

The Bite

Volume 1, Issue #1, Spring 2025



Malibu Lodge #566

Western Los Angeles County Council



New Year, New Leadership, New Members and a New Newsletter!

Lodge Chief & Advisor Letters

Brothers,

This year I have the distinct pleasure of serving at the 50th Malibu Lodge Chief and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve our lodge. Currently I am a Sophomore at Geffen Academy at UCLA and am 16 years old. I am an Eagle Scout from Troop 67 in Santa Monica and have been in scouting since I joined the Webelos program in 2018.

I joined our Order in December of 2020 but unfortunately like many I became inactive within a year of my Ordeal. For this reason I am determined to have each new member find the cheerfulness of our Order in their first months of membership. In May of 2023 after being inactive for about two years I rejoined our Order. The next month I sealed my membership in our Brotherhood, ran for Heyoka Chapter Chief and won. For the next year and a half I lead my Chapter to grow and improve. In November of 2023 I went to the National Leadership Seminar and developed greatly as a leader and a year later I won election to serve as our Lodge Chief.

This year myself and our Lodge Executive Committee are committed to making a positive lasting impact on our lodge. I am confident in our lodge leadership and look forward to what we will accomplish this year. We have already started our impact in numerous ways including making this newsletter that will be released quarterly.

Although our year started off with the tragic fires that took much away from our lodge and our members we sure do have a great year ahead of us. I look forward to serving alongside all of you as we leave our mark on our Order.

Yours in Brotherhood,

Elliot C.
Malibu Lodge Chief



Greetings Brothers,

My name is Craig Moles, and I am the new Lodge Adviser for Malibu Lodge as of the beginning of 2025. I am looking forward to seeing all the great work our Lodge officers will do this year to take Malibu Lodge to new heights. After serving as Chapter Adviser for Ta To Ka Dan Chapter the last six years, I am looking forward to the new challenge of advising at the Lodge level.

My Scouting career started almost 19 years ago when I was recruited as an Assistant Tiger Den Leader, and over the years I have worked in a variety of positions in unit leadership including Den Leader, Cubmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, Scoutmaster, and Chartered Organization Representative. I have also been Antelope Valley District Chair and Camporee Chair. I was inducted into Malibu Lodge in May of 2015, achieved Brotherhood membership a year later and was called by the Vigil honor in 2022. I have had the privilege of working with many fine youth leaders in our Lodge, and I hope to encourage many more to step into leadership roles and achieve their full potential in the future.

I would like to thank several former Lodge Advisers for their mentorship and encouragement for me to take on this new role, in particular my predecessor, Gary Christiansen, whose extraordinary service to Malibu Lodge has continued for many decades. Gary left me big shoes to fill, but with the youth leadership in our current Lodge officer corps, I am sure we can together achieve success in guiding the Lodge past a challenging start of 2025 to great things in the rest of the year.

Yours in Brotherhood,

Craig Moles
Malibu Lodge Adviser



Upcoming Events

May Induction

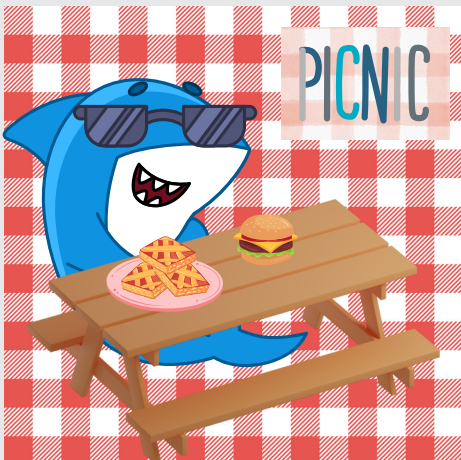


Join us for an exciting induction weekend at Camp Whitsett from Friday, May 16th to Sunday, May 18th! Eligible Ordeal members can earn their Brotherhood this weekend. Other members can accumulate service hours that go toward the Lodge Service Award. With Whitsett being the only camp from our own council that we are going to this year it is important that we give valuable service. It's also a fantastic opportunity to support our new inductees. Inductions at Whitsett only happen once a year so don't miss this opportunity.

[Click Here To Sign Up!](#)

Flag Placement

On May 24th the annual Memorial Day Weekend Flag Placement will take place at the Los Angeles National Cemetery. Each year thousands of Scouts, Scouters, and members of the general community come together to honor those who served our great nation. Our lodge plays a large part in the organization and execution of this event. This year we will continue our service with two different aspects of the event, parking staff and being MOH Guards. Both of these roles are critical for the success of the program. Parking staff may be any Arrowman who will come out and help. The MOH Guards must be Arrowmen under the age of 21 who is a recipient of the Eagle, Summit or Quartermaster Award(s). Sign ups for serving in both of these roles will be sent out in the coming month.



