



Wahunsenakah Lodge Welcome Newsletter

Candidates, welcome to the Order of the Arrow and Wahunsenakah Lodge. For over 100 years, the Order of the Arrow (OA) has recognized Scouts and Scouters who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives. This recognition provides encouragement for others to live these ideals as well. Arrowmen are known for maintaining camping traditions and spirit, promoting year-round and long-term resident camping, and providing cheerful service to others. OA service, activities, adventures, and training for youth and adults are models of quality leadership development and programming that enrich and help to extend Scouting to America's youth.

OA Mission

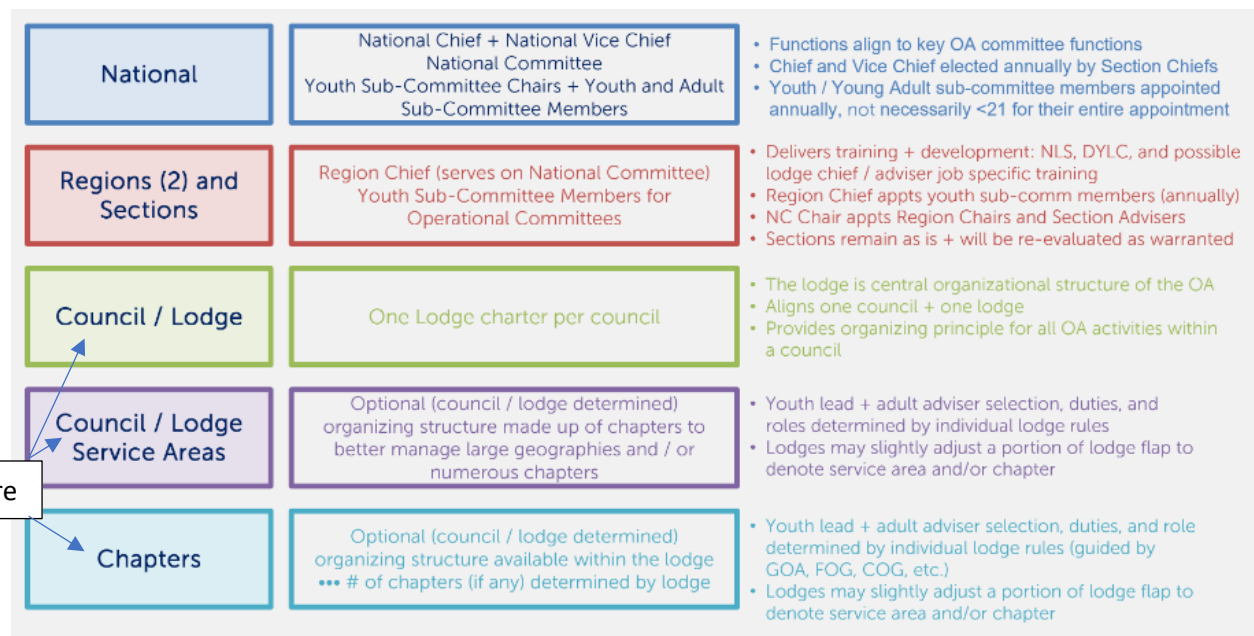
The mission of the Order of the Arrow is to fulfill its purpose as an integral part of the Boy Scouts of America through positive youth leadership under the guidance of selected capable adults.

OA Purpose

As Scouting's National Honor Society, our purpose is to:

- Recognize those who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives and through that recognition cause others to conduct themselves in a way that warrants similar recognition.
- Promote camping, responsible outdoor adventure, and environmental stewardship as essential components of every Scout's experience, in the unit, year-round, and in summer camp.
- Develop leaders with the willingness, character, spirit and ability to advance the activities of their units, our Brotherhood, Scouting, and ultimately our nation.
- Crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.

Organizational Structure



We are here

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Within Wahunsenakah Lodge there are four chapters.

Chanco

The Chanco Chapter encompasses the Old Dominion District, including Surry, Isle of Wight, and Suffolk – including all towns adjacent or annexed – along with Brunswick, Greenville, Southampton, Sussex, the City of Emporia, and the City of Franklin. The Chanco Chapter meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm at Oakland Christian Church in Chuckatuck.

