



The Owl's Nest

Summer/Fall 2025



From Our Lodge Chief

Dear brothers,
The first half of the year flew by, packed with chapter meetings, elangomat training, a great Lodge Banquet, Fellowship Weekend, Spring Ordeal at Bashore, and a Minecraft-themed Conclave at Camp Horseshoe. At Conclave, our very own Donovan Kankiewicz was elected Vice Chief of Section E11. Congratulations, Donovan! As we move into the second half, we have Fall Ordeal, chapter events, and more chances to step up and get involved. Whether you're serving as an elangomat, helping on a committee, or just showing up to help, every effort keeps us moving forward. Go sign up for our next event. I hope to see you there.

Yours in Scouting,
Landon Ford

2025 Spring Ordeal & Service Weekend Recap

Friday, May 16 through Sunday, May 18 at Camp Bashore

We Welcome 20 New Ordeal and 31 New Brotherhood Members

This past Spring, our members gathered at Camp Bashore for our Spring Ordeal & Service Weekend.

We welcome and congratulate ALL our new Ordeal and Brotherhood members!

The service our Lodge provided to Camp Bashore

during the weekend helped get camp ready for our Scouts BSA summer camp program.

Service projects included setting up canvas tents in all the camp sites, repairing and replacing tent platforms, reconfiguring sites, and removing the pool cover.

Our Brotherhood candidates attended their Brotherhood Workshop to gain better understanding of the Order and their

responsibilities as Brotherhood members. Our ceremonies team did an outstanding job conducting both Ordeal and Brotherhood ceremonies for our new members.

As always, the kitchen crew served delicious and filling meals throughout the weekend.

Thank you to everyone who made this a successful and productive weekend!

(Continued on page 7)



ANNUAL REMINDER: YOUR 2026 LODGE DUES ARE DUE BY NOV. 30!

It's almost that time of year! We want to remind everyone that your Lodge/OA dues will need to be paid by November 30, 2025.

It is important that all members pay their annual OA dues each year. If your dues are not paid for 2026, you will be moved to inactive status and will not be able to participate in OA and Lodge events. Additionally, you must have an active registration in the BSA to be a member of the OA.

You can pay your dues anytime between now and November 30 on-line at padutchbsa.org/programs/order-of-the-arrow

YOUR 2026 LODGE/OA DUES ARE DUE NOV. 30!

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2025 Lodge Executive Committee

LODGE OFFICERS

Lodge Chief	Landon Ford	717-449-6810	landon23ford@gmail.com
1st Vice Chief	Emily Fasig	717-575-7834	emilyfasig245@gmail.com
2nd Vice Chief	Donovan Kankiewicz	717-673-5293	donthewise37@gmail.com
Treasurer	Ross Gerberich	717-644-8271	jrossgerberich@gmail.com
Secretary	Colby Kurtz	717-799-5378	colbykurtz694@gmail.com
Lodge Adviser	Mike Stanilla	610-207-4363	mstanilla@verizon.net
Assoc. Lodge Adviser	Matt Stewart	717-587-8409	wallaby38@gmail.com
Assoc. Lodge Adviser	Chet Bowen	717-304-5268	bowen17@hotmail.com
Staff Adviser	Vacant		

CHAPTER OFFICERS

Susquehanna District Chapter

Chapter Chief	Colby Kurtz	717-799-5378	colbykurtz694@gmail.com
Vice Chief	Kyto Anderson	717-405-0228	kytoa2027@gmail.com
Adviser	Brock Ford	717-870-5581	brocker22@yahoo.com

Iron Forge District Chapter

Chapter Chief	Owen Randolph	717-537-8829	orandolph28@icloud.com
Vice Chief	Ryan Brophy	717-306-8625	ryem0601@gmail.com
Adviser	Jason Davis	717-681-4795	pracmachsol@comcast.net

Lodge Committee Leadership

New and current members of our Lodge are strongly encouraged to participate in lodge activities. If any member, youth and adult is interested in serving on any committee, contact any of the committee chairmen or advisers listed below.

