

Gator Tales



The Official Publication of Aal-Pa-Tah #237 Council 85

Sept. 2012



Fall Ordeal

Brothers of Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge,

Fall Ordeal is right around the corner, from September 21-23. This is my first time being a Lodge Weekend Chairman, but I have planned a great Lodge Weekend. If you know any candidates from your Troop who were elected this year, but have yet to complete their Ordeal, encourage them to attend this Ordeal, which is their second and final opportunity to become a member of the Order in 2012. In addition to the many hours of Cheerful Service and the Ordeal itself, there will be many other events going on.

For those who have been an Ordeal member of the Lodge for at least 10 months, there will be a Brotherhood Ceremony on Friday night following the Pre-Ordeal Ceremony. There will be an array of activities on Saturday night, ranging from the inflatables to Broom Hockey to Lodgeball, among many other things; there may also be a silent auction of various Lodge items at dinner on Saturday. But if you simply want to relax after all of that Cheerful Service, there will be board games and card games in the Dining Hall. As in the past, there will also be a 237 Surprise, as well as raffles throughout the weekend.

The fee for this weekend for non-Fast Pass members is \$25, but it will increase to \$30 if you pay after September 14. Fast-Passers, remember to register online, as the late fee rule will also apply. You can go to our Lodge's website and register now. See you all at the next Lodge weekend, the Fall Ordeal.

WWW,

George Cooper



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Visit us at

aal-pa-tah237.org or
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Chiefly Speaking



My Brothers,

This past year has been a great year for our Lodge. I want to thank Elliott Taft for guiding our Lodge in the right direction. He has done a fantastic job leading our Lodge over the past 2 years. Winning first place in the Website competition, Volleyball, the King's Cup display, Lodgeball and of course the Best All Around Lodge 2012 Competition. We have already become National Lodgeball Champions at NOAC and having 2 of our Grass Dancers place in the top 10 in the Grass Dance Competition. NOAC was a great time for all who attended and remember ... United We Leave a Legacy.

Looking into the future, we need your help. On the weekend of September 14-16, Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge will be running the Grill at the Hitchiti Dancer's Spirit of the Dance Pow Wow. We need all the help that we can get for this event. If you can make it for any part of the event at the Martin County Fairgrounds, please go to the Lodge website to sign up. All proceeds will go to help the Council Debt Relief. George Cooper has been working hard to plan an amazing Ordeal (September 21-23) at Tanah Keeta. It will be a great event so be sure to register now and have a great weekend.

With that, it is important for you to check your emails and the Lodge website frequently, as important information will be distributed over the next couple of weeks. Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge also has a Facebook page. Search "Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge 237- Best All Around Lodge 2012" and be sure to "like" us for up to the minute information! I hope to see you all at the Spirit of the Dance Pow Wow and Ordeal!

WWW,
Mike McLoughlin
Lodge Chief



Adviser's Minute

Dear Leaders, Parents and Scouts,

We have just returned from an amazing trip to Michigan for the National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC). This incredible 6 day gathering of Arrowmen from around the country was an eye opening experience. The theme was United We Leave a Legacy and it struck me how apt that theme is not only to the Lodge but to our Council and Scouting overall.

In speaking to fellow Lodge Leaders, I was saddened by how many Lodges and Councils are struggling and how many Lodges have either recently merged or are scheduled for merger. On the other hand, I saw a number of Lodges that were very strong. In looking for a common thread amongst the strong Lodges, I learned that it was not the size of the Lodge (some as small as 200 members and as large as 4,000), or the location (urban versus rural), but that the strong Lodges do not exist in a vacuum – rather they work as an integral part of their camps, units, districts, councils and communities.

In the coming year, Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge is pledging to do our very best to support all of the elements of Scouting in our Council. To accomplish this objective we will...

- Develop and execute a significant camp improvement project, and increase participation in our monthly service days
- Help with a number of District and Council Events, including Cub Family Campouts and Camporees
- Support all Council Debt Relief efforts (Spirit of the Dance Pow Wow, Lodge Paver Program)
- Work closely with TK Summer Camp to provide a new, energized Summer Camp Program
- Assist with Webelos to Scout Transition and our Vice Chief of Service is working on integrating our current Mentoring Program to help achieve that goal
- Provide leadership training throughout the year, high adventure opportunities and camperships



As a member of Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge we are asking you to not only help us in our endeavors this year but also to help us spread the message of unity beyond the Lodge. The Lodge is just one part of the whole. As we continue to rebuild our council, let us all spread the message... if all the parts of the council can support and work with each other, the sky is the limit. United we can leave a great legacy!

