

Ashokwahta Lodge #339

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

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



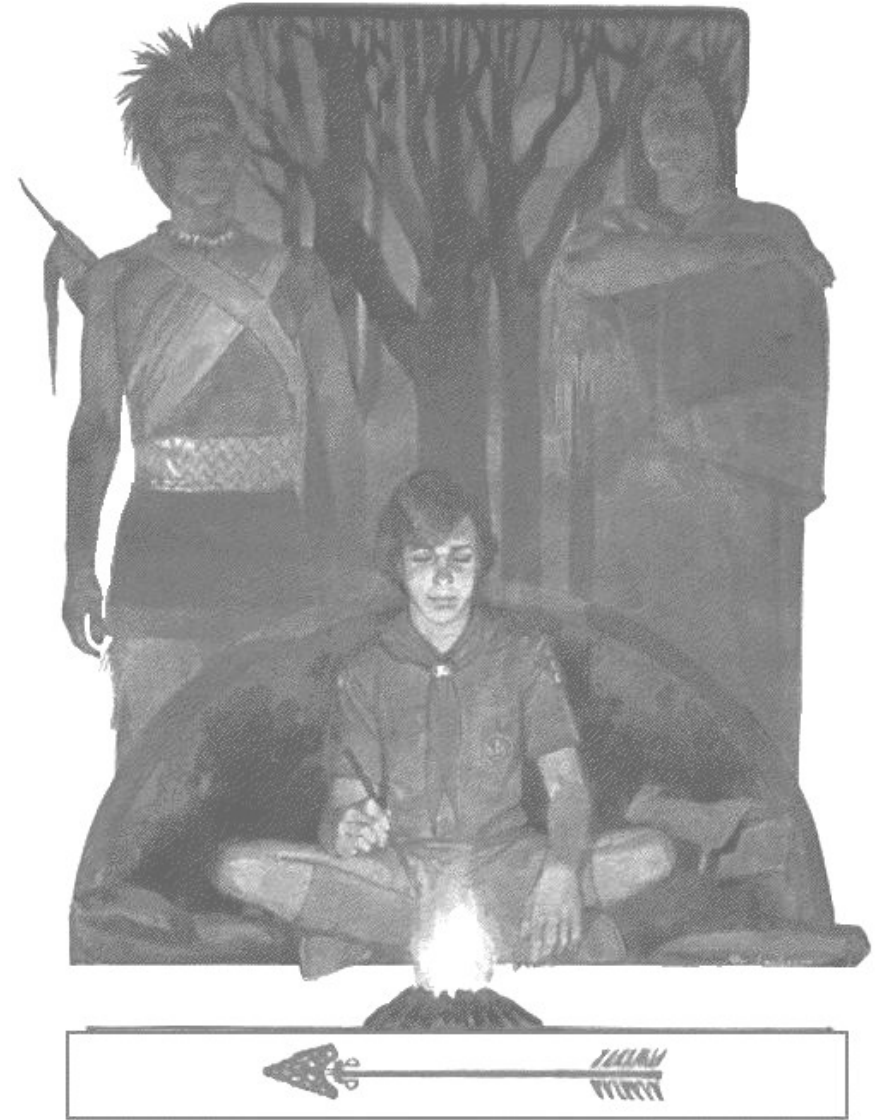
Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 201  
Batavia, N.Y.  
14020

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

# ASHOKWAHTA TEHTAS

Spring 2012

... a publication by Ashokwahta Lodge #339



The Ashokwahta Tehtas is available on-line at  
[www.itcbsa.org](http://www.itcbsa.org)



## Words from the Lodge Chief

Calling all lodge members! Are you looking to become more involved as a member of Ashokwahta Lodge? We are in need of Lodge Brothers to act as unit election teams.

Being a unit elections person isn't difficult. You simply need to be able to contact Scoutmasters and set up a date for elections, get transportation to another units scout meeting, and play a DVD telling about the OA. The rest is easy: tally the votes and inform the scoutmaster the results of the election. It is his choice to announce the results or have them wait until a call-out at Spring Camporee or until the welcome letters are sent to new candidates.

After that, simply write down the candidate's contact information, and turn-in a copy to the Scout office. You might be asking yourself if you're qualified for this position. Everybody is qualified as long as you are a youth member of Ashokwahta Lodge.

YIS,  
Kyle Smith



## Your Lodge Newsletter

Dear Brothers,

This is *your* Lodge newsletter. We are always seeking your pictures and articles to include in the newsletter. We seek your thoughts and comments on Lodge activities. We also seek to answer any questions you may have about your role as a member of Scouting's National Honor Society.