Ordeal Committee

C: Colby Kurtz	717-799-5378	colbykurtz694@gmail.com
A: Matt Stark	717-413-0818	mapleleafhockey@comcast.net

Extended Elangomat Committee

C: Ross Gerberich	717-644-8271	jrossgerberich@gmail.com
A: John Cook	717-314-5267	jrccook@comcast.net

Ceremonies Committee

C: Ryan Brophy	717-306-8625	ryem0601@gmail.com
A: Tony Kern	717-367-0759	georgekaplan@hotmail.com
A: Corinne Kern	717-367-0759	teamkern@aol.com

2025 Family Banquet

C: Owen Randolph	717-537-8829	orandolph28@icloud.com
A: Eric Shea	717-278-9646	ericbshea@gmail.com

Vigil Honor Committee

C: Landon Ford	717-449-6810	landon23ford@gmail.com
A: Derrick Bransby	717-808-8213	derrick.bransby@gmail.com

Brotherhood Conversion

C: Collin Splain	717-823-8469	csplain@icloud.com
A: Karl Beard	717-327-9997	kbeard1999@hotmail.com

Social Media Committee

C: Nick Harper	717-341-7484	nickdharper@icloud.com
A: Elizabeth Whitney	717-277-1138	elizabethwhitney@yahoo.com

Camping Promotions

C: OPEN		
A: Ben Wohlberg	717-405-1946	ben.wohlberg@gmail.com

Kitchen Committee

C: Preston Good	484-256-1891	goodpreston05@gmail.com
A: Logan Startoni	717-679-8114	loganstartoni@gmail.com

Membership Committee

C: Owen Randolph	717-537-8829	orandolph28@icloud.com
A: Matt Randolph	717-808-6847	mrandolph29@gmail.com

Unit Election Committee

C: Ben Nissly	717-626-9940	bennissly@gmail.com
A: Ed Van Arsdale, III	717-413-7825	ejv3bsa@gmail.com

Service Committee

C: Sam Davis	717-949-8598	samd1033@hotmail.com
A: Jason Davis	717-681-4795	pracmachsol@comcast.net

Lodge Adviser's Message

Greetings Lodge 39! I hope everyone has had a safe and fun summer. Since our last newsletter we have had some very exciting events! Congratulations to our newest Ordeal and Brotherhood members for your service at Spring Ordeal; congratulations to our Vigil Honor members, and all of our award recipients from the Banquet! Thank you to our Bashore Camp Chiefs, Donovan Kankiewicz and Ryan Brophy, for a great summer camp season of call-outs and OA Socials! Congrats also to all of our youth and adults who helped the Lodge win many of the events at Conclave in June! We should be proud of ourselves for representing the Lodge so well at our Section Events by awesome teams and youth leaders! Thank you to Simon Bowen for your service this past year as Section Chief and congratulations to Donovan Kankiewicz on your election as Section Vice Chief for this upcoming term!

As summer draws to a close, we turn our attention to some upcoming events. On September 7th there will be a joint chapter meeting. Details about time and where will be out soon. Our largest event each year, Fall Ordeal, will be at Camp Mack on September 26-28. Please join us we welcome our newest Ordeal and Brotherhood Members and provide service to the camp! Registration is now open on the Council's Tentaroo website. We are also happy to announce the 2026 Lodge Family Banquet will be on March 28, 2026 at Donegal Presbyterian Church. Additional details will be coming soon!

In service,
Mike Stanilla
Wunita Gokhos Lodge Adviser



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Scan the QR code and follow Wunita Gokhos Lodge on Facebook to keep up to date on what's new.



Scan the QR code and follow Wunita Gokhos Lodge on Instagram to keep up to date on what's new.



Lodge Events Calendar

Below are the dates for Lodge events and activities for the coming months. ALL members are welcome and encouraged to attend and participate. As we get closer to the date for these events, we will be including more information in upcoming issues of this newsletter on the Lodge website regarding times, registration and costs (when applicable).

