

Ashokwahta Lodge #339

Iroquois Trail Council  
45 Liberty Street, Site 2  
Batavia, New York 14020

Phone: 585-343-0307  
E-mail: [www.itbsa.org](http://www.itbsa.org)



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# ASHOKWAHTA TEHTAS *Special Edition*

Fall 2009

... a publication by Ashokwahta Lodge #339



In Memory of  
**Austin J. Boyd**  
Lodge Chief, Eagle Scout  
October 18, 1990-October 28, 2009



## THANK YOU FROM AUSTIN'S DAD

Dear Lodge Brothers,

Thank you. Two very small words that will never adequately express my appreciation for the honor, respect and tribute given to Austin and our family at the memorial service. Although Austin is neither a martyr nor a Saint, he was my best friend. I will always cherish the bond between us that grew primarily as a result of our shared Scouting experiences, many with the Lodge. I am extremely proud of Austin's accomplishments.

I shared my love of Camp Sam Wood with Austin. In turn, Austin introduced me to Camp Dittmer and I came to love it as well. Through the memorial fund established in Austin's name, we hope to be able to provide assistance with camp improvements and to provide camperships for scouts.

Lately I had started to step back into the shadows, allowing Austin to travel on his own to LEC's and other functions. As I explained to a fellow Scouter, I was trying to provide Austin the opportunity to succeed or experience failure without my presence overshadowing him. Austin and I had actually discussed this on our way to GCC for the Program Launch.

I see I have run out of room to continue. I would again like to thank everyone for their condolences, sympathy, compassion and support over the past weeks. Your actions show that you truly embrace the principles of our organization, WWW.

Sincerely,  
Ron Boyd



## Does your unit have an OA Troop Representative?

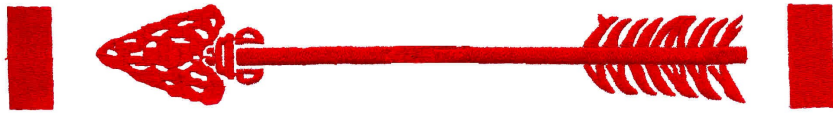
*"Let it be remembered that the Order of the Arrow was created to help the unit - to help it present its membership a better ideal of the inner qualities of the good scout camper. Qualities of character, like cheerfulness and service are hard for a boy or a man to understand in the abstract. They come easier when seen in human life.*

*Let us realize the significance of the Order in the unit - for the unit is our best hope in scouting."*

Dr. E. Urner Goodman  
Founder, Order of the Arrow



Contact your Lodge Chief for more information about the Troop Representative qualifications and responsibilities.



## *Help Wanted*

**Help Still Needed:** Youth members are needed to serve on the Unit Elections/Camp Promotions Committee. Participants travel to units, conduct elections, present a video or slide show and let cubs and scouts know of the wonderful activities they will experience at our Council summer camps. Contact Mr. Boyd if interested.

### Positions Remain Available

Youth volunteers are needed for the Lodge Ceremonies Team. We would like to be able to field two separate teams for Ordeal and Brotherhood ceremonies. Please contact Mr. Keith Oliver if interested

### Volunteers Needed

Youth volunteers are needed from each District for Unit Election Teams. A volunteer is also needed to serve as the chairperson for the election team. If interested, please contact Garrett DeFilipps or NJ Solis.

### Please Join

Due to graduations and college entry, the Dance Team is seeking new members. Any adult or youth interested in participating, please contact Phil Crane or Mr. Crane.

### Notice

Nominations for Golden Arrowman of the Month are always being accepted. If you know of a member who exemplifies the ideals of the Order of the Arrow (youth, adult, or both) please contact the Awards and Recognition chairman, Garrett DeFilipps, at gdefi1@brockport.edu. One person each month will be selected for this recognition. Your input is appreciated.

## Chiefly Thoughts

For those of you who do not know me, my name is Garrett DeFilipps. Over the last year, I have served as the Vice Chief of Program. In the coming months, I will be fulfilling the duties of Lodge Chief. I will accept this weighty responsibility cheerfully, but as many of you know the lodge is not run through the actions of only one person. I plan to continue to work to achieve the goals set at the beginning of this year, and this can only be carried on through teamwork and dedication.

