

# FOX'S TALE



Muscogee Lodge  
Order of the Arrow

Summer 2006

## Muscogee lodge brother receives Distinguished Service Award

Eagle Scout and Vigil Honor Brother Jonathan Hardin has been presented with the Order of the Arrow's Distinguished Service Award. Hardin is one of 39 Brothers who were recognized nationwide.

According to OA literature: "the Distinguished Service Award [is presented] to those Arrowmen who have rendered outstanding service to the Order ... It is given primarily for dedicated service to the Order and Scouting over a period of years. Only a limited number of awards can be presented. Arrowmen whose service records are the most outstanding and extend the farthest beyond the local lodge level are usually selected."

The 2002 Muscogee Lodge Chief, Hardin has also served in many

positions at the Area, Regional and National levels. Just a few of his duties have included two terms as the Section Chief, from 2003 - 2004, and was the editor of the Region Newsletter, *The*

**Although many people make valuable contributions to the OA, those whose service is the most far reaching and noteworthy are deserving of this award.**

*Voice*. On the National level, Hardin served as program chair of the 2004 NOAC Special Events Committee, the 2006 *OA Handbook* layout designer as well as the layout editor for the 2004-

2006 *National Bulletin*.

According to the DSA nomination form, "Jonathan Hardin is one of those rare individuals whose service to the organization ... is truly unparalleled. His eight years of service to the Order has had a significant impact on all levels of the program that will last for years into the future.



**Jonathan Hardin  
DSA Recipient**

"There are many individuals who make valuable contributions to the OA program beyond the lodge level, but those Arrowmen whose service is the most far reaching and noteworthy

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## Chief's Corner: A mid-year review ... including Lodge of the Year

I hope all of you have had fun so far this year. We are doing great overall by having the largest attendance at a



**Lodge Chief  
William McCormick**

Winter Banquet and Spring Fellowship within the past 10 years, and by bringing home, once again, the Lodge of the Year Award from the 2006 Dixie Fellowship. However, the year is not over with yet, we still have our Ordeals, Summer and Fall Fellowships to go. There are still plenty of opportunities participate this

year, and everyone needs to stay on the job with these last events of the year.

If you missed the Spring Fellowship then you do NOT want to miss the Summer or Fall Fellowships because I can promise you that they are events you want to attend.

In addition, we still have our Ordeals, which we can ALWAYS use help from any member who wishes to come out for the weekend. If you need camping nights

or service hours these Ordeals will count toward that.

Another thing we need to jump on the ball with is Service Projects,  
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# Interview with Dustin Counts, Southern Region Chief

Mason Thomas

**Fox's Tale Reporter**

Fox's Tale recently had the opportunity to sit down and interview the 2006 Southern Region Chief, Dustin Counts. Counts is a Vigil Honor member of Catawba Lodge where he was serving his second term as Lodge Chief before being elected to serve as the Section Chief. At the 2005 National Planning Meeting in Dallas, Texas, Counts was elected to serve as the Southern Region Chief for 2006.

Counts has also served our section as a Dean at the past ArrowTech. This past summer he attended the OA Trail Crew at Philmont and served on the 12 Cubed Staff at the National Jamboree. The following questions and answers were excerpted from this interview.

## FT - What most prepared you for your current position?

DC - My time as Lodge Chief and my time as Section Chief both gave me experience in working with others and how to handle certain situations. Section Chief especially gave me the experience in working with people I didn't know very well, and how to communicate and work with others.

Helping to staff our NLS in Leesville, SC, last November helped me be ready to train at Philmont and lead the seminar in Mississippi.

## Chief's Corner

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since we are a service organization. In the coming months we will be planning our Lodge's One Day of Service, and we encourage the Chapters to have similar events outside of the lodge's day of service. There are still so many different ways to get involved this year, so come out, and visit to see how YOU can get involved.

Remember this is YOUR lodge so if you have any ideas on what you would like to see us do then please feel free to give me your input. Without the youth

## FT - What has being Region Chief taught you?

DC - I have learned a lot about the OA and how people outside my lodge and outside our section operate. I have gotten a lot of good ideas and in some ways gained a new appreciation for my lodge, section and region. Most of all I have learned that even the slightest of comments or the smallest conversation can have a huge impact on others.