September 2025

Fall Ordeal	Sept. 26 – 28	Camp Mack
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October 2025

Fall Service Day	Oct. 25	Camp Mack
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November 2025

Lodge Meeting	Nov. 16, 7:00-8:30 PM	Virtual
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January 2026

Lodge Meeting	To be announced	Virtual
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March 2026

Lodge Family Banquet	Sat., March 28	Donegal Presbyterian Church, Mt. Joy
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April 2026

Lodge Fellowship Weekend	April 24- 26	Camp Mack
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Chapter Gathering	To be announced	
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May 2026

Spring Ordeal	May 15-17	Camp Mack
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Section E11 Conclave	May 29-31	Camp Tuckahoe
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July 2026

National Jamboree	July 22-31	Summit Bechtel Reserve
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September 2026

Fall Ordeal	Sept. 25-27	Camp Bashore
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October 2026

Fall Service Day	Oct. 24	Camp Mack
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Chapter Gathering	To be announced	
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November 2026

Lodge Meeting	Nov. 15, 7:00-8:30 PM	Virtual
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January 2027

Lodge Meeting	To be announced	Virtual
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Chapter Holiday Party & Gathering	To be announced	
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March 2027

Lodge Family Banquet	Date and Location to be announced	
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April 2027

Lodge Fellowship Weekend	April 23- 25	Camp Mack
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Chapter Gathering	To be announced	
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Lodge Family Banquet	To be announced	Camp Mack
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May 2027

Spring Ordeal	May 14-16	Camp Bashore
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June 2027

Section E11 Conclave	To Be announded	
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July 2027

NOAC	July 22-31	Univ. of Illinois
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September 2027

Fall Ordeal	Sept. 24-26	Camp Mack
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October 2027

Fall Service Day	Oct. 23	Camp Mack
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Chapter Gathering	To be announced	
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Updated Chapter News

Iron Forge and Susquehanna Chapters hold joint chapter gatherings at four times a year. These chapter meetings are open to everyone in the lodge to attend, regardless of where you live or what chapter your unit is in!

Our next joint chapter gathering will be held on Saturday, September 6. More information to come on our activity, the time and location. Stay tuned for more information about future Chapter Gatherings!

Both of our Chapters will also be holding elections for our Chapter Officer positions at our Fall Ordeal and Service Weekend September 26-28 at Camp Mack. Each Chapter will hold elections for their Chapter Chief and Chapter Vice Chief positions.

To get a description of the Chapter officer position responsibilities and for more information about the Chapters and how both elections work, contact your Chapter Adviser. Their contact information is on page 2 of this newsletter.

Keep your eyes out for upcoming Chapter events.



Kellys Run Chapter Meeting Hike – It was a great day for a hike! On Sunday, June 1, the Iron Forge and Susquehanna District Chapters went for a hike at Kellys Run Nature Preserve in Suthern Lancaster County.

Lodge Service Committee

This past year, our lodge created a Service Committee. It's purpose is to provide service not only for our camps, but to other organizations within our Council's boundaries, specifically, Lebanon and Lancaster Counties.

This past year, the Service Committee held the following service events:

In February, 5 lodge members spent a Saturday assisting Ranger Avery removing trees and shrubs along the electric lines. It was a slow going task, with much electric line to still be cleared. Thank you to the lodge members that were able assist with this work.

In March, 9 lodge members teamed up with 7 members from the Friends of Camp Bashore to install over one hundred feet of split rail fence along the dining hall hill. This fence is replacing the old telephone pole fence that has been deteriorating. Again, thank you to the lodge members that were able to join us for this day of service.

Upcoming Service committee project days for fall of 2025:

September 20th - Camp Bashore

November 22nd - Camp Bashore

October 25th - Lodge Service day at Camp Mack

SCOUTING'S NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Fall Ordeal & Service Weekend at Camp Mack



Friday, Sept. 26 through Sunday Morning, Sept. 28

The Fall Ordeal Weekend is the second of our major service weekends with a very good turn-out which means we have the opportunity to connect with fellow Brothers we might only get a chance to see at OA events. Equally important, it's also a time for us to provide critical service to Camp Mack. Remember, ALL Ordeal, Brotherhood and Vigil members are invited to attend this weekend. Registration due date is September 19, 2025.

During the weekend, we will be inducting new Ordeal members into the lodge; and for those of you that have been an Ordeal member for at least 6 months, we will be conducting Brotherhood training and ceremonies – see page 5 for more information about Brotherhood membership. Register online at padutchbsa.org/programs/order-of-the-arrow. We hope to see you there!

And don't forget to bring your HEALTH FORM to the weekend!

Lodge Executive Committee and Chapter Officer Elections Being Held at the Fall Ordeal & Service Weekend

Are you interested in stepping-up and taking on a more significant role in our Lodge? There's no better way to help shape and guide the future of the Lodge than as a Lodge Officer. All Lodge Executive Committee (LEC) positions are open to any member, no matter if you are an Ordeal, Brotherhood, or Vigil member.