I cannot stress enough the importance of everyone stepping up and doing their part. It will take many hands to ensure the success of the lodge in these trying times.

Yours in Brotherhood,  
Garrett "Bambi" DeFilipps  
Interim Lodge Chief



## From the Lodge Adviser

Fellow Arrowmen,

I am sure most of you have heard of the passing of our Lodge Chief, Austin Boyd. The memorial service and the attendance by so many youth and adults was beautiful. Let us all keep the Boyd family in our prayers.

I would also like to remind everyone we have our lodge banquet coming up January 9th, 2010, at the Batavia Party House. Please plan on attending. The election of lodge officers will be taking place, good food will be enjoyed, and of course our lodge patch auction will take place. It is important that as many youth attend as possible, as they are the ones that get to vote for lodge officers. If you have items that you wish to donate for the auction please get them turned in as soon as possible so the gentlemen that are putting it together have enough time to categorize everything.

If you are a youth member planning on running for office make sure you get any paperwork turned into council by December 9th. Youth only for elected positions, can not turn 21 years old in office and you need a letter from your scoutmaster turned into council office.

Mike McNutt  
Lodge Adviser



## Calendar of upcoming Events

November LEC		Nov 18
December LEC		Dec 16
Winter Banquet	Batavia Party House	Jan 9
January LEC		Jan 20
February LEC		Feb 17
Spring Ordeal	Camp Sam Wood	June 4-6
Conclave	Camp Russell	Aug 13-15
Fall Ordeal	Camp Dittmer	Sep 10-12

The Lodge Executive Committee (LEC) meetings are held at the Batavia Service Center located at 45 Liberty Street in Batavia (side door). This meeting is for Lodge Officers, Lodge Committees, Troop Representatives, and any interested members.

The LEC meetings begin at 7 P.M. and end around 8:30 P.M.



## Mailing List and Dues Payment

During the past five years we have diligently attempted to bring the mailing list of OA Members into line. Members who have not paid, as per the guidelines of the Ashokwahta Lodge, have been dropped from the mailing list. Those members no longer current with Lodge dues were considered inactive for the mailing list after the Spring 2008 OA Weekend. Payment of the 2008 and the 2009 dues will bring into line those members who have not remained current in dues -- \$8.00 per year or \$16.00 total. The upper right corner of your mailing label indicates the year your dues are paid through.

**Reminder :** If a fellow Arrowman tells you they are not receiving the newsletter, please have them update their home address by calling Judy Anderson at the Batavia office.

Phone number 1-585-343-0307

## Lodge Elections

### ATTENTION ALL ARROWMEN

**Nominations for 2010-2011 Lodge offices have been opened.** Any youth member wishing to run for a lodge office, please send a letter of intent to the address below. The elected officers of the lodge are the lodge chief, lodge vice chief(s), lodge secretary, and lodge treasurer (Guide for Officers and Advisers, page 8).

Arrowmen desiring to serve as a lodge officer must meet the following requirements:

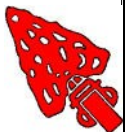
1. Be currently registered in Scouting, in the Council that charters the lodge.
2. Be a member in good standing in the lodge.
3. Be younger than 21 for the entire term of office.

Officers serve a one-year term

Your Scoutmaster is requested to send a letter supporting your nomination and attesting to your abilities.

Send your letters to:

OA LEC Nominations  
Iroquois Trail Council, BSA  
45 Liberty street, Suite 2  
Batavia, NY 14020



# *AUSTIN J. BOYD*



October 18, 1990 - October 28, 2009

*Scout Leader*

*Eagle Scout*

*Lodge Chief*

*Rest in Peace*

## **ATTENTION ALL SCOUTMASTERS, SENIOR PATROL LEADERS, AND TROOP OA REPRESENTATIVES!!**

As of October 1, 2009, Unit Elections for the Ashokwahta Lodge #339 have been opened! The Unit Elections Team will be contacting all troops in Iroquois Trail Council to schedule Ordeal Candidate elections **AND** Summer Camp promotion (we would like to both at the same meeting). If your troop does not receive a call by December 15, please contact any member of the Lodge Executive Committee or Council Office..

