

Kiskakon Lodge 2005 Camp Chief Little Turtle Summer Camp Program

Final Report (by Josh Kirlin)

Brotherhood Conversions

27 youth and 13 adults, a total of 40 Arrowmen, achieved Brotherhood membership. Added to the 15 conversions at Spring Fellowship we have 55 new Brotherhood members in the past year, surpassing the 30% needed for Quality Lodge.

Brotherhood ceremonies were well-performed. Several compliments were received. A meaningful experience, as it is meant to be, was provided in our Brotherhood conversions at Camp.

The "new" Brotherhood Ring was utilized every week. This site's construction progressed slowly through the Summer, but it will be a great asset once completed.

Troop Visits

Over 60 AWAC troops were visited by the Camp Representative. These visits were an unprecedented opportunity to receive input about OA programs from many different perspectives. In addition, this was an excellent opportunity to distribute valuable information to the troops regarding the OA Troop Representative Program, a general Fact Sheet about the OA and Kiskakon Lodge, Lodge Officers' contact information, 2005-2006 Lodge Schedules, NOAC 2006, and Venture Crew 2075.

I am proud to report that no leader with whom I talked disliked the Lodge or the OA in general. In fact, most are generally supportive of the Lodge's programs and the OA's goals, and do their part to guide their scouts to a respect of the OA and a desire to join if not already members.

Scouts with whom I talked either are in the OA and very inactive, or are not yet members but are looking forward to "getting in." The Lodge is seen by non-members, generally, as a beneficial piece of the Scouting program.

One common concern was expressed, though. The Lodge needs to work on its communication to the troops and individual members. One adult leader put it so: "Even if I can't come to the events, I'd still like to know when they are." The communication problem manifests itself further in Unit Elections. Several troop leaders with whom I spoke informed me that they'd never been contacted about an Election, even though they had eligible members. One troop has not been contacted in five years about an Election visit. Further, some who did have elections had concerns about the manner in which they were conducted. Not enough information about the OA and its purpose was provided to some troops at Elections, which is a vital part of any Unit Election visit. I was told that voting procedures, as well, were not thoroughly explained by or understood by the OA members holding the election. For example, one unit had four eligible members, but only one was elected because the Election Team did not tell the Scouts that they may vote for any number eligible.

Another unique and enjoyable aspect of visiting Troops in their campsites was talking with out-of-council OA members. From them I got a few ideas about how to improve some things about our Lodge. I am pleased to report that, compared to neighboring Lodges, we're doing pretty well.

Movie Night

This part of the Lodge's summer camp program was a great addition to the CCLT Program and was well-received by the OA members. Anywhere from 5 to 30 Arrowmen attended the Monday night movie. Snacks were provided, and the event did not conflict with any other camp program. The Movie Night is definitely something to keep in the Lodge's summer camp program in the



future, as it is something Arrowman campers look forward to attending because it is a "benefit" of OA membership; something tangible that is a result of their membership.

OA Day

Wednesday I designated "OA Day." The Brotherhood class and ceremony took place on that day, so it was an appropriate choice. Members had the opportunity to skip the line at Breakfast and Lunch if they wore their sashes to those meals. This benefit was well-received.

In the future, expansion of the Order's visibility at Camp should be pursued through this designated day.

Camp Tours

Having the OA Rep as a stop on the camp tours on Sunday, specifically outside the Dining Hall where it was guaranteed that troops would stop by, was a great benefit to the Program. It was an excellent opportunity to redistribute information and inform OA members about the events that week.

Opening Campfire

The simple reenactment of the CCLT Legend was given compliments by several people. It was a motivating start to the campfire and to the week. The fires lit impressively through the use of Strontium Chloride and road flares.

OA Office

A wigwam was constructed in the East corner of the Parade field, near the Handicraft building. A picnic table was provided. Every day, I would be at that site for one hour to deal with OA business -- dues payment, literature distribution, patch sales, etc.

The wigwam's construction was slow and tedious. I chose to cover the 8' diameter frame with pine branches, all of which had to be bound and then lashed to the frame. I spent many hours on that wigwam. It would have been helpful to have a Tipi.

OA Outpost

On Friday, the Camp held "Outposts," opportunities for Scouts to choose any Camp activity to do for the afternoon. The Program Director asked me to hold an "OA Outpost" activity as an option, which I agreed to. Scouts who signed up helped me build the wigwam. These sessions provided the most progress on the wigwam. It was also a good opportunity to talk with OA members, in and out of our Lodge, about the OA and Lodge programs.

Blue Heron Service Projects

Managing the Blue Heron's "camp service project" requirement for CCLT worked out very well as a role in Service at Camp for the Lodge. It also helped take a small burden off of the Camp and Program Directors' shoulders. I would list projects on a sheet, along with the equipment needed, and I was the "go-to" person for service work throughout the summer.

Conclusion

I am proud to report a resounding success for the Lodge and CCLT in the 2005 Kiskakon Lodge Summer Camp Program. I believe that we were able to put the Lodge and the OA on display as an integral part of Scouting here in our Council. What I think we will see as a direct result of this program is an increased attendance at Lodge events and meetings, a more dedicated member base, an increase in Troop Representative participation, and a general elevation and better understanding of the Lodge in the eyes of Scouts and Scouters.

What we produced at CCLT this summer needs to be expanded upon and repeated in the coming years, for in doing so, we will greatly improve this Lodge, Council, Camp, and the Troops which attend it.