On Saturday, September 27, at our Fall Ordeal Weekend, we will be holding elections for the following Lodge Executive Committee Officer positions:

- Lodge Chief
- Lodge Vice Chief
- Lodge Second Vice Chief
- Treasurer
- Secretary

Both of our Chapters (Susquehanna Chapter and Iron Forge Chapter) will also be holding elections for our Chapter Officer positions:

- Chapter Chief
- Chapter Vice Chief

To get a description for any of the Lodge Executive Committee or Chapter officer positions and for more information about the Lodge Executive Committee (LEC) and Chapters and how both elections work, contact our Lodge Adviser, Mike Stanilla. Mike's contact information is on page 2 of this newsletter.

Fall Service Day Sat., Oct. 25 at Camp Mack

If you are looking for a reason to get out and enjoy the beautiful fall weather, join us at Camp Mack for our Fall Work Day! We will gather at 8:00 AM at the Maintenance Building. We'll spend the day cutting and splitting firewood for units to use during the winter camping season, and a few other projects around camp! The Lodge will provide lunch for volunteers.

Register online at padutchbsa.org/programs/order-of-the-arrow. We hope to see you there!



LODGE FUNDRAISING MERCHANDISE

Show your commitment to the service our Lodge provides to our Council camps by purchasing our NEW fundraising merchandise.

All proceeds from the sale of these items will go directly towards our Lodge Service Project Fund. Pre-Order your Fundraising Merchandise and pick it up at Fall Ordeal. Place your pre-order online at: padutchbsa.org/programs/order-of-the-arrow. Pre-Order deadline is Friday, Sept. 12.



NEW Lodge T-Shirt



NEW Lodge Service Flap Set

Welcome Our 2025 Vigil Members!

This past Spring, eight of our members received their Vigil Honor.

The Vigil Honor is the highest honor that the Order of the Arrow can bestow upon its members for service to lodge, council, and Scouting. Membership cannot be won by a person's conscious endeavors. The Lodge would like to congratulate our newest Vigil Honor members: Logan Bjerklie, Avery Ford, Ryan Graczyk, David Martin, Harry Nelson, Matthew Randolph, Zachary Sheaffer, and William Wharton.

The Vigil Honor is a high mark of distinction and recognition is reserved for those Arrowmen who, by reason of exceptional service, personal effort, and unselfish interest, have made distinguished contributions beyond

the immediate responsibilities of their position of office to one or more of the following: their Lodge, the Order of the

Arrow, the Scouting community and our Scout Camps. Congratulations to our newest Vigil members!



Above is the 2025 Vigil Class left to right, front row: Avery Ford, Zachary Sheaffer, William Wharton, Harry Nelson, Matthew Randolph, and Ryan Graczyk



David Martin completed his Vigil during Spring Ordeal at Camp Bashore



Logan Bjerklie completed his Vigil at Camp Mack in Late June

LODGE OPPORTUNITIES

Have you been an Ordeal Member for longer than 6 months?

Then you can seal your membership by becoming a Brotherhood Member at the Fall Ordeal Weekend

Sealing your membership in the Order by becoming a Brotherhood member is more than getting a new sash. Brotherhood members have a better understanding of the Order, our Purpose and Mission. We are true servant leaders, and we understand how membership in the Order compliments our membership in our Troop. You set an example of what an OA member is and does.

Earning your Brotherhood membership is not difficult. During the Fall Ordeal, you will participate in a workshop with your fellow Brotherhood candidates to go through some training and group lessons about the OA and our Lodge. Later in the session, you will review what you learned with the trainers. In the early afternoon, you'll participate in the Brotherhood Ceremony when you will seal your membership in our Order.

Deadline for registration is September 19, 2025.

Register online at padutchbsa.org/programs/order-of-the-arrow.

Opportunities for New Members

Welcome new members! Congratulations on your induction into the Order of the Arrow or "OA," the national honor society of the Boy Scouts of America. The Order's first purpose is to recognize those, like you, who have been chosen by your peers as one who exemplifies the Scout Oath and Law in your daily life.