### **T-Shirt Designs Wanted !!**

Ashokwahta Lodge is seeking a design that can be placed on various items, such as shirts, jackets, fleeces, hats, pens, pencils, etc.) If you have artistic skills, or know of an artist, and have a design you would like to submit, please send to the lodge Executive Committee no later than December 16.

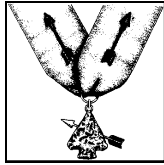
**Need a copy of the Lodge Rules and Bylaws?** Contact the Lodge Executive Committee to receive an electronic version!

### **Election of Lodge Officers**

At the January 9 Winter Banquet, youth members will be electing Lodge Officers to serve on the lodge Executive Committee (LEC). There are presently three offices for vice chiefs. Included on the ballot will be a proposition to abolish the position of Vice Chief of Administration. The current LEC feels that with 6 officers it is difficult to obtain a quorum at meetings (so items may be voted on). With 5 elected officers, only 3 need to be present to vote on motions.







## A Life Interrupted / By Mark Cross

We are shocked and saddened by the loss of your son, Austin. I do not know the words to say that can help you through this most tragic time. One thing that I do know in my heart is that this world has become a lesser place without him.

He was a very serious and committed young man, who also had a very kind and sensitive side. He thoroughly enjoyed working at our council camps, and with the younger youth. His quest for Eagle, and his accomplishments in Scouting are a testament to his character! The author Rick Warren tells us in his book The Purpose Driven Life, that none of us are accidents that our maker has a plan and purpose for all of us.

Austin lived a *purpose driven life*, and that life revolved around Scouting. I know that it was no accident that we have come to know Austin. Through his efforts, and his leadership in the Scouting Movement, our council will carry on! Austin lives on, because he touched our hearts, and is present in our minds. This tragedy cannot destroy the good things that he has done, or the friendships that he has made. Through the brotherhood we call Scouting, we all feel that we have lost one of our own. Though he is gone from our sight, we can still feel his presence among us.

I know that we are here today to celebrate Austin's life, and the joy of having known him. Let us give thanks to "The Father" for giving us the chance to know Austin. To thank him for the 19 years we have enjoyed having him among us, for his good deeds, and his character. Today, we will also grieve, due to our humanity and love we feel the deep sorrow that comes when we are parted by death.

As I prayed the other night, I prayed that He would watch over us all as we mourn, and that Austin's spirit would help watch over us to help get us through this difficult time. I leave you with this thought, we all have a memory of Austin, a story or moment that you shared together. Find that moment, or story and it will help to carry you through this dark time. That special moment will help you through this day, and the days to come until we are reunited with him again. Until then, he will be greatly missed.

Amen

## Lodge Officers & Responsibilities

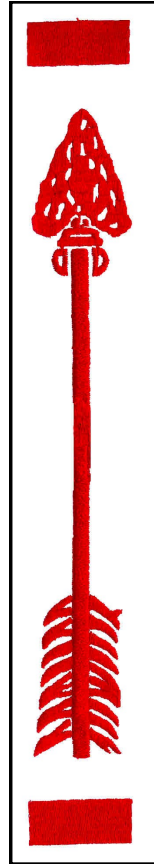
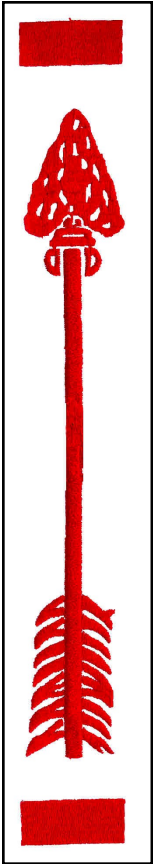
**Lodge Chief** - the Lodge Chief is the chief executive officer of the Lodge. He is responsible for making sure that all other officers are doing their jobs. The Lodge Chief also maintains contact with Section Officers, providing updates on progress. The Lodge Chief coordinates meetings with his advisers, as well as with the Supreme Chief of the Fire. The Lodge Chief is expected to attend all Lodge events and certain Council functions.