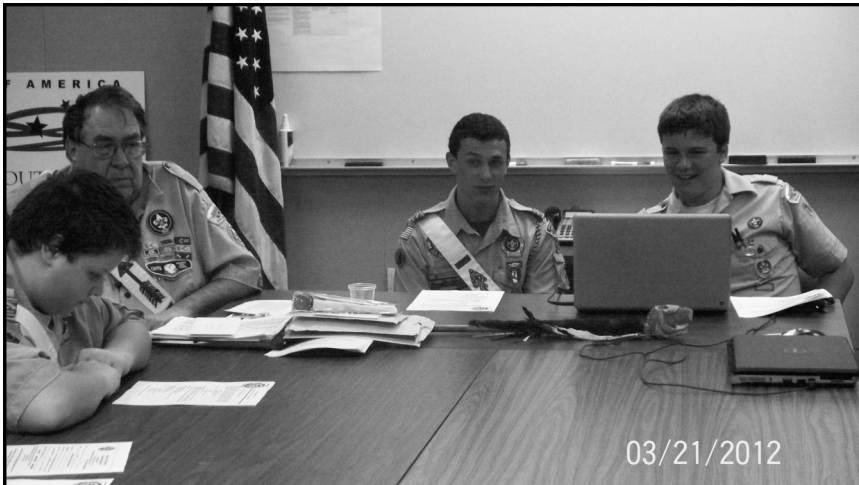
Additionally, we are always seeking to promote camping and other Scout activities at both the Council and Unit level. We will gladly publish pictures and articles featuring your unit participating in an event or activity.

Please forward your pictures and articles to the Lodge Adviser, Mr. Ron Schmidt, at [headchef339@yahoo.com](mailto:headchef339@yahoo.com) or call 585-356-7692 for additional information.

Thank you,  
Lodge #339 Publications



### March Lodge Executive Committee Meeting



Above: Lodge Chief Kyle Smith (center) and Vice Chief Alex Keiffer (right) take charge of the Lodge Executive Committee meeting.



Order of the Arrow Troop Representatives (at table) discuss Lodge business at the March 21 Lodge Executive Committee Meeting. All OA Troop Representatives are encouraged to attend the monthly LEC's.

### Spring week-end tentative Schedule

#### Fri.

- 5:00-7:30 Check-in at the dining hall. Dues must be current to take Brotherhood. Some work will begin!! Sales box will be open for current members!!
- 8:15 Pre-ordeal begins
- 9:30 Cracker-barrel and work project discussion in the dining hall for all reg. members.
- 10:00 Meeting of all candidates for Lodge officers positions.

#### 11:00 LIGHTS OUT

#### Sat.

- 7:00 Reveille
  - 7:30 Flags at the parade fields, registration will be open for new arrivals
  - 7:45 Breakfast
  - 8:30 Job assignments completed and work begins
  - 12:15 Lunch Brotherhood letters are due when you enter the Dining Hall.
  - 1:00 Work projects resume Sales box will be open 12:45-1:30
  - 1:00-3:30 Brotherhood interviews. Schedule will be posted at the dining hall and trading post
  - 4:30 Youth members end work, prepare for dinner and business meeting in the dining hall
  - 5:00 Adults and candidates stop work and prepare for Supper.
  - 5:00 Business meeting in the Dining Hall Youth only (under 21). Elections!!!
  - 5:40 Flags at flag pole and Vigil tap-out.
  - 6:00 Dinner
  - 7:10 Vespers
  - 7:30 Brotherhood walk Sales Box will open for rest of the evening
  - 8:15 Brotherhood ceremony
  - 9:00 Ordeal ceremony Passing out Flaps, Books, Dues Cards  
Cracker-barrel when Ordeal Ceremony is completed (10:15 approx.) Discussions with new Ordeals about the Lodge then Fellowship and Fun
- Vigil Ceremonies will begin around 11:00 pm.

#### Sun.

- 7:30 Reveille
- 7:50 Flags at Parade Field
- 8:00 Vigil Introductions and Breakfast.
- 9:00 Short meeting both Youth and Adults. New officers installed. Committee recruitment, Discussion about hosting Conclave 2013  
Sales box will be open for parents coming to get boys.  
Clean up, pack up, and leave camp in perfect order!!

