

News from

THE OTTER SIDE



Spring 2020

Volume XXV Number 2

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE: Arrowmen, as you can see some of our events have been canceled or postponed. There are no in-person events planned for March or April due to the coronavirus but we will be planning as if the crisis has been contained by then. We will follow up with further information.

Upcoming Events

April 2020

- 10-12 **CANCELLED:** Spring Fellowship
Cutter Scout Reservation
- 16 **POSTPONED:** Cutter 50th Anniv.
Elks Lodge, San Mateo
- 24-26 **POSTPONED:** W3S Conclave
Old Fisherman's Club, Modesto

May 2020

- 1-3 **Camporee**
Cutter Scout Reservation
- 8-10 **Spring Ordeal Weekend**
Cutter Scout Reservation
- 16 **Lodge Leadership Development**
Palo Alto Service Center
- 23 **Memorial Day Flags**
Golden Gate National Cemetery

June 2020

- 7 **Banquet**
Palo Alto Service Center

August 2020

- 1-8 **NOAC**
Michigan State University
- 28-30 **Cutter Rededication Weekend**
Cutter Scout Reservation

September 2020

- 11-13 **NEW:** Area W3 Conclave
Wente Scout Reservation

Full Calendar

<http://ohlone63.org/calendar>

Lodge Chief's Corner

By: Will Merwin, Lodge Chief

Greetings Arrowmen,

In 2019 Ohlone Lodged Thrived! As a Lodge we met the goals the National Committee laid out to be considered a Thriving Lodge. We had scores of great events and more on the way. 2019 was also a historic year for scouting and the Order, as female youth were welcomed into our Program from Scouts BSA, Sea Scouts, and Venturing. This has allowed us to provide service for the council and for scouting as a whole in new and exciting ways.

Coming up we have fun and important events like ~~the Spring Fellowship (4/10-12), Section W3-S Conclave (4/24-26), and Spring Ordeal (5/8-10)~~. These events will be an opportunity to interact with other members of the Lodge, have fun, and provide service to the camps and council. You can sign up for these events on the Council Website.

I would also like to reinforce that the Ohlone Lodge will be continuing without program interruptions despite BSA National filing for Bankruptcy Protections.

Yours in Service,
Will Merwin
Lodge Chief

OA High Adventure Scholarship

By: Western Region Order of the Arrow Committee

The OA High Adventure program leaves a lasting impression and energizes the Arrowmen that participate. The Western Region Order of the Arrow Committee will even pay you to go! Every first time participant in the Western Region may apply for a scholarship of up to \$325 to cover the program fee for any of the programs below in the summer of 2020 (or travel expenses).

The application window will close March 31, 2020, so act quickly! Apply here:

<https://western.oa-bsa.org/program/scholarships/>

The following programs are available:

- OA Trail Crew at Philmont Scout Ranch
- Wilderness Voyage or Canadian Odyssey at the Charles L Sommers Canoe Base
- Summit Experience at the Summit Bechtel Reserve
- OA Ocean Adventure at the Florida Sea Base

Recipients will receive:

- Reimbursement of program or travel expense
- A 2020 recipients' gift
- A congratulatory letter from the region
- A once in a lifetime experience



Unit Visitations

By: Liam McAlexander, Unit Visitation Chair

It's that time of year again, visitation season! Now is the time for you to get the Order of the Arrow involved in your troop! That means that from now through the end of April, the Ohlone Lodge will be available to come and visit your unit. The Lodge will send

representatives to give an overview of the OA, share a brief presentation about camping opportunities, and conduct an election for you to select new candidates within your unit. We have dedicated representatives that are committed to coming to your unit and hosting a unit visitation. The Scoutmaster, SPL, or OA Troop Representative may request a visit here: <http://bit.ly/OhloneUnitVisitationRequest>.

Cutter Scout Reservation 50th Anniversary Celebration

By: Stan Rudnick, Lodge Historian

Reception, Reunion and Rededication. Help us celebrate 50 years of Cutter camping memories with our Reception and Rededication! Learn more here:

<https://pacskey.org/camping/cutter/>.

On April 16, there will be a downhill Reception, Reunion & 50th Anniversary Celebration at the Elks Lodge in San Mateo. Register here:

<https://scoutingevent.com/031-35632>.

A Rededication Ceremony & Chuckwagon BBQ will be held on August 28-30 at Cutter Scout Reservation! Register here: <https://scoutingevent.com/031-35516>.

Plans for Cutter Scout Reservation's 50th Anniversary festivities are still unfolding. If you would like to be on the mailing list to receive information and updates, please sign up here: <http://bit.ly/Cutter50th>.



Spring Fellowship

By: Andres Pranza, Vice Chief of Administration

This event has been cancelled to minimize coronavirus progression.