**Vice Chief of Ceremonies and Inductions** - This Vice Chief office is responsible for: Lodge regalia; promoting, coordinating and conducting unit elections; coordinating materials and personnel for Ordeal and Brotherhood ceremonies; assisting the Ordeal Master; and, any other responsibilities designated by the Lodge Chief.

**Vice Chief of Program** - This Vice Chief office is responsible for: publications; scheduling weekend activities; planning and coordinating call-out ceremonies at district camporees and summer camp; planning for Conclaves and NOAC; and, any other responsibilities designated by the Lodge Chief.

**Secretary** - The Lodge Secretary is responsible for: recording and publishing the minutes for all meetings; collecting and recording receipt of annual dues payments; registration at events; running the Lodge Trading Post; and, any other responsibilities designated by the Lodge Chief.

**Treasurer** - The Lodge treasurer is responsible for: maintaining accurate records regarding money received and funds expended; inventory of the Lodge Trading post; assisting the Lodge Secretary in the collection and recording of annual dues received; assisting the Lodge Secretary as needed; and, any other responsibilities designated by the Lodge Chief.



**Austin James Boyd**  
**October 18, 1990 - October 28, 2009**

**Troop 59**  
**Eagle Scout, Lodge Chief**  
**Ashokwahta Lodge**  
**2008-2010**



### From the Boyd Family

Dear Scouts, Scouters, and Lodge Brothers,

On Saturday, November 7, a memorial service was held celebrating the life of our son, Austin Boyd. Our family was stunned by the number of people, including hundreds of Boy Scouts from across western New York and Pennsylvania, who came out to honor our son. The outpouring of sympathy, compassion and support has been overwhelming. We can never adequately express our thanks to the many people who shared our grief, and to those who despite their grief helped ease our burden. We are truly comforted in knowing that Austin's significance extended well beyond the Boyd family.

We would particularly like to thank the Moms, Dads, Scouts and Scouters affiliated with Troop 59 of Clarendon and Troop 62 of Holley for planning and preparing the reception that followed the service. We also thank all of the Scout families who generously gave of their time and skills to present our family with a scout uniform shirt and merit badge sash, showing all of Austin's awards, complete with patches indicating Troop, Council, and Lodge affiliations, beautifully encased to display his accomplishments.

We recognize the hundreds of Boy Scouts who, with no room to be inside with us, stood silently outside the church throughout the service with arms crossed and hands linked in brotherhood. Ron wanted to come outside and thank you all personally, but his grief and injuries would not allow that. We gratefully thank the members of Ashokwahta Lodge #339, BSA, for their participation and attendance, as well as the representatives from the North East Section 3A Order of the Arrow.

Our most sincere thanks and appreciation also go to the representatives of Iroquois Trail Council, BSA, for their support during our time of sorrow and for their participation in the memorial service: Dr. Tom Madejski, President; Mr. Jim McMullen, Chief Scout Executive; Mr. Robert Drury, Senior District Executive and Camp Director; and, Mrs. Judy Anderson, Office Manager.

Although our grief and sorrow are great, our hearts are brightened by the number of lives Austin touched and influenced. Based on the overwhelming response our family has received over the past weeks, we see that Austin not only inspired so many of us, but that he was also loved by all of us. It is in this sense that Austin will live on - not only in our lifetime, but for several generations thereafter.

With our sincere thanks and gratitude,  
The Boyd Family  
Ron, Tracy and Jordan

We are gathered here today to mourn the loss, and, more importantly, celebrate the life of Austin Boyd. While our family has lost such a great and admirable person, we are truly comforted in knowing that Austin's significance extended well beyond the Boyd family. The number of people who are not only here today, but who have expressed their condolences over the past week and a half, proves how much Austin meant to so many people.

