

News from

THE OTTER SIDE



Summer 2019

Volume XXIV Number 3

Upcoming Events

August 2019

15 Puyson Fellowship: S'mores & Movies*Palo Alto Service Center***27 Lodge Executive Committee***Congregation Beth Jacob***30-Sep 2 Oljato Shutdown***Huntington Lake*

September 2019

6-8 W3N Conclave*Camp Herms, El Cerrito***19 Puyson Fellowship: Games***Palo Alto Service Center***20-22 Fall Ordeal***Cutter Scout Reservation***24 Lodge Executive Committee***Congregation Beth Jacob*

October 2019

4-6 Gold Rush*Boulder Creek Scout Reservation***11-13 Gold Rush***Boulder Creek Scout Reservation***19 Lodge Leadership Development***Palo Alto Service Center***22 Lodge Executive Committee***Congregation Beth Jacob***24 New Member Orientation***Palo Alto Service Center*

November 2019

1-3 Trail to First Class*Cutter Scout Reservation***8-9 Northern California Trade-O-Ree***Palo Alto Service Center***15-17 Ohlone Fall Fellowship***Cutter Scout Reservation***23 Puyson Fellowship: Laser Tag***TBD*

Full Calendar

<http://ohlone63.org/calendar>

Lodge Chief's Corner

By: Will Merwin

Greetings Arrowmen,

Last month at Banquet we elected new Officers to form our Ohlone Lodge Executive Committee (LEC): Lodge Chief, Vice Chief of Administration, Vice Chief of Induction, Lodge Secretary, and Lodge Treasurer. See the article by Holden Kowitt about these newly elected LEC members. There are lots of other opportunities to get involved -- Chairman Positions for some committees are still available. For example, Unit Elections, Publications, and Brotherhood all need leaders. If you are interested please email at lodgechief@ohlone63.org. We are looking forward to a great year and we hope you are too. Also, don't forget to bring your sash to Oljato for OA day!

Yours in Service,

Will Merwin

Lodge Chief-Ohlone Lodge

NOAC 2018

By: Andres Pranza

Last summer, 16 Ohlone Arrowmen went to the National Order of the Arrow Conference for a week at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. We learned a lot and had a lot of fun doing many activities from the Spartan Race to patch trading in front of stadium where we

were having shows. The classes covered things like STEM to going to the Wayfinder Festival and doing 40 sit ups for a cheerwine.



Ohlone even won the Lip Sync Competition! The Cutter Road Otters sang the song Bye, Bye, Bye by NSYNC three times. They kept winning at each round until the finale at the Wayfinder Festival where they sang and won the entire competition.



*The Cutter Road Otters
Will Merwin, Owen Convery, and Ryan Tagawa
2018 NOAC Lip Sync Champions*

All the arrowmen who went really enjoyed NOAC and recommend going again. The next NOAC will be in 2020 at Michigan State University. We hope you can join us next summer at the OA's biggest event!



New LEC Members

By: Holden Kowitt

Our lodge banquet on June 2nd was a lot of fun, and we elected new lodge officers during the business meeting as is our tradition. We had some great arrowmen nominated for each position. Congratulations to the 2018-2019 Ohlone Lodge officers:

- **Will Merwin** from Troop 29 years is our newly elected Lodge Chief. He is in charge of the lodge and runs all Lodge Executive Council and lodge meetings. He represents the lodge at meetings outside of the lodge.
- **Andres Pranza** from Troop 256 is our new Vice Chief of Administration. The VCA runs all the administrative functions within the lodge like finding committee chairman and if the lodge chief can't make an event the VCA usually takes over.
- **Zach Graham** from Troop 10 is our new Vice Chief of Inductions. The VCI oversees the ordeals, ceremonies, and elangomats. He also enables ordeal members to attain brotherhood.
- **Holden Kowitt** from Troop 321 is our new Lodge Secretary. The Lodge Secretary is in charge of the communications within the lodge. The secretary records the minutes of the Lodge Executive Council meetings.
- **Malcolm Hall** from Troop 256 continues as our Lodge Treasurer. The Lodge Treasurer is in charge of handling the money within the lodge. He is responsible for the yearly and event budgets. He is also in charge of running the lodge's trading post.

