

The Fluffy



North Florida Council

Fall Edition, 2007

Winter Fellowship Offers Chance for Creativity

The Lodge will once again gather at Camp Shands for a fellowship this January, but expect the festivities to be wilder, kookier, and crazier than ever seen before. At this fellowship, chapters get to make up their own themes, which means that costumes, cheers, and decorations for each chapter are likely to be more competitive and creative than any other even of the year. This fellowship will offer the opportunity for many inter-chapter competitions, and training as well.

Upcoming Service Day a Lodge First

The December 1st service day will be an exciting first for the Lodge. Echockotee Lodge will be donating a day of much-needed cheerful service to Camp Echockotee near Orange Park. All previous OA service days have come at Camp Shands. Lodge leadership is hopeful that the location will provide many arrowmen the opportunity come out and participate. Service Committee Chairman Dean Reese is confident that the event will be successful and already has plans for service projects around the camp. See insert or contact Dean for more info.

"Echockotee" 200

Historical Displays Competition to Showcase Chapters

One of the annual highlights of the Winter Fellowship surely has chapter historians working overtime to prepare their displays for the historical competitions. Their displays will highlight their chapters' activities over the last year. Chapters need to be sure to have their displays assembled in the Meninak and ready for judging by Saturday at the Fellowship. If you have any questions about the display competition contact Andrew Self, Lodge Historian.

"We Are Brothers" Section Seminars an Opportunity for

Lodge to Shine

The Lodge is hoping for a strong contingent to represent Echockotee at the Section Seminars at Wallwood Scout Reservation near Tallahassee November 9-11. The event will be the first major section event for the new year and provide an opportunity to interact with arrowmen from across the state. The primary function of the event is training. An "LLD on steroids," the focus is on training leaders for work on a larger scale.

Special Needs Camporee Hailed as a Success

On Saturday, October 20, a contingent of 220 scouts and scouters led by members of Echokotee Lodge descended on Camp Echokotee near Orange Park for a very special event. The Lodge worked with the Learning for Life corporation to put together the annual "Special Needs Camporee," an event that gives disabled children the opportunity to go camping for a weekend. "The goal is that they get to experience camping and fun activities like normal kids, even if it is just for one weekend," said Mitch Grandle, the Echokotee Lodge Special Needs Committee chairman.

Many chapters in were present for the event with carnival-style games for the approximately 200 special needs campers and family members to partake in. Bean-bag toss games and dunking booths proved popular, as did arts and crafts, tattoos, and of course candy prizes. There

were also opportunities for participants to learn about Native American traditions and even to rock climb on the camp's new, state-of-the-art rock wall.

The face painting booth put on by Troop 164 seemed particularly popular, and Lodge Historian Andrew Self offered some possible insight into why. "Dude, we've got a Girl Scout troop here, awesome!" he proclaimed with delight.

The closing campfire Saturday gathered the entire camp for a wonderful program including games, skits, and an excellent performance by Echokotee's dance team. "The Indian

dancers were really cool." one participant pronounced. When asked if he had a good time he quickly responded, "Definitely."

At the campfire, Grandle thanked all of the volunteers and offered his assessment of the event. "I think that this was another successful Special Needs Camporee. I think all of us had a really good time." Everyone got to camp like normal kids, and as we cheered that day's Florida football victory, we all were normal kids, and it didn't matter that it was just for a weekend.

-Joe Charbonnet



A volunteer braces for a watery impact at the Camporee



Participants eagerly await the campfire after a day of fun



Happy campers join in an inter-tribal dance

Founder's Award Given to Lodge Chief, Former Advisor

At the Fall Fellowship two Echokotee members joined the exclusive ranks of Founder's Award recipients. Corey Troxell and Don Royston were given the award, one of the OA's highest honors, on the basis of their dedication to Echokotee Lodge for a number of years. The award is presented to a maximum of two members per year, and need not be given at all. The recipients were presented with certificates, special red OA pocket dangle insignia, and a medal (right). On the front the medal bears the likeness of the founders of the OA, Carol A. Edson and E. Urner Goodman, with the words "Spirit of Achievement," and the back is inscribed with the words of Chief Chingatchgook from Meteu's legend: "For he who serves his fellows, is, of all his fellows, greatest!"



Mr. Royston, a former Lodge Advisor, is not the first of his family to receive the award. It was, in fact, presented to him by his son, who also received it. Mrs. Rhonda Royston, his wife and Apieka Chapter Advisor grins when the family issue comes up. "This was a long time coming for Ron." she laughs playfully, "But seriously, he works hard, I think that he definitely deserves it." Mr. Royston continues to stay active from an advisory position in the Lodge, providing ready advice, guidance, and assistance to the lodge officers.

Corey Troxell receives the award in what may, incredibly enough, only be the beginning of the climax of his scouting leadership. When presented the award, Corey's scouting resume, which includes being an Eagle Scout and years of experience in both chapter and lodge leadership posts, was read to the Lodge with the promise of more great things to come. Corey is, of course, at the beginning of his term as Lodge Chief and also plans to be an OA Divemaster at Florida Seabase next year with the OA Ocean Adventure program. Congratulations to both worthy recipients.

-Joe Charbonnet

Donations Needed for Patch Auction

The annual Echokotee Lodge Patch Auction fund raiser will occur at the upcoming Winter Fellowship. The success of this event depends on donations from you! The Lodge will be accepting donations of patches, lodge flaps, neckerchiefs, shirts, uniform elements, and other collectable scouting memorabilia. If you are interested in making a donation, please contact Robert Mathis at apieka@aol.com. Please help make this event a success once again.

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Echocotee Lodge 200

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2007 & 2008 Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Location
November 9-11	Section Seminars	Wallwood Scout Res.
December 1	Service Day	Camp Echocotee
Jan 11-13, 2008	Winter Fellowship	Camp Shands
March 7-9, 2008	Spring Fellowship	Camp Shands
April 11-13, 2008	Section Conference	Camp Flying Eagle
April 26, 2008	OA Service Day	Camp Shands
May 16-18, 2008	Summer Fellowship	Camp Shands
July 27 – August 2, 2008	Brownsea JLT Week	Camp Shands
August 22 & 23, 2008	LLD Seminars	Camp Shands
Sept 26-28, 2008	Fall Fellowship	Camp Shands

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