

Quapaw Lodge Constitution

May 2007 Version

Preamble

Having been properly elected to membership in the Order of the Arrow as Scouts and Scouters who thought least of our ourselves and most of our fellow scouts, we the Arrowmen of this Lodge pledge ourselves to continue to strive ever-faithfully to preserve the example of Cheerful Service given us by Uncas. Gathered together as one Brotherhood united in Cheerful Service, we propose the following as the Constitution of our Lodge. Under the guidelines of this Constitution we will conduct ourselves as Arrowmen, in order that we might continue to earn the distinction of being Scouting's Honor Society.

I. Name and Affiliation

The name of this Lodge shall be Quapaw Lodge, Order of the Arrow, WWW. The Lodge shall be affiliated with Quapaw Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, and shall be under the supervision of the Council Camping Committee and the administrative authority of the Scout Executive.

II. Purposes

The purposes of Quapaw Lodge shall be:

- A. To crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerfulness and service to others.
- B. To promote Scout camping, especially to promote and develop the designated Council camp as directed by the Council Camping Committee.
- C. To recognize those Scouts and Scouters who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives and by such recognition cause others to conduct themselves in such a manner as to warrant induction into this Honor Society.
- D. To continue to develop the spirits and traditions upon which our Order is founded.
- E. To raise awareness of the traditions and history of the Lodge among our Lodge membership.

III. Membership

- A. The requirements for election to membership shall be as stated in the most current printing of the Order of the Arrow handbook. Once elected, a member cannot be denied participation in the Callout or the Ordeal unless the member himself/herself refuses to participate or a decision to withdraw the member has been made by the Supreme Chief of the Fire after consultation with the Lodge Adviser and in accordance with national policies.
- B. Procedure for the Ordeal and the Ordeal Ceremony shall be as stated in the most current printing of the *Ceremony for the Ordeal* pamphlet. All Ordeals conducted in the Lodge must have prior approval of the Lodge Executive

- Committee.
- C. Procedure for the Brotherhood Ceremony shall be as stated in the most current printing of the *Ceremony for the Brotherhood* pamphlet. All Brotherhood Ceremonies conducted in the Lodge must have prior approval of the Lodge Executive Committee. The carving of an arrow resembling the Ordeal sash will be the official Brotherhood Totem of the Lodge and shall be recommended for all Brotherhood Candidates.
 - D. Procedure for conducting the Vigil and the Vigil Honor Ceremony shall be as stated in the most current printing of the *Ceremony for the Vigil Honor* pamphlet.

IV. Lodge Leadership

- A. The elected officers of Quapaw Lodge shall be the Lodge Chief, the Lodge First Vice Chief, the Lodge Second Vice Chief, and the Lodge Secretary. All officers must be under twenty-one (21) years of age during the entirety of their terms in office.
- B. Lodge Officers shall be elected annually at the Lodge Pilgrimage in the month of August.
- C. Lodge Officers shall serve from the time of their elections until Pilgrimage of the following year.
- D. In the event that the Lodge Chief is unable to continue to serve in that capacity for any reason at any time during his term, the Lodge First Vice Chief shall become Lodge Chief for the remainder of the term, the Lodge Second Vice Chief shall become the Lodge First Vice Chief, the Lodge Secretary shall become the Lodge Second Vice Chief for the remainder of the term, and the Lodge Executive Committee shall, by majority vote, appoint an Arrowman of the Lodge to the position of Lodge Secretary for the remainder of the term. Until a new Lodge Secretary is appointed, the Lodge Second Vice Chief shall continue to perform the duties of Lodge Secretary.
- E. In the event that the Lodge First Vice Chief is unable to continue to serve in that capacity for any reason at any time during his term, the Lodge Second Vice Chief shall become Lodge First Vice Chief, the Lodge Secretary shall become the Lodge Second Vice Chief for the remainder of the term, and the Lodge Executive Committee shall, by majority vote, appoint an Arrowman of the Lodge to the position of Lodge Secretary for the remainder of the term. Until a new Lodge Secretary is selected, the Lodge Second Vice Chief shall perform the duties of Lodge Secretary.
- F. In the event that the Lodge Second Vice Chief is unable to continue to serve in that capacity for any reason at any time during his term, the Lodge Secretary shall become Lodge Second Vice Chief for the remainder of the term, and the Lodge Executive Committee shall, by majority vote, appoint an Arrowman of the Lodge to the position of Lodge Secretary for the remainder of the term. Until a new Lodge Secretary is selected, the Lodge Second Vice Chief shall perform the duties of Lodge Secretary.
- G. In the event the Lodge Secretary is unable to continue to serve in that capacity for any reason at any time during his term, the Lodge Executive Committee shall, by majority vote, appoint an Arrowman of the Lodge to serve in that capacity for the remainder of the term. Until a new Lodge Secretary is appointed, the Lodge Second Vice Chief shall perform the duties of the Lodge Secretary.
- H. The Lodge Executive Committee (LEC) shall be composed of the four elected

lodge officers and the Chapter Chief of each of the chapters of the Lodge. The Lodge First Vice Chief, Lodge Second Vice Chief, Lodge Secretary, and Chapter Chiefs each have one vote in all matters of Lodge business. The Lodge Chief's vote is cast in the event of a tie on a particular matter. The Lodge Executive Committee shall also be comprised of the Immediate Past Lodge Chief, committee chairs of organized Lodge committees, adult advisers of organized Lodge committees, adult Chapter Advisers, the Lodge Adviser, the Lodge Staff Adviser, and the Scout Executive, each of whom have discussion privileges but no voting privileges in any matters of Lodge business.

- I. The duties and responsibilities of each organized Lodge Committee and Lodge Officer shall be conducted in accordance with the most current printing of the Quapaw Lodge Operating Guide unless otherwise specified by the Lodge Executive Committee.
- J. In all matters concerning Lodge affairs, the Supreme Chief of the Fire maintains authority and may act in any way he deems necessary in accordance with national policy.

V. Insignia

- A. The Totem of the Lodge shall be the Rattlesnake. The insignia of the Lodge shall be the pocket flap, the design of which must be approved by the Lodge by majority vote at the Annual Lodge Business Meeting. Special Lodge flaps (NOAC, commemorative, or trading) may be approved by the Lodge Executive Committee by 2/3 majority vote. The distribution of the Lodge flap shall be as follows:
 1. Members shall be given one (1) flap as a part of the fee to complete the Ordeal. Members may also purchase up to five (5) additional flaps on the weekend of their induction
 2. Members may purchase up to five (5) flaps at any major Lodge event.
 3. Members attending national or section BSA or OA events (BSA National Jamboree, BSA World Jamboree, National Order of the Arrow Conference, OA Section Conclave, OA Indian Summer, etc.) may purchase up to the set amount of flaps established by a majority vote of the Lodge Executive Committee. The Lodge Executive Committee is required to vote no later than sixty (60) days prior to the start of any affected event.
 4. Members transferring in from another Lodge shall be allowed to purchase five (5) flaps at the next Lodge event in addition to the five (5) flaps allowed to be purchased at each event for a total of ten (10) flaps.
 5. Instances of the purchasing of the Lodge flap not covered above shall be approved by the Lodge Executive Committee by a majority vote, until such times as this Constitution may be amended to cover the specific event.

VI. Lodge Meetings

- A. At minimum, the Lodge shall annually conduct a Pilgrimage, a Lodge Awards and Recognitions Banquet, an Ordeal, and any other meetings or activities approved by the Lodge Executive Committee.
- B. The Lodge shall conduct an Annual Lodge Business Meeting on the final day of the annual Lodge Pilgrimage. Among other necessary business to be

conducted is the election and installation of new Lodge Officers.

VII. Chapters

The Lodge shall be divided into chapters, with each chapter having its own elected Chapter Chief, appointed adult advisor, and any other chapter officers that the chapter itself deems necessary and proper. The geographical boundaries and names of each chapter shall be the same as the geographical boundaries and names of the districts of the Quapaw Area Council.

VIII. Voting

Adult Scouters, age twenty-one (21) and over, shall have no vote in any matters of Lodge business. The Lodge Executive Committee shall have the power to set the format of any Lodge-wide voting, but the voting may not be weighted in any way so that one chapter's votes become more influential or important than any other chapter's votes.

IX. Finances

The monetary amount of individual annual Lodge Dues shall be set by the Lodge Executive Committee. All lodge funds shall be handled and processed through the Council Office and shall be subject to the Council's normal accounting procedures.

X. Committees

- A. The Lodge shall have the following as its standing committees: Publications Committee, Memorabilia & Lodge History Committee, Constitutional Review Committee, Ceremonies Committee, Inductions Committee, Koskalakas Selection Committee, Training Committee, and Vigil Honor Selection Committee.
- B. Each of the Lodge's standing committees shall have a Committee Chairman appointed by the Lodge Chief with appropriate counsel from the Lodge Executive Committee. Each of the Lodge's standing committees shall have an adult Committee Adviser who shall be selected by the Lodge Adviser.
- C. The members of the Lodge's standing committees shall be chosen from the general membership of the Lodge by the Committee Chairman with counsel from the various Chapter Chiefs and the Lodge Executive Committee. Committee Chairmen shall endeavor, within reason, to ensure that committee membership reflects an adequate cross-section of lodge membership.
- D. The Lodge Executive Committee shall have the power to form Ad Hoc committees in order to address specific issues or activities whenever it sees fit. The appointment of youth and adult Ad Hoc committee leaders shall follow the same procedure as the appointments for standing committees.

XI. Special Lodge Awards

- A. The award for dedicated and noteworthy service to the Lodge shall be the Koskalakas (meaning "Old Woman"). The requirements for the attainment of the award shall be set by the Lodge Executive Committee. Recipients shall be permitted to purchase one (1) Koskalakas patch any time after the award is officially announced. Recipients are limited to one (1) Koskalakas patch for life, except in case of destruction of the patch by some unforeseen circumstance. The Lodge Executive Committee must give approval by 2/3 vote for a recipient to be allowed to buy another Koskalakas patch. Trading of the Koskalakas patch shall be officially, expressly, and sternly disfavored.
- B. The Lodge Executive Committee shall have power to approve new Lodge-wide awards. The Lodge Executive Committee must give approval by 2/3 vote in order for an award to be officially adopted by the Lodge.

XII. Amendments

This Lodge Constitution shall be subject to additions, amendments, or repeal by a 2/3 vote of the active lodge membership present at the Annual Lodge Business Meeting provided that such additions, amendments, or motions for repeal have the approval of the Lodge Executive Committee and that a copy of the proposed Constitutional changes shall have been submitted for inspection by any and all active members of the Lodge at least sixty (60) days before the Annual Lodge Business Meeting.

XIII. Revision

The Lodge Constitutional Review Committee, assembled at the discretion of the Lodge Chief and approved by the Lodge Executive Committee, shall perform a major examination and, if need, revision of the Lodge Constitution five years from the date of the passing of this document and every five years thereafter. In addition to the major five-year revisions, the Constitutional Review Committee shall review the Lodge Constitution every year in order to make any minor adjustments or updates required by changes in official Order of the Arrow or BSA policy or by direction of the Lodge Executive Committee.

XIV. Severability Clause

Should any of the provisions of this Lodge Constitution become invalid due to changes in policy by the Boy Scouts of America or the National Order of the Arrow Committee or any other appropriately empowered oversight body, the affected clause(s) shall not invalidate any other sections of this document not materially dealing with the affected clause(s).

XV. Elastic Clause

The Lodge Executive Committee shall be empowered to set policies and procedures not specifically dealt with in this Constitution.

XVI. Adoption and Enacting Clause

This Constitution shall take immediate effect upon adoption by the Lodge at the Annual Lodge Business Meeting and shall supersede and nullify all previous constitutions and bylaws of Quapaw Lodge.