~~The Ohlone Lodge is hosting our Spring Fellowship on April 10-12 at Cutter Scout Reservation. This is a great chance to engage in Lodge activities and learn more about the Order of the Arrow. If it's been 6 months since your Ordeal, you can even earn Brotherhood while you're there. We will be doing some service in the morning then the rest of the day will be spent getting to hang out with fellow Arrowmen. In past fellowships our lodge has put on activities ranging from Blacksmithing to swimming! We hope to see you there! If you are interested please fill out this form: <https://forms.gle/pkZp1Wui7MMSbJm2A>.~~

Spring Ordeal

By: Zach Graham, Vice Chief of Induction

One of the most important and meaningful parts of the OA is the Ordeal. It is when we induct our new members and give back to the council in the form of service. Youth can come and be an elangomat, a clan guide who helps the candidates through their Ordeal and leads them. In doing so you can meet new friends and strengthen the bond with others.

But if that's not enough to persuade you, there is food, like a lot of food, a lot of good food. But we would be nowhere without the adults. Adults can come to Ordeal and help in the kitchen, as a fossil clan leader, and in so many other ways. Spring Ordeal is going to be at Boulder Creek Scout Reservation from the 8th to the 10th of May, so if you want to come to Spring Ordeal keep a look out for the future emails concerning the event for more information. If you would like to be an elangomat for the upcoming Spring Ordeal, please email our elangomat chairman, Omar, at Pianoboy1688@gmail.com.

W-3 Area Conclave 2020

By: Will Merwin, Lodge Chief

Due to coronavirus concerns, this year's conclave has been postponed. The new date is September 11-13 at Camp Wente, and it will be a joint conclave with the other Section in Area 3, Section W3-N. All Arrowmen currently signed up for W-3S Conclave will have their registration carried over. New member registration is not open at this time, but we will follow with details when it is available.

W-3S Conclave 2020

By: Nolan Kowitt, Section W-3S Secretary

~~I have been to three Conclaves in my life, and they have been some of the greatest weekends in my scouting career. Conclaves only happen once a year and have lodges from all over W3-S participating! Conclave is a fantastic opportunity to show all the other lodges that Ohlone is number one! At Conclave, the section will have interesting trainings, exciting shows, and even a special guest, the National Vice Chief for the Order of the Arrow. The 2020 Conclave will be held at The Old Fisherman's Club in Modesto from April 24-26th.~~

~~For everyone who went to the 2019 Conclave, you will not need to brave China Grade to get to Conclave, it is conveniently right off of the highway. Finally, the biggest reason you should go to Conclave is for Indian Handball. This game is played at every Conclave, and last year we were able to win it! Come to Conclave 2020 to help support or play in this year's winning team!~~

~~Ohlone Lodge hopes to see you all there, so please sign up online at <http://www.sectionw3s.org/>.~~



Annual Meeting and Banquet

By: Will Merwin, Lodge Chief

This year the Ohlone Lodge will be holding our annual Business Meeting and Banquet on June 7, 2020. During the Banquet we will share a meal, reflect on the year, and play games. There will also be an award ceremony where we give out awards to Arrowmen who have served the Lodge and Council.

The new Lodge Officers will be installed at the Banquet and they will be eager for Arrowmen looking to get involved or simply learn about the Lodge and the Order of the Arrow.

The Ohlone lodge would really love to see all of you show up for Banquet, whether you have been in the OA for 1 month, 7 months or many many more!

National Leadership Seminar

By: Holden Kowitt, Lodge Secretary

For all of you Arrowmen that are looking for leadership, there is a unique and engaging program called the National Leadership Seminar (NLS). Essentially NLS is a fun-filled weekend in a lodge near Lake Tahoe, where you can meet other Arrowmen from all across the west coast and gain new leadership skills. If you are interested in doing any OA leadership or even just leadership in your troop and non-scouting life, I highly recommend going to NLS. This year's NLS is being held in Granlibakken Tahoe, near Tahoe City, from November 20-22.

There's even training for adults -- the Developing Youth Leaders Conference (DYLC) runs concurrently. If you are interested in attending just remember to keep your calendar clear and stay tuned for future emails!



NOAC 2020

By: Andres Pranza, Vice Chief of Administration

Once again NOAC 2020 is coming up on us really fast and it is a great opportunity to meet both Arrowmen in the lodge and from around the nation. It is a great week-long event with training courses and some competitions around the campus. The event is August 3rd-8th, 2020 at Michigan State University. Registration is open with a \$100 deposit fee. The conference registration fee is \$545 if paid in full by May 31, 2020. We'll work out costs for T-shirts, patch, transportation, shuttle, and other logistics separately, but the total is around \$1000. If you are interested please sign up at <https://scoutingevent.com/031-NOAC> to pay the \$100 deposit fee and reserve your spot for NOAC. Pacific Skyline Council - National Order of the Arrow Conference 2020 We hope to see a lot of Ohlone Arrowmen there! Please email us with any questions you may have.