Kecoughtan

The Kecoughtan Chapter encompasses the Monitor Merrimac District, including the Newport News/Hampton Area. The Kecoughtan Chapter meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm at the Bethany United Methodist Church in Hampton.

Piankatank

The Piankatank Chapter encompasses the James City County Williamsburg Area. The Piankatank Chapter meets on the third Thursday of the month at 7:00pm at the Williamsburg United Methodist Church in Williamsburg.

Wicomico

The Wicomico Chapter encompasses the York County, Poquoson, Gloucester and Mathews. The Wicomico Chapter meets on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00pm at Yorkminster Presbyterian Church in Yorktown.

Ordeal Candidate – YOU ARE HERE!

After you are elected, you are an Ordeal Candidate and must attend an Induction/Ordeal Weekend within 18 months of being elected. Induction/Ordeal Weekends are held as part of our scheduled service weekends. (See schedule later in letter)

Induction

The induction ceremony, called the Ordeal, is the first step toward full membership in the Order. During the experience, candidates maintain silence, receive small amounts of food, work on camp improvement projects, and sleep apart from other campers. The entire experience is designed to teach significant values. All candidates for membership must complete the Ordeal. Once completed, you are an **Ordeal Member**.

Upcoming Induction Weekends/Ordeals

(All Wahunsenakah Induction Weekends/Ordeals are held at the Pipsico Scout Reservation)

Summer Service Weekend 2025	September 19 – 21
Winter Service Weekend 2026	March 6 – 8
Spring Service Weekend 2026	May 15 – 17
Summer Service Weekend 2026	September 18 – 20
Winter Service Weekend 2027	March 5 - 7

Emails will be sent prior to each induction weekend with instructions on how to sign up for the weekend, what to bring and not to bring to participate in the ordeal, and directions to the camp.

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Membership Levels

While there are three levels of membership (called "honors") in the Order of the Arrow, all members—regardless of honor—are considered equal.

Ordeal Member – see page 2.

Brotherhood Membership

After 6 months of service as an Ordeal member and fulfilling certain requirements, a member may take part in the Brotherhood ceremony, which places further emphasis on the ideals of Scouting and the Order. Completion of this ceremony signifies full membership in the Order.

Vigil Honor

After two years of exceptional service as a Brotherhood member, and with the approval of the national Order of the Arrow committee, a Scout or Scouter may be recognized with the Vigil Honor for their distinguished contributions to their lodge, the Order of the Arrow, Scouting, or their Scout camp. This honor is bestowed by special selection and is limited to one person for every 50 members registered with the lodge each year.

Pipsico Scout Reservation

As mentioned above, all Wahunsenakah Induction/Service Weekends are performed at Pipsico Scout Reservation, 57 Pipsico Road, Spring Grove, VA 23881. A little about the Pipsico Scout Reservation.

Pipsico as a Scout camp dates back to 1958, but its history goes back much further. In fact, the patent history (now deed history) goes back to December 13, 1634, when King Charles I patented 2000+ acres of land, on the South shores of the James River and four miles upstream from Jamestown to Col. Henry Browne. Henry Browne was born in 1598 in Westminster, London, England and arrived in Virginia in 1634. In 1637 Pipsico Plantation increased in size with the addition of land known today as Eastover. The land was considered part of the original Jamestown Colony and served as a look-out post to protect the settlers at Jamestown.

The name Pipsico honors of Chief Pepsicumah of the Quioughcohannock Indians. He was referred to by the settlers as Pipsico. Chief Pipsico assisted settlers by providing them with food and training them to raise and manage indigenous crops, such as corn.

Pipsico Scout Reservation is in Surry County, Virginia. It encompasses 916 acres of woodland, open fields and marshes. The terrain includes a natural ravine system and ranges in elevation from 20 to more than 100 feet above sea level. Pipsico Scout Reservation's northern boundary extends for a mile and half along the banks of the historic James River.

Cliffs 60 to 75 feet high overlook a picturesque mile long sandy beach and several cypress tree coves. The cliff walls are studded with marine shells and fossils providing tangible evidence of the James River's influence on life over the centuries. The beach has proven to be a beach comber's delight for discovering nautical treasures like shark teeth, prehistoric whale bones, driftwood and a peaceful observation site for beautiful shoreline sunrises and sunsets.

SCOUTING'S NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY