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Ni-Sanak-Tani Lodge #381 – Gateway Area Council

Volume 31 Issue 1

November 2024

SMOKE SIGNAL UPDATE

We acknowledge that this edition of the Smoke Signal is delayed. Enclosed you'll find Ni-Sanak-Tani's 2024 year in review. We are working involve more youth writers and editors in consistently producing the Smoke Signal, to send them out quarterly in 2025!

Thank you for your patience,
Karissa and Alex

REST IN PEACE GLENN WALINSKI

Long-time Scouting volunteer and Ni-Sanak-Tani Lodge Adviser Glenn Walinski passed away on January 2, 2024, after being hospitalized following a stroke in December of 2023.

Glenn was a perfect example of what a servant leader should be. He gave without expecting anything in return. Glenn served the lodge with a smile and brightened up every room that he was in. He always made friends, not enemies with everyone that he met. Glenn's kind and serving spirit and his dedication to the Scouting program will always be remembered and truly missed by all lodge members.

You can find Glenn's full obituary [HERE](#). A video of Glenn's memorial service is also available to watch through this link as well.

The outpouring of respect for Glenn has been tremendous. A team is working to find the most appropriate way to honor his memory moving forward. As a result of Glenn's passing, Karissa Adams has now taken over the role of Lodge Adviser.

Calendar of Events

- ←→
- Jan 11 Lodge Annual Banquet at Camp Decorah**
 - Jan 11 - 12 Lock-In at Camp Decorah**
 - Jan 31 - Feb 2 Winter Council of Chiefs Meeting at the Metropolis Resort (Eau Claire, WI)**
 - Mar 21 - 23 NLS/ DYLC in Minneapolis, MN**
 - Apr 11 – 13 Spring COC at Gamehaven Scout Camp**



ANDREW HATCHER ELECTED LODGE CHIEF

Andrew Hatcher, an Arrowman from Troop 68 and member of the 2022 and 2023 Lodge Executive Committee was elected as Lodge Chief at the January LEC meeting! He, along with the other LEC members had a successful year and are planning upcoming lodge events for 2025.

2024 LEC MEMBERS

Andrew Hatcher
Wesley Moe
AJ Adams
Whalen Thomas
Caden Justinger
Colton Schroeder
Gunnar Nagy
Maxwell Russel
Sarah Adams
Lilly McWilliams
Noah Groves
Nash Nagy



WINTER COUNCIL OF CHIEFS



In January, youth members headed to the Kalahari in the Wisconsin Dells for the Winter Council of Chiefs. This was a day full of fellowship, training, and fun! LEC members attended sessions on communications, ceremonies, and more! Following morning training sessions, planning for the Section G10 Conclave began, including theme selection, patch design, and program planning. AJ Adams, a member of our lodge and Section G10 Vice Chief, led portions of this planning meeting. Before heading home, members spent time in the waterpark and bowling!

LODGE ANNUAL BANQUET RECAP

Held at the Onalaska American Legion, the Winter Banquet recapped the 2023 year of the Ni-Sanak-Tani Lodge. The night had a Section G10 report, recap of 2023 events, a video finance report from Nash Nagy in North Carolina, and a look ahead at 2024. The night ended with electing the new 2024 LEC.



SPRING COUNCIL OF CHIEFS

The Section G10 Conclave planning continued in April at Gardner Dam Adventure Base in eastern Wisconsin for the Spring Council of Chiefs. While there, Lodge Chief Andrew Hatcher participated in all aspects of planning Conclave, from meetings on activities and shows, to rescuing shoes from the empty pond on a tour of Gardner Dam!



JUNE INDUCTIONS

Ordeal

Jason Miller
Tommy Riffe
Otis Head
Oliver Hilton
Julian Safranski
Levi Miller
Sam Sulentic
Michael Bonello



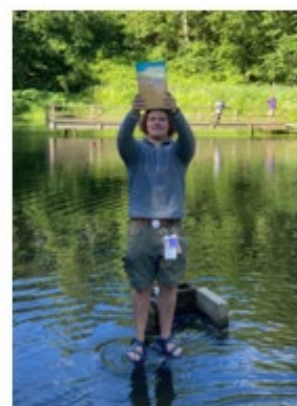
Brotherhood

Maxwell Russel
Brian Russel
Amber Groves
Gunnar Nagy
Colton Schroeder
Sarah Adams



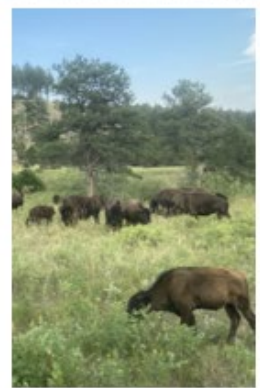
2024 SUMMER CAMP

Several NST members served on Camp Decorah Staff this summer, participating in spreading brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service. Members from our lodge and others from out-of-council participated in service projects and weekly ice-cream socials. Additionally, NST members held Call Outs during closing campfire each week.



