



## Section E5 Lodge Chiefs Call (LCZC)

Monday, January 12th, 7pm ET

[Google Meet](#)

### Attendance:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Section Chief      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Osceola           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Section Vice Chief | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O-Shot-Gaw        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Section Secretary  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Semialachee       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aal-Pa-Tah         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tipisa            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Echeekotee         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uh-To-Yeh-Hut-Tee |

### 1. Welcome & Roll Call

### 2. Section Officer Reports

#### a. Section Chief - Nick Switzer

- i. Nick welcomed the new chiefs and reminded them that monthly chiefs calls typically occur on the first Monday of each month at 7pm ET where lodges give reports on their activities and receive updates from the section on the latest happenings.
- ii. He mentioned recent travel with Section Vice Chief Walter to Greensboro, NC for NLS, and a visit to Osceola's Winter Fellowship. He is also preparing for the annual National Planning Meeting (NPM) this coming weekend where he will be taking part in the election of the 2026 national officers, along with planning to email state park representatives about a possible service project.

#### b. Section Vice Chief - Walter Mentz

- i. Walter expressed satisfaction with the NLS course in Greensboro and highlighted a reflection time during it that prompted thinking about personal roles in Scouting and giving back to the OA.
- ii. He also shared that he has been working on developing a visual swag item, possibly a patch for SLS trainers to increase their visibility and encourage future participation in SLS training.

**c. Section Secretary - Brady Kondek**

- i. Brady reported on attending Echockotee's Winter Fellowship this past weekend, and on the official launch of the 2026 Section Conference promotion campaign, with the initial intro post being published on 12/22 that announced the conference dates and location.
- ii. The conference website has also been published at [e5.oa-scouting.org/conference](https://e5.oa-scouting.org/conference), and he emphasized the usage of this specific link in all promotional materials to ensure that members are directed through comprehensive information before going to the actual registration page; ensuring that everyone has access to that information.
- iii. Megan Ewing, Trading Post Chair, reported that vendors for the trading post merchandise have been secured, and she and Brady are coordinating with Central Florida Council to launch a BlackPug pre-order system in time for distribution at Section Conference in April. She noted that a revision has to be made to the section logo to lighten the color of the panther, and that the merchandise is dependent on that new design, which will be shared at the next meeting.

**3. Lodge Reports****a. Aal-Pa-Tah**

- i. Lodge Vice Chief of Program, Beckham S., reported in place of Lodge Chief Ethan Stabile. He reported on a successful annual banquet on Saturday 1/3, and that they are currently in preparations for their February and March Ordeals for a combined total of 184 elected candidates.

**b. Echockotee**

- i. Outgoing Lodge Chief Holden Mendez reported on holding an LEC orientation in December and as well their successful EDM-themed Winter Fellowship this past weekend with 216 attendees, where they hosted National Vice Chief Ben Jones.
- ii. Holden also introduced Katie McConnell as the new Echockotee Chief, who was sworn in this past weekend, and said that meeting and serving with every one on the call has made 2025 one of the best years of his life.

**c. Osceola**

- i. Lodge Chief Lola Saad reported on holding their Winter Fellowship in December with new Vigil and Brotherhood members, and are also preparing for an Ordeal with an expected strong turnout of over 170 candidates.
- ii. Lola and her VC of Admin and Program will also be attending Aal-Pa-Tah's Vigil night later in January.

**d. O-Shot-Caw**

- i. Lodge Chief Andrew Beckman reported on celebrating their 56th annual Vigil Breakfast in December and holding their Winter Ordeal this past weekend at Camp Everglades with around 130 attendees, which is the only camp inside a national park.
- ii. He also made mention of their council's upcoming car show on Sunday 2/22, where they bring 200 plus cars out to Camp Elmore and they set up for the day and have a grill open.

**e. Semialachee**

- i. Lodge Chief Marc Cabansag reported holding their Vigil reunion in December, annual banquet this past weekend, and inducting their new LEC, with their Winter Ordeal and native american weekend (SNAW) coming up in February.

**f. Tipisa**

- i. Lodge Chief Benton Forrester reported on having almost completed their election season and holding successful chapter ordeals. Their largest service event, TNAW, is scheduled for February 6-8. He stated that if anyone is interested in being involved or on staff to reach out to him.
- ii. Tipisa is also offering \$80 subsidies to their youth to encourage registration for NLS.

**g. Uh-To-Yeh-Hut-Tee**

- i. Lodge Chief JJ Sheridan reported on holding their Winter Conclave 1/2-1/4 with 206 attendees and is planning to promote the OA at their University of Scouting at St. Leo University and open a grill at their council camporee.

**4. Upcoming Events****a. NLS/DYLC**

- i. Brad Schmidt, Eastern Region Chair, emphasized the impact of the NLS and DYLC, noting the NLS course is life-changing and open to any Arrowman (youth or adult). He stressed that the NLS course in Fruitland Park is a rare opportunity, as it will be some time before one returns to Florida due to geographical restraints. Brad also requested from the leaders on the call to promote and fill the course, noting that registration numbers are not where they need to be to ensure the course takes place in February, needing at least 20 more participants to meet the minimum count for NLS.
- ii. Nick reiterated the section's efforts to promote NLS, announcing a section-provided scholarship of up to \$80 (one-third of the cost) for one Arrowman per lodge. The application is due January 31st, and those selected and their Lodge Advisers will be notified before the February 5th registration deadline; this is available at [e5.oa-scouting.org/nls](https://e5.oa-scouting.org/nls). He shared his positive personal experience attending NLS despite having initial negative thoughts going into it.



**b. 2026 Section Conference**

- i. Beckham Sypek, reporting for Section Conference Chair Stephanie Cargill, reported that the section conference team completed a full program run-through and is developing an effective check-in process. Social media efforts are also underway to promote the conference. Nick reminded everyone that conference registration is currently open; for more information visit [e5.oa-scouting.org/conference](https://e5.oa-scouting.org/conference).

**5. New Business**

- a. Beckman proposed discussing the distribution of excess money from this past Section Conference in April to help subsidize NLS registration for lodges, Holden also mentioned there being money made during Echochotee's SLS in November. Michael explained that the section is awaiting an updated financial review from Central Florida Council to determine the exact amounts of excess funds as they relate to the section's account balance. He confirmed that while a specific scholarship has been approved (up to \$80 for one youth Arrowman per lodge), any further distribution to lodges would need to be decided once we have a more accurate outlook at the current section balance. He also mentioned that he is working with Cole Gabriel on a proper closeout report for SLS, which will be presented during the Council of Chiefs at Section Conference in April. Beckman asked if the excess money is going to be distributed or held by the section, in which Michael responded by explaining in the past the section key 3 has approved a distribution when there was a significant amount of money made by the event depending on section finances, but we would need to determine what that amount would be depending on the year-end closeout. There will likely be some amount of distribution in addition to the scholarship, but we don't have that level of information at this time. In short, section is waiting on the CFO of Central Florida Council to give this financial information.

**6. Adviser's Minute - Michael Todd**

- a. Michael offered thanks for a stellar year in 2025 and welcomed the new lodge chiefs. He also thanked Brad for speaking about NLS and wished Nick luck as he travels to NPM this weekend to represent the section, elect new national officers, and work on strategic direction for the OA.