In Servant Leadership,
Amanda Pantone



Officer Reports

Vice Chief of Program

Brothers,

I'm looking forward to a great start with our new Lodge Officers, by kicking off with our Fall Ordeal weekend, Sept. 21-22nd, planned by George Cooper. He has spent a lot of time and effort to put on a great Ordeal and program schedule for our new Arrowmen to come on out to complete their Ordeal that weekend followed by fun Saturday Night!

Once again, I would also like to thank Cecil Phibbs for the great trip in which concluded the summer for some of us, NOAC 2012 couldn't have been better without him. With Whitewater rafting, a Baseball game with fireworks, Indoor Go karts, NOAC 2012 at Michigan State University, and then finally Cedar Point in Ohio on the way home. He put a great amount of effort and enthusiasm towards making this trip a memory for many. So if you haven't done so already, please thank Mr. Phibbs for an extraordinary trip and start saving up for NOAC 2015!

WWW,

James Herrera

Vice Chief of Inductions

My Brothers,

Over the last few months we have had a lot of great accomplishments in the Lodge. I would like to thank all Arrowmen who participated in ICE (Inductions and Ceremonies Events) at NOAC. We are looking forward to a great Inductions year. To give you a brief idea of what we are going to accomplish this year, we are revamping the Elangomat program and the OA Troop Rep program, and developing the Extended Elangomat program. I encourage you to become involved with the Inductions and Ceremonies Committees in the Lodge. If anyone is interested in helping with Ceremonies, or being an Elangomat, we can always use more help. For those of you who are now eligible for Brotherhood, I look forward to seeing you at Ordeal for Brotherhood.

WWW,

Ian Wagner

Vice Chief of Service

Fellow Arrowmen,

As Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge's 2012-2013 Vice Chief of Service, my main focuses for the upcoming year are to re-mark the Machek Trail and make sure this historic trail is clear, strengthen our support of the community by raising attendances in the "One Day of Service" projects, and to keep the "BEST ALL-AROUND LODGE" trophy with us. Last year our Lodge had a record number of chapters do their own "One Day of Service". This year, I wish to exceed that and have all chapters participate in programs that support our community. Let's make this year the best year Aal-Pa-Tah has ever seen. If you have any suggestions or comments for the coming year, feel free to contact me anytime at danielolbrych@aol.com

WWW,

Daniel Olbrych

Lodge Treasurer

Brothers,

I am privileged to be serving as Lodge Treasurer this term. Patch sales have been growing at the recent events. The NOAC patch set were great, so everyone should thank the designer, Mr. Whalen, if they have the chance. As many of you may know, the council found itself in massive debt and our Lodge has and is continuing to mobilize to support our council. We have forgiven \$5,000 in debt and are supporting a series of fundraisers ranging from our Paver Program to the Spirit of the Dance Pow Wow aimed to support our council. If anyone has any questions or comments regarding the Lodge Budget, please email me at ross.pantone@gmail.com

WWW,

Ross Pantone

Lodge Historian

Brothers,

As Historian, my major responsibility is to accurately document and present the history of our Lodge. To document our history as we make it, I intend to take lots of pictures. If you would like to help me out, feel free to take your camera to any Lodge event and send me your pictures or upload them to the photo gallery on our Lodge website. I would also like to thank Mrs. Olbrych for taking a lot of great pictures at NOAC. You can see these pictures on the gallery on the Lodge website. The King's Cup is another thing I am undertaking this year and if you have any ideas or want to be on the committee and help out you can either contact me now at ahg1996@yahoo.com or see me at Fall Ordeal.