The full details are here:

<http://ohlone63.org/contacts/lodgeleaders.htm>

Chapter Program Updates

By: Michael Wu

Hello Arrowmen,

This year we will be continuing our efforts to strengthen our chapter program to complement our lodge events. Chapter events will consist of fun, local activities for arrowmen to enjoy in between our major lodge events. Each of the three chapters will aim to host local meetings open to anyone in the lodge. Last year, some of our chapter events included Tacos and Trivia and a cookie decorating contest; two years ago we had a competition at K1 Speed. (Stay tuned for future events! Chapter meetings start back up in the fall). **We are looking to build upon our promising start from last year, and we could use your help!**

While we have advisers in place for each of our chapters, **we are still looking for youth to take on Chapter Chief roles.** This position is similar to a Troop leadership position; Chapter Chiefs are responsible for helping to choose meeting topics, promoting the meetings to the Lodge, and ensuring the meeting run smoothly. This is a great leadership position to jump into if you're interested in getting involved with leadership in the OA, as you get to plan fun events for Scouts all over the council! Closer to the fall we will send more information about Chapter elections and specific responsibilities. If you are interested in a Chapter leadership position, or would like more information, email us at LodgeChief@ohlone63.org. I hope to see you at our future Chapter events and possibly consider running for a position.

Yours in Brotherhood,

Michael Wu

Puyson Chapter Adviser

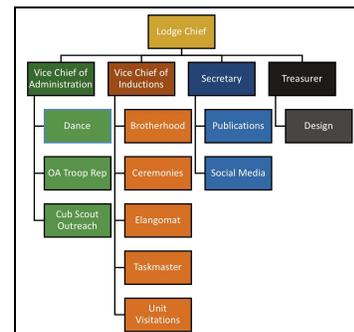
PuysonAdviser@Ohlone63.org

Leadership Positions Available

By: Holden Kowitt

Please help make the Lodge what you want it to be! We need some new chairman to join us on the Lodge Executive Committee. Here are some open opportunities:

- **OA Troop Representative:** develops and trains all OA Reps in the council to improve communication with the lodge
- **Social Media:** run the lodge's various social media accounts
- **Taskmaster:** prepares for the lodge's service projects
- **Ceremonies Team Chair:** leads the lodges ceremonies team
- **Cub Scout Outreach:** enables the Cub Scout packs in the council in AOL and Crossover ceremonies
- **Dance:** organizes and maintains the Lodge's dance team
- **Design:** Manages creative competitions for shirts and patches
- **Publications:** drives the Otterside newsletter and the In Otter News emails
- **Chapter Chiefs**



The full details are here:

<http://ohlone63.org/contacts/committees.htm>

Patch Design Competition

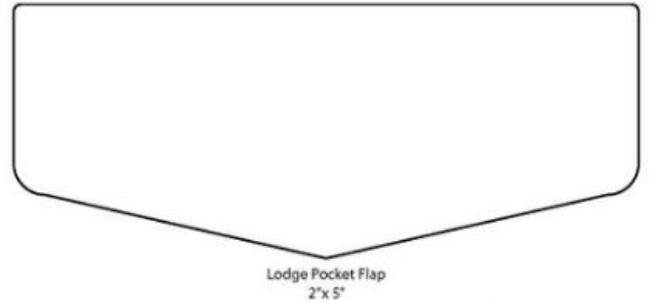
By: Holden Kowitt

My experience of patch trading at NOAC 2018 was one of the most fun experiences I have had in all of my scouting life. I was able to learn many different strategies for patch trading and got too adjusted to what I want to collect and what I don't want to collect.



Patch trading is exactly what it sounds like, trading your patches for those of other lodges. Each lodge tries to make their patches unique and exciting so others want to get them.

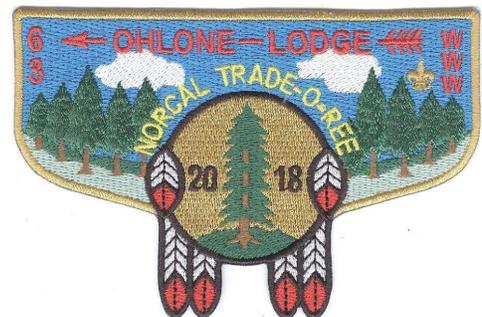
We are on a mission to make the best patches and we need your help! We hosted the 2019 Section Conclave and created a fun new design for that event that commemorated the Cutter Road Otters, but we have two more flap designs in the pipeline. Next year will be the 50th anniversary of Cutter Scout Reservation and the 25th anniversary of Ohlone Lodge; we'd like to develop commemorative flaps in advance. We are happy to be announcing a patch design competition for these events. If you are interested, please draw out your design within the 2"x5" flap outline and bring it to the next lodge event. If your design is selected, you'll get a free flap (and bragging rights)!



Trade-O-Ree

By: David Miura

The Northern California Trade-O-Ree is an Ohlone tradition. We host the two day event at the Palo Alto Service Center (1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA) each year to support fellowship within the community. Traders come from across Northern, Central, and Southern California to trade, buy, and sell Boy Scout patches and other Scouting memorabilia. It's a lot of fun in addition to being one of the best ways to learn local and regional Scouting history.



