



2026 NI-SANAK-TANI LODGE OFFICERS

Lodge Chief: Whalen Thomas

Vice Chief of Administration: Noah Groves

Vice Chief of Inductions: Sarah Adams

Vice Chief of Communications: Wesley Moe

Vice Chief of Finance



2025 MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Ordeal	24	Youth	22
Brotherhood	16	Youth Adults	9
Vigil	15	Adults	24
Total	55		

EDITORS' NOTE

You may have noticed that this newsletter has changed from "The Smoke Signal" to "The Spark." This is to help the lodge move into matching the National Order of the Arrow Committee's standards for American Indian Activities (AIA).

April 17-19

Spring Council of Chiefs at
Tesomas Scout Camp

May 2

OA Call Out at Council
Camporee

June 5-6

June Induction Weekend at
Camp Decorah

August 7-8

August Induction Weekend at
Camp Decorah

September 11-13

Section G10 Conclave at
Tesomas Scout Camp



2025 SECTION G10 EVENTS

In 2025, members attended several Section G10 events, meeting Arrowmen across Wisconsin and Minnesota. Winter Council of Chiefs, held in January in Eau Claire, began the planning of the 2025 Section G10 Conclave. In April, members headed to Gamehaven Scout Reservation, south of Rochester, Minnesota, to continue planning Conclave. These events culminated in the Section G10 Conclave, held there in September, where 13 lodge members attended, engaging in fun and fellowship with other members of the Section. This event was the culmination of NST member, AJ Adams's role as 2024-2025 Section G10 Chief.



2025 NCOC AND CEREMONY UPDATES

This summer, Whalen and Karissa attended the National Council of Chiefs (NCOC) at the Philmont Training Center, and AJ also attended as a Section Chief. At NCOC, we attended several trainings and sessions on upcoming initiatives from the OA National Committee, including changes to the Ordeal Induction Process. These ceremonies move to teaching Ordeal Candidates the ideals of the Order of the Arrow throughout the weekend, through additional team building and reflection sessions. The OA National Committee is looking to implement these additions for Induction Ceremonies starting in 2027.





A YEAR OF CHEERFUL SERVICE



Members gave back to the council in numerous ways in 2025. Several members of the lodge served on Camp Decorah's BSA Camp staff, performing a Call Out each week. Many of our members provided service to the Gateway Area Council during council events including the Golden Eagle Gala, Council Recognition Dinner, Sporting Clays Fundraiser, and Trail Mix Races. Members also provided service through our Snack Shack during Spook-o-Ree, while fundraising for the Lodge. Between events on the Council level and at Camp Decorah, Ni-Sanak-Tani members provided over 800 hours of service in 2025.

2025 INDUCTIONS

June Ordeal

Maximus Blanchard
Samuel Delimat
Rainier Kelly
Jacy Schindler
Trevin Justinger



August Ordeal

Austin Bork
Faith Hawker
Brenda Herman
Siena Illfrey
Nadiah Lewin
Noah Markus
Jonathon Martine
Grant Reineking
Kent Safranski
Cooper Sonsalla
Braden Sutherland
Ella Tepp



Levi Miller

August Brotherhood





SECTION G10 - WINTER COUNCIL OF CHIEFS



In January, 7 lodge members made the trek to Wausau for one of Section G10's annual meetings. This meeting mainly involves planning the Section G10 Conclave, held at Tesomas Scout Camp in September. After the meeting, all members went to the jump park for some fun and fellowship!

2026 LODGE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

An LLD is an annual Leadership Lodge Development meeting, held by and for our officers. In this meeting, each officer outlines their year-long goal for their position. Some of these goals are as follows: hold 4 ceremony workshops this fiscal year, Hold 25% OA rep appointments across all troops in the Gateway Area Council, and create 1 "The Spark" newsletter each quarter.

NLS AND DYLC

NLS (National Leadership Seminar) and DYLC (Developing Youth Leadership Conference) are Order of the Arrow-specific trainings to support both youth and adults to succeed. Two youth and two adults from Ni-Sanak-Tani attended this training in Salem, Wisconsin.



CHEERFUL SERVICE IN MARCH



Many of our members attended the 2026 Golden Eagle Gala, helping to raise \$91,000 for Gateway Area scouting. These proceeds fund scouting programs such as no scout left behind and summer camps at Camp Decorah. Members also attended Gateway Area Council's Egg Hunt in March, providing service to local families and assisting council staff in set up and tear-down. Later that night, members also helped put on the Council Recognition Event!



2026 SPRING 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.

INDUCTIONS CEREMONIES TEAM

We are looking for members who want to be a part of the Ceremonies Teams of the lodge. Having strong 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! Please reach out to Whalen Thomas at whalenoliver@icloud.com or Karissa Adams at karissaadams@icloud.com.

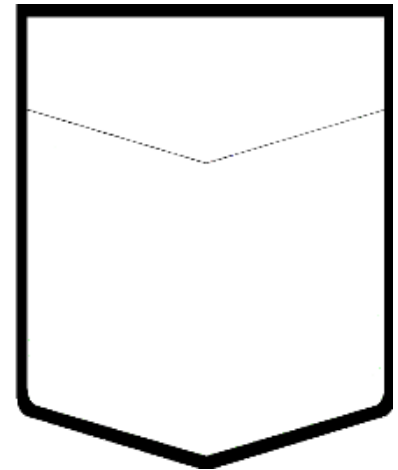


HELP US DESIGN THE 2027 NOAC PATCH



Looking for a creative way to help serve the lodge? Help us design patches for our upcoming events! Using this template, and taking a look at the guidelines in the linked form, help bring us some new ideas!

<https://forms.gle/GGi1ERPu hN82ghoA6>



2026 DUES AND GOLDEN TICKET

Your lodge dues run by the calendar year. **Dues are \$15.** You can register online at gatewayscouting.org/OADues or at the Council Service Center. 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. Also, consider purchasing a **Golden Ticket** for \$100. This provides you entry to a multitude of OA events throughout the calendar year, including the Section G10 Conclave, as well as a 2026 Golden Ticket Patch.