WWW,

Aaron Gluck

Lodge Secretary

My Brothers,

It's my honor to serve as the Lodge Secretary for a second term. There are many new and exciting changes headed your way, including the redesign of our newsletter, our website, and the move to Lodgemaster, a data management program that is unparalleled in integrating the different parts of running a Lodge. The aim of these changes is to better our publications and refine the way we communicate in our Lodge. I have to give a huge shout out to Mr. Steve Whalin, who did a majority of the graphics work in the redesign. If you have any questions, or comments on the redesign, please contact me at chrisolbrych@aol.com

WWW,

Christopher Olbrych



Chapter Corner

Osceola

Brothers,

The new season of Scouting is kicking off with some changes in Osceola Chapter. Stan Oblaczynski has been the Osceola Chapter Adviser for two years and is stepping down due to health reasons. I'm moving into the position and many leadership opportunities for the Chapter are available. Meetings and activities are being organized and if you have not received a call with details, we may have incorrect contact information. Please let us know so you can be a part of this exciting rebuilding time! If you are interested in reaffirming your mission in the Brotherhood of Cheerful Service and making a difference at a larger level than your Troop, please contact Kelsey at 561-758-4912 or kelseycr@me.com. This is your Chapter and the fun begins with you!

WWW,

Kelsey Cupples

Osceola Chapter Adviser

Abaniki

Brothers,

Abaniki is doing great and our Chapter is set to excel further in the coming year. We have scheduled all but a few of our unit elections and there will be a large contingent of Abaniki members at the Fall Ordeal. We meet during the Osceola District Roundtable on the second Monday of the month at 7:30 at Spanish River Church, so please make it there if you want to get active in the Chapter.

WWW,

Matt Jones

Abaniki Chapter Chief

Ne-Kee-Wa

Brothers,

I'm glad to be serving as Ne-Kee-Wa's Chapter Chief and would like to help the Chapter grow into all that it can be. We hold our Chapter meetings at Sailfish District Round Table held on the second Thursday each month. Upcoming events for the Chapter include One Day of Service in October and Unit Elections. If anyone wants to get involved or has new ideas for the Chapter please post on the Ne-Kee-Wa Facebook page.

WWW,

Wyatt Pearson

Ne-Kee-Wa Chapter Chief

If your chapter doesn't have an article here, it's because your chapter leadership didn't send one in. Please talk to them. We intend this to be an area for the chapters by the chapters. Thank you to all those who did turn in articles

