



## GULF STREAM COUNCIL

December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Dear Member of the Executive Board,

Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge is pleased to present a report of our activities during 2008. Consistent with OA Lodges nationwide, Aal-Pa-Tah adopted a new five-year strategic plan for 2008-2012. The Lodge adopted the plan on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008 and the Council approved the plan in February. The plan focuses on four (4) areas of importance: Serve and Support Scouting; Develop Leaders of Character; Promote Outdoor Adventure; and Be An Active, Honored Brotherhood. The plan goals for 2008 are discussed below. The complete plan can be reviewed on the Lodge website at <http://www.aal-pa-tah237.org/about/strategic.php>.

### I. Serve and Support Scouting

#### A. 2008 Plan Goals

- Increase our efforts to retain young adults
- Support Council FOS and Endowment Programs
- Recruit individuals for 2009 Friends of Scouting presentations
- Encourage participation in James E. West Fellowship opportunities
- Recruit Unit Commissioners in each District

#### B. Implementation

The Lodge has begun placing some of its younger adults in advisor positions. Bradley Ellis (2001 Lodge Chief) has assumed the position of Associate Lodge Advisor, and Adam Taft (2006-2007 Lodge Chief) has stayed on board as the Advisor to the Vice Chief of Program. The Lodge will continue to expand involvement of more recent youth Chiefs and officers. Through Brian Morgan, the Lodge has also begun supporting commissioner growth.

Each year the Lodge contributes to the council endowment fund through the naming of one (1) of our members a James E. West recipient. The Lodge named two (2) recipients in 2008, bringing our total to seven (7) individuals. The 2008 honorees are Thomas Phillip Ashford III and Dennis Kennedy. The 2009 honoree(s) will be announced at the Lodge Banquet on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The Lodge continues to strengthen and diversify the James T. Sasser Campership Fund. The Lodge contributed \$\_\_\_\_ to the council scholarship fund to help boys attend a week of summer camp at Tanah Keeta. The Lodge has also committed to future camp improvement projects including the current Tanah Keeta capital campaign. Further, the Lodge ran the concessions at the 2008 Mega Scout Show, and has committed to providing the luncheon for the 2009 summer camp kick-off meeting.

### II. Develop Leaders of Character

#### A. 2008 Plan Goals

- Aggressively promote training opportunities
- Promote National High-Adventure programs



Mike Grove  
Lodge Chief

Zack Regan  
Vice Chief of Program

Justin Warnimont  
Vice Chief of Service

Bradley Woods  
Lodge Secretary

Oakley Hammond  
Lodge Treasurer

Stephen Feldman  
Lodge Historian

Frank Taft  
Lodge Advisor



2008-2009  
Lodge Officers

- Lodge Chief and Advisor attend council Executive Board meetings
- Overhaul Troop Representative Program
- Execute hosting of 2008 S-4S Section Seminars

*B. Implementation*

The Lodge had one (1) youth member participate in NLS in 2008. The Lodge contingent at 2008 Section Conference fully participated in the event's activities, bringing home: Honor Lodge Pre-Ordeal and Brotherhood Ceremonies; Best Allowat in Pre-Ordeal; Best Nutiket in Pre-Ordeal; Best Vigil Chief; most of the individual dance awards; 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Kings Cup; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in Publications; and the coveted Best All Around Lodge (for the first time in over a decade). The Lodge Hosted 2008 Section Seminars at TK in November, with approximately 155 Lodge members attending. The Lodge has begun promotional efforts for Section Conference 2009 and NOAC 2009. The Lodge one (1) attend Wilderness Voyage at Northern Tier, and one (1) staff member who served as a Foreman for the Wilderness Voyage. The Lodge has begun plans for increasing Troop Representative communication.

