

Who knew?
Dan Wagner, Lodge Adviser

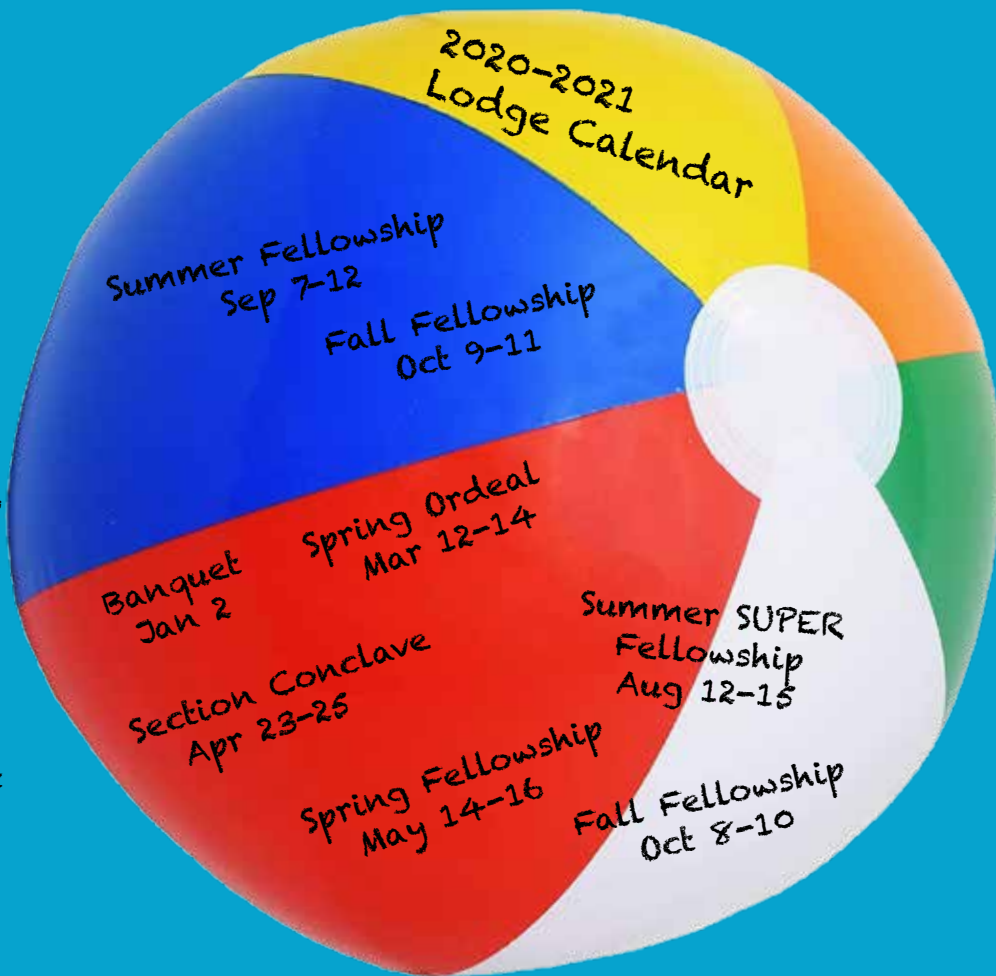
Who knew... at our Annual Banquet in January, it would be our last time in 6 months - and counting - we would all be together? Who knew... when we postponed the Spring Ordeal (and we were so close to having it!), two months later, we would still not be able to reschedule it, or we would have to invent a whole new way to hold Ordeals: our mini-Ordeals? Who knew... NOAC would be cancelled? Who knew... we would have virtual-only Chapter and Troop meetings, OA Elections, Eagle Boards (if any at all)? Who knew... we would be forced to have our first ever "Virtual" Fellowship - our Virtual Spring Fellowship?

Yet, here we are. We still haven't been able to meet as a Lodge. Yet, we have continued on with our Brotherhood of Cheerful Service. We had a successful Virtual Spring Fellowship. We had Virtual Unit Elections. We conducted Virtual Brotherhood Boards and a Virtual Vigil selection. We held three mini-Ordeals and inducted 21 new Arrowmen into our Order.

Our goals have been to keep our members connected, to keep the spirit of Fellowship, and to keep moving forward, even if incrementally. I commend our leadership, especially our YOUTH leadership, for the incredible and creative jobs they did in achieving these goals: Virtual Elections, Virtual Fellowships, mini-Ordeals.

We have all been disappointed by the cancellations and postponements, by the social distancing, and by the stay-at-home orders. But as Scouts and Arrowmen, we are Prepared and we are willing to bear these Irsome Tasks while remaining Cheerful. I commend your successes thus far and encourage you to continue Being Prepared and Cheerful.

As we face a Virtual Summer Fellowship, I am confident we will have great activities, more fellowship and more fun. I urge you to register and participate in the Virtual Summer Fellowship. I also encourage you to stay connected. Take part in your Chapter's (virtual) meeting and activities. If you are not already on Slack, get on it or contact our VC for Communications and he will get you started. Slack is our primary means for communication within the Lodge, but you can also follow - and contribute to - our Social Media Accounts: Facebook {Muscogee Lodge #221}, Instagram & Twitter {@lodgemuscogee}. Please visit our website often (muscogeelodge.org). We WILL get through this! Stay Safe!



THE FOX'S TALE SUMMER EDITION 2020

MUSCOGEE LODGE 221 | ORDER OF THE ARROW | INDIAN WATERS COUNCIL, BSA

Virtual Summer SUPER Fellowship
Peter Stone, VC Program

Muscogee Lodge may not be meeting in person right now, but that doesn't stop us from having action-packed fellowships and events. As you may know, our lodge decided to postpone the Virtual Super Summer Fellowship. This decision was made to ensure our Lodge could have a better and more successful event. The LEC came up with a bigger, better, and even more super idea for the Summer SUPER Fellowship as a result: a week-long event filled with fun and exciting activities including social media spirit week, an Indian Lore Merit Badge course, and a Virtual Vigil Callout. The event has been moved to September 7th-12th and we hope to see all of your smiling faces and sashes on the screen!

Here is a tentative look at the week's schedule. More details will be posted online as they become available, so stay tuned to our Lodge Social Media Accounts and Lodge Website.

Monday 9/7	Tuesday 9/8	Wednesday 9/9	Thursday 9/10	Friday 9/11	Saturday 9/12
7-9PM	7-9PM	7-9PM	7-9PM	7-10PM	9AM-10PM
- Chapter Meetings	- Official Opening - UNO Party - Brotherhood Study Session	- Live Q & A - Service Project - Brotherhood Boards - Business Meeting - Barstow Cinema	- CP/UE Training - OA Jeopardy - Facemask Design Comp. - Jackbox Games - Brotherhood Study Session	- Scavenger Hunt - Water Balloon Toss - Indian Lore MB Part 1 - Neighborhood Cleanup - Brotherhood Study Session - Vigil Call-Out	- Kahoot Trivia - Talent Show - Indian Lore MB Part 2 - Awards/Closing



IN THIS TALE

Fellowship Details	Page 1
Mini-Ordeals	Page 2
Chiefly Speaking	Page 3
Adviser's Corner	Page 4
2020-21 Calendar	Page 4



First three Mini-Ordeals a Complete Success! Kevin Tidwell, VC Inductions

"How can we Safely and Effectively do Ordeals"? As the World continues to be ravaged by COVID-19, this important question presented many Challenges to the Lodge Executive Committee (LEC). During an Emergency LEC meeting, it was decided there would be an Ordeal Sub-Committee formed to tackle the challenges we would face going into these proposed "Mini" Ordeals. The Committee had many weeks of constant planning, with our main challenge centered on presenting an Ordeal which adhered to Social Distancing Guidelines without lessening the Candidates' Experience.