## FT - What do you look forward to the most?

DC - NOAC will be the highlight of my term. For us as Arrowman I believe NOAC is the greatest (and most fun) event we have. This summer I am also getting to experience the other two OA High Adventure bases which is something I am very much looking forward to. I wish others would take the opportunity to experience [these] as well.

## FT - What would you tell a new Arrowman who has just passed his Ordeal?

DC - Look for your opportunity to serve. When I started out in the lodge I had no clue as to what I was doing. I was simply looking for a way to be of service to the lodge. I found a job I enjoyed and was something the lodge needed help with. As my knowledge of the order and of leadership increased I found new areas [where] I could help. To my astonishment I began to gain respect in the lodge and my opportu-

nities began to grow. The same applies to the section and the region. I always tried to make sure that the job I was running for was the best way for me to be of service, either to the lodge, the section or the order. Just remember we are here for service (service ... it's what we do) if you are doing a job for a reason other than to be of service you are doing it for the wrong reasons.

members giving us fresh ideas and the adults backing us up then this lodge would not be "active."  
If you have an idea do either one of the following two things: 1) Email the ideas to me at lodgechief@gmail.com or 2) Call me at (803) 531-3714 or (803) 516-5854 to let me know.

*Yours in the Wimachtendienk,  
William McCormick  
2006 Lodge Chief*



**Dustin Counts  
Southern Region  
Chief**

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we are here for service (service ... it's what we do) if you are doing a job for a reason other than to be of service you are doing it for the wrong reasons.

## 2006 - 2007 Lodge Calendar

*All locations are at Camp Barstow, unless otherwise noted. All 2006 Fellowships Costs are \$20 for early bird registration and \$25 regular registration unless otherwise noted.*

**August 11 - 13 • Summer Fellowship**

**September 15 - 17 • Fall Ordeal**

**October 20 - 22 • Fall Fellowship**

## 2007

**January 6 • Winter Banquet**

— *Details TBA*

**March 16 • Call Out**

*Ordeal candidates are called out at a ceremony held Friday night at Camp Barstow.*

**March 16 - 18 • Spring Fellowship**

— *Details TBA*

**April 27 - 29 • Dixie Fellowship**

— *Camp Blue Heron, Riceboro, GA*

**May 18 - 20 • Spring Ordeal**

— *Details TBA*

**July 20 - 22 • Summer Ordeal**

— *Details TBA*

# Vigil nominations due

Bobby Bloom

## Vigil Selection Chairman

Along with the new year comes the responsibility of the lodge to select eligible Arrowmen to be recognized with the Vigil Honor.

Any member can recommend someone for the Vigil Honor and that recommendation will be reviewed by the Vigil Selection Committee.

The Vigil Honor is the highest award in the Order of the Arrow and is given to those Scouts who truly hold the traditions and practices of the OA sacred.

Only Brotherhood members who have been active in the OA for two years are eligible for consideration for the Vigil honor.

If you know a brother who lives his life by the Scout Oath and Law and

exemplifies the highest ideals of the Order of the Arrow, I encourage you to complete the recommendation form below and return it by August 13 to Vigil Honor Selection Committee, Scout Office. P.O. Box 144, Columbia, SC 20202. Forms will also be available at the Summer Fellowship. You may nominate more than one brother. Please use a separate form for each.