Picnic

On June 21st we will be holding our annual Lodge Picnic at Woodley Park in Van Nuys. It will surely be an amazing event as we gather as a lodge on a nice summer day. We will have hamburgers, hot dogs, cobbler and drinks as well as games and fun fellowship. Please join us for this fun FREE event.

Previous Events

Lodge Leadership Development and Banquet:



On February 1st we held our annual Lodge Leadership Development and Banquet. At the leadership development, Arrowmen learned about how to better serve our Order from lodge leadership and Dr. Rich Whitney. Dr. Whitney is the Gateway Region Training Chair and an expert in the field of leadership. He taught our members how to inspire leadership in others. Arrowmen also learned about District/Council relations, the Nuts and Bolts of Ceremonies, and how to Plan a Successful Chapter Meeting.

At the Banquet we honored our 2024 youth leadership for their work this past year. We also recognized the Ta To Ka Dan Chapter, for being the best overall chapter in the lodge, with the Sammy's Choice Award.

February Induction Weekend

From February 21st to the 23rd we held an induction weekend at Camp Trask in Monrovia CA. It was an exciting opportunity to do service for a camp that really needs it. Arrowmen worked on improving the camp in various ways including removing invasive plants, digging moats and much more. These tasks have helped the camp greatly and it is clear that the camp has improved greatly since we have begun to hold our events there. We welcomed eight new members into our lodge, five of which were from the Xaxaamonga Chapter which is great to see their growth. Seven members sealed their membership by going through their Brotherhood Saturday night. After the induction concluded on Saturday Arrowmen had a very enjoyable night eating food, playing games, and watching the 1996 film Kazaam. This was the beginning of a new lodge tradition where we watch a new movie at the end of our inductions. Arrowmen rated Kazaam a 10 out of 10 and look forward to continuing this tradition.



Chapter Updates

Ta To Ka Dan Chapter

By: Evan W, Chapter Chief

Over the past three months, the Ta To Ka Dan Chapter has been actively serving our district and community. We kicked off the year by performing dance ceremonies for local Cub Scout packs and assisting with Pinewood Derby events. At our recent lodge banquet, many of our members were honored with awards recognizing their dedication, service, and contributions to Scouting and the broader community. Looking ahead, we are focused on two key goals: growing our chapter by visiting units and conducting elections, and increasing our presence in the community through city events such as desert cleanups and social gatherings. Our biggest upcoming event is the district camporee, where we are embracing a Medieval theme. We are hard at work planning exciting activities, competitions, engaging programs, and, of course, plenty of great snacks to make this year's AV District Camporee an unforgettable experience. We look forward to continuing our service and making a positive impact in the months ahead!

Sipo Chapter

By: Luke R, Chapter Chief

We are growing as a chapter and are incorporating many new things into our meetings. We didn't have any new members from the February induction but are working on getting at least five at the next induction. We are working to get volunteers from the chapter for a ceremonies team and getting them trained for the May induction. We had dinner and more time for fellowship and keep trying to plan more ways to make our chapter meetings engaging. We are planning a joint event with the Serranos Chapter. We will be meeting at Kirk O the Valley church at 7:00 pm. They will always be taking place on the 4th Wednesday of the month.

Heyoka Chapter

By: Alexander C. & Brody L, Co-Chapter Chiefs

The Heyoka Chapter has had a very successful February. We have had great attendance at scouting events. Whether that's at our District Dinner, Lodge events or Unit Elections we have been serving our scouting community. Our chapter is also playing a large part in planning and serving at the Crescent Bay District Camporee as well as the accompanying Webelo-Ree. The Heyoka Chapter looks forward to more Unit Elections, visitations, and the service we will be doing in the following months.



Heyoka Chapter
Meeting on 3/12/25

Serranos Chapter

By: Ethan Q, Chapter Chief

The Serranos Chapter has been making great strides this season, working on exciting new initiatives and expanding our impact within the lodge and beyond. One of our biggest accomplishments so far has been the formation of a ceremonies team. This group will enhance our chapter's ability to deliver meaningful and well-executed ceremonies, strengthening the traditions of the Order of the Arrow. We are eager to see this team grow and develop in the coming months. Additionally, we are in the process of launching a food safety committee for the lodge. This initiative will ensure that all food preparation at our events meets high safety standards, creating a better and safer experience for everyone. Our dedication to service remains strong, as we have been working at VT Ranch and will continue to extend our efforts to other locations in the near future. These projects allow us to give back to the community while upholding the values of Scouting and the OA. With all these initiatives underway, we look forward to accomplishing even more in the months ahead. Thank you to all our members for their hard work and dedication. Let's keep up the momentum!