Location: With Camp Barstow closed in June, a suitable replacement was found at Windsor United Methodist Church in Columbia, SC. The Church backs up to Sesquicentennial State Park, which we planned to provide service for, however, the plans changed and it was decided most of the service would be at and around Windsor.

Check In: Before allowing anyone to stay, a waiver and temperatures were collected to ensure maximum safety.

Participation: Due to Social Distancing Guidelines, the Lodge had to severely limit how many people could participate each time to the following: 8 candidates, 2 Elangomats, 4 Ceremonialists, and 2 Service Team Members for a total of 16 present during each Ordeal.

Service: Most of the Service provided at Windsor involved tools used for cutting and raking brush along their property border. Each Candidate was properly distanced (10 feet just for safety) and tools they used were to only be used by them until they were properly sanitized. Masks and work gloves were required for any close-contact work that needed to be done.

Food: Nothing like working during an Ordeal to work up an appetite! The SubCommittee kicked around ideas regarding how to best provide food and water to the Service Team and Candidates. The decision was appropriately made to have all food pre-packaged and handed out individually in paper bags. Plastic water bottles were provided when needed. All used plastic products were properly recycled following each Ordeal.

Ceremonies: Some revisions were needed, but the main changes were as follows:

- each Candidate was given a manila folder containing all papers and documents needed throughout the weekend
- each time the bow was tested by a Candidate, it was wiped down before it was tested again
- the Handshake was demonstrated to them by two family members who were Quarantining together [Josh Prevette (Meteu) and Brooks Prevette (Elangomat) or Tommy (Allowat Sakima) And Will Kepley (Nutiket)]
- the Admonition was included in their folder inside a separate envelope they were given. After reading it, they placed it in the Council Fire.
- each Candidate was assigned a picnic table to place their belongings on during the ordeal. Since we could not physically place it on them, a new (wrapped) sash was placed on their picnic table.
- most of the Ceremonies were performed behind the Church.

All of the Mini-Ordeals were fantastic in their execution, and I would like to thank all those who helped, planned and made these Ordeals possible.



Chiefly Speaking Tommy Kepley, Lodge Chief

Brothers, I hope you are all well and healthy, and for those of you returning to school in some fashion, good luck! This is certainly not the start to Fall we hoped for. Even in the Spring, many experts thought surely this could be contained to a few months and,

by now, we could be back to normal. Unfortunately, those predictions did not come true, and we find ourselves in this new normal. As with any aspect of life, scouting has been hit by the pandemic, but I feel scouting and the OA were hit especially hard because of the nature of our activities. Though what we do is largely outside, it involves working together, in a brotherhood, in close proximity. Though we cannot meet in person, I am excited for the opportunity we have in a few weeks, when we will host our week-long Virtual Summer SUPER Fellowship.

Though the Spring Fellowship was great, the lodge leadership learned a lot, and we have an even more exciting event planned that is sure to be filled with the spirit of our brotherhood. I encourage you to continue to exemplify what our organization stands for, even though what you say and do may be unconventional. Think back to your ordeal ceremony and remember the 3 challenges Allowat Sakima gave to you.

First, strengthen the ties of brotherhood. In this time when people are so disconnected from one another, we have a great opportunity to promote brotherhood, even in simple ways like checking on a friend, calling an elderly neighbor and asking if you can take out their trash, or showing kindness to essential workers.

Next, you were asked to build upon the fire of cheerfulness. It is so easy to focus on all of the bad things because of COVID, or all of the things you are missing. As a freshman at VT, I find myself thinking about the rowdy, well-known atmosphere that is Lane Stadium. I will likely miss that this fall as football is in question, but I challenge you to find the good. Think of extra time spent with family and the slower pace of life, and cherish each through this pandemic.

Finally, Allowat challenged you to ease the burdens from your fellow man. I challenge you to also find any way you can this Fall to ease the burdens others may have. Though the pandemic stopped our in-person activities as a lodge, if we can remember these three challenges and rise to them, then nothing, not even this global pandemic, can change the spirit of our honored Order.

I hope to see you all again soon at Camp Barstow!