Clues

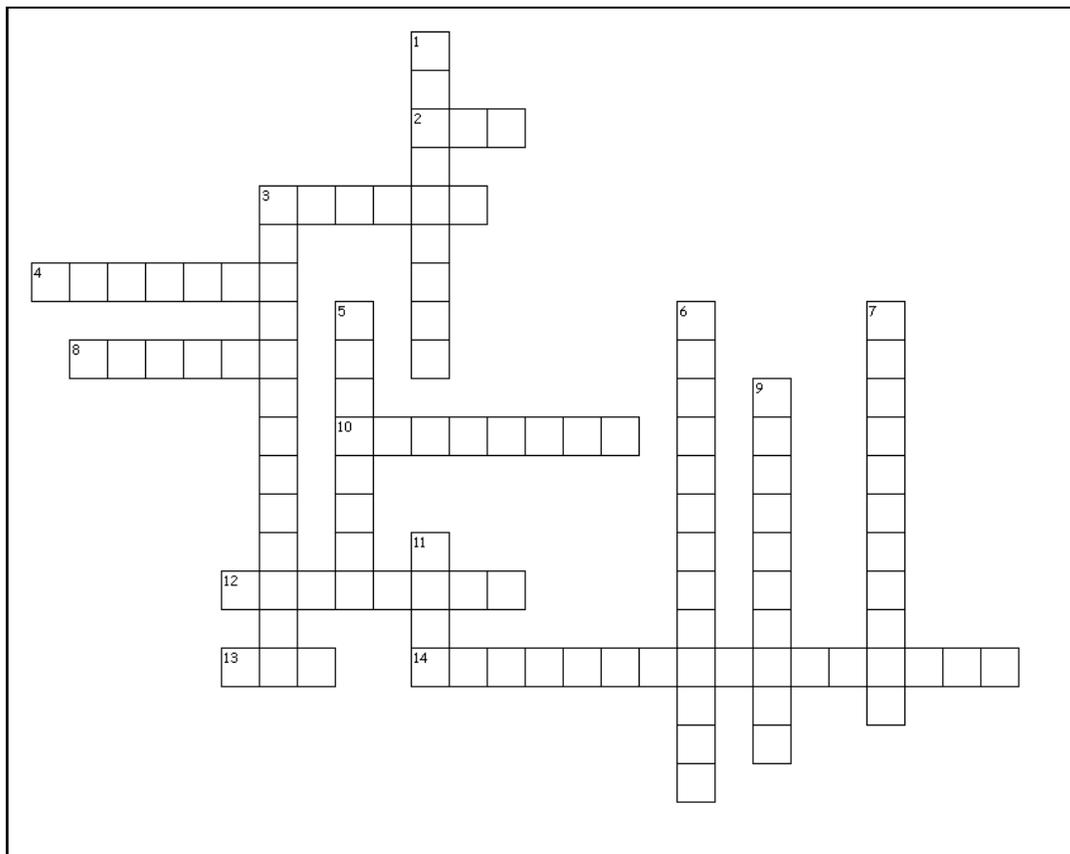
Across

- 2. Where was NOAC this year?
- 3. Closest campsite to the Dining Hall at TK?
- 4. What Lodge is hosting Section Seminars in 2012?
- 8. What does Elangomat mean?
- 10. What Lodge is hosting Section Conference?
- 12. Who is the 2012 National Chief?
- 13. Who meets monthly in the Lodge Building?
- 4. What does the Admonition mean?

Down

- 1. First three words of the Obligation?
- 3. Who is Lodge Advisor?
- 5. What are the Lodge Officers called?
- 6. Camp we stayed at before NOAC?
- 7. Current S4 Section Chief?
- 9. Immediate Past Lodge Chief?
- 11. In what direction does Meteu stand in the ceremonial circle?

OA Crossword





The Forum

The Forum

The Forum is a new element of the GT where everyone from Chairmen to Arrowmen can speak if they have something to say. If you have something you want to say in the next issue, please contact the Publications Chairman at ahg1996@yahoo.com

Lodge Leadership Development Course

My Brothers,

LLDC was both entertaining and educational. We learned what was expected of us as Lodge Officers and Chairmen and about how to accomplish our goals. We met with our advisers and attended great sessions ranging from Drum and Dance to Time Management. The food was stellar. Thank you to Chaz, Mr. Carlson, and the Kitchen crew. The Lodge Leadership teams got together and worked on their goals for the year. There was also a very important elections training given by Ian and Mrs. Hall.

Overall LLD was a blast and our leadership team for this year is going to do great. Next year, if you're free in August even if you are not involved as a Chairmen or Officer come to LLD for fun training and a day of Fellowship. It will inspire you to want to be more active and take on more responsibilities in the Lodge.

WWW,

Daniel Olbrych

Section Seminars

Brothers,

Section Seminars is coming up on November 16th - 18th and it is a weekend full of Brotherhood and learning. There is going to be Polar Swimming, Climbing, Training Sessions, Patch Auctions, Great Food, Dancing and a whole lot more. Section Seminars is going to be hosted at Camp Miles, Punta Gorda, Florida this year. The cost for this great event is ONLY \$45!!! Information on how to register for Section Seminars will be released soon.

WWW,

Josh Ott

One Day of Service

Fellow Arrowmen,

The Lodge's One Day of Service is going to be held on Saturday Oct. 6th. Each Chapter will be responsible for creating a project for its community, with the Chapter Chiefs heading up that effort. If you have any questions contact your Chapter Chief or myself at (561) 482-8440.

WWW,

Gregory Yentz

One Day of Service Chairman

Spirit of the Dance Pow Wow

The Spirit of the Dance Pow Wow is a GREAT event being hosted by The Hitchiti Dancers in support of Gulf Stream Council. This event will take place on September 14-16 at Martin County Fairgrounds. Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge is supporting this event by running the food concessions. All proceeds will go to Gulf Stream Council. But we need your help!!! The booth will be open from 10 AM on Friday until 4 PM on Sunday. Please RSVP and let us know days and times you can assist! www.aal-pa-tah237.org then click on the link to sign up!

WWW,

James Herrera

Elangomats Needed

Brothers,

Do you want to be an Elangomat? I am looking for any Arrowmen that would like to be an Elangomat for the Fall Ordeal September 21-23. An Elangomat is a friend and a guide to all candidates. Elangomats are role models for younger Scouts in the Order and you can teach them the basic tenants of our Order. Contact me at (561) 797-8805 or jrmaddog@msn.com.