Xaxaamonga Chapter

By: Benjamin M, Chapter Chief

Hello everyone!

I'm thrilled to share some fantastic news from the Xaxaamonga Chapter! Our recent induction in February was a success, with our chapter having five Arrowmen that went through their ordeal, this is the largest candidate participation in years! It was wonderful to see so many new faces.

Our following meeting was also a great success, with a fantastic turnout! We were honored to have guests from the Lodge and Section join us as we kick start our meetings. We greatly appreciate the support and attendance of our Chapter and Lodge Advisors.

This increased participation is especially exciting as we've been working to boost our chapter's attendance.

We are also happy to announce that Rebecca C. is our first female Arrowman with the Xaxaamonga chapter.

Thank you to everyone who has been a part of this positive change! We look forward to seeing you at our next event!



Xaxaamonga Chapter
Meeting on 2/27/25

Silver Buffalo Award Recipients

The Silver Buffalo Award was created in 1925 to honor those who have given distinguished service to youth. It is the highest commendation of the invaluable contribution that outstanding Americans make to youth. It is bestowed on those who serve on the national level. Some of the distinguished recipients of this award include Lord Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the Scouting movement, and Gerald R. Ford, the 38th President of the United States.

This past month, the 2025 recipients of the Silver Buffalo Award were announced by the National Court of Honor Committee. Of these 13 individuals two have/are members of the Malibu Lodge. Bill Topkis and Gary Christiansen both served as youth officers in the Malibu Lodge. Topkis as a Lodge Vice Chief and Christiansen as a Lodge Chief. Christiansen continued service in our Order as a youth as Section Chief of Section W4A. As an adult he served as the Malibu Lodge Advisor, Section W4A Advisor, and the Western Region Chairman. Most recently Christiansen served as the 2023-2024 Malibu Lodge Advisor.

Both Christiansen and Topkis along with the other recipients will be formally presented with the Silver Buffalo Award at the Scouting America National Annual Meeting on May 15th, 2025 in Orlando Florida.



Christensen on the left and Topkis on the right

***Fun Fact: Neither Christiansen nor Topkis went through their Ordeals in the Malibu Lodge. They did their ordeals in the Walika and Tamet Lodges respectively.**



Hey Malibu Lodge! It's Dale, the Section G18N Chief and I want YOU to go to Conclave this September 19-21st. Conclave is an annual gathering of the six lodges in our local area and it's been held continuously for more than half a century. At Conclave, expect to partake in exciting trainings, super fun activities, and watch some incredible shows. Not to mention the opportunity to meet Arrowmen from all over Southern California. We've got a great site this year down in San Pedro and we're bringing a couple of incredible guests, including the National Chief. If I've been inducted since September of last year, enjoy a special discount for first year Arrowmen. Be sure to read more information on conclave and the section, as well as sign up for Conclave, by visiting SectionG18N.oa.bsa.org !



NATIONAL LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

From November 21st to the 23rd the National Leadership Seminar, also known as NLS, will be taking place locally in Southern California. NLS is teaches Arrowmen the skills and attributes of leadership. It is not often that NLS takes place in SoCal so we encourage all our members to this opportunity and develop as leaders.

For adults (21+) the Developing Youth Leadership Conference, also known as DYLC, strengthens an adviser's capacity to develop youth leadership and will be taking place along side NLS. If you are interested in attended your respective one of these corses in November please save the date and look out for communication that will go out in the coming months.

Other Lodge Events This Year

August 15th - 17th, Induction @ Camp Trask

October. 25th - Oct. 26th, Summit @ TBD

Nov. 15th - Nov. 16th, Induction @ Camp Trask



Operation Arrow brings together Arrowmen to support the logistics and activities at National Jamborees. Arrowmen ages 16 and older can serve on staff, offering an affordable way to attend the Jamboree while contributing to the event's success. The next Operation Arrow will take place July 19th - 31st, 2026 at the Summit Bechtel Reserve. Look out for upcoming information if you would like to staff.

Join the The Bite team. Reach out to your Chapter Chief if you are interested to work on the team that will develop and publish these quarterly newsletters.

The Bite Team

AJ B. - The Bite Staff

Joey S - The Bite Staff

Jovel C. - Lodge Secretary

Elliot C. - Lodge Chief



New Horizons (And Events) Ahead. Keep an Eye Out For Announcements in The Coming Months.



MALIBU LODGE
ORDER OF THE ARROW