

Aal-Pa-Tah
Lodge 237

2016-2017
Lodge Officers



Robert Ulrich
Lodge Chief

Arren Richter
Vice Chief Program

Ryan White
Vice Chief Service

Michael Riley
Vice Chief Inductions

Andrew Sasser
Lodge Secretary

Matt Grabasch
Lodge Treasury

Cameron Whalen
Lodge Historian



Steve Whalen
Lodge Adviser

AAL PA TAH LODGE
237



GULF STREAM COUNCIL

December 14, 2016

The Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge 237 is pleased to have this opportunity to present a report of our activities in 2016. The areas we would like to highlight are as follows:

Leadership

The Lodge is a youth-run organization that develops leadership skills through practical application. Members of the Lodge had several opportunities to develop these skills by conducting a full year of activities to include the Lodge Banquet, Spring Ordeal, Summer Gathering, Lodge Leadership Development, Oklawaha Service Day, Winter Fellowship, and numerous camp service days. The lodge also had a full-time summer camp staff member who coordinated OA activities at TK Summer Camp 2016. Section Conference 2016 saw 106 members from our lodge. The Section Leadership Summit saw 16 members from our lodge. The lodge sent two youth members to the National Leadership Seminar, and two adult members to the National Lodge Adviser Training Seminar. The lodge sent five delegates to PRISM at the Summit Bechtel Reserve; and sent six delegates to NEXT at the Indiana University. The lodge anticipates several members to participate in Operation Arrow, the service initiative through the OA at the 2017 National Jamboree.

Service

From the Order of the Arrow's Mission Statement:
"As Scouting's National Honor Society, our purpose is to [...] crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in *cheerful* service to others."

The Lodge provided exceptional service to council and the community this year. We held numerous camp service days and featured camp service at all Lodge events. In addition, the lodge gave man power towards the building and operating of the inaugural TK Gator Grind. The lodge supported several council events, including but not limited to: Wood Badge, Trade-o-ree, TK Gator Grind, TK Summer Camp, Oklawaha 'Meet the Troops', University of Scouting, Oklawaha 'Spooklawaha', and the Scout Advancement Weekend. Total recorded Lodge Service Hours were 2,810; an average of 6.25 hours per lodge member.

Membership

The Lodge has not yet submitted its Journey to Excellence Report – we expect to receive a JTE SILVER level. Our membership has *decreased* from 517 members in 2015, to 450 in 2016. The lodge's membership retention rate has *decreased* from 71% in 2015, to 66% in 2016. Ordeal completion rate *increased* from 55% in 2015, to 60% in 2016. The lodge's Brotherhood conversion rate has *decreased* from 39% in 2015 to 31% in 2016.

At Section Conference 2016, the Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge took home BEST ALL AROUND LODGE and numerous other titles. We've updated the BEST ALL AROUND CHAPTER guidelines, which was taken home this year by the Lowaneu Mawat Chapter of the Indian River District. At our annual banquet, the lodge presented its most outstanding members with plaques of recognition. *Scoutmaster of the Year* was awarded to Dave Sunderman. *Elangomat of the Year* was awarded to Tom and Stone Vickers. *Outstanding First Year Arrowman* was awarded to Isaac Sunderman, and Nicholas Paolini. *Distinguished Family* was awarded to the Richter family. *The Lodge Adviser's Award* was awarded to Robert Ulrich. *James E. West* was awarded to Lee Mooty. *The Founder's Award* was awarded to Greg Yentz and Rusty Cunha. The lodge also presented 8 candidates with the Vigil Honor.

Council Support

Each year the Lodge contributes to the council endowment fund through the naming of one of our own members a James E. West recipient. The 2016 honoree is Lee Mooty. The 2017 honoree(s) will be announced at the lodge banquet in January. The lodge supports camping in the council through the James T. Sasser Campership Fund. In 2016, \$560 was distributed from the Campership to help scouts go to camp.

In addition, the lodge organized the construction of a brand-new basketball court at Camp Tanah Keeta. A national Order of the Arrow service grant of \$1500 was received in 2015 towards the project. Many materials were donated toward the project. Out of pocket, the project costed \$3998 – but the total estimated value was over \$21,000. The basketball court is a significant piece of a new initiative taken by the Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge to improve the overall program of Camp Tanah Keeta. Other related projects completed in 2016 include a new gaga pit, volleyball court, soccer goals, and tether ball. Future projects include a permanent human foosball arena, a lodge museum with a 'lodge box' merchandise store, and much more.

One of the most important duties of any lodge is camp promotion. In 2016, the lodge promoted events such as Gator Grind, TK Summer Camp, and NYLT. The lodge utilized email, social media outlets, printed publication, and planned promotions at unit elections. In 2017, the lodge hopes to expand its outreach by launching new social media outlets and a brand-new website.

In conclusion,

Our goals for 2017 include the continued strengthening of the Lodge through the achievement of the Journey to Excellence goals, the publication of a new five-year strategic plan, the planning of significant camp improvement projects, the promoting of service towards the community within our chapters, and to continue our pledge of service to the council camps.

The Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge is proud to recognize their 75th Anniversary in 2017, celebrating 75 years of cheerful service to the Gulf Stream Council, its camps, and its youth. We look forward to the years to come!

Yours in Scouting,

Robert Ulrich

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