III. Promote Outdoor Adventure

*A. 2008 Plan Goals*

- Publish an updated "Where to Go Camping" guide (printed and on-line)
- Revitalize the Trail Crew for the Mike Machek Trail
- ArrowCorp5 (goal of 12 participants and staff at various sites)
- Promote NOAC 2009 and National High-Adventure opportunities
- Promote "Leave no Trace" principles

*B. Implementation*

The Lodge's 2008-2009 "Where to Go Camping" guide is nearing completion, with an expected publication in early 2009. Through Kelsey Cupples and Jeff Vorpagel, the Lodge has renewed maintenance and promotion of the Mike Machek Trail. In the upcoming years, the Lodge will continue to assist Kelsey and Jeff in their Machek Trail efforts. The Lodge has at least one (1) certified "Leave No Trace" instructor. "Leave No Trace" was offered as a seminar at Section Seminars, and the Lodge plans to offer LNT instruction at upcoming events.

The Lodge had fifteen (15) members attend ArrowCorps5, with a handful of those members serving on Staff. Three (3) of the members attended the Bridger-Teton site (1 staff and 2 participants), with the remainder of the members attending the Washington-Jefferson site. The Lodge has begun promotional efforts for NOAC 2009. The Lodge has one (1) member who is currently serving as the musher for Winter Okpik at Northern Tier, and that same member will serve as an Assistant Director for the 2009 Wilderness Voyage. The Lodge has already begun promoting the 2009 National High-Adventure programs.

IV. Be An Active, Honored Brotherhood

*A. 2008 Plan Goals*

- Plan and execute hosting of 2008 S-4S Section Seminars
- Enhance Lodge communication
- Effectively utilize the Troop/Team Representative Program
- Encourage Chapters to hold consistent meetings and/or fun activity
- Develop process of tracking membership participation at specific events
- Renewed focus on Lodge Ceremonies Team and Hitchiti Dancers

## B. Implementation

All of the activities of the Lodge are youth run. Members of the Lodge had a number of opportunities in 2008 to be involved. The Lodge held: a January Make-Up Ordeal; Lodge Banquet; Spring Powwow Weekend; Pig Roast/Turkey Fry at Mega Scout Show; May/June Ordeal Weekend; Mentoring Day; Lodge Leadership Development Conference; One Day of Service; Brotherhoods each Wednesday at summer camp; September Ordeal Weekend; 2008 Section Seminars; Winter Fellowship/Ordeal Weekend; and attended 2008 Section Conference and ArrowCorps5. The Lodge encourages involvement at the unit level and support of other council activities, including summer camp. The Lodge has slowly and surely began to work on strengthening its chapters, with Osceola Chapter recently independently functioning again, and with Panasofee inducting some new members and expanding the Lodge into the Okeechobee area.

The Lodge provided service to the council camps and to the community. A service weekend to prepare for summer camp was held in May/June; another Ordeal in September, with a Make-Up Ordeal at Winter Fellowship in December. The Lodge also held a service day at TK prior to Section Seminars. A total of 134 (down from 153 in 2007) new Ordeal members were inducted, and a total of 66 (1 less than 2007) new Brotherhood members were inducted. The Lodge also presented a Founders' Award to Adam Taft and Chas Carlson, and presented the Vigil Honor to six Arrowmen.

The Lodge has completely redeveloped its Lodge website, increasing functionality and aesthetic design. Included in the redesign is a method for members to update their membership information and register for events with little effort. The Lodge has several more website features pending which will launch in early 2009. The Lodge has also continued to expand its Lodge database functions, and will be switching to a vastly more efficient HTML email system beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

Earlier in the year, the Lodge issued a Hitchiti proclamation in conjunction with the Hitchiti Dancers which solidifies the Hitchiti as an integral part of the Lodge. The proclamation establishes a joint Lodge-Hitchiti committee to oversee the native American programming of the council, and was endorsed by the Supreme Chief of the Fire. Moreover, the Lodge has several youth committed to ceremonial excellence which are now providing top-notch ceremonies for our candidates.

Last but not least, I believe Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge will be a "Quality Lodge" again in this year. If you have any questions or concerns regarding Aal-Pa-Tah, please do not hesitate to contact me. As always, you can find more information about Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge at [Aal-Pa-Tah Online](#).

Yours in Scouting,



Michael Grove  
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[Aal-Pa-Tah Online: www.aal-pa-tah237.org](http://www.aal-pa-tah237.org)



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Gulf Stream Council, BSA