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News and Notes



Conclave 2004



ORDER OF THE ARROW
Octoraro Lodge #22

THE Wulamoc



Tim Pellegrino

Editor

2004

Toby McCabe

Chief

Up and Coming Dates and Activities for Octoraro Lodge 22!



April Weekend - April 23, 2004



June Weekend - June 4, 2004



2004 Conclave - June 11, 2004



2004 NOAC - July 31 - August 5

Conclave 2004 Preview

By: D.J. Scott, Section Conclave Coordinator

On the weekend of June 13th to the 14th the anchors are up and the ships set sail for a weekend that will surely knock your eye patch off in the comforts of Camp Minsi in the Poconos. Be prepared for bustling buccaneers, swarthy swashbucklers, and your occasional scurvy savages and that's just the staff. Get ready for a weekend of fun and fellowship that will surely have ol' Blackbeard rolling in his grave.

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Chief's Bonnet Chief Toby McCabe

Brothers:

Strive to live the Scouting way, in extraordinary ways. I say this not only as a motivational piece to sound suave and all that fun stuff, but also as an explanation to a question that has pressed many members minds for some time now. The great discreet idea behind the scouting movement is that of making young men into model citizens. I'll go against what others may say and call myself a model citizen. Being a model citizen to me means doing all I can to help others in need. I hope this is also what you feel to be the plan of scouting. Look past the Boy Scout organization, look for other groups or projects that you can help with or lead.

The question I wanted to answer is a question that you might ponder upon after seeing me. If you haven't noticed (or taken the time to find your fun and ever so friendly chief) I have been growing my hair a bit longer than the buzz cut I had when I first joined the lodge. No I am not trying to emulate a hippy or do anything else in that sort of a direction. I am however, trying to be like my sisters, not in looks but in actions. My sisters introduced me to this organization called Locks of Love. You may have heard about it before, maybe from your sisters, but Locks of Love is basically a not-for-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children under the age of 18 with medical hair loss. When I heard about this organization, the first thing I thought about were the children in need. Through long hours of mathematical calculations I figured that around half of those needing a hair prosthetic are probably girls, leaving another half that is most likely boys. Then I contemplated, "How many boys donate hair?" The only people I have ever known to donate their hair for this purpose have all been girls. Now, if you were one of these boys in need of a hairpiece, wouldn't you want it to have come from a male rather than a female? Well that is exactly what I thought (assuming you said yes). So I am growing my hair out in order to donate for those kids in need, while taking the constant squabbling and hair jokes from many a person.

Now, I am not asking you all to start growing your hair out, but I am asking that you strive to live the Scouting way, in an extraordinary way.

Yours in Brotherhood,

Toby McCabe
Netami Sakima

Arrowman Service Award Deadline

Those Arrowmen who have been called to active military duty overseas during 2003 will be eligible for a one year extension in earning the Arrowman Service Award. They will have until December 31st, 2004 to complete the requirements. For all others, the Arrowman Service Award will end on December 31st, 2003 as previously announced.

Jumpstart Available

A special area of the national OA web site has been created to help new members of the Order of the Arrow learn about the OA. The "Jumpstart for New Arrowmen" area provides an introduction to the Order and its programs, and assists new members in sealing their membership in Brotherhood. Visit it today at jumpstart.oa-bsa.org.

Chainsaw Days

Octoraro Lodge 22 is sponsoring Saturday work days in 2004, in order to help clean and repair some of the remaining damage from Hurricane Isabel in 2003. These are strictly workdays for helping the ranger and properties manager with storm clean-up and repair at HSR, and they are not OA specific functions. As such, all adult Scouters with an interest in helping with this effort are invited to attend, even if they are not in the Order of the Arrow. Bring appropriate work clothes and safety gear and a chainsaw if you have it and know how to use it.

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You will be able to join in great games like ring the horseshoe around the peg leg and other pirartey competitions along with some old good ones. Come see the great training cells that won't only benefit you, but your lodge as well. You can enjoy the spoils of the Pocono Sea with the best food you've ever tasted. There will be awesome shows that will leave you ready to jump off the plank. Plus a lot more and all with your fellow ship handling arrowmen.

See your lodge chief for further information and how to register. You can also check the conclave website www.witauchsoman.org/conclave2004/ for details about this seaworthy weekend.



A Mother's View of the OA Trail Crew & OA Wilderness Voyage

Taken from The National Order of the Arrow Website
www.oa-bsa.org/programs/ntvoy/

Two weeks away for only \$100? My first reaction was: Of course I'll pay that to get you out of my hair for two weeks!

The OA Trail Crew and the OA Wilderness Voyage have turned out to be the best investment I have made in my son's Scouting career so far.

The OA Trail Crew was one of the best Scouting experiences my son Joshua has had. He made friends from all over the country and at all levels of the OA. He left his mark, working on the Tooth of Time trail and had an opportunity to trek through the beautiful mountains of Philmont. He came back home with a positive attitude towards Scouting, the OA, and life.

A month later, he left for the OA Wilderness Voyage program at Charles Sommers Canoe Base in Ely, Minnesota. He ended up staying for a second Voyage that year, and has been back twice since then. The Trail Crew was a great experience, but the Voyage has been tremendous beyond words!

The comradeship he has experienced has made him a better OA member, and has provided him the opportunity to more fully enjoy the national programs like NOAC and the Jamboree OA Service Corps. He has been able to renew his friendships there that he made through the Trail Crew and Voyage programs.

