



Section E5 Council of Chiefs (COC)

Friday, April 10th, 2026, 10pm ET

Tanah Keeta Scout Reservation

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-Caw |
| <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"/> Echoekotee | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uh-To-Yeh-Hut-Tee |

Meeting started at 10:15 PM ET

1. Welcome Address & Roll Call

2. Lodge Reports

a. Aal-Pa-Tah

- i. Lodge Chief Ethan Stabile welcomed everyone to Tanah Keeta, expressing appreciation for them being here. He noted that there have been no significant updates since Monday's Chiefs Call, sharing enthusiasm for the upcoming weekend and encouraged everyone to reach out if they have any questions or concerns.

b. Echockotee

- i. Lodge Chief Katie McConnell reported that Echockotee arrived with a strong delegation of 84 Arrowmen at Section Conference. She highlighted their dedication in preparing for competitions, noting the energy and spirit that is brought everywhere they go, and emphasized their focus on both having fun and competing.

c. Osceola

- i. Lodge Chief Lola Saad shared that Osceola is excited to be in attendance and expressed appreciation to Aal-Pa-Tah for hosting the event. She reported that the lodge surpassed its goal of 55 attendees, and having over 200 members registered for their Spring Ordeal.
- ii. Lola also noted the election of their new LEC, upcoming plans for their Lodge Leadership Development (LLD) in May to prepare for the year ahead, and their Summer Fellowship.

d. O-Shot-Caw

- i. Lodge Chief Andrew Beckman expressed that it was great to be back in person, noting that there have been no significant updates since Monday. He shared that the lodge brought members from across their area,



including the Florida Keys; further thanking Aal-Pa-Tah for hosting and conveying excitement for the weekend ahead.

e. Semialachee

- i. Lodge Chief Marc Cabansag expressed appreciation to Aal-Pa-Tah for hosting and noted that there have been no major updates since Monday. He reported the recent installation of a new lodge communications officer and shared that the lodge is represented by 11 members in attendance.

f. Tipisa

- i. Lodge Chief Benton Forrester remarked that it had been some time since the last meeting and that the lodge's officer team has been working diligently in recent weeks to prepare for competitions. He also noted that at their Spring Conclave the lodge introduced and showcased a new chief jacket. He also expressed excitement for the remainder of the weekend.

g. Uh-To-Yeh-Hut-Tee

- i. Lodge Chief JJ Sheridan shared that Uh-To-Yeh-HUt-Tee is glad to be in attendance and is looking forward to the weekend. He reported that the lodge arrived with a delegation of 48 members.

3. Section Officer Reports

a. Section Secretary - Brady Kondek

- i. Brady provided a year-end report summarizing the accomplishments under the Secretary division. He highlighted the successful relaunch of the section's social media presence, noting significant growth across all platforms. On Instagram, the section reached 238,844 views (a 621.47% increase from 30,597 the previous year), 6,210 interactions (a 293.35% increase from 1,429 the previous year), and gained approximately 230 new followers. On Facebook, the section recorded 68,667 views (a 508.91% increase from 11,277 the previous year), and 1,413 interactions (a 241.30% increase from 414 the previous year).
- ii. He also highlighted the introduction of a new initiative of coordinated promotional campaigns for each section event, including the creation of dedicated promotional videos on-site at the location of the event. He reported the revival of the *Sounds of the Section* newsletter, with three issues having been published across the fall, winter, and spring.
- iii. Additionally, Brady shared that the section website was fully modernized, transforming it into a centralized hub featuring event-specific subsites, a volunteer board, and accessible meeting resources. Since April 13th, 2025, the site has recorded 4,897 visitors, 11,707 views, and 6,772 sessions (this is compared against 0 for all since the section site was not used before this year). Section event websites were also introduced to provide a dedicated space for promoting and organizing event information.
- iv. Brady further noted the introduction of official section merchandise, including a new section neckerchief, Columbia shirts with the section logo embroidered, stickers, and a 2025 neckerchief and patch.



- v. He concluded by recognizing his team—Amelia Flores, Katie McConnell, Alexander Harris, Holden Mendez, Kaylee DeLory, Lauren Winfree, Elizabeth Rasch, Megan Ewing, and many others—for their contributions and support throughout the year, noting he couldn't have done nearly as much as what happened without them.

b. Section Vice Chief - Walter Mentz

- i. Walter expressed appreciation to the lodges for sending trainers for SLS and noted that he will be distributing thank you patches to recognize their contributions, either directly or through lodge representatives if needed.
- ii. He then reported that King's Cup preparations are mostly complete and shared his satisfaction with the progress and coordination of the organizers from each lodge. He instructed that at 10am, two representatives from each lodge should be sent: one general trainer and one presenter.
- iii. Finally, for the Inductions Administration competition, he stated that only one person per lodge is needed, serving as the presenter, with that happening at 1pm in the main Lassiter room.

c. Section Chief - Nick Switzer

- i. Nick shared lighthearted remarks before providing key updates. He announced that the Best All-Around Lodge (BAAL) competition would be held in the Lassiter conference room with limited space, with attendance designated for each Lodge Chief and one additional representative (adviser or co-presenter).
- ii. He expressed sincere gratitude for the past year, noting its meaningful personal impact, and concluded by reminding everyone of the importance of upholding the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives.