## Vigil Honor Recommendation Form – Muscogee Lodge 3221

*In preparation for the selection of Brothers for recognition with the Vigil Honor, the Vigil Honor Selection Committee is requesting the input of all lodge members. Any member who has been Brotherhood for at least two years by August 28 is eligible for consideration for this,*

*the highest honor in the OA. If you have knowledge of th leadership, service, or have other information about any eligible brother that might be helpful to the committee in making this decision, you are encouraged to complete this form (or a copy) and mail it to the address pro-*

*vided below, or hand-deliver to Bobby Bloom. All forms must be received by noon, Sunday, August 13.*

*This is a chance for all lodge brothers to help the committee recognize the most deserving of these dedicated Arrowmen.*

**To: Vigil Honor Selection Committee**

**From:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please accept the following as support and recommendation for:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Please complete the following as thoroughly as possible. If you do not have any information about a particular area, leave it blank. Attach additional pages if necessary.*

I feel this brother has shown himself deserving of recognition with the Vigil Honor by:

(check all that apply and explain below or on additional papers)

Service to the Lodge

Service to the Order of the Arrow  
(other than at the Lodge or Chapter level)

Service to Scouting

Service to Scout Camp

Service to the Lodge \_\_\_\_\_

Service to the Order \_\_\_\_\_

Service to Scouting \_\_\_\_\_

Service to the Scout Camp \_\_\_\_\_

Other Comments \_\_\_\_\_

**Return form to: Vigil Honor Selection Committee, Scout Office, P.O. Box 144, Columbia, SC 29202**

# The gray area of Scouts

Blake Parsons

**Fox's Tale Reporter**

Its over! I'm done! I have earned the rank of Eagle Scout. I'm 18 years old and I'll see ya' later, Boy Scouts. I'll see you in about 20 years when I have kids who are old enough to join up. There's nothing else I can do or get from it, right?

The answer to that is a big resounding: WRONG!! I am now in that grey mysterious area of Boy Scouts (ages 18-21). What can I do? I can't earn any more merit badges and I can't participate as a youth at Scout events (not including OA). It seems almost pointless to stick around and be "THAT GUY." I now need to pass the excitement of Scouting on to the younger and newer scouts, so that they can enjoy some of the experiences and lessons I learned over the past six or seven years.

As many of us are leaving home

or venturing off to college we have a long and toilsome road ahead. We'll be in new cities, with no friends or relatives to be there comforting us. For many, they will be too far away for family to help in times of emergency. There is no place better to start a new family than in a Boy Scout troop. I know, that if I were in trouble and needed assistance, I could call any one of my scoutmasters and they would be at my side without hesitation. I also know that if any of my fellow scouts called me I would do the same for them.

An older scout's relationship with a new scout is arguably more important than any relationship a scoutmaster may have with a new scout. The younger boys in the troop, those in 6th through 8th grade, will start to understand that there is obviously a reason for this program and they will grow morally and spiritually stronger

in Scouts than in most groups they will ever join. My success, in large part, was influ-

enced by the older boys of the troop. They taught me how to be mature, cool, strong, and most importantly, respectable.

So when you hit that age of 18 and you are no longer a youth, don't stop there. Wherever you go there will always be scouts around. Find a troop or crew and join them, teach them, learn from them, and pass on the ideals that have raised you for the past couple of years.

**'My success was influenced by the older boys of the Troop.'**



## Muscogee brother receives national recognition

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are deserving of the Distinguished Service Award. Jonathan's vast service to the Order on all levels has significantly impacted the program for tens of thousands of Arrowmen. His unselfish service to the order is impressive in and of itself, but coupled with his outstanding academic performance and active involvement with other organizations makes his contributions

even more remarkable. Jonathan Hardin is, without a doubt, one of those rare individuals who is deserving of this eminent recognition."

In a letter of recommendation to the DSA selection committee, Ray Capp, vice chairman of the Technology, National OA Committee, wrote: "Jonathan is a giver. He serves in those thankless, out-of-the spotlight jobs no one wants ... With

this entire body of volunteer activities, Jonathan still finds time to help mentor younger scouts and does so with a ready smile and confident assurance."

Hardin is a student of USC's Honors College, is a recipient of the Moore School of Business "Emerging Leader" Award and was elected as the representative of the Business School in the USC Student Senate.



