



Arrowman Echoes

Alibama Lodge 179, W.W.W.
Tukabatchee Area Council #005
www.alibamu.org



SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER

2026 ISSUE 4

Merit Badge Day

Lucas Luster, Merit Badge Day Chair

Merit Badge Day is coming up soon! This year, we have several exciting merit badges available, including Public Health, Artificial Intelligence, and Wildland Fire Management, along with many of the badges we know and love.

With so many options to choose from, there is something for everyone. Merit Badge Day is a great opportunity to learn new skills and explore different interests.

Merit Badge Day will be held at Camp Tukabatchee on Sep 12. Check-in begins at 8 AM, and classes run from 8:30-3:00.

Talk to your troop and encourage them to sign up today! We hope to see you there!



Lodge Banquet

Rosie A., Lodge Chief

Celebrate an incredible year of fellowship and service with Alibamu 179 on September 12 at the Camp Tukabatchee Dining Hall for our annual Lodge Banquet!

Check-in runs from 6:00 PM to 6:30 PM, with dinner served promptly at 6:30 PM. Tickets are \$20 per person, and all family members and guests are welcome to join in on the celebration. Registration closes on September 8, so be sure to head over to the lodge website and reserve your spots before the deadline!

Fall Hangout

Thomas Lawlor, Secretary

Mark your calendars! The Fall Hangout is set for **October 23-25**. We are kicking off Friday night with activities and fellowship, followed by service on Saturday supporting the Cub Scout Spook-O-Ree! It will be a weekend packed with fun, service, and brotherhood. Keep an eye on the lodge website for registration details soon!



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NOAC 2027

Elizabeth Lawlor

Get ready for an adventure! Planning is already underway for the Order of the Arrow's premier event—the 2027 National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC) at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Joining over 8,000 Arrowmen from across the country, Alibamu Lodge will take part in a week filled with leadership training, lifelong networking, and unmatched Scout spirit. NOAC is scheduled for **July 26-31, 2027**.

Under the theme “Our Time,” the conference features meaningful workshops to help you grow as a leader in your unit and community. But NOAC is also about fun! You will have the chance to dive into recreational activities like scuba diving, escape rooms, and Jeopardy tournaments, or jump into athletic competitions like ultimate frisbee and gaga ball.

Our lodge planning kicks off this fall as we select contingent leadership and outline our travel plans. Registration officially opens this October, with program selections and custom patch ordering following in the spring.

Be on the lookout for official registration details on our social media pages soon—you won't want to miss this!

Wood Badge 14-5-27

**Register
today!**



Weekend One: Feb 13-15, 2027
Weekend Two: Feb 20-21, 2027

Pilgrimage Ordeal

Walker F. Vice Lodge Chief

Our recent Ordeal weekend was an overwhelming success!

We welcomed 12 new Ordeal candidates into our lodge and watched five dedicated Arrowmen completed their Brotherhood membership. Together, our teams tackled projects across camp—creating fire breaks, repainting the buddy board, repairing the dock, pressure washing dining hall tables, and deep-cleaning the admin building.

Beyond the hard work, the fellowship was unmatched. A huge thank you goes out to our kitchen crew for keeping everyone well-fed with a steak dinner, our project leaders for directing the work, and Mr. David Lewis for inspiring us during Sunday morning's interfaith service. Thank you to everyone who stepped up to make Camp Tukabatchee shine!



Rosie A, Tyler Baughman, Liam A. and Lucas Luster served on the ceremonies team for Ordeal and Brotherhood at the Pilgrimage Ordeal in August.

New Induction Experience

Dale Alexander, Associate Lodge Adviser

Recently a contingent of Alibamu attended the Section Induction Experience (SIE). Joining the Order of the Arrow is a defining milestone in a Scout's journey, and the recent SIE proved to be nothing short of transformative. The new induction ceremonies and events are designed to challenge, inspire, and unite. The weekend immersed candidates in the founding principles that have guided Scouting's National Honor Society for over a century: Brotherhood, Cheerfulness, and Service.

Throughout this experience, these three core values were not merely spoken about—they were actively lived.

Service: Candidates dedicated themselves to meaningful projects, giving back to the campgrounds and community that have supported their Scouting journeys. Through shared labor, the true spirit of servant leadership came to life.

Cheerfulness: Even when tasks were demanding—and I'm not just talking about the service projects—an infectious spirit of positivity prevailed. Demonstrating enthusiasm in the face of trial served as a quiet reminder of how mindset shapes experience.

Brotherhood: Working side-by-side forged immediate, lasting connections. Shared endeavor turned relative strangers into a tight-knit community of peers. Time set aside to learn about my brothers and sisters in meaningful conversation left me feeling like I had made friends I will have for life.

This new experience has something for everyone: the pageantry of the ceremonies, team projects to strengthen bonds between brothers, service to our camp and fellow scouters and, let's not forget, FOOD.

