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

Volume 32 Issue 1

February 2025

ANNUAL BANQUET

Our 2025 Annual banquet was a great night, connecting over 35 members, family, and friends together in brotherhood and fellowship. Our guest speaker, George “Hushi” Greendeer, gave a great talk about his work and life, as well as Ho-Chunk history local to Camp Decorah and the La Crosse area. We received 2024 program reports, the 2024 finance report, and a look ahead at 2025. We also awarded certificates to our 2024 Vigils and received a prestation by Section Vice Chief Samantha Zipperer. Then, the youth members present elected our 2025 Ni-Sanak-Tani Officers, sworn in by Staff Advisor Justin Holten. The night ended with a Game Night Lock-In.



Calendar of Events

- ← →
- Apr 5 Bowling at Bangor Lanes, 7pm**
 - Apr 11-13 Spring Council of Chiefs at Gamehaven Scout Camp**
 - May 3 OA Call Out at Council Camporee**
 - June 6-7 June Induction Weekend at Camp Decorah**
 - Aug 8-9 August Induction Weekend at Camp Decorah**
 - Sept 12-14 Section G10 Conclave at Gamehaven Scout Camp**

2025 LODGE OFFICERS

Meet the 2025 Ni-Sanak-Tani Lodge Officers elected at the Annual Banquet!



Whalen Thomas
Lodge Chief
Eagle Scout, Troop 322
Years in Scouting : 11

Maxwell Russell
Vice Chief of Administration
Life Scout, Troop 68
Years in Scouting : 9



Noah Groves
Vice Chief of Finance
Eagle Scout, Troop 18
Years in Scouting : 13



Sarah Adams
Vice Chief of Ceremonies
Life Scout, Troop 515
Years in Scouting : 7



Wesley Moe
Vice Chief of Communication
Eagle Scout, Troop 22
Years in Scouting:11



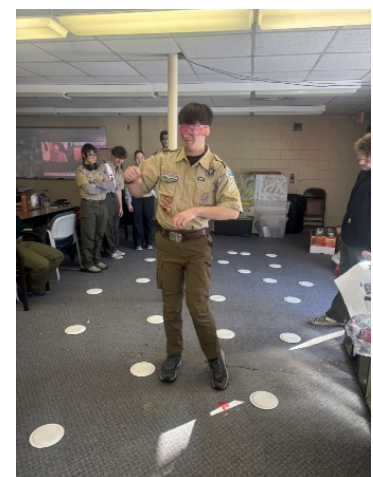
WINTER COUNCIL OF CHIEFS

The first weekend in February took seven Ni-Sanak-Tani Lodge members to Eau Claire for the Winter Council of Chiefs. Youth members participated in planning all aspects of this year's Section G10 Conclave, from theme to program and patches! Members also experienced all the fun and fellowship that could be packed into the weekend, including bowling and a pizza party.



LODGE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The 2025 Ni-Sanak-Tani Officers held a Lodge Leadership Development and mass-planning session. They planned events through the end of 2025, reoccurring Lodge Executive Committee meetings, and new methods of communication between Officers and members. Officers and youth members of the LEC who attended got to play a few rounds of Minefield to work on their communication and team skills. They also generated ideas for lodge Trading Post items, membership retention, recruitment, and ceremonies. Be on the lookout for new information to come!



Upcoming Events

APRIL
4
BOWLING
@ Bangor Lanes, 7pm

APRIL
11-13
SPRING COUNCIL OF CHIEFS
@ Gamehaven Scout Camp

MAY
1
INDUCITONS WORKSHOP
@ Council Office, 5:30pm

MAY
2-4
SPRING CAMPOREE
@ Pine View Campground

JUNE
6-7
INDUCTIONS WEEKEND
@ Camp Decorah

JULY
12
ACTIVATION: SHOOTING SPORTS AND SWIMMING
@ Camp Decorah

AUGUST
8-9
INDUCTIONS WEEKEND
@ Camp Decorah

AUGUST
22-24
ACTIVATION: SERVICE AND CANOE FLOAT
@ Camp Decorah

SEPTEMBER
12-14
SECTION G10 CONCLAVE
@ Gamehaven Scout Camp

gatewayscouting.org/OA

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:

Sarah Adams at sarahradams09@icloud.com (Vice Chief of Ceremonies)

Whalen Thomas at whalenoliver@icloud.com (Lodge Chief)

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 2024 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.

2025-2026 Officers & Advisers

Lodge Chief	Whalen Thomas		whalenoliver@icloud.com
VC-Administration	Maxwell Russell		maxwelldaegreat@gmail.com
VC-Inductions	Sarah Adams		saharadams09@icloud.com
VC-Communications	Wesley Moe		moesworld608@gmail.com
VC-Finance	Noah Groves		ngrov701@gmail.com
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.holten2@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.

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Gateway Area Council
2600 Quarry Rd.
La Crosse, WI 54601**

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**“No Human institution lives long unless it
meets a human need.”**

— Elihu Root

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