



# HISTORY OF THE SHAWNEE LODGE

In the summer of 1915 the directors of the Treasure Island Boy Scout Camp of the Philadelphia Council formed the Wimachtendienk, Wingolauchsik, Witahemui after a legend of the Delaware Indians. Its purpose was to recognize honor campers in a brotherhood of cheerful service. It was later to be known as the Order of the Arrow. The program was a success and it proved so useful that many councils soon incorporated it into their programs.

In 1930 the Order of the Arrow was introduced into the St. Louis Area Council at Irondale Scout Reservation. At first it was known as the Osage Lodge. By 1931 when the first "President" was elected, it had been discovered that another lodge had the same name. Our name was then changed to "Shawnee," after the tribe that had inhabited neighboring territory. The "thunderbird," which means eagle, was adopted as the Lodge totem. In 1930 members inducted into the lodge were recognized by a red felt arrow sewed behind the Camp Irondale pine tree.

In 1931 Camp Irondale adopted a new camp emblem, without dates, and a new honors system of belt stencils then widely in use at scout camps across the country. Membership in Shawnee Lodge was first indicated on the scouts web belt by a stencil of a red arrow tilted at a 30 degree angle to the right, and later a horizontal arrow with a "W" in the middle.

During the 1933 National Meeting of the Grand Lodge held at Owasippe Camps of the Chicago Council, the proposal was made that the Order be made a component of the National Council, B.S.A. The following year the proposal was passed. In 1938 the National Meeting of the Grand Lodge was hosted by the St. Louis Council and held at Irondale Scout Reservation. A record 448 delegates attended the meeting from a record 44 lodges. The National Meeting of the Grand Lodge would later become the National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC).



In the 1950's patches worn on the pocket flap were approved and Shawnee created their first flap using the thunderbird totem.



At a later date, a round patch was made to signify membership in the Shawnee Lodge. It was worn on the right pocket of the uniform.



At the 1957 Shawnee Lodge Banquet, due to the need for a 20 mile trail for the hiking merit badge, the Lodge decided to sponsor the Daniel Boone and Taum Sauk trails. In 1958 the Taum Sauk trail was dedicated at the Spring Conclave held at Lion's Den camp. The Taum Sauk trail was laid out and developed by members of the lodge over the following years. Shawnee Lodge members acted as guides, and wore patches on a black neckerchief.



1965 marked the start of a new era of the Shawnee Lodge, with the dedication of S-F Scout Ranch at the Fall Reunion.

Camps Sakima and Famous Eagle were opened in the summer of 1966 with the generous help of the Order of the Arrow. All future Shawnee Lodge Fall Reunions would be held at S-F Scout Ranch.



In 1975, following the National Order of the Arrow Conference, Shawnee Lodge became one of the first lodges to adopt the Elangomat Clan System, with the development of the first extensive Elangomat training sessions.



In 1976 Shawnee Lodge began doing Ceremonial Seminars each year to help strengthen the Indian traditions of the lodge.

At the 1977 National Order of the Arrow Conference, the Shawnee Lodge *LOOKOUT*, our newspaper, was voted best in the nation, and clearly remains an outstanding publication.

In the summer of 1978, Shawnee Lodge adopted the new pre-Ordeal ceremony which brings more meaning and symbolism to the Ordeal ceremony.



In 1987 the Shawnee Lodge initiated the Beyond Brotherhood Program which enables Brotherhood members to gain additional recognition's for their service to the Order and their troop.

In 1999 the Shawnee Lodge held its first OA summer camp.

At the 2000, 2002, and 2004 National Order of the Arrow Conferences, members of our lodge received recognition in the Pre Ordeal and Vigil competitions.



In 2009 Jack O'Neill was elected the National Chief of the Order of the Arrow. He is the only member of the Shawnee Lodge to hold that position.



Over the years Shawnee Lodge has hosted section meetings/conclaves in 1952, 1956, 1961, 1973, 1979, 1986, 2004, 2005, and 2009.

Shawnee Lodge has now become one of the largest lodges in the United States. It boasts a membership of more than 3,800. Shawnee also is one of our nation's most active lodges. The Shawnee Lodge has done countless major service projects for the Greater St. Louis Area Council as well as providing camp promotion every year. The man-hours of service save our Council thousands of dollars every year.

Shawnee Lodge has provided hundreds of service hours outside of the Council through it's one day of service which began in 2008 working in Johnson's Shut-ins State Park.

The Order of the Arrow has become the highest honor that can be attained for outstanding camping qualities. The Shawnee Lodge, your Lodge, has had a great past and is looking forward to an even greater future.

This pamphlet was assembled by the Lodge History Committee. If you are interested in joining the history committee please email Mike LaTurno at [mike.laturno@shawneelodge.org](mailto:mike.laturno@shawneelodge.org).