NOAC 2024

In August, 11 lodge members attended the National Order of the Arrow Conference in at the University of Colorado – Boulder. The trip was made out through Nebraska and back to Wisconsin through South Dakota in a 15-passenger van. Along the way, we stopped at Strategic Air Command and Aerospace Museum, Crazy Horse, Mt. Rushmore, Custer State Park, Wall Drug, and the Corn Palace. At NOAC, lodge members participated in a variety of activities such as scuba diving, cooking classes, escape rooms, service projects, trainings, and more! Each night concluded with shows attended by all Arrowmen and NOAC staff, totaling around 8,000 people! [Click here for more pictures!](#)



AUGUST INDUCTIONS

Ordeal

Corey Puzach
Ian Puzach
Noah Krueger



Brotherhood

Joeseeph Dobson



Vigil Honor

Andrew Hatcher
Whalen Thomas



SECTION G10 CONCLAVE

Section G10 Conclave at Gardner Dam Adventure Base was a blast! From activities to trainings, members were able to enjoy a variety of opportunities in fellowship and fun. While most of the NST adults spent their time running the climbing tower, youth members went to trainings, on a rafting trip, and played games at the River Jig.

AJ Adams, previously the Section G10 Vice Chief, was elected by youth members as the 2024-2025 Section G10 Chief. Being the Section Chief entails planning both Winter and Spring Council of Chiefs as well as Section Conclave, and everything in between like contacting lodges and attending National, Section, and Lodge events.



SPOOK-O-REE SNACK SHACK

During Spook-O-Ree, an annual Halloween event for Cub Scouts, Arrowmen participated in a bit of service to the council and a bit of fundraising for the lodge. The Snack Shack was entirely youth run, from cooking to selling.



UPCOMING EVENT: ANNUAL BANQUET

The Annual Banquet is a night to celebrate the accomplishments and kick off the 2025 year for Ni-Sanak-Tani Lodge and its members. Join us for food, fellowship, and fun at Camp Decorah on Saturday, January 11th at 5pm. The attendance cost is \$20 per person, all OA members are welcome, as well as friends and family!

UPCOMING EVENT: LOCK-IN GAMES NIGHT

Directly following the Annual Banquet, all members can stick around to take part in a board game and video game night on January 11th, staying overnight into Sunday morning. Arrowmen are welcome to bring their own board games and game systems, as well as snacks and other creature comforts for the game night. Please bring bedding to sleep on the floor of Hagerman Hall if you intend to stay the night!

UPCOMING EVENT: WINTER COUNCIL OF CHIEFS

To kick off the 2025 Conclave planning, Section G10 will be hosting their annual Winter COC at the Metropolis Resort in Eau Claire, WI. The event is January 31st-February 2nd, with the planning meeting being on Saturday the 1st of February. Members have the option to attend just the meeting (10am- 4pm), stay on both Friday and Saturday, or just one night. Costs are currently being determined by the Section, as well as registration. Be on the lookout for more information from the Lodge and Section!

UPCOMING EVENT: NLS / DYLC

National Leadership Seminar (NLS – for youth) and Developing Youth Leadership Conference (DYLC – for adults) will be coming back to Minneapolis, MN on March 21st – 23rd. If you are interested in the training opportunity, please check out more information [HERE!](#)

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE LODGE CEREMONIES TEAM

We are looking for members who want to be a part of the Ceremonies Teams of the lodge. Having good and impressive ceremonies is essential to the continued success of the OA. An impressive Call-Out or Ordeal/Brotherhood ceremony can leave a lasting memory that can inspire that member to greater service in their unit or in the lodge. Being a part of the Ordeal or Brotherhood ceremony teams is an important job. We are looking for new members who want to learn how to be a part of those ceremonies and create impressive memories for our future lodge members.



If you would like to learn how to become a member of the Ordeal or Brotherhood ceremonies team, please contact one of the following youth members:

Karissa Adams at karissaadams@icloud.com

Van Maxwell at vantmaxwell@gmail.com

or ceremony adviser:

Alex Metry at alexandermetry@gmail.com

UNIT ELECTIONS

Our lodge team is ready to help any unit with their Unit Election. Each unit can be set up by filling out the form at gatewayscouting.org/OAElectionForm. We will soon be scheduling elections for 2025 this winter and early spring. The election will take about 20 minutes, but we can adjust to your unit's schedule. Look for letters with further details to come in the next few months to all our Scoutmasters and Crew Leaders.

The election cannot be held if less than 50% of the active unit members are in attendance. Our lodge will help provide an Election Team to help conduct the election.

We will tell your unit what the OA is, conduct the voting, talk about Camp Decorah, and answer any questions.