**Final Schedule will be posted at Camp!!**

## Ashokwahta Lodge Calendar

April 18 <sup>th</sup>	Lodge meeting	Batavia Office
April 18 <sup>th</sup>	All money for Noac due	
April 25 <sup>th</sup>	Election Paperwork Due	Batavia Office
April 29 <sup>th</sup>	COC	TBA
May 10 <sup>th</sup>	Final conclave & Spring weekend registrations due	
May 16 <sup>th</sup>	Lodge meeting	Batavia Office
May 18-20	Spring weekend	Camp Sam Wood
June 1-3	NE3A Conclave	Camp Babcock Hovey
June 20 <sup>th</sup>	Lodge meeting	Batavia Office
July 30-Aug 4	NOAC	Michigan State University
Aug 15 <sup>th</sup>	Lodge meeting	Batavia Office
Aug 30 <sup>th</sup>	Fall weekend Registration Due	
Sept. 7-9	Fall Fellowship	Camp Dittmer
Sept. 19 <sup>th</sup>	Lodge Meeting	Batavia Office
Oct 13-14	Taste of Scouting	Camp Sam Wood
Oct 17 <sup>th</sup>	Lodge Meeting	Batavia Office
Nov 21 <sup>st</sup>	Lodge Meeting	Batavia Office
Dec 19 <sup>th</sup>	Lodge meeting	Batavia Office
Jan 5 <sup>th</sup>	Lodge Banquet	TBD
Jan 16 <sup>th</sup>	Lodge meeting	Batavia Office
Feb. 20 <sup>th</sup>	Lodge meeting	Batavia Office
Feb. 27 <sup>th</sup>	Chili/Camo Program	TBD
March 20 <sup>th</sup>	Lodge Meeting	Batavia Office
April 17 <sup>th</sup>	Lodge meeting	Batavia Office
May 15 <sup>th</sup>	Lodge meeting	Batavia Office
May 17-19 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Fellowship	Camp Sam Wood
May 30-June 2	NE3A Conclave	339 host

These are the Lodge dates that will be printed in the Council Calendar, Use them when you are planning your troop activities this year.

## This and That

I belong to a social media site that has several different Scout related forums or on-line discussions. One forum that I follow is Order of the Arrow related. There is a moderator for the site and anyone wishing to join has to verify that they are a current member of a Lodge.

I may have to re-consider my membership in these discussion groups. To me, it seems that some people are rather zealous when it comes to the proper wearing of uniforms and insignia. At last count there were well over three hundred comments on a thread regarding when it is proper to wear the sash, how the sash is properly worn, and the OA legend strip.

Yes. The OA legend strip. You know it. The patch with the OA legend spelled out in pictograms, just the right size to be worn on the back of the OA sash.

Are you aware that only two patches are allowed to be worn on the OA sash, and that the legend strip isn't one of them?

I didn't really think it was that big of a deal. I see a lot of individuals, youth and adult from a variety of Troops and Lodges, wearing the legend strip. Our lodge even provides legend strips for sale from "the box". Three hundred comments later, I'm still trying to figure out what the big deal is about wearing the legend strip, other than it isn't authorized.

I own a couple versions of the legend strip, one is attached to an older sash. I don't wear the legend strip now, probably because I'm too lazy to sew it on. Close to four hundred comments now, and name-calling and bullying comments are appearing. Wear the legend strip if you wish, it doesn't bother me. Just be aware that it might be a big deal to others.

Ron Boyd

## Calling all Candidates for Lodge Officers

This year at spring Weekend there will be a Lodge business meeting in which we will elect the Officers that will lead us for the next year. We will be electing a Lodge Chief, 2 Vice Chiefs, Treasurer, Secretary, and Ordealmaster. They will assume their duties as officers at the completion of the weekend. We will have the election on Sat. afternoon, and the officers will be taking over on Sunday morning. If you would like to run for an office, please contact either Lodge Chief Kyle Smith, Lodge Adviser Mr. Schmidt, or Mr. Drury, the Staff Adviser. You need to have the approval or recommendation of your troop leaders. Remember being an officer means that you are committing to leading our lodge in all the things it does, that includes week-end meetings, lodge meetings, helping to organize unit elections, attending section functions to represent the lodge, as well as the other things we need to do to support camping in our Council. The Lodge Key Three will be interviewing the candidates to go over the things that each officer will be expected to do.

Please consider this cheerful service to your Lodge and Council.