Most people here know Austin as a devoted scout, a loyal friend, or a considerate student. I know him as my younger brother – and in this time of great loss, I have been bombarded with so many memories of our childhood together in this small town, and the lives we led as two different individuals who shared a part in the other's life. I remember when we first moved into our first house in Holley, the small two-bedroom home on Orchard Street. We soon became fixtures of the neighborhood, rambunctious little heathens who curiously pestered our elderly neighbors and terrorized those two Bryant girls in their backyard. During the hot and humid summers, we could be found at the Shaw's' home across the yard, where Austin would either terrify our parents by assisting Ken with some of his home improvements, or join me in chasing their black lab, Duchess, for hours until the three of us were exhausted. Some days, the two of us would ride our bikes around the block; and on other days, we would stage poorly acted role-playing games with the Bryant's and whoever else wished to partake in our backyard. These are the memories I cherish from my childhood – the days when time seemed irrelevant, when Austin and I entertained lives rich with a sense of adventure only contained by the boundaries of our backyard.

As we grew older, a rivalry began to form between Austin and I. Being older than he, I naturally found ways to exploit my brother's youth and naivety. My favorite way never failed, no matter how many times I did it. In the evening, when Austin would return from a friend's home by cutting through our old back yard, I would dress up in a black coat and Halloween mask and hide behind one of the pine trees, waiting to scare Austin. Once Austin came along, I would run after him wielding a plastic knife, chasing him all the way to the front door as he screamed like a twelve-year-old girl at a Jonas Brothers concert. As the years passed, Austin figured out how to get back at me by manipulating my anger, which would in turn only get me in trouble – or, in the case of one instance, send me to the hospital with shards of glass stuck in my hand. Conversely, I knew how to push his buttons – whether I stole the remote from him two minutes before his favorite television show was on, or whether I vociferously reminded him that he couldn't carry a tune and that his dancing left much to be desired during the school musical.

Yes, Austin and I soon became two different people with two different sets of interests. In fact, I don't know if you could find two brothers as different as we were. Austin enjoyed the quiet tranquility of the rural countryside; I enjoyed the colorful cacophony of city life. Austin struggled in school; I excelled without trying. Austin hated politics; politics is my life.

Austin enjoyed building things; if I had my way, I would hire a contractor. Austin enjoyed learning about and playing with firearms; I enjoyed voting for politicians who wanted to ban them.

Despite our differences, there was a bond which grew between us, a bond built on our love for our respective communities and driven by our compassion for others. While I spent my first few years out of high school fighting for my various causes, Austin spent his last year in high school fighting for the teachers and students he came to care for as a student. When Holley High School considered cutting its business department, Austin led a small group of his peers in protesting the school's pending decision. Eventually, the school decided to keep the department for another year; and although Austin may not have single-handedly saved it, his activism was inspiring none the less. Beyond high school, Austin completed several service-oriented projects in the community – ranging from repainting bookshelves in the public library, to assisting other boy scouts with their Eagle projects, to leading the next generation of scouts which came through the local council. Yes, at his core, Austin was a leader – someone who did good for others without being asked, who stood up for what he believed was right, and who inspired hundreds of other people to stand up and lead.

Lately, I spend my time thinking about the young man Austin was becoming. He had only been in college for seven weeks, but he knew how to balance the stressful nature of college with the responsibilities he took on as lodge chief. Austin had broken away from the shallow and insignificant halls of Holley High School, and was beginning to immerse himself in the real world. There, he broadened horizons at Monroe Community College, met new friends, and was beginning to work towards a life full of promise. Based on the life he lived, I can only imagine that he would have become an even better person than he already was, a young man who lived his life based on his compassion and concern for others, who inspired even more people than he already had, and whose influence would be felt by so many who have now lost the privilege of knowing this person who touched so many of us.

Unfortunately, Austin's presence was limited to the short time he spent among us. I believe that the only afterlife for any person is the store of memories which reside in the minds of loved ones, and the actions which they may inspire us to take. There are memories about my childhood with Austin which I will never be able to forget – moments in my life which I will surely recall until the day I die. And based on the overwhelming response our family has received over the past week and a half, I can see that Austin not only inspired so many of us, but that he was also loved by all of us. It is in this sense, then, that Austin will live on – not only in my lifetime, but for several generations thereafter.

*Eulogy by Jordan D. Boyd, November 7, 2009,*

*For his brother*

*Austin J. Boyd*

*October 18, 1990 - October 28, 2009*

*Printed with permission from the Boyd family for those unable to be inside for the service.*