To setup an election date and time, AT LEAST TWO WEEKS prior to the date:
PLEASE CONTACT:

Toby Adams	608-317-0396	toby@sueandtoby.com
Harvey Geary	608-792-4144	hgearyjr@gmail.com
Karissa Adams	608-769-7309	karissaadams@icloud.com



STAY CONNECTED

Ni-Sanak-Tani Lodge also has social media accounts, including Facebook and Instagram pages, to keep you in the know! You can find both by searching for NST381 or by going to facebook.com/nst381 or instagram.com/nst.381. We also keep our website updated with information on all upcoming events at nst381.org.



LODGE DUES AND GOLDEN TICKET

Your lodge dues run by the calendar year. This means it will soon be time for all of us to renew our dues in the lodge for 2025. **Dues are \$15.** You can register online at gatewayscouting.org/OADues. It is important that all our members renew their dues to ensure our records are accurate and up to date, and so that you will receive all lodge notices and newsletters.

You may also want to consider buying a Golden Ticket for \$100, which entitles you to receive a special Golden Ticket patch, and covers the cost of lodge and Section events, including the Annual Banquet, fellowship events, Induction weekends, Section Conclave, and Sash Bash. You can register for a Golden Ticket online when paying your dues.



PLEASE take the time to renew your dues in the Ni-Sanak-Tani Lodge. We need all our members to keep our lodge strong and moving forward in the cheerful service of Scouting and the Order.

2024-2025 Officers & Advisers

Lodge Chief	Andrew Hatcher		ahatcher0607@gmail.com
VC-Administration			
VC-Program			
VC-Inductions			
VC-Communications			
VC-Finance			
Lodge Adviser	Karissa Adams	608-769-7309	karissaadams@icloud.com
Supreme Chief of the Fire	Joe Carlson	608-784-4040	joe.carlson@scouting.org
Staff Adviser	Justin Holten	608-784-4040	justin.holten@scouting.org
Adviser-Administration	Vacant		
Adviser-Program	Kelly Wilde	608-790-2864	wilde_54650@yahoo.com
Asst-Program	Elias Ellefson	608-637-3949	elias_ellefson@yahoo.com
Adviser-Induction	Toby Adams	608-317-0396	toby@sueandtoby.com
Adviser-Finance	Jack Robinson	608-269-4185	jjrobinson00@hotmail.com
Adviser-Communications	Vacant		
Adviser-Ceremonies	Alex Metry	608-769-6939	alexandermetry@gmail.com
Adviser-Elections	Harvey Geary	608-792-4144	hgearyjr@gmail.com
Adviser-Crafts	Pat Johnson	608-378-4446	gramma_scouters@gmail.com
Adviser-Training	Adrian Novak	608-769-0958	adrian.novak@charter.net
Camp Promotions	Todd Nelson	608-769-2659	tspc215@yahoo.com
Vigil	Al Abrahamson Sr.	608-847-6392	shadow702@frontier.com
Camping Committee	Ken Ortery	608-769-4291	kortery@hotmail.com
Ranger Corp	Joel Thole	608-385-4453	joelthole@gmail.com

OA TROOP REPS AND ADVISERS



All Troops with Arrowmen should have a youth OA Troop Representative.

The OA Troop Representative Adviser (Assistant Scoutmaster Designee) is a new, official BSA adult position of responsibility that has been created. Its purpose is to create the role for an adult to guide the youth TR and be a 'voice of the Order' at the adult level in the troop structure.



If you do not know who your OA Troop Rep is, chances are your troop may not have one.

Ask your Scoutmaster and have him submit the form detailing your contact information. The ELECTION/Troop REP form is even available online, to make it easier and less painful. By submitting the form, we will get you a Troop Rep/Adviser patch, FOR FREE... limit 1 per troop per year.

Plus, each troop needs an adult Arrowman as Troop Rep Adviser on the Troop Committee.

**Order of the Arrow
Gateway Area Council
2600 Quarry Rd.
La Crosse, WI 54601**

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**“Build upon the fire of Cheerfulness! Ease the
burdens from the shoulders of your fellow scouts!”
— Allowat Sakima, Ordeal Ceremony**



Upcoming Events:

Jan 11	Annual Banquet at Camp Decorah
Jan 11-12	Games Lock-In at Camp Decorah
Jan 31-Feb 2	Winter Council of Chiefs at Metropolis Resort in Eau Claire
Mar 21-23	NLS/DYLC in Minneapolis
Apr 11-13	Spring Council of Chiefs at Gamehaven Scout Reservation

For More Lodge News and Information, Go To:

Ni-Sanak-Tani:	nst381.org
NST Facebook:	facebook.com/nst381
NST Instagram:	instagram.com/nst.381
Section G10:	sectiong10.org
Gateway Region:	oa-bsa.org/gateway