The lodge will be hosting the Lodge Induction Experience very soon. I invite you to join me at this event and experience the new Induction Experience. I promise you will walk away with a far better connection with your lodge brothers and sisters and a clearer vision of the OA's true purpose. It is far more than an honor roll—it is recognition of a lifelong commitment to brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service.

Chiefly Speaking

Rosie A. Lodge Chief

As Arrowmen, we often talk about the principles that define our Order: brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service. We hear them during ceremonies, songs, speeches. But as we enter a new chapter of the OA, I challenge you to continue following these ideals in your life.

Personally, I find cheerfulness the most difficult principle to follow. Keeping a good attitude is difficult, and I find myself having to remind myself to remain optimistic. At the Section Induction Experience, I was nervous to see all the changes to the ceremonies and overall experience. However, after purposely maintaining an open mind and cheerful spirit, I found myself much more receptive of the changes. I ask that you do the same at our upcoming Lodge Induction Event, where you will all get to see the new process.

As we look toward the fall season, I encourage every one of you to stay active and get involved. Whether you are volunteering for our fall service projects, helping out at unit visits, or stepping up for our upcoming leadership events, your energy is what keeps our lodge thriving. We have an incredible line-up of fall events ahead, and I can't wait to see our brotherhood out in full force.

We have so many reasons to be cheerful—let's make this season our best one yet!



Stay Connected

Want to see your favorite Scouting memories featured in our next newsletter or on the lodge social media pages?

Everyone loves capturing those hilarious campsite moments and high-energy event highlights, and we want to share them with the whole lodge! Join the official Alibamu 179 PhotoCircle to easily upload your best photos from recent service days and campouts.

Join today and help us spotlight the awesome Arrowmen who make our lodge so great!

Lodge Leadership Development

New members of the Lodge Executive Committee attended training at Camp Tuk in July to prepare for their responsibilities on the 2026-2027 LEC.



Lodge Dues

It's time again to pay dues for 2026-2027, so please pay as soon as possible. Only members with dues paid can wear a lodge flap on their uniform and attend lodge events. If you have any questions, please contact a lodge officer.

Dues can be paid by scanning the QR code or by going to www.tukabatcheebsa.org/shop.



Arrowman Spotlight

Congrats to Liam A. and Gina Aaij of Troop 307 for earning Alibamu's 12-month camper award. Alibamu has both a 10-month and a 12-month award. Learn more about it [HERE](#).



Upcoming Dates

Merit Badge Day/LEC.....	Sep 12
OA Banquet.....	Sep 12
NLS.....	Oct 2-4
Fall Hangout.....	Oct 23-25
Fall Fellowship.....	Dec 4-6
Winter Camp.....	Jan 15-18
Service Beyond the Fire.....	Jan 8-10
Conclave.....	TBD

2026-2027 Lodge Executive Committee

Lodge Chief..... Rosie A.

rosie.ey@icloud.com; (334) 549-1128

Lodge Vice Chief..... Walker F.

wfrederick08@icloud.com; (334) 235-9590

Lodge Secretary..... Thomas Lawlor

thomaswlawlor@gmail.com; (334) 235-8385

Lodge Treasurer..... Treyton T.

trey9261@gmail.com; (334) 224-4975

Ceremony Chairman... Tyler Baughman

Tbaughman23@icloud.com; (334) 313-9321

Service Chairman..... Owen P.

owentp1077@gmail.com; (334) 398-5886

Historian..... Ryan S.

usaf_lew@hotmai.com; (334) 414-6994

Lodge Advisor..... Wes Crew

rollontide1980@gmail.com; (256) 794-0746

Associate Lodge Advisor...Dale Alexander

dale.alexander.76@gmail.com; (334) 462-0297

Associate Lodge Advisor.... David Ehrlich

dehrlich93@gmail.com; (334) 202-9629

Associate Lodge Advisor.... Fred Cumbie

brandoncumbie@gmail.com; (256) 794-1039

Associate Lodge Advisor... Dondra Houlditch

dondrashaye@gmail.com; (334) 657-0822

Find Us Online!



Alibamu179



@alibamu179



@alibamu17926-27



Wisdom from Wes

Mr. Wes Crew, Lodge Adviser

This August I have had the the privilege to experience the future! And, no, I am not a time traveler. I attended the Section Induction Experience as part of the rollout of the new induction.

I participated as if I were a new candidate (now known as a new member). My expectations were low--if I am going to be upfront with my fellow brothers in Wimachtendienk. I have been in awe and in love with the ceremonies that I had seen for over 30 years, and I will grieve them as such!

Now, back to the future. From the moment the program began, it fostered relationships within my Luminary Crew (a term that you will come to know and love). The weekend was still filled with similar challenges and words that will remind you of where we have come. However, the sessions and structure bring the new members together and show why Brotherhood is such a foundation of the Order!

I look forward to the Lodge Induction Experience and sharing this future with my lodge family!