**Indian Waters Council  
Boy Scouts of America  
P.O. Box 144  
Columbia, SC 29202**

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# MUSCOGEE LODGE #221

Summer Registration Form  
Summer Fellowship – August 11 - 13  
Fall Ordeal – September 15 - 17

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(please check all that apply)

## SUMMER FELLOWSHIP

\_\_\_\_\_ I am registering for the Summer Fellowship by August 3, 2006. Enclosed is my fee of \$20.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am registering for the Summer Fellowship after August 3, 2006. Enclosed is my fee of \$25.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have a 2006 Muscogee Red Fox Card and I am planning to attend the Summer Fellowship.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have been an Ordeal member for 10 months or longer and I wish to accept the Brotherhood Challenge and seal my membership in the Order of the Arrow at the Summer Fellowship. I am enclosing my additional fee of \$12 to cover the cost of a Brotherhood Sash.

## ORDEAL

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to come out and help with the Ordeal on the weekend of September 15 - 17. I am enclosing \$5 to cover the cost of food.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to serve as an Elangomat or Assistant Elangomat at the Ordeal on the weekend of September 15 - 17.

I am enclosing total fees of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

**Make checks payable to B.S.A. or pay by credit card and fax.**

Fax or mail the order form to:

*Indian Waters Council • P.O. Box 144 • Columbia, S.C. • 29202 • Fax 803-750-9855*

Credit Card Type (Circle One):      Visa              MasterCard              Discover

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount to be charged: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code for cardholder address: \_\_\_\_\_

**KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM FOR YOUR RECORDS!!**

# Wet N Wild

## Summer Fellowship

The Summer Fellowship is sure to be one of the best ever. Will you be there? The summer fellowship's theme is titled "Muscogee's Wet and Wild Weekend" and will be held August 11 – 13. Make sure you bring your swim trunks and sunscreen because the fellowship is gonna involve lots and lots of water. A water slide and other water activities are going to be there and so should you. Along with the water activities the fellowship will have Ultimate Frisbee Plus, "Sundaes on Saturday," Training, and Service Projects. Our Summer Fellowship is going to be one of the best ever and you don't want to miss it. Hope to see you there!!!!



### Important Facts:

- Check in on Friday is between 6:00 and 7:00 pm in the Dining Hall
- Dismissal on Sunday is at 11:00 am
- If you have not turned in a Medical Form, updated within the past 12 months, be sure to bring a copy that we can keep with you
- Eat supper before you arrive or bring a bag supper. All other meals through Sunday breakfast are provided.
- Fellowship fee is \$20 if paid by August 3 and \$25 after August 3 (form on back)
- We will camp by chapters in designated campsites. Limited Adirondack space is available, so "Be Prepared" by bringing a tent or plan to share with someone. Adirondacks do not have mattresses on bunks.
- For safety, the gates into camp will be closed. Pack your gear properly and plan to carry your gear from the parking area.

## Have You Been Ordeal For Ten Months? Then It Is Time To Complete Your Induction.

Also at our Summer Fellowship we will have an opportunity for each eligible ordeal arrowman to seal his/her membership in the Order of the Arrow by going through Brotherhood. Here are the requirements for Brotherhood:

- 1) Have a current Boy Scout, Explorer or Scouter registration and actively participate in your unit's program.
- 2) Have paid your lodge dues through the current year.
- 3) Have a minimum of 10 months active service since the completion of your Ordeal.
- 4) Possess a thorough understanding of the customs and traditions of the Ordeal including memorization of the following:
  - a) The OA Song
  - b) The Obligation of the Order of the Arrow
  - c) The Admonition
  - d) The Sign
  - e) The Handclasps of the Ordeal Membership

To help in your understanding of the customs and traditions of the Ordeal, it is suggested that you attend at least one Pre-Ordeal and Ordeal ceremony (other than your own).

- 5) Carve an arrow a minimum of six (6) inches and a maximum of twelve (12) inches in lengths of NATURAL MATERIAL. The arrow must have a carved head and fletchings of which you are proud.
- 6) Write a letter to the Brotherhood Board explaining the following:
  - a) Explain what you think the obligation means to you.
  - b) Describe how you have used your understanding of the Obligation in your troop or post, and in your daily life, and how you have used your understanding of the Ordeal to aid in this service.
  - c) Describe your plan for giving service in the Lodge program.

A "Brotherhood Study Guide" to help you prepare is available from the Resource Page on the lodge website.