

January 2024

THE HOWL NEWSLETTER



Upcoming Events

Nisha - Kittan #114

Nisha Merit Mania	3/17/2024
Spring Fellowship	4/14/2024
NOAC	7/29/2024
Fall Reunion	9/8/2024

Camp Warren Levis
Camp Warren Levis
University of Colorado
Camp Warren Levis

**Lec Meetings Every third Thursday at the Fairview Heights
Municipal Building 10025 Bunkum Rd, Fairview Heights, IL
62208 at 7:00Pm No meetings in June or July**

Volunteers are the heartbeat of our organization. They bring energy, passion, and diverse skills that make a significant impact on the success of our projects and initiatives. Whether you have a few hours to spare or can commit to a more extended engagement, your contribution can make a real difference in the lives of those we serve. By volunteering with our lodge, you become an integral part of a community-driven initiative making a positive impact. Together, we can create positive change and build a stronger, more connected community. For more Information ask your lodge Chief or Advisor.



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The Fall Reunion proved to be a tremendous success, drawing nearly 150 participants and members. The atmosphere was filled with fun and camaraderie as attendees engaged in carnival games and enjoyed movie screenings. The ceremonies team executed their responsibilities admirably, contributing to the overall positive experience. The food offerings were excellent, and the lively participation of everyone added to the enjoyment of the event.

Lodge Chief's year end closing remarks

Fellow Scouts, scouters, and guests it has been my honor to have been elected to serve you for the past two years as chief of this lodge. At Fall Reunion, two years ago the Arrowmen of our lodge selected me to lead us towards improvement and success not only for the Lodge as a whole, but also for each Chapter, and each and every Arrowmen. When I first started I had no idea what I was getting myself into, but these past two year have been filled with lots of memories that I can always look back on and see the great success that happened in those two years. As an Eagle Scout, scouting has emphasized many traits that I now have: hard work, determination, dedication, and service to others and they have help me a lot while serving as Lodge Chief to make our lodge have a better standing in the OA than it ever has.

Now that my term has officially ended I want to take a few minutes to look back on what we have accomplished as a Lodge in the past two years. First we have started to improve our communication for the better. Specifically, the Lodge has helped chapters gain more youth at meetings, revitalize our Elangomat program, promote camp, and do anything we can to help with units. The Elangomat program and chapters mainly depend on the participation of each individual for their success. I continue to ask each one of you to cheerfully serve in at least one of these in your chapter in the upcoming months in order to contribute to the overall success of our Lodge. And if you either don't know your chapter or where they meet, please don't hesitate to reach out to one of us on the LEC and we would be more than happy to help you out. The second thing that we accomplished and hope to continue accomplishing is growing our attendance at our monthly Lodge Executive Meeting. The more people that continue to attend the more we can spread our events and information to everyone in the lodge.

When I first started in scouts I was a Girl Scout and I came to every one of the winter banquets and many more events for the lodge. I dedicated myself to the lodge helping anyway that I could. On Monday, a memory popped up on my Facebook page. It was Winter Banquet 8 years ago that I received the Bronze Arrowhead award. The Bronze Arrowhead award was designed in 1994, to recognize non-scouters for their service and/or dedication to our lodge. I have dedicated myself to this lodge for my entire life. Not many people can say that. Thinking back to myself 6 years ago, I never thought that I would be here today, as an arrowmen of our lodge. But I wouldn't be where I am today without the help of my my family members and many lifelong friends that I have made through my time in the order, especially Tommy Fulford. If it wasn't for him nominating me for Chapter Chief at the December Pontiac Chapter meeting in 2020, I don't think that I would have been serving this lodge as Chief for the past two years. So thank you Tommy.

To my fellow Arrowmen, your dedication to the principles of brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service have left an indelible mark on my Scouting journey. Together, we have undertaken meaningful projects that have not only shaped our Scouting experience but have also left a lasting impact on our communities. The bonds we've formed and the memories we've created are a testament to the strength of our shared commitment.

I extend my deepest appreciation to the leaders and mentors of the Order of the Arrow. Your guidance has been instrumental in shaping us into the responsible, compassionate, and service-oriented individuals we strive to be. Your commitment to fostering leadership and character development has not only strengthened our Scouting journey but has also prepared us for the challenges that lie ahead. Your guidance has shaped not only my individual growth but has also contributed to the positive impact we strive to make in our communities.

As we wear the symbols of our Order, may we be reminded of the solemn promises we made—to be unselfish in service and to uphold the ideals of Scouting. The spirit of brotherhood that unites us goes beyond ceremonies and meetings; it is a bond that transcends time and distance.