Lodge Dues

By: Malcolm Hall, Lodge Treasurer

Ohlone Lodge offers a wide variety of get-togethers, campouts, and other activities that help to make the lodge fun and memorable. We also provide a lot of materials for our service projects to the Council camps. Unfortunately, these activities aren't free. A large amount of funds that are used by the lodge comes from members like you paying their annual dues. This also recognizes you as a member of the lodge and helps pay for the activities mentioned beforehand. You can pay your dues by sending 15 dollars to the lodge through the link below.

<https://scoutingevent.com/031-34471>.

Ohlone 25 Anniversary

By: Malcolm Hall, Lodge Treasurer

This is Ohlone Lodge's 25th year of existence! Whether you were around since the Pomponio and Stanford-Oljato Lodges merged or joined a bit more recently, we'd love to have your input. We're still working on an anniversary flap design and plan to make a final decision at Spring Fellowship. If you have ideas for a flap, please send them to vca@ohlone63.org by April 8 so your design can be considered. You might even win a free anniversary lodge flap of your own design!

Camp Oljato

By: Chris Morrison, Oljato Camp Director

We have noticed that over the last few years that the percentage of scouts from each troop that goes camping has been decreasing as there are many demands and opportunities for scouts every summer. Because of that many scouts cannot go camping with their troops. One of the great options for this situation is to go on their schedule as a provisional scout. At Camp Oljato you may go as a provisional scout, and we will match up with a host troop.

As we all know one of OA's callings is promoting camping, and with that, I would like to ask everyone to help promote scouts going to summer camp, whether with their troop or provisional.

At Camp Oljato we are also seeking Scouts to work at camp. We are looking for Scouts 14 to 15 to work as CIT at camp, working two week periods. We are also looking for scouts 16 and up to work full time paid staff. One question That is asked is can you earn merit badges while you are in camp, and the answer is yes. When you are off on the weekend you can also use some of the resources at camp. If you wish to apply at camp go to this link:

<https://pacsky.org/camping/employment-at-camp/>
or contact me for any questions at
chris.morrison@yahoo.com



Lodge Adviser's Corner

By: Daryl Thomas, Lodge Adviser

Change is good, and we have a lot of it! Elections are happening in Crews, Ships, and female Scouts BSA units. We have stronger relationships with the Units in the Council. We're supporting the Council in new ways. Chapter operations are stronger. Our Lodge performance metrics have been overhauled. 2020 events include a new location for NOAC (Michigan) in addition to a familiar place for NLS/DYLC (Granlibakken). There's even a new location for Conclave!

With the changes in the Pacific Skyline units that were posted during rechartering, we now have 4 Venturing Crews, 3 Sea Scout Ships, 45 male Scouts BSA Troops, and 16 female Scouts BSA Troops. Outreach to all units has started with an updated Unit Support Pak, presentations at Roundtables, direct emails to adult unit leaders, and scheduling of Unit Visitations. We're also expanding our Unit Visitation efforts to include OA awareness and council camp promotion in addition to unit elections. An increased focus on nominations for adults – particularly women – is helping us to build a deeper bench to support the youth.

We've been continuing our support of the Council through service at our regular events: Council Dinner, Camporee, Memorial Day Flags, Oljato setup, Oljato camp staff, Oljato teardown, Trail to First Class, and Merit Badge Midway support. This year we'll be adding something that's right up our alley – patches! We've been asked to promote the patch sales for the Cutter Scout Reservation 50th Anniversary at all events, including the reunion in April and the rededication in August.

All three chapters – Muwekma (Redwood), Puyson (Stanford), and Sipliskin

(Discovery) – have had local fellowship events that have been fun and are keeping new Arrowmen active. These have been driven by our new Chapter Chiefs, Jack Tyndall (Muwekma), Brian Durland (Puyson) and Dale McCann (Sipliskin). Keep an eye out for the calendars of upcoming events in your chapter.

The standard metrics from Journey to Excellence that the Lodge has used for years were deprecated in mid 2019 and replaced with a new focus. The current High Performing Lodge assessment focuses on three impactful areas – unit elections, candidate inductions, and member activation. We achieved an intermediate level – Thriving – in 2019 and are aiming for a higher level in 2020.

We've focused a lot of service at Cutter Scout Reservation over the past couple of years to prepare the site for the 2019 Section Conclave. We're now redirecting our efforts toward Boulder Creek Scout Reservation, which will be the site for our Spring Ordeal during the weekend of May 8-10. Come and join us in the redwoods!

We already have 15 Ohlone members planning to attend NOAC 2020 at Michigan State University during August 3-8, 2020. We'd love to have you join us, too. This is a larger venue than in 2018, so all are welcome to join us! We're hoping for at least 20 youth and 6 adults from Ohlone to join our contingent.

Overall, we're looking to continue our trajectory with another strong year of strengthening our membership. We could use your help in having a positive impact on the Scouts, Units, and Programs within the Council, so please come join us.

In WWW,

Daryl Thomas, Lodge Adviser

