

Call of the Cahuilla

The Official Newsletter of Cahuilla Lodge #127 - Serving California Inland Empire Council #45 Since 1973

December 2024

The Bonds of Brotherhood: Connections That Last a Lifetime

Being a part of the Order of the Arrow is more than wearing a sash or attending events—it's about forming bonds that can last a lifetime. For many Scouts, the friendships made through the OA and Scouting become some of the most meaningful relationships they'll ever have. These bonds, built on shared experiences, mutual respect, and a commitment to helping others, are what make the brotherhood of the OA so unique.

The Ordeal challenges you to step out of your comfort zone, work as part of a team, and to reflect on what it means to serve others. The best part is you're not doing it alone. From the very first day, you're surrounded by people who are going through the same journey, who will become your friends, your mentors, and your teammates. These connections aren't just for the Ordeal or for a weekend event—they can last for years. The bonds you form in Scouting are built to last whether you're hiking up a mountain trail, working side-by-side at a service project, or just hanging out around a campfire. As you grow, these friendships grow with you, turning into a network of people you can trust and count on.

Being part of the OA also gives you a chance to connect with Scouts from all over—people with different stories and backgrounds, but the same commitment to service and adventure. It's a chance to find your place, to feel like you belong, and to be part of something bigger than yourself.

For many, the Order of the Arrow is where Scouting becomes more than just a weekend activity—it becomes a way of life. It's about discovering what you're capable of and realizing that you're never alone in your journey. The people beside you aren't just your fellow Arrowmen—they're your brothers and sisters in Scouting. They're the ones who will cheer you on, work with you, and share the stories and memories that make this time in your life unforgettable. Because when you're part of the OA, you're not just joining an organization—you're stepping into a brotherhood that will always have your back.



"Our triumphs seem hollow unless we have friends to share them, and our failures are made bearable by their understanding." - James Rachels

Call of the Cahuilla Staff

Lodge Chief

Ryan Yau

Lodge Adviser

Cynthia Blessum

Lodge Staff Adviser

Patrick Willard

Supreme Chief of the Fire

Matt Bear

Alumni Editors

Alan Kay, Ed.D.

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From the Call Staff

As we close out 2024, it's the perfect time to reflect on the incredible year we've shared in Cahuilla Lodge. Our journey together has been marked by unwavering service, the growth of youth leadership, the thrill of camping adventures, and the lasting bonds of fellowship.

Service remains at the heart of everything we do. This year, Cahuilla Lodge members contributed countless hours to improve our camps, assist our communities, and uphold the principles of cheerful service that define the Order of the Arrow. From trail maintenance projects to council event support, we've shown that true leaders lead by example.

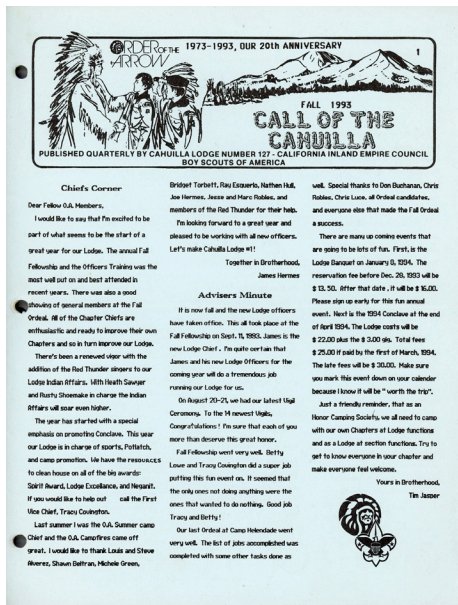
Our Lodge leadership have demonstrated dedication and skill, guiding our lodge through this year with training events, meetings, and peer mentorship, these young leaders exemplify the spirit of servant leadership, preparing themselves for a lifetime of making a difference.

Camping remains one of our most cherished traditions. Whether it was at lodge outings, camporees, or high-adventure treks, Cahuilla Lodge members embraced the call of the outdoors, forging unforgettable memories under the stars. These experiences strengthen our connection to the natural world and to one another.

And finally, fellowship continues to be the thread that ties us together. Every gathering, from cheerful workdays to the camaraderie of lodge banquets, reminds us of the deep friendships and shared purpose that make our lodge a family.

Here's to another year of cheerful service!

Yours in Brotherhood,
 The Call Staff



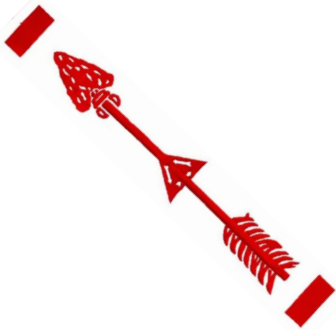
The Call of the Cahuilla is a publication of the Order of the Arrow Cahuilla Lodge #127 - California Inland Empire Council. The image above was from the 20th Anniversary of the Lodge in 1993.

Pictured above (top to bottom): Fall Fellowship, NOAC 2024, Ordeal, Banquet, Spring Fellowship

The Vigil Honor

The Vigil Honor is the highest honor that the Order of the Arrow can bestow upon its members for service to lodge, council, and Scouting. Membership cannot be won by a person's conscious endeavors.

The Vigil Honor is a high mark of distinction and recognition reserved for those Arrowmen who, by reason of exceptional service, personal effort, and unselfish interest, have made



distinguished contributions beyond the immediate responsibilities of their position of office.

We are excited to congratulate and recognize the 2024 Vigils:

- **Matthew Dewitt**
- **Matthew Kirkconnell**
- **Andrew Klopping**
- **Brandon Veron**
- **Ryan Yau**



Pictured above: Vigil Members with Vigil Chief Alex Truax (Photo Courtesy of : Ryan Yau)

Shoutout to Our Amazing Ceremony Teams!

By: **Ryan Yau**
2024 Lodge Chief

We want to take a moment to recognize the incredible efforts of our ceremony teams. Your dedication, preparation, and passion make our inductions unforgettable. Without you, these meaningful moments of brotherhood and tradition wouldn't be possible. Thank you for embodying the spirit of the Order of the Arrow and for bringing our ceremonies to life. Your hard work truly makes a lasting impact!

This year has been an



Pictured above: Participants at the 2024 August Ordeal (Photo Courtesy of Cynthia Blessum)

incredible one for our lodge! We proudly welcomed **94 new members** into our Order of the Arrow family, strengthening our brotherhood and ensuring the legacy of cheerful service continues to thrive. Additionally, we had **34 members seal their ties of brotherhood** by completing their Brotherhood membership, a true testament

to their dedication and commitment to the principles of the OA. These milestones reflect the vibrant spirit of our lodge and the hard work of everyone involved in making our inductions and ceremonies so meaningful. Let's continue this momentum and look forward to even greater achievements in the coming year!

"No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent."
- John Donne

Spaceport Tahquitz: The G18S Conclave

By: **Alex Truax**
G18S Section Secretary
2023 Cahuilla Lodge Chief

In August, cadets from all over Section G18S gathered at Space Port Tahquitz for a weekend of fun and adventure. Arrowmen enjoyed a full weekend of engaging activities, including laser cutting, patch designing, and photography.

Lodges competed toe-to-toe in a series of fast-paced competitions such as ultimate frisbee. Saturday night, the Section gathered for a fun space-themed campfire show that turned out to be out of this world! The show revolved around audience participation, and arrowmen competed with one another to see who was the best in completing a series of fun activities and trivia.



All throughout the weekend, the camp was graced by out-of-section guests including the 2024 **Gateway Region Chief Jake Whitley**. Thank you to these special guests and all who attended and supported the Conclave. Without your help, these amazing events would not be possible. Let's get ready for the next Conclave and make it the best one yet!



Pictured above: 2024 Jake Whitley takes time during the campfire to share about his experiences in the Order of the Arrow with Conclave attendees. (Photo Courtesy of Alex Truax)



Pictured at left: Conclave attendees taking a minute to pose during the space-themed event at Camp Tahquitz in Barton Flats. (Photo Courtesy of Cynthia Blessum)

Pictured above: Conclave attendees playing games. (Photos Courtesy of Alex Truax)

Thrive: A Path for the Future

By: **Alexander Yau**
2025 *Cahuilla Lodge Chief*

Thrive has been benefitting the future of our lodge with setting goals for what we want to accomplish for our future. They have been super helpful with generating ideas that would grow our lodge. The lodge and Thrive have developed Possibility and Promise statements that are goals that we want to accomplish by the end of the year and in the near or distant future. These goals and ideas will point the lodge and the scouts in a positive direction that will develop the leadership and the aspects

of the lodge that could be improved. Looking ahead, we have partnered with the Thrive Engagement Team to assist us in assessing our challenges and developing a plan to overcome them. This is a great opportunity for Arrowmen to become involved and participate in a program that will help Cahuilla Lodge continue on its path to high performance.



Pictured above: December Lodge Leader Development (LLD) attendees focusing on setting a path for the future (Photo courtesy Cynthia Blessum)

NOAC 2024



By: **Cynthia Blessum**
Lodge Adviser

The 2024 National Order of the Arrow Conference was held at the University of Colorado, Boulder. The Cahuilla contingent of 18 Arrowmen were led by contingent leader, **Brandon Veron**, and his advisers **Mathew Brandt** and **Andrew Blessum**. Everyone participated in various training sessions, activities and events, daily shows and some serious patch trading. In addition to our contingent members, our Lodge had 12 members who served on NOAC Staff for a total of 30 Cahuilla Lodge members.

#OATHRIVE

Stay Active in the Brotherhood! Renew Your OA Lodge Dues TODAY!

By: **Alexander Yau**
2025 *Cahuilla Lodge Chief*

Don't miss out on the events, service opportunities, and fellowship that make the Order of the Arrow unforgettable! Your dues keep your lodge running strong—funding events, service projects, and leadership programs that make a difference in Scouting and the community. Stay connected, stay involved, and keep the spirit of brotherhood alive.

Renew your OA lodge dues now and be part of something greater!

Renew TODAY by going to www.snakepower.org and clicking on **2025 Lodge Dues - Pay Online**



Pictured Above: Cahuilla Lodge Attendees at the 2024 NOAC

Pictured Below: Cahuilla Lodge Members waiting for the next flight for NOAC 2024 (Photos Courtesy of: Cynthia Blessum)



"Just one small positive thought in the morning can change your whole day."

- Dalai Lama

Why You Should Consider Camp Staff

By: **Alan Kay, Ed.D.**

Lodge Treasurer, 1992—94

Lodge Associate Adviser, 1998—2001

Working at Camp Emerson in Idyllwild is an amazing way to grow, learn, and have fun in the great outdoors. As part of the Scouting America, staff members get to try exciting activities like hiking, first aid, and wilderness survival while learning teamwork and leadership skills. Being in the beautiful San Jacinto Mountains makes every day a new adventure and a chance to make memories that will last forever.

Camp Emerson staff also become great leaders. They learn how to guide groups, plan fun activities, and solve problems quickly. Staff members are role models for scouts, teaching them important lessons about respect,



OA Sash next to Lake Gallaher

(Photo by Alan Kay)

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Scout at Archery Range
(Photo Courtesy of: iescouts.org)

teamwork, and responsibility. These skills not only help at camp but also look great on college applications and future job resumes.

One of the best parts of Camp Emerson is how fun it is. Every day is exciting, with activities like rock climbing, canoeing, hiking, and campfire evenings. Staff members get to create themed games and programs that make everyone smile. They also build strong friendships and share in scouting traditions that bring people closer together.

Being on Camp Emerson staff is an unforgettable experience. Whether you're teaching a new skill, leading a hike, or laughing by the fire, you'll have the chance to grow, make friends, and help others have a great

time. It's a summer filled with adventure, leadership, and memories you'll treasure forever. To learn more about this, click here:

<https://iescouts.org/camps/camp-emerson/>



Lifeguard at the Pool
(Photo Courtesy of: Alan Kay)



Scout with staff at Rifle Range
(Photo Courtesy of: iescouts.org)



CAMP EMERSON

CALIFORNIA INLAND EMPIRE COUNCIL

The Chief Speaks...



Photo Courtesy of: G18S Section Website

Greetings Everyone,

I wanted to start by thanking everyone for the contributions you have made to start another great 50 years of our Lodge. Even though this year hasn't been easy, but we have learned to adapt to it. *"Change is inevitable. Growth is optional."* - John C. Maxwell. It is what we do with it to make a difference.

Use this coming year as a stepping stone to be the building blocks of your life and of your lodge. Keep the traditions of the old in mind but make your own new traditions. Be the change you want to see, and one day maybe you can be the Lodge Chief the lodge youth look up to. Whatever you do, do it with a smile, and do it with kindness. Thank you again for a successful year and here's to many in the future.

WWW,

Ryan Yau
Cahuilla Lodge #127
2024 Lodge Chief

Adviser's Minute...



Photo Courtesy of: G18S Section Website

As 2024 comes to a close, we reflect with pride on all we've accomplished. It was, as Chief Ryan says, a challenging but amazing year!

Highlights:

- 5,120 hours of service to camp, council, community, and lodge.
- Two induction weekends welcoming **94 new Arrowmen** and **34 Brotherhood members**.
- National Trails Day service at Lake Perris, followed by a fun Spring Fellowship organized by **Jimmy Lenfestey** of A-tsa Chapter.
- Public Lands Day at Amboy Crater, where a new trail was built with BLM and ACA chapter.
- Cahuilla Lodge sent a contingent of 19 to NOAC at the University of Colorado, led by **Brandon Veron** and adults **Mathew Brandt** and **Andrew Blessum**, with others serving in various staff roles.
- Section Conclave at Camp Tahquitz featured outstanding trainers and workshops, with special thanks to **David Lesyna**, **Keith Weinrich**, **Amanda Klopping**, and guest **Steven Soto**. Kudos to youth vice chiefs **Andrew Lyman** and **Keaton Hagen**.
- Fall Fellowship wrapped up the year with 2025 leadership elections, Vigil Honor inductions, and leadership development for 2025 lodge leaders.

We're grateful for the year's experiences and look forward to sharing the spirit of Cahuilla Lodge in 2025!

Cynthia Blessum
Lodge Adviser

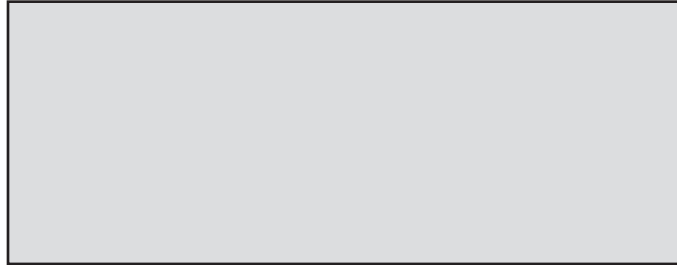


Call of the Cahuilla

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CAHUILLA LODGE #127 ORDER OF THE ARROW

Lodge Executive Committee 2024

Lodge Chief:
Ryan Yau

Lodge Adviser:
Cynthia Blessum

Secretary:
Aaron Truax

Treasurer:
Larissa McCormick

Treasurer Adviser:
Ron Price

Staff Adviser:
Patrick Willard

Chapter Leadership 2024

Aca Chapter
Chief: **Gabriel George**
Adviser: James Hermes

A-tsa Chapter
Chief: **Jim Lenfesty**
Adviser: David Lesyna

Navajo Chapter
Chief: **Carson Ruhnke**
Adviser: Bryant Walker

Serrano Chapter
Chief: **Andrew Klopping**
Adviser: Charles Haeffner

Tahquitz Chapter
Chief: **Matthew Dewitt**
Adviser: Keith Weinrich

Wanakik Chapter
Chief: **Nicholas Lozano**
Adviser: Summer Pearson

Dues Information:

Pay your 2025 Annual Dues by Snakepower Day (01/27) for a discount on your Cahuilla Lodge membership. Pay for all your 2024 Lodge Events with the Golden Arrow membership of \$110, or pay the standard membership for \$20. Prices will increase so pay today!

Visit:
<https://www.snakepower.org> to pay your dues online.

OA Members must be registered and in good standing with the Boy Scouts of America.