In closing, I express my deepest gratitude to the Order of the Arrow for providing us with a platform to embody the Scout Oath and Law in a profound and impactful way. Let us carry the torch of service, brotherhood, and leadership into our lives beyond Scouting, making a positive difference in the world around us. Thank you, Order of the Arrow, for the invaluable lessons, enduring friendships, and a journey that will forever hold a special place in our hearts. I can't wait to start my term as the 2024 Lodge Treasurer and Boatswain for the amazing Ship 9. Wimachtendienk, Wingolauchsik, Witahemui! Your 2022-2023 Nisha Kittan Lodge Chief Rebecca Bagby signing off

The Legend of Nisha Kittan

The region was once inhabited by many Tribes. These Tribes and the people lived in harmony with each other and the world around them. Bison, deer, fish, and crops were in abundance. The people did not have to want for anything. They lived many moons in this land of harmony.

But times were changing. Travelers to this land tell tales of dark clouds on the horizon and suffering. These tales concern the Chiefs of Taleka, and Kishkakon. The Mighty Chiefs agree to council and gather at the land between the rivers.

During the time of council, the Chiefs were visited by a lone black wolf. The black wolf approached the council fire and the Chiefs. He then told of his travels to this great land. He tells the Chiefs that he has seen the dark spirit on the horizon. He said times are bad, food is in short supply, people suffer, and the sky is dark. He tells many tales of suffering and many lives lost. The Chiefs ask if they can defeat the darkness. Black wolf tells them that the spirit of brotherhood will always defeat the dark and evil spirits. The Chiefs ask black wolf to stay the night in the lodge. The Chiefs ask the Great Spirit for guidance throughout that dark night.

The next morning the skies were darker then the days before. This concerned the Chiefs, Black wolf appeared from the lodge and said that he must go forth and tell his story to others. The Chiefs again ask if they can defeat the darkness. He reminds them that they have the answer that will provide the peace they seek. The black wolf turns away and starts walking to the west.

The Chiefs call to the black wolf. They run to him and ask his name. He said that his name is not important, it is the message. Before the wolf departs, he said the people of the Taleka and Kishkakon were as mighty as the great waters of this meeting place. The two Chiefs reaffirmed their dedication to each other and the spirit of brotherhood.

The Chiefs went forth and combined the two Tribes into one great Nation. They choose a name inspired by the wise black wolf, Nisha Kittan, Two Great River Lodge. The storms came, but the people of Nisha Kittan survived and continue flourish in the spirit of brotherhood.



Our ceremonies serve as the initial encounter for new members embarking on their journey into our order. While we aim for excellence, our team is currently understaffed. If you're uncertain about taking on a role, rest assured that any assistance is valuable. Don't hesitate to contact a team member or LEC member for more information. Your involvement can make a significant impact on the success of our induction process.

New Lodge Executive Committee

At each Fall reunion, we conduct officer elections, and the newly elected officers assume their roles at Winter Banquet. In the recent elections, Jeremy Grime secured the position of Lodge Chief, Korbyn Breeze was elected Vice Chief of Admin, Jack Ingebretsen became Vice Chief of Program, Ruby Hill took on the role of Vice Chief of Communications, and Rebecca Bagby was elected as Treasurer. As of this publication, the position of 2024 Lodge Secretary remains vacant. Let's extend a warm welcome to our new officers.



It's important to note that attendance at LEC (Lodge Executive Committee) meetings is open to all youth Arrowmen, regardless of whether they hold an officer position. Your voice matters, and we encourage all youth Arrowmen to participate in LEC meetings.

The Elongomat team needs you!

The Elongomat team is actively seeking volunteers to serve as elongomats at our upcoming events. Playing a vital role in creating a sense of brotherhood among our new members, being an elongomat is not just fulfilling but also a great way to contribute to our lodge.

For more information on how to become an elongomat, reach out to your Lodge Executive Committee (LEC) or speak to your advisors. This is your chance to make a meaningful impact and be an integral part of the Elongomat team, so don't miss out on this rewarding experience. Join us in creating unforgettable moments and connections within our brotherhood!

New Lodge Chief's Welcome

I would like to say thank you for allowing me to have this opportunity. To get started I wanted to introduce myself to the ones who do not know me. My name is Jeremy Grime and I have the esteem pleasure to serve as Nisha Kittan's 2024 lodge chief. Now this is something that I have strived for ever since I was ten. This is a great opportunity and I want to say thank you all again. This year we are in our lodge's fifteenth birthday. I hope we as a lodge can celebrate the great achievement of fifteen years.

Jeremy Grime