

The Cornerstone Column

April 2026

Arrowmen,

With less than two weeks until the 2026 Cornerstone Conclave, I am excited to see all of you at Camp Barstow and to experience everything your lodges have to offer. Over the course of my term, I have had the privilege of visiting all nine lodges, giving me a unique perspective on the incredible things each of you is capable of. Attending trainings, banquets, induction weekends, and fellowships has allowed me to meet so many new people and better understand the effort that culminates in each lodge's presentation at Conclave. I could not be more thrilled to see everyone come together for fellowship, competition, training, and the many traditions that defined my first Conclave seven years ago and have kept me coming back ever since.

No matter how many Conclaves you have attended, I encourage you to approach this weekend with an open mind and fully embrace our theme, "Out of Many, One." As our nation celebrates its 250th anniversary, this theme reminds us that while we come from different places and backgrounds, we are united as one in the Brotherhood of Cheerful Service. Take this opportunity to build new friendships across the section, share ideas, and strengthen the bonds that make our Order so special.

I look forward to seeing each of you at Camp Barstow. Travel safely, bring your enthusiasm, and get ready for an unforgettable Conclave.

Yours in Brotherhood,



Section Chief

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Contact

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Distinguished Service Award Nominations

The Distinguished Service Award (DSA) is the highest national recognition presented by the Order of the Arrow for exceptional service on a sectional, regional, or national level. Recipients embody the very best of our Order—demonstrating sustained leadership, selfless dedication, and a lasting impact that strengthens the OA far beyond their own lodge.

Nominations for the Distinguished Service Award focus on the quality, breadth, and impact of service—not tenure or popularity. Nominees must have a record of service that clearly reflects significant contributions beyond the lodge level. While many recipients have years of commitment behind them, the key consideration is distinguished service that meaningfully advances the mission of the Order. Careful attention should be given to documenting measurable results, leadership roles, program development, mentoring, and long-term influence.

The nomination period opens November 1, 2026, and closes January 31, 2027. Each nomination should be thorough, specific, and supported by clear examples of distinguished service. If you know an Arrowman whose leadership and dedication have left a lasting mark beyond the lodge level, consider taking the time to prepare a nomination—help ensure their service is recognized at the highest level of our Order.

Mason Thomas, Associate Section Adviser

Tsali Lodge 134

Tsali has been hard at work preparing for this Conclave. Knowing that some of our members love to wear cowboy hats and boots, we wanted to finally bring them out for Conclave. Our Program Committee has been working on organizing spirit items for our delegation to bring and wear. In addition to that, we have been training vigorously for the Ultimate Frisbee tournament. Our advisors are also helping to train new youth on creating the totem pole, so we can continue our amazing winning streak. Tsali is greatly looking forward to this Conclave and all the amazing memories that will be made there.

Jackson L., Tsali Lodge Chief



To read more about the Distinguished Service Award, visit the Order of the Arrow website (or scan the QR code).



Itibapishe Iti Hollo Lodge 188

As Conclave gets closer, Itibapishe Iti Hollo has been getting ready in a few solid ways that focus on communication, leadership, teamwork, and section involvement. In terms of communications, we've been using our website to keep members informed, updating it with important information about events, deadlines, and reminders so no one misses anything. Additionally, our Instagram page, @itibap188, has helped build energy and excitement. Through posts, updates, and highlights from past events, we've been able to keep Conclave on everyone's radar.

We've also focused heavily on leadership development through our annual iLead (Lodge Leadership Development). This event helped our officers strengthen their skills and better understand their roles before heading into Conclave.

During iLead, Itibapishe Iti Hollo participated in creating promotional videos with them alongside nine officers from outside our lodge. That experience helped us connect with the section, promote Conclave, and feel more involved beyond just our own lodge. By staying connected, building stronger leaders, collaborating with others, and promoting Conclave consistently, our lodge feels ready and confident going into the event.



Arnesh A., Itibapishe Iti Hollo Lodge Chief



Catawba Lodge 459

Catawba Lodge is amped up and excited for Conclave! With the help of our Conclave committee, we have been working hard to prepare for Quest events, our training, administration events, and spirit! We have been in consistent communication with our delegation to find judges, ceremonialists, and trainers. Additionally, we had advertised Conclave, through emails, social media, and even personalized phone calls to Arrowmen, resulting in us completing our 20% attendance goal. Along with our Conclave team, we proudly have 3 CVCs who call Catawba Lodge home, and have been working to make Conclave a reality. Catawba Lodge is ready and hyped for this year's Cornerstone Conclave!