Exciting opportunities for service and leadership are available to you in whatever manner you choose. You now have the opportunity to take part in ALL Order of the Arrow activities including OA High Adventure, local leadership roles, and opportunities for Lodge and community service.

The easiest way a new member can become active in the Lodge is by coming to events. If you come to events, you will be asked to help in some way; as an elangomat or to help on service projects. Coming to events is typically the best way to help you find what you want to do in the Lodge. If you would like to take a more proactive approach, contact a chairman of one of the committees that interest you – their contact information is on page 2 of this newsletter. Each of the committee chairmen will be reaching out to those of you who signed up at Fall Ordeal to get you involved!



OA Troop Rep Position

The Order of the Arrow Troop Representative is a youth serving his troop as the primary liaison to the troop's lodge or chapter.

He meets the unit's needs by providing a communication and programmatic link to and from all Arrowmen, Scouts who are not presently members of the Order, and adult leaders. These efforts are meant to assist the unit and its members in achieving the mission of Scouting America, and at the same time fulfilling the lodge's role in the Strategic Plan of the Order of the Arrow of being an integral part of the council. By setting a good example, he will enhance the image of the Order as a service arm to his unit.

If you are interested in becoming your troop's OA Rep, talk to your unit leader about how you can help.

You can find even more information about the Troop OA Rep position by going to this link on the National OA website: <https://oa-scouting.org/lodge-support/lodge-program-resources/unit-rep>



The Wunita Gokhos Patrol takes part at the Susquehanna District Klondike.

On Saturday, February 2, lodge members Emily Fasig, Simon Bowen, and Norah Martin (shown below) participated in the Susquehanna District Klondike as the Wunita Gokhos Patrol! Great to see lodge members supporting district and council events.



LODGE POLICIES



BSA Medical Forms Required on ALL Lodge and Section Weekends!

This is a reminder that official BSA Medical Forms are required for all OA weekends for all participants.

Although activities on OA weekends are not comparable to high adventure trips, sometimes people get sick or injured -- a nasty cut finger, a fall causing a swollen foot. We want to take the necessary precautions and be ready for that quick trip to the hospital for an x-ray or a few stitches. Should something happen, the Lodge health officer will need your medical form so your parents or guardian can be contacted, and the health care providers have your current medical information.

If you have a current medical form, there is no need to get another physical, simply make a copy of your form and bring the COPY to the weekend. You can get the copy of your medical form back at the end of the weekend. Medical forms not picked up at the end of the weekend will be shredded. Since medical information can change, the Lodge does NOT keep medical forms from event to event. We want to ensure we have current information.

Lodge Refund Policy

As a reminder, the Lodge has an official refund policy that applies to all events the Lodge hosts. If you register for an event, but cannot attend and cancel before the registration deadline, you will receive a full refund. If you notify us that you cannot attend after the deadline, but before the day of the event, you will receive a refund of your registration fee less the identified food cost for the weekend. If you notify us the day of the event that you cannot attend or just do not show up to the event, no refund will be issued.



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RECAP OF RECENT LODGE EVENTS

2025 Lodge Family Banquet

On Sunday, March 30 at Melhorn Manor, our Lodge recognized our members with several annual awards including the Lodge Officer's Awards and Arrowman of The Year Awards.

The Lodge also gave special recognition to Sam Davis and Landon Ford with the Founders Award. Introduced at the 1981 National Order of the Arrow Conference, the Founder's Award recognizes Arrowmen who have given outstanding service to their lodge. The award is reserved for Arrowmen who demonstrates that he or she personifies the spirit of selfless service, as advocated by founder E. Umer

Goodman and cofounder Carroll A. Edson.

We also recognized Jonathan Weiss with the James E. West Fellowship Award. The Lodge contributed to the Council's endowment fund as a way to recognize Jonathan's years of dedicated service to the Lodge and Council's Scouting program.

The Lodge would like to thank all the lodge members who pitched in to help make this a great event!



2025 Unit Election and Summer Camp Call-Out Recap

This past winter and spring our Lodge Election teams conducted in-person elections at 38 units throughout our council.

In all, 69 youth were elected, and 14 adults were nominated into the Order. We look forward to welcoming our newest members at the Fall or Spring Ordeal Weekends.