WWW,

Wyatt Bunch

Elangomat Chairman

Leave a Legacy

You have the chance to leave a legacy. The LEC is now accepting designs for the 2013 year patch set and a new 2013 t-shirt design. Please submit your designs by Fall Ordeal to be eligible. May the best designs win!!!

WWW,

George Cooper

Patch Committee Chair

Gator Tales Redesign

Hello Brothers,

You can see that our Lodge's newsletter has undergone some changes. When we began the redesign over the summer, we wanted to maintain the functionality of the news letter, but give it a fresh new look. We think we've accomplished that, but want your input as well. How can we improve, did we miss something, or did we do something well? Let us know by contacting us at chrisolbrych@aol.com or ahg1996@yahoo.com.

WWW,

Christopher Olbrych and Aaron Gluck

NOAC in Review



For those of you who missed out on NOAC 2012 you missed out of one amazing trip! We had a lot of fun and I hope that this account can relate to you all we did and all the fun we had and convince you to go in 2015!



On Saturday, we met at camp to load up into a charter bus and the council van. We drove through the night and ended up at the Nantahala River in South Carolina. There were plenty of first timers on the river so it was a blast. Aaron Flack jumped on a raft guide and Chris Olbrych was the best guide I've ever had on the river. We all had lots of fun. We got back on the bus and headed to Ohio!

On Sunday morning the caravan arrived at Extreme Go Cart place in Ohio. These carts were no joke! They were going over 40 MPH! After many time trials the top ten times competed, with Chase Patterson taking home the gold. Scott Lekila received a retired NASCAR tire that everyone signed because he had the most wrecks. That was a time to remember! That night we headed to a minor league baseball game and a fireworks show. Both were great. That night we made it to Michigan and stayed at a Girl Scout camp and went through an overview of all the fun we'd have at NOAC.



The following morning we made it to the University of Michigan! NOAC was massive. Once we checked in and got into our dorms we headed down to the trade-o-ree. That night was the opening show. Over 8,000 Arrowmen were there in the basketball arena cheering and dancing. We got front row seats and to show our Lodge Spirit, we danced the Gator in the stands.



Over the next few days we competed in all of the lodge competitions including Lodgeball, football, basketball, volleyball, tug-a-war and ultimate Frisbee. Long story short, we tried our hardest in all the games and placed well in everything. My favorite experience was the final game of Lodgeball. We had placed in the finals and the entire Lodge had shown up to the dodge ball championship to cheer our team on. We played 2 out of 3 and we won the first 2 without losing a single person. We are National Dodge Ball Champions!!! To celebrate we took photos and sang our Lodge songs. Great job team!



On Thursday night, Conner Carnes (right) and James Herrera (left) competed in dancing, they both placed in the top 10 in the nation, so congratulations to both of them. The Hodag was also that night and was a lot of fun with root beer, free pizza, and live music. It was crazy! On Founders' Day we set up our booth and it was a hit. We also had the closing show that night, which was stellar.

Before we knew it, it was time to pack up for the way home.



On Saturday morning we woke up and drove to Cedar Point, the roller coaster capital of the world, and spent most of the day there. At Cedar Point there is a ton of rides and fun things to do. We were all wearing our matching blue shirts (and for me matching squid hats). After we left there we concluded our trip with a 21 hour bus ride home ending at our home camp TK. It was bittersweet coming home because all of us had so much fun but we were all so tired.



Those are just a few highlights and the full experience was so much more. For those of you that missed the trip it was an awesome time! I hope to see even more Arrowmen going to the next NOAC in 2015 for the 100th Anniversary of our Order.

Your Past Chief,
Elliott Taft



An Interview with Frank Gamez:

Past S-4 Section Chief and NOAC 2012 CVC of Founders Day

Aaron Gluck: So Frank, what was your favorite ice cream flavor from the MSU Dairy Store?

Frank Gamez: Believe it or not, I didn't order any of the unique flavors. I just had my favorite: cookies n crème.

AG: In three words how would you describe NOAC 2012?

FG: National. Training. Fellowship. National because EVERYONE was there. It was great to get together again with friends that live far away. But it was also great to meet new Arrowmen from across the country. Training because NOAC had experts in every field: AIA, Ceremonies, Drum, Inductions, Leadership, etc. And all that knowledge was shared in and outside the classrooms of MSU. And Fellowship because it was one of the greatest events I've ever attended. From the patch trading, to the shows, to the Hodag and Founders' Day.

AG: Speaking of Founders' day; what was your favorite part of Founders' Day?

FG: It was awesome to be in charge of the Founders' Day Committee because we put on a physical, day-long event. Throughout the day I was able to see my vision unfold successfully with everything running on time and everyone on task. My favorite part was seeing the smile on Arrowmen's faces as they left the Founders Fair. Seeing everyone have fun from the Opening Rally to the Goodman Games makes me feel like I did my job successfully.

AG: What do you think sets NOAC apart from any other national event?

FG: The fact that thousands of Arrowmen take over a college campus for a week for training, fun and fellowship is a very unique experience. NOAC is different from any other national event because the focus is not entirely service and staying in tents, its more focused on training and fellowship while staying in dorms.

AG: What was it like being one of the CVCs?

FG: It was amazing. To be part of the planning committee from the beginning when we picked the theme to the actual execution. Just the fact that I got to serve on staff was rewarding. When you look back at the 8,000 Arrowmen who had a good time, that's when you know you've made a difference and had fun doing it. I strongly recommend that everyone sign up for staff at least once.

AG: Speaking of theme, how can we build a legacy as a lodge?

FG: Here's where the theme comes in. "United We Leave A Legacy" is much more than just the NOAC theme. You can leave a legacy through your actions and active participation. Go back to your Chapters and Lodge and get involved. Join a team or committee. Seek to serve your Chapter Chief, your Lodge Officers. Serve as an Elangomat. Volunteer at your Council Camp. You can leave a legacy by becoming active if you haven't been lately - or by becoming more active than you already are in the OA.

AG: Lastly, what everyone has been wanting to know, do you have any info you can give us on details of NOAC 2015?

FG: I can tell you that you won't want to miss it. It's going be bigger than ever as we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the OA. If you've never been to a NOAC, make sure you sign up for NOAC 2015. And if you've been to a NOAC before, this one is going to be everything you loved about NOAC and so much more. Expect the unexpected. Every goal you set for yourself is attainable if you work hard. Start fundraising and create your NOAC 2015 piggy bank. I already started mine, so I hope to see you there!

Order of the Arrow Unit of Excellence



The delivery and promotion of the Order of the Arrow program begins with local Troops and Teams. To recognize those units who excel at promoting and delivering the OA Program the Order of the Arrow Unit Award of Excellence has been established.

The criteria for the Award is as follows:

1. Leadership – Implement the OA Troop Representative and the OA Troop Representative Adviser Program in the Unit.
 - Every six months, ensure that the Senior Patrol Leader appoints one Scout to serve as Troop OA Representative and the Scoutmaster appoints one adult to serve as Troop OA Representative Adviser.
 - Feature an annual presentation at a Court of Honor by the Troop OA Representative on the Order of the Arrow with a focus on the accomplishments of unit members.
2. Participation: Promote lodge events and provide transportation to all Arrowmen wishing to participate.
 - At least 50% of unit OA members attend at least one lodge event other than their Ordeal, and at least one unit OA member attends 100% of full-lodge events.
3. Elections: Schedule a unit election with the chapter election team annually.
 - Hold an election and have 100% of elected Scouts complete their Ordeal.
4. Planning: Maintain an active planning process that prevents overlap between lodge and chapter events with unit events.
 - Review the local OA calendar with the Patrol Leader’s Council during annual Troop program planning and schedule unit events so that 100% of Troop programs do not overlap with any full-lodge events.
5. Conversion: Demonstrate the depth of your unit’s OA program through Brotherhood conversion.
 - At least 30% of eligible Troop members seal their membership in the Order by converting to Brotherhood.

In addition to recognition to the Unit (Ribbon, certificate, etc..) there are additional individual awards recognizing the efforts of the Scoutmaster, Troop Representative and the Troop Representative Adviser. For more information about this program, please visit <http://www.oa-bsa.org/resources/forms/unitexcellenceaward-2012.pdf>

Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge 237
Gulf Stream Council, Inc.
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“Change Service Requested”