Reed C., Catawba Lodge Chief



Bob White Lodge 87

The time has arrived for the annual Section E-7 Conclave! Out of many lodges, we are the one and only Bob White 87. These qualifiers are excited to be sharing the way we prepare for Conclave. A tradition that has become a council-favorite is our yearly Race for the Golden Quail - Spring Camporee. This amazing race is a take on a mini conclave experience focused on team-building, and similar styled games such as stretcher carry, rope burn, and knot tying. Taking on the spirit of Scouting, we theme our events and encourage attendees to go all out. This Conclave, our theme is *The Lord of the Rings*. A dedicated committee is working diligently, making decisions on spirit items, patch designs, and getting more Arrowmen involved. The Fellowship is prepared to take on all who stand in our way!



Elise C., Bob White Lodge Chief

Unali'Yi lodge 236

Unali'Yi Lodge is gearing up for the upcoming Cornerstone Conclave by working together to create spirit items that will represent the lodge throughout the event. Arrowmen have been collaborating on designs and assembling items that showcase the pride and identity of Unali'Yi and Coastal Carolina Council.

These spirit items help build excitement leading up to Conclave and allow members to show our lodge pride during competitions, fellowship, and activities throughout the weekend. The preparation process has also been a great opportunity for Arrowmen to connect and work together as a team.

As Conclave approaches, enthusiasm continues to grow as Unali'Yi Lodge prepares to represent the council with energy, creativity, and strong lodge spirit.

Drew B., Unali'yi Lodge Chief



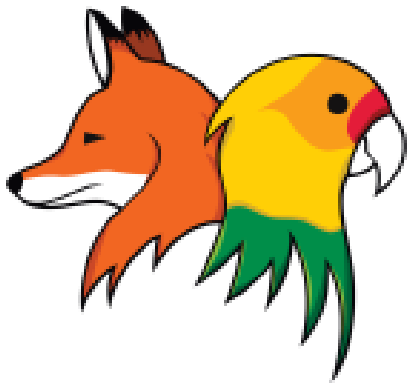
Skyuka Lodge 270

Skyuka Lodge has been preparing for this upcoming Conclave the same way we do each year: Lodge Games, a two-day, one-night event separated from our three scheduled Fellowships. Its primary purpose is to equip the Lodge with the skills and the teams we need to perform at Conclave. Lodge Games begin with the fellowship aspect, where we eat food, play games, and have a campfire. Then that morning, the preparation begins. But this past year, it looked a little different.

In 2027, Skyuka Lodge will be hosting Conclave, something that hasn't happened in a decade. In the time in between, Skyuka lost its home camp to a flood and has had to work tirelessly to build a new home in the form of Camp Connley Clarke. But in the meantime, Skyuka Lodge is excited, equipped, and prepared for 2026's Conclave! We'll see you there!



Chris T., Skyuka Lodge Chief



Muscogee Lodge 116

This year is very exciting for Muscogee Lodge as we work to prepare Camp Barstow for the upcoming Conclave. Not only are we the service lodge for Conclave, but we are also lucky enough to serve during the Semiquincentennial of the United States of America. Hence, this year's theme, "Out of Many, One"—our nation's motto.

In preparation for Conclave, Muscogee recently hosted our Spring fellowship, where we completed projects such as revamping signs, fixing flagpole boxes, and giving camp a general cleanup. Additionally, we've hosted one Conclave Work Weekend, and will be hosting another during April 17-19. These weekends are open to anyone in the section. Those attending a service weekend can earn the Service Lodge Flap. Contact me at Chief@MuscogeeLodge.org if you would like to register to attend.

In terms of our delegation, Muscogee Lodge has been working with individuals within the lodge, as well as those in charge of our staff, to select youth to compete in each Quest event. Needless to say, we are very excited to compete in Quest events and the ceremonies competitions this year. Muscogee is also working to choose specific spirit items for our members to get them rowdy and more excited at Conclave. We look forward to seeing you all in April or even at our Conclave Work Weekend.

Michael O., Muscogee Lodge Chief



Eswau Huppeday Lodge 560

Conclave is always a fun event; however, as a leader, it can be quite stressful. Trying to make sure that each member of our lodge knows where they need to be and what they need to do is crucial. Additionally, making sure that the lodge competes in every event, and has fun doing it, is another task that can often add stress if not well planned. Eswau Huppeday has been working over the last several months to ease the stress at Conclave that often comes with these tasks.

These preparations began at the end of last year, once we got new officers and chairmen. Once we set our theme, we started work on the rest of Conclave preparations. From an administrative side, this has meant large updates and additions to our website, creating our video, newsletter, and display board.

From the program side of things, we had an idea for our training cell at the end of last year, and since then, have put together a syllabus and begun practicing the session. Our activities committee have designed a patch and shirt for our delegates at Conclave, which I am really excited about. This committee also planned our Spring Fellowship activities to be similar to the activities at Conclave, so that our lodge is able to strategize on how we want to compete.

In terms of American Indian Affairs, our lodge has obtained a Memorandum of Understanding and will be able to compete in regalia at Conclave, which is incredibly important to the majority of our lodge members. Additionally, we picked our Conclave ceremonialists early so that they would have plenty of time to practice, get more comfortable with the ceremony, and perform their best at Conclave.

As Lodge Chief, I have been in constant communication with the members of my lodge, encouraging them to register for Conclave. This allowed us to exceed our 25% goal in sign-ups. I have also been in constant communication with my Vice Chiefs and chairmen, reminding them of deadlines and due dates, pushing them to get creative with their tasks, and encouraging and supporting them.

One of my favorite things about Conclave is that it allows our Lodge to feel a sense of unity. Chapters don't matter at Conclave; the Lodge does. Seeing how the members of my lodge have worked together over the last several months to prepare for Conclave has been tremendously gratifying as a leader. I am extremely thankful for the hard work of each member of my lodge and am eager to see how we carry this excitement and productivity into other aspects of our lodge throughout the year.

Griffin D., Eswau Huppeday Lodge Chief



A Message From the Service Lodge

This year's Conclave theme, "Out of Many, One," draws inspiration from the historic motto on the Great Seal of the United States, E Pluribus Unum. As our nation approaches the 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026, this theme reminds us that although we come from many lodges, communities, and backgrounds, we are united through the ideals of the Order—brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service. When we gather, the strength of the Order becomes visible.

This year's Conclave will be held at Camp Barstow, a location well-suited for a section gathering. Situated geographically near the center of Section E7, Camp Barstow offers an accessible destination for lodges. Its beautiful setting and well-equipped facilities provide an ideal environment for the energy, fellowship, and activity that make Conclave such a special event each year.

Cornerstone Conclave will offer something for every Arrowman, including:

- Leadership and skills training designed to strengthen lodge programs
- Competitions and activities that showcase lodge spirit and talent
- Meaningful service projects that will benefit those less fortunate in the surrounding community
- Fellowship with hundreds of Arrowmen from across the Section

Whether this is your first Conclave or your tenth, the weekend will be filled with opportunities to grow as a leader, connect with fellow Arrowmen, and experience the best that the Order of the Arrow has to offer. The Arrowmen of Muscogee Lodge and the Conclave leadership team are working hard to prepare a memorable weekend for Section E7. We look forward to welcoming Arrowmen from across the Section as we come together to celebrate fellowship, service, and unity.

Tripp Clark, Co-Service Lodge Adviser

Atta Kulla Kulla 185

Atta Kulla Kulla is extremely excited for this year's Conclave and we have been doing a lot to get ready! Our Vice Chief of Conclave and Spirit has been working hard with her teams to make our Lodge prepared at a moment's notice when the 24th rolls around. From Patriots on patches to flags and founding fathers, AKK has been getting ready to revolutionize spirit. Members of our lodge have spent hours devoted to Conclave prep, whether that's putting together an engaging training syllabus, practicing for Quests, or designing a beautiful totem pole. Moreover, we are proud to have our very own Chris P. serve as a CVC and help make this event come together. We anticipate it being a weekend to remember and can't wait to see all our brothers.

Evan L., Atta Kulla Kulla Lodge Chief