## Mailing List and Dues Payment

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 after the December rechartering is done. We will send newsletters to those who have paid dues thru 2010, but only those who have paid thru 2011 will be on our National charter. Payment of the 2011 and the 2012 dues will bring into line those members who have not remained current in dues — \$8.00 per year or \$16.00 total. The first line of your mailing label indicates the last year your dues are paid through.

If you don't get a newsletter and you believe you should, please contact Mr. Schmidt or Mr. Drury as the Council office does not work with Lodgemaster and doesn't have the ability to check our records. You may email Mr. Schmidt at [headchef339@yahoo.com](mailto:headchef339@yahoo.com) or call 585-356-7692

**Last Call for the Spring Order of the Arrow week-end  
If you haven't registered do it now!**

### Things to bring with you:

Sleeping gear

Tent to stay dry

Uniform for Saturday Dinner

Work Clothes

Gloves

Tall boots if you have them

Tools for trimming brush

Extra money for things from the lodge store

Dues money (\$8.00) if you are not current

**Check-in starts at 5:00**

## Special NOAC Notice

**We have had a cancelation of someone that cannot now go to NOAC. We have 1 deposit on file and no-one to use it. If you have an interest in going please contact Mr. Schmidt right away. We will help you to work out payment etc. so you can go if possible. We need to fill tis spot by April 30th.**

**We can still register for both the NOAC or the Conclave until May 25th but there is a late involved with both. \$5 for conclave and \$50 for NOAC. Contact Mr. Schmidt or Kyle if your interested in either.**

## Social Media Policy

This policy was just passed at the winter meetings. What this really means is that we can use social media as a communication avenue, but we need to have the authorization of the Key 3 (Lodge Chief, Adviser, Staff Adviser), and must meet all things covered in the rules and requirements for Safe Scouting, etc. Anyone creating or using a website with any reference to the lodge, remember these rules. These are very much the same rules we have had with Mr. McMullen since he has been the Scout Executive. All e-list communications go through his office. The Lodge Adviser and Lodge Staff Adviser are consulted before e-list communications are sent out. The same policy is in place if someone wants to send a message out by way of Lodgemaster. Either Mr. McMullen or Mr. Schmidt must approve the email before it is sent. If you wish to have a message sent out to all Lodge members, send copies of the e-mail to all of us to speed things up. We have a great chance to better our communication by using the internet if we do it properly.

## Social Media Policy Revised

During the December 2011 National Planning Meeting, the national committee approved a resolution that set a new standard for Order of the Arrow social media use, overturning the restrictive social media policy announced in the [08-5 Operations Update](#). The new resolution has three points that must be met before a social media presence may be created.

### Social Media Guidelines

1. Lodge Key 3 approval
2. Posting in accordance with the Scout Oath and Law, [Guide to Safe Scouting](#), [Field Operations Guide](#), and [Guide for Officers and Advisers](#)
3. Properly maintaining and supporting the social media presence

Revised 3/15/2012

But a Scout is helpful, and I do have some advice for you while you write down your plans: play to your strengths. You have to be at least a First Class Scout to join the Order at all, so you're certainly experienced enough in Scouting to know your talents and your likes. Maybe you hate sitting in meetings, but love the outdoors—well, maybe joining a committee is not for you. Scouts are outdoorsy by nature, and Arrowmen are more so. Maybe you should consider the ceremonies team. If that isn't your style, maybe you should become an Elangomat, or even just commit to setting up work crews for camp projects. Maybe you're the type of person who likes spreadsheets; have you considered running for treasurer? Maybe you hate meetings, too—well, nothing stops you from asking the treasurer to appoint you as his assistant. Keep in mind that *responsibility* does not always imply *leadership*.

A Scout is reverent, too. This is something you need to take seriously. The other members of the lodge take it seriously and two parts of your Obligation, observing and preserving our traditions and regarding the ties of brotherhood as lasting, mean that you must honor it along with your brethren. It says poor things about your ability to face new and unexpected challenges when your response to the challenge of writing a Brotherhood letter—a year-old and completely expected challenge—comes written on the back of the napkin you used at lunch. Don't expect the lodge to accept something like that; you need to put some thought into what you want to do, and you need to put it down on paper before you put your foot in the door at the Spring Weekend (you also need to remember to bring it with you—yes, the lodge does read them).

Pay attention to the other requirements for Brotherhood membership, too. We won't test you on your knowledge of the Obligation—though we have the right and some lodges do—but we expect you not only to know it, but to understand it. That's part of being mentally awake. The same thing goes for understanding the Ordeal; if you have need, an Arrowman would absolutely welcome the privilege of talking to you about it. If you like, you may contact me to do so; my E-mail address will be at the end of the letter.