We would like to

offer a big THANK YOU to our 2025 Summer Camp "Camp Chiefs" Preston Good and Donovan Kankiewicz. They did a great job coordinating the callouts this year. They ensured the ceremony principals knew their lines, contacted unit leaders as they arrived in camp to confirm that those elected would be present at callouts, built the campfires, and collected call-out forms after each ceremony.

We'll see you all next summer!

Arrowmen of the Year - Youth



Colby Kurtz



Donovan Kankiewicz



Owen Randolph

Lodge Chief Service Recognition Award

Arrowmen of the Year - Adult



Brock Ford



Sheila Fasig

Lodge Officer Award - Youth



Ryan Brophy



Simon Bowen

Founder's Award



Simon Bowen and Chet Bowen

Lodge Officer Award - Adult



John Cook

James E. West Fellow



Jonathan Weiss

Wunita Gokhos Lodge Second Vice Chief Elected Section Vice Chief



At the Section E11 Conclave Business Meeting held on June 8th, Donovan Kankiewicz was elected Section Vice Chief.

Donovan is a Life Scout from Troop 420 in Lebanon where he serves as a Senior Patrol Leader. He completed his Ordeal in 2022 and sealed his Brotherhood in our Lodge in 2023. Outside of Scouting he is a senior at Our Lady of the Cross School in Lebanon.

Congratulations, Donovan!

A Very Productive Spring Fellowship Weekend

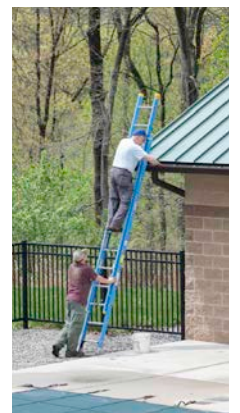
Friday, April 25 through Sunday, April 27 at Camp Mack

In late April, members of our Lodge gathered at Camp Mack for our annual Fellowship weekend. Saturday morning, we welcomed our newest Vigil members.

In the morning, we worked to get sites back in shape after the winter. Projects included general maintenance and cleanup, as well as building shelves in the pavilion closet. In the afternoon we held our annual Lodge Leadership Development course (LLD) for our new members wanted to learn more about how

our Lodge functions. As always, we also had a fun team building activity in the evening.

Everyone left the weekend with a sense of accomplishment for the service we provided, appreciation for what we learned at our LLD, and gratitude for the fellowship we shared. It was a great weekend. Thanks to everyone who participated and our cook staff for providing outstanding meals.



Summer/Fall 2025 Owl's Nest

RECAP OF RECENT LODGE EVENTS

Spring Ordeal



Section E11 Conclave

On Friday, June 6, 52 of our members traveled to Camp Horseshoe in Southern Chester County to attend our Section Conclave hosted by Octoraro Lodge.

We had a great time in fellowship with members from the three other lodges in our section. We competed in youth and adult competitions in volleyball, kickball, obstacle course, horseshoes and a Minecraft Battle. It was a weekend packed with fun and activities.

On Sunday morning, Simon Bowen, our past Lodge Chief, completed his term as Section Chief.



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and Nov. 30
on-line at
[padutchbsa.org/
programs/order-
of-the-arrow](http://padutchbsa.org/programs/order-of-the-arrow)

Thanks to Friends of Camp Mack for being our 2025 Newsletter Sponsor



For over five decades, Camp Mack, has been a place where Scouts of all ages develop skills and friendships that last a lifetime. Camp Mack's goal has been to create a fun and exciting environment where everyone can learn and enjoy the outdoors.

The purpose of Friends of Camp Mack is to:

- Identify, grow, and coordinate a network of current and former staff members, campers, and supporters of Camp Mack
- Support camp property preservation and improvements via financial, material, and labor donations and fundraising efforts
- Sponsor social and service events open to supporters and the general public that focus on supporting Camp Mack

Join our mission to preserve and maintain this special place, become a Friend of Camp Mack!

friendsofcampmack.org



WUNITA GOKHOS LODGE

ORDER OF THE ARROW

WUNITA GOKHOS LODGE #39
Pennsylvania Dutch Council, BSA
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Lancaster, PA 17601-4582

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SCOUTING'S NATIONAL **HONOR** SOCIETY

IMPORTANT LODGE INFORMATION ENCLOSED!

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Scan the QR code and follow
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