Joshua has also been lucky enough to meet several national chiefs and vice chiefs. As a parent, I am very happy the national OA officers have been role models for my son.

The personal aspects of the Trail Crew and Voyage have made him think about life, what it means to be a member of the OA, and the Boy Scouts. He has learned about the history of the OA, ceremonial symbolism, and gained self-awareness.

The OA Trail Crew and OA Wilderness Voyage are unique opportunities that I wish more parents and youth were aware of. They are such special programs and only available for those OA members 16-20 years old. I hope more youth can take advantage of this wonderful challenge.

I am happy to say that two other youth from our lodge attended the OA Voyage this past summer. I know my Joshua will be going back again!

-- An OA Mom.

Sensitive Service

By Andrew Coe

What would scare you the most about living in a third-world country? Do you think it might be the malaria, the snakes, or that errant mini-bus with 12 people too many, always poised to tip over 'any second now'? For some, the exposure to the unrelenting heat and its epidermal conclusions puts them in a Gold Bond frenzy. For others, it's the despair of not knowing when their bowels will finally be empty. For many Peace Corps volunteers living in Tanzania, the biggest worry is desensitization.

Imagine, if you will, a head-to-toe filthy male child aged 14 years with no shoes, tattered clothes, bruised or scarred legs, an empty stomach, and no means to support himself. Now imagine yourself, every day having to tell this boy... and his five friends of the feather... that you don't have any money to spare them. Better yet, you tell them to get lost because you have to hurry down to the market to buy some rice before the next class period starts.

It's an innate defense mechanism I suppose, an emotive sheltering to ward off emotional exhaustion. To effectively and sensitively cope with such destitution day in and day out is no easy task, but it is an eventuality that all Peace Corps volunteers must face. Volunteerism in general can take its emotional toll when quite often you don't see immediate results, and the people you are assisting can seem ungrateful or resentful that you, the outsider, are the supposed "gatekeeper" to their improved way of life, so why aren't you doing more?

These challenges rarely abate on their own, so it's important as a volunteer to seize the peripheral benefits of service. Learning a new language and culture offers opportunities for personal growth in numerous ways, and community integration, while often taxing for the differing expectations each party places on the other, can be rewarding if achieved. Then, new friendships are forged, projects are undertaken, and a real synergy for progress blossoms in the village. Or... miscommunication, corruption, or downright apathy juts up like a nasty groundhog, anxious to swipe away all the fruits of your hard labor. And after rounds of failure and success wear on the volunteers for two long years, they can lean back and take stock of their accomplishments while realizing the importance of just 'showing up'. That's the sensitivity that can easily be lost- the necessity of assessing and understanding the needs of those you serve, a simple achievement easily won by just showing up and chatting them up.

The simpler solution for development philanthropists and volunteers the world over is to impose their will and neglect the more pressing problems that their beneficiaries face. So many non-government organizations (NGOs) are pushing information and communication technologies (ICTs) such as internet cafés to communities that lack basic necessities such as clean water and nutritious food. Another disconcerting philanthropic philosophy is the random dissemination of education supplies to schools that don't have the human resources, motivation, or means to implement their use. And what good are all the wonderful medicines in the world to a village without a competent doctor to prescribe them?

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The giving of one's self to a cause need not be materialistic in nature, and, more often than not, it really shouldn't be. The world needs leaders on the front lines of human tragedies, not AirMail packages of calculators that will be snatched up by greedy customs officials, ever anxious to civil serve their way into the good life. The world has never had a shortage of faces to advertise suffering, but it lacks in the personnel to personally meet those forlorn faces, sit with them, and find out, "Why don't you have suitable clothes?", "Where are your parents?", "Let's meet after class and talk about what I can do to help."

In your 'careers' as servicemen, don't ignore your potential as personalities, even if your specialty is bringing the muscle or the material to a problem. Don't build that monstrosity of a tower in so-and-so field only to realize, after getting no Scouts willing to climb the 200 ft. juggernaut, that you've elevated nothing but your ego. Don't just clean up so-and-so field umpteen times- inculcate your fellow Scouts with good camping practices so that Sunday morning isn't always a scavenger hunt for trash. Don't be afraid to go out of your way to get at the heart of the problem- believe me when I say this, but that task is no where near as scary as a Tanzanian toilet.

Editors Note: Andrew is an Eagle Scout, Vigil Honor Member and Founders' Award Recipient of Octoraro Lodge 22. He is currently serving his third year as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Tanzania.

Founder's Award Nomination Form:

A.J. DiAntonio

It is my pleasure to inform you of some changes that have been made in the nomination process for one of our most prestigious recognitions that our Order can bestow upon a member. Each year we take on the daunting task of choosing a Youth and an Adult Recipient for the E. Urner Goodman, Carroll A. Edson Founders' Award. The Founders' Award was created in 1981 to honor those Arrowmen who memorialize the Spirit of Achievement in their everyday life as described by the Order's Founders during its creation in 1915. For the last 20 years, the Award Recipients have been exclusively nominated and chosen by a committee of past honorees. Over the last few months, the committee has decided to extend the nominations to members of the entire Chester County Council Scouting community. A nomination form has been created and can be found on the Lodge website at www.octoraro22.org, under the Awards tab. Nominations are to be taken very seriously. Each submitted nomination will then be considered at each year's selection meeting in January by the Selection Committee. I sincerely hope all of you will take advantage of this opportunity to contribute in the selection of this honor. Remember, in the words of our Founder, Dr. E. Urner Goodman, "For said he, Who serves his fellows, is of all his fellows, Greatest".