

# Washita lodge #288

## New Member Information Guide



October 2015

## **For Parents**

Congratulations on your son's election to 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 your son, who are chosen by his peers as one who exemplifies the Scout Oath and Law in his daily life. Through that recognition, the Order causes others to conduct themselves in a way that warrants similar recognition. The OA has enjoyed a long history of service. Founded in 1915 by Dr. E. Urner Goodman and Carroll A. Edson, the OA emphasizes servant-leadership in troops, at the council or lodge level, and nationally. Exciting opportunities for service and leadership await your son in whatever manner he chooses to involve himself. Your son now has the opportunity to take part in all Order of the Arrow activities, Order of the Arrow High Adventure, local leadership roles, and opportunities for community service. Have your son contact your local lodge and explore their website (<https://www.cherokeebbsa.org> and click on Order of the Arrow) for more information on how to get involved. We also ask that each new member visit the Jump Start (<http://www.jumpstart.oa-bsa.org>) Page for new arrowman.

## **Washita Lodge**

Washita Lodge #288 is the local lodge your son is now a member of. Since its formation in 1946, our lodge has a long history of service to the Cherokee Area Council, our communities in Northeastern Oklahoma and at National levels of the Boy Scouts of America. The Lodge follows Council boarders and has two Chapters that serve youth in the Osage Hills and Grand Lake Districts, respectively.

# Lodge Leadership and Organization

The Order of the Arrow emphasizes and encourages the “youth lead” program and method of Scouting. Each lodge elects their own youth leadership to various positions at the lodge and chapter levels. Lodge Officers form a Tribal Council that consist of the following members:

Lodge Chief	Chapter Chiefs	Service Chairman
Lodge Vice Chief	Chapter Vice Chiefs	Activities Chairman
Treasurer	Chapter Secretaries	Dance Team Chairman
Corresponding Secretary		Ceremonies Chairman
Recording Secretary		Unit Relations Chairman

Each Officer at the lodge and chapter level has an adult advisor assigned to assist him in carrying out their responsibilities to the fullest.

Lodge officers serve in one-year terms and an election is held at each Fall Fellowship, with installation occurring the following January at the annual Lodge Leadership Development Conference.

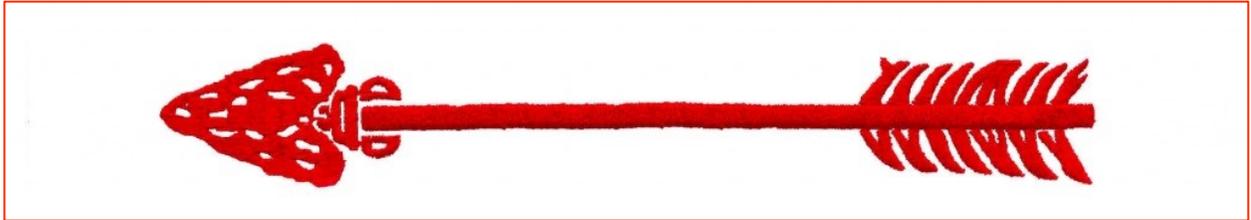
## Traditions and Symbols of Washita Lodge

A totem symbolizes the spirit of the tribe or clan - The bison was chosen as the totem for Washita Lodge for several reasons. The American bison served Native Americans very well providing food, shelter, and clothing. It represents the spirit of this lodge precisely - A brotherhood dedicated to serving others. Additionally, the bison is generally associated with the American Indians by most people, helping to show that the spirit of Washita Lodge is closely associated with Native American heritage.

In 1954 John Westfall, a prominent adult leader, introduced our lodge’s most unique tradition – The use of eagle claws and coup beads, worn on a lanyard around the neck, to encourage more participation and are a visible symbol of our lodge’s role in Scouting.

# Membership in the Order of the Arrow

You were chosen to become a member of the Order of the Arrow because your fellow Scouts felt you fully exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in your everyday life. Once elected, you underwent an ordeal or test – By satisfying the requirements of your ordeal you have proven yourself worth of becoming an *Ordeal* of our lodge. This is represented by a white sash with a red arrow pointing upwards.



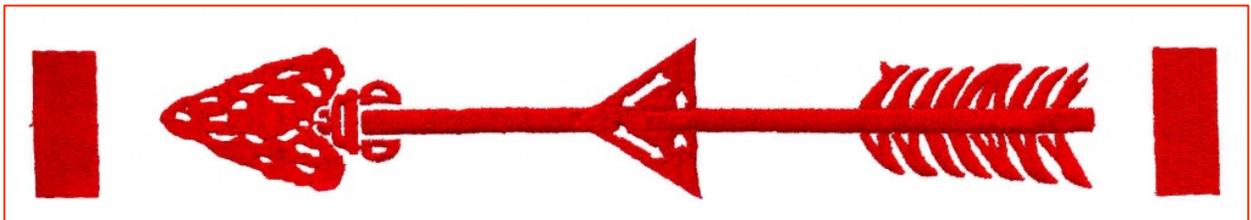
Ordeal Sash

After ten months of service to your lodge, you are eligible for *Brotherhood*. To become a Brotherhood member, you symbolically seal your membership into the Order of the Arrow. Two red bars, placed above and below the arrow represent this honor.



Brotherhood Sash

The *Vigil* is conferred to those Brotherhood members who have shown exceptional and unselfish service to both their Scouting units and to the Order of the Arrow. The vigil sash adds the triangle in the center of the arrow.



Vigil Sash

# Lodge Activities

Our lodge has six major events each year, as well as several opportunities to serve the Council and local communities. Spring Fellowship, Spring Ordeal, Section Conclave, Fall Fellowship, Fall Ordeal and Lodge Leadership Development (LLD) & Winter Banquet provide members a chance to gather together to serve and learn from others. Each time a member attends a lodge function, the goal is to provide that member the tools necessary to return to his Troop and provide excellent leadership to guide and serve his brothers in Scouting. The OA also provide opportunities for arrowman to go to any of the National high adventure treks (Philmont, SeaBase, Northern Tier, etc.) for a reduced rate while providing service at a place they love. Additionally every two years National hosts its largest OA event called National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC) that is held at a University for a weeklong course of fun, training, and education.

# Fees and Dues

You must maintain current registration in a traditional Scouting unit (Pack, Troop, Team or Crew) or be registered at the District or Council level in addition to paying your Lodge Membership dues in order to be considered an active member of the Lodge and participate in events. The annual dues are currently **\$15 per year** and payable at any Lodge event or at the Scout Office. The *one-time* Ordeal fee of **\$35** includes your first year of dues, as well as your Ordeal sash, lodge flap, Order of the Arrow handbook and Brotherhood sash (which will be presented to you upon receiving the Brotherhood honor). Local Lodge events typically cost **\$15 per event** to cover the cost of the meals.

# Contact and Questions

The Order of the Arrow, and Washita Lodge do not conduct activities in secret. If a parent is concerned about an activity or event, they may contact an adult leader from their troop or an adult lodge advisor. The Scout Office has general information about events, but you will receive a more informed answer by contacting a lodge advisor.

## Lodge Adult Advisor Contact Information

Lodge Advisor – Sean Urban (918) 271-4816 [SeanDUrban@cableone.net](mailto:SeanDUrban@cableone.net)

Records – Mark Janda (918) 397-4620 [jandamf@cableone.net](mailto:jandamf@cableone.net)

Unit & Member Relations – Kevin Brown (918) 397-2654 [kevinwbrown@outlook.com](mailto:kevinwbrown@outlook.com)