



HISTORY OF THE SHAWNEE LODGE

✧ In the summer of 1915 the directors of the Treasure Island Boy Scout Camp of the Philadelphia Council formed the Wimachtendienk, Wingolauchsik, Witahemui after a legend of the Delaware Indians. Its purpose was to recognize honor campers in a brotherhood of cheerful service. It was later to be known as the Order of the Arrow. The program was a success and it proved so useful that many councils soon incorporated it into their programs.

✧ In 1930 the Order of the Arrow was introduced into the St. Louis Council at Irondale Scout Reservation. At first it was known as the Osage Lodge and was assigned lodge number 51. By 1931 when the first “President” was elected, it had been discovered that another lodge had the same name. Our name was then changed to “Shawnee,” after the tribe that had inhabited neighboring territory. The “thunderbird,” which means eagle, was adopted as the Lodge totem. In 1930 members inducted into the lodge were recognized by a red felt arrow sewed behind the Camp Irondale pine tree.

✧ In 1931 Camp Irondale adopted a new camp emblem, without dates, and a new honors system of belt stencils then widely in use at scout camps across the country. Membership in Shawnee Lodge was first indicated on the scouts web belt by a stencil of a red arrow tilted at a 30 degree angle to the right, and later a horizontal arrow with a “W” in the middle.



✧ During the 1933 National Meeting of the Grand Lodge held at Owasippe Camps of the Chicago Council, the proposal was made that the Order be made a component of the National Council, B.S.A. The following year the proposal was approved by the National Council at their annual meeting.

✧ In 1938 the National Meeting of the Grand Lodge was hosted by the St. Louis Council and held at Irondale Scout Reservation. A record 448 delegates attended the meeting from a record 44 lodges. The National Meeting of the Grand Lodge would later become the National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC).



✧ In 1948 the BSA National Executive Board approved the complete integration of the OA into the Boy Scouts of America.

✪ At an unknown date, a round patch was made to signify membership in the Shawnee Lodge. It was worn on the right pocket of the uniform.



✪ In the 1950's patches worn on the pocket flap were approved and Shawnee created their first flap using the thunderbird totem.



✪ At the 1957 Shawnee Lodge Banquet, due to the need for a 20 mile trail for the hiking merit badge, the Lodge decided to sponsor the Daniel Boone and Taum Sauk trails. In 1958 the Taum Sauk trail was dedicated at the Spring Conclave held at Lion's Den camp. The Taum Sauk trail was laid out and developed by members of the lodge over the following years. Shawnee Lodge members acted as guides, and wore a Trail Guide patch above the trail patch on a black neckerchief.



✪ 1965 marked the start of a new era of the Shawnee Lodge, with the closing of Camp Irondale and Camp Lion's Den at the end of summer camp. The new S-F Scout Ranch was dedicated at the Fall Reunion of that year. This was the first activity held at the S-F Scout Ranch. Camps Sakima and Famous Eagle were opened in the summer of 1966 with the generous help of the Order of the Arrow. All future Shawnee Lodge Fall Reunions would be held at S-F Scout Ranch.





✚ In 1975, the Elangomat Clan System was introduced at the National Order of the Arrow Conference. Upon returning from the conference delegates developed the system for the Shawnee Lodge. Shawnee Lodge became one of the first lodges to adopt the Elangomat Clan System, with the development of the first extensive Elangomat training sessions.

✚ In 1976 at Beaumont Scout Reservation, the first Shawnee Ceremonial Seminar was held and each year has helped strengthen the Indian traditions of the Shawnee Lodge.

✚ At the 1977 National Order of the Arrow Conference, the Shawnee Lodge *LOOKOUT*, our newspaper, was voted best in the nation, and clearly remains an outstanding publication.

✚ In the summer of 1978, Shawnee Lodge adopted the new pre-Ordeal ceremony which brings more meaning and symbolism to the Ordeal ceremony.

✚ In 1987 the Shawnee Lodge initiated the Beyond Brotherhood Program which enables Brotherhood members to gain additional recognition's for their service to the Order and their troop.

✚ In 1988 Stephen Meinhold was elected North Central Region Chief.

✚ In 1999 the Shawnee Lodge held its first OA summer camp.

✚ In 2006 Russ Bresnehan was elected Central Region Chief

✚ Members of our lodge have received recognition in the ceremony competitions at the 2000, 2002, 2004, and 2012 National Order of the Arrow Conferences,.



✚ In 2009 Jack O'Neill was elected the National Chief of the Order of the Arrow. He is the only member of the Shawnee Lodge to hold that position.



✚ Over the years Shawnee Lodge has hosted section meetings/conclaves in 1952, 1956, 1961, 1973, 1979, 1986, 2004, 2005, 2009, and 2018.

✚ The Shawnee Lodge has done countless major service projects for the Greater St. Louis Area Council as well as providing camp promotion every year. The man-hours of service save our Council thousands of dollars every year.

✚ Shawnee Lodge has provided hundreds of service hours outside of the Council through it's one day of service which began in 2005. One day of service has provided service to many organizations/places including Special Olympics, Johnson's Shut-ins State Park, St. Francois State Park, Willmore park (St. Louis City), and Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery.