The Trade-o-Ree opens on November 8 at 5 PM with the silent and live auctions on the 9th. The auction list and supplemental details are online here:

<http://www.ohlone63.org/calendar/tradeoree/>

We always need help with this event, so please consider volunteering with the auction operations on Saturday. RSVP to tor@ohlone63.org.

Fall Ordeal

By: Zach Graham

Each year we host two induction weekends, one in the spring and one in the fall. The fall ordeal is right around the corner and we are prepared for it.

We will be implementing some new practices in order to streamline communication and be better prepared for each part of the event.

- Ham Radios - We are having a few members of the lodge get their ham radio license, they will operate the radios at the ordeal.
- We will have an abundance of schedules made and stationed around camp available for all Arrowmen to take.

Even if you are already an Arrowman, you should still go to the ordeal. Each clan at the ordeal requires an elangomat, and that could be you! Elangomat you say? Why would I ever want to do that? Well think about all the service hours you can acquire and the great people you meet that are undergoing the ordeal, it's a blast. If you are interested in being an elangomat in our upcoming ordeal, email our elangomat chairman at Pianoboy1688@gmail.com.

If you are an ordeal member, ordeals are a great opportunity to go through your brotherhood ceremony. If you underwent your ordeal during the fall of 2018, you can get your brotherhood at this upcoming ordeal. It's as easy as studying your handbook before you arrive.

Wanted: Native American Dancers

By: Mike Larsen

The Otto Singers and Dancers have been an active part of Ohlone since 2006. This is one of the more unique and fun traditions within the Order of the Arrow and the local community. Recently, many of the long time participants have aged out of Ohlone and have moved away. We have numerous Native American dance outfits, two drums, and a long history of participating in dance related events including conclave pow wows.

This year, we are looking to encourage all those interested in getting involved with the Dance Team. We are looking for dancers, drummers, and singers, both male and female. If interested, please contact Michael Larsen, Dance Team Adviser, at mkltesthead@gmail.com.

Unit Visitations

By: Zach Graham

Visiting each unit every year is a vital part of the lodge's operations. Arrowmen get the opportunity to be the face of the lodge to Troops, Crews, and Ships while conducting elections and promoting council camps.

Any Senior Patrol Leader, OA Troop Representative, Scoutmaster, or corresponding roles from Crews and Ships may request a unit visitation here:

<https://goo.gl/forms/43cYfHbyKoAqkk2r2>

To ensure that an election is valid we require that an Arrowman, outside of your unit, is present at the election.

Prior to the visitation, units must create ballots which include the names of the scouts who meet the eligibility criteria as specified below. The Arrowman present will supply the pencils and paperwork necessary to hold the election.

The Order of the Arrow membership eligibility requirements are as follows:

1. The Scout must be a registered member of the Boy Scouts of America.
2. The Scout must have experienced 15 nights of camping while registered with a troop, crew, or ship within the two years immediately prior to the election.
 - a. The 15 nights must include one, but no more than one, long-term camp consisting of at least five consecutive nights of overnight camping, approved and under the auspices and standards of the Boy Scouts of America. Only five nights of the long-term camp may be credited toward the 15-night camping requirement.
 - b. The balance of the camping (10 nights) must be overnight, weekend, or other short-term camps of, at most, three nights each. Ship nights may be counted as camping for Sea Scouts.
3. At the time of their election, youth must hold the Scouts BSA First Class rank, the Venturing Discovery Award, or the Sea Scout Ordinary rank or higher.
4. At the time of their election, youth must have approval of the Scoutmaster, Crew Advisor, or Sea Scout Skipper.
5. At the time of their election, youth must be under the age of 21.

Any adult (21 years of age or older) who meets the camping requirements may be nominated and selected with approval from the lodge adult selection committee. Contact the Lodge Adviser for additional details:
lodgeadviser@ohlone63.org.

National OA Policy Changes: Membership and Regalia Usage

By: Daryl Thomas

Beginning February 1, 2019, the Boy Scout program was rebranded as Scouts BSA and is now open to young women ages 11-17. Commensurate with this change, the Order of the Arrow now enables unit elections for Scouts BSA Troops as of that date. Moreover, we will also be welcoming youth from Venturing and Sea Scout units who have earned the Discovery or Ordinary awards, respectively. We will have great opportunity to learn from these new Candidates and we will have plenty to share with them, too. The most visible early change from Ohlone is the addition of two female youth at Ordeal and Conclave in April 2019. Membership details are here:

<https://oa-bsa.org/article/2018-membership-update>

Separately, there have been some changes in the use of Native American Indian regalia within the Order of the Arrow. The respectful use of these artifacts will continue to support the active Dance traditions and the internal Lodge ceremonies (Pre-Ordeal, Ordeal, Brotherhood, and Vigil). The updated guidelines from National state that the Lodge will no longer allow the use of the ceremonial regalia outside these Lodge events. There are, however, new scripts to support common situations where regalia has been used. Specifically, Cub Scout Arrow of Light and Crossover ceremonies have been piloted by Ohlone and are available for use within the Council. Regalia details are here:

<https://oa-bsa.org/article/official-arrow-light-and-crossover-ceremonies>

National OA Policy Changes: Brotherhood and Lodges

By: *Clint Takeshita*

Changes to Brotherhood requirements were recently approved resulting in a six month period of time after the Ordeal for members to become Brotherhood members vs. the original ten month period.

The goal is to help lodges retain more members by incentivizing Ordeal members to attend upcoming lodge events. Statistics show that the sooner new members attend events after their induction, the more likely they will stay involved with their chapter and lodge. Ultimately, retaining more active members helps lodges perform and serve Scouting better.

Changes to Brotherhood requirements is just one aspect of a new focus for lodges to become 'high performing'. There are many factors that make a lodge high performing (strong lodge program, lodge event participation, contributions to the council, and leadership development). However, a key factor in lodge performance is membership. A lodge is considered high performing when:

- Unit elections are completed in 90% of troops, crews and ships
- The lodge inducts 90% of youth Ordeal candidates elected that year
- The lodge activates 50% of youth members (youth members attend a chapter or lodge event within the first six months of membership)

So what does this mean for our lodge? We need YOUR help to achieve these goals:

- Make sure your unit holds an election each year

- Serve on a unit election team
- Work with the newly elected members of your unit to get them to the next induction
- Serve as an elangomat or other important induction staff member
- After the induction, bring your new members to the first chapter meeting and lodge event

The OA has so much to offer! Active OA members make their unit, district and our council better and it's the best opportunity in Scouting to develop your leadership skills. Plus, it's super fun! See you at the next event!

Lodge Adviser's Corner

By: *Daryl Thomas*

It is Summer, and we are preparing for the changes in the upcoming year. Not just the leaves, not just the climate: change that will open up the Order of the Arrow to new groups of Scouting's youth members. This brings us tremendous opportunity to share and build on our traditions.

The status of the Ohlone Lodge is also changing -- and improving! in 2018 we nearly missed JTE Gold, but we are on track for that recognition in 2019. We are still seeing membership growth in both the youth and adult sectors, have had successful events throughout the year, and have a strong, trained LEC in place.

Our Ordeals continue to be very fun and successful. Many work projects greatly improved the look and feel of central Cutter Scout Reservation, particularly surrounding the Troop Services Building. Cheerful Service was

plentiful, and both the camp and the Brotherhood is stronger for it. Congratulations to the 104 new Ordeal and 6 new Brotherhood members who were inducted over the past two Ordeal weekends. Thanks again to Bob Marozine for providing a firm foundation and great food.

There is change at the Section level, too. Two years ago, Ryan Tagawa was our Section Secretary; last year he was succeeded by Owen Convery, who is focused on section promotions for the 2019 Conclave and in general. This year, Nolan Kowitt will take on this same role of Section Secretary.

The efforts we made as Conclave Host this past year were wildly successful. The event itself in April 2019 at Cutter Scout Reservation was well attended and lots of fun. Our preparation for the event improved the camp's facilities and program in addition to strengthening the feeling of Brotherhood within the Lodge. Both Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 Ordeals were at Cutter, along with two Fellowship/Service weekends and a final Conclave preparation weekend. We've made great progress, and expect to continue in our future events this year.

Camp Oljato has also had great support from the Ohlone Lodge this year. Connor Grason, Nolan Kowitt, Will Merwin, and other Ohlone Arrowmen will all be on camp staff this summer. Chris Morrison is doing an excellent job as Camp Director in 2019, too.

Lastly, we have another leadership change -- we've added a new role of Service Adviser, held by Casey Inman. The goals are to promote service opportunities for Arrowmen within the Council; the tactics involve a new calendar to consolidate event details, ongoing

promotion at Chapter and Lodge events, and logistical coordination for these events. We'll be starting with the traditional Ohlone events: Memorial Day Flags, Trail to First Class, the Christmas Tree Lot, and Camporee. The Lodge also worked on an ad hoc effort to support the new Sustainability project at Cutter by building new tent platforms in advance of the pilot Sustainability Camp in August.

We are also in the early planning stages for NOAC 2020, which will be at Michigan State University during August 3-8, 2020. This is a larger venue than last year, so all are welcome to join us! We're expecting 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.

Embrace the change!

In WWW,
Daryl Thomas
Lodge Adviser