In all, though, I must wish you—not luck, because this is a matter of skill—but rather, in the words of Meteu, I wish that you find the high places within you, and that a few hours spent in thoughtful silence do help you to make the right decision this spring. Find the pattern in the Ordeal, and follow the directions of your hearts and spirits; should they lead you to Brotherhood membership, I will be there this spring to see you safely on your way.

I remain,

'Always and faithfully' yours in the Wimachtendienk,

Kevin E. Volk

HiMom@Buffalo.com





### A Letter to Ordeal Members

Because I am an adult member of the lodge, my role is essentially to advise. There is always more that goes with the job than is said in the description, but it is in that role that I write to you today.

As the Spring Weekend comes closer, many of you who are Ordeal members may be giving thought to sealing your membership in our Order by becoming Brotherhood members. This is an important decision, and though I personally wish to offer as much encouragement as possible for you to take this step, I also must point out that it is not a decision to be made lightly.

Brotherhood membership does not carry with it any special rights or privileges—all the rights and privileges of membership were awarded to you when you became an Ordeal member, because the Order has no ranks. What Brotherhood does carry is additional responsibility.

You are probably aware that you need to write a letter in order to become a Brotherhood member. Some of you, perhaps, haven't yet figured out what you need to say. That's okay, to a point, but I must remind you that where the Ordeal was mostly a physical trial—laden with deep moral and spiritual symbolism, to be sure, but still a series of physical tests—the Brotherhood is mostly a journey of the mind. You need to think about what you've done, consider why you do it, and plan out what you will do in the future.

There is no simple formula for Brotherhood membership. No one points to you and tells you to complete four tests; you must instead be mentally prepared (as per the Scout Oath and Motto) to face new and unexpected challenges as they arise. It is this mental preparation which is the subject of your Brotherhood letter. You start with a general outline of your thought process, shown when you write what the Obligation means to you, and follow it with specific examples of how you apply that process, both in what you have done to fulfill that Obligation to your unit, and in how in addition you intend to extend and strengthen it for the lodge.

It is the ability to somehow be prepared to face the new and unexpected that is the mark of a Brotherhood member. It seems a contradiction in terms, but there is quite a lot of truth to it: there are very few really new challenges out there. As an analogy, take ice cream: the dessert is older than this country, but they still keep coming up with new flavors. Maybe you won't be able to predict the new flavors that will show up, but you can still come prepared with a dish and not a paper plate. All it takes is a plan.

As an Ordeal member, your only duty to the lodge is to do your duty to your unit. Nothing stops you from joining the Indian dance team, or doing unit elections, or otherwise doing things for the lodge, but nothing requires it, either. As a Brotherhood member, your first priority is *still* your unit ... but you're expected to take on the additional responsibility of serving the lodge in some direct way. How, exactly, you do that is intentionally left blank—again, all it takes is a plan.



This year at the Spring Fellowship, we will be offering for sale several new items in our box.

We will again have some leather belts that have ASHOKWAHTA 339 on them. They will sell for \$25.00.

We will for the first time offer a brass belt buckle for sale. It will have a peace pipe on it and will say ASHOKWAHTA LODGE 339. It will sell for \$20.00. It is made for any 1.5" belt. We have only ordered 40 of them.

We will have a 6" back-patch with a new design. It will sell for \$10.00, \$15.00 out of Lodge.

For those of you who did not earn one, or for those that want another, we will sell the 2011 fellowship feather for \$3.

We will have the NOAC patches for sale. We will have a 2 piece set, with both the top and bottom having a green border. This will sell for \$10.00. After spring weekend, we will sell to non-lodge members for \$15.00. We will also have a Delegation top flap, the same design, but with a silver Mylar border. Each delegate to NOAC will be given 2, and each member of the lodge (delegates included) will be able to buy 2 until they are gone. The cost will be \$10.00 each. The profit from these are to be used to enhance the NOAC experience.

There will be Ashokwahta Neckerchiefs at \$15.00.

There are plenty of the current lodge flaps at \$4, as well as 2004 NOAC at the same.

We will also have T-shirts for sale. The price will be \$8.

We will have sash back legends. The cost for them will probably be \$15.

We will have several patches and pins that are related to us being a Quality Lodge.

There will also be several odds and ends that you have seen before.

As always we carry extra books, patches, sashes etc. should you need them.

