Church
- FSR workday
March 16, FSR
- Sunflower Spring Camporee
March 22-24
- Cub Scout Shooting Sports Safety Day
March 23 FSR
- OA Section Conclave,
April 12-14 FSR
- FSR workday,
April 20
- Bison Spring Camporee,
- April 19-21

Conclave Strikes Back

Join hundreds of Arrowmen from across the Midwest at Conclave Strikes Back in 2024 - an event that is truly out of this world. This weekend long event at Falley Scout Reservation has a lot in store.

With the opportunity to partake in various leadership workshops, cheer on your lodge in competitions, challenge yourself on inflatables and the climbing wall, go fishing, and experience military demonstrations. You will NOT want to miss out on all the weekend has to offer! In the evenings, break out your Jedi robes to claim Sabacc tournaments, catching the cantina band, lightsaber displays, and more surprises from a galaxy not so far away.



The Lodge Leadership Development (LEC) has made a goal to get the Smoke Signal back up and running on a bi-monthly basis. This is the first one to achieve that goal if you have any suggestions for any places for the Camping spotlight and Arrowmen spotlight please fill out [THIS](#) form. If there is anything you would like us to add to the next one in April please reach out via email or at our LEC meetings the first Sunday of the month at 2pm or on zoom.

—Kaylin P.,
Lodge Secretary