4. Host Lodge Announcements

- a. Aal-Pa-Tah (the host lodge) provided several important reminders and logistical updates for the weekend. Check-in on Saturday will take place at the Scoutmaster Lounge, where the information booth will also be located; this represents a change from what is listed on the schedule.
- b. The OA ring has been rained out and will be relocated to Brownsea, which will also serve as the location for Ordeal ceremony evaluations. Lodge v. Lodge competition locations were confirmed as follows: basketball at the basketball court, volleyball behind the Welcome Shelter, and ultimate frisbee behind Lassiter.
- c. For communications, lodge chiefs are asked to join the Remind group by texting **@2026chief** to **81010**.
- d. Competition room assignments were clarified: the Lassiter Building will be used for the large room, the conference room (rear room with double doors) will host BAAL, Publications, and Website; Inductions and Social Media will be held in the large room; and King's Cup will take place in the dining hall.



- e. Additional operational guidance included a request from the ranger to avoid bringing trailers into high foot-traffic areas and to begin staging breakdown materials in the dining hall after competitions include, with full breakdown permitted during the Saturday night show.
- f. Safety reminders were also emphasized. A formal safety minute will be given at flags on Saturday morning, and in the event of severe weather, the designated shelter locations are Lassiter and the dining hall. Everyone was also reminded to follow SYT procedures and to inform advisers and campmasters when leaving camp; contact information is posted on the whiteboard inside Lassiter.
- g. It was also noted that Clear Lake is approximately 15 minutes away via a sand and mulch path, and attendees should travel with a buddy and use the designated spectator area to avoid anyone getting separated.
- h. Finally, Ranger Rick reminded all participants to wear lanyards at all times, also noting that the main gate closes nightly at 11pm (but should not be locked), and instructed that any incidents be reported to the campmaster, himself, and host lodge leadership. He also emphasized safe driving practices and that vehicles should not be driven around camp.

5. New Business

a. 2025 Section Leadership Summit Closeout Report (Echokotee Lodge)

- i. 2025 SLS Host Chair Kamm Eckels presented the closeout report for the 2025 Section Leadership Summit, which was hosted by Echokotee Lodge November 14-16, 2025 at Camp Shands. He thanked all attendees for their participation and highlighted record-breaking attendance, noting that the event more than doubled expected turnout with just over 300 attendees, setting a new record.
- ii. He reported that the event generated a surplus of \$1,045.17. Feedback from the event included suggestions to improve gear drop-off procedures and to implement a messaging system for improved communication with attendees during the event.
- iii. No questions were raised regarding the report, and no vote was required since this was just a report.

b. Section and National Program Updates

- i. This portion was adjusted to be done before the 2026 SLS Planbook Approval agenda item to allow Tipisa more time to process last minute budget changes to their planbook.
- ii. **Lodge Performance Measurement Program (PMP)**
 - 1. No changes were made to PMP, but forms were handed out to everyone.
- iii. **Section and National Events Calendar**
 - 1. **Operation Arrow at 2026 National Jamboree:** July 19th - August 1st, 2026 (Summit Bechtel Scout Reserve)
 - 2. **2026 Section Leadership Summit (SLS):** November 13th - 15th, 2026 (Camp La-No-Che)
 - 3. **2027 Section Conference:** April 9th - 11th, 2027 (Camp Shands)



- iv. **Future Section Events Rotation**
 - 1. **SLS**
 - a. **2026:** Tipisa
 - b. **2027:** Semialachee
 - c. **2028:** O-Shot-Caw
 - d. **2029:** Uh-To-Yeh-Hut-Tee
 - e. **2030:** Osceola
 - 2. **Section Conference**
 - a. **2026:** Aal-Pa-Tah
 - b. **2027:** Echockotee
 - c. **2028:** Tipisa
 - d. **2029:** Semialachee
 - e. **2030:** O-Shot-Caw
- v. **Section OAHA Scholarship**
 - 1. The Section E5 OAHA Scholarship closed on April 1st. Recipients will be notified directly, as well as their respective lodge adviser. Nick and Michael will be reviewing the applications tomorrow, with scholarship recipients scheduled to be announced on Sunday.
- c. **2026 Section Leadership Summit Planbook Approval (Tipisa Lodge)**
 - i. 2026 SLS Host Chair Alex Heppermann presented the 2026 Section Leadership Summit (SLS) planbook for review. He noted that the cover logo is currently a conceptual placeholder and will be replaced with a finalized non-AI version after feedback is gathered on the design direction.
 - ii. He shared that Tipisa Lodge will be attending the National Inductions Experience (NIE) at the end of April and will be leading the Section Inductions Experience (SIE) at SLS. He added that the schedule matrix is still evolving but will continue to include standard training offerings. He also emphasized a commitment to transparency, stating that all updated will be openly shared and presented at section meetings.
 - iii. He presented a proposed registration cost of \$73 per person for on-time registration, with a \$10 late fee increasing it to \$83 per person. Food costs were estimated at \$43 per participant due to the required use of a state-certified dining hall at La-No-Che and associated staff requirements (which comes with a non-compete agreement), which were described as non-negotiable. Additional fixed costs include a \$12.50 national event fee, \$3.50 section fee, and a \$12 camp usage fee per participant.
 - iv. He explained that overall pricing could decrease depending on meal selection and whether the patch is included in registration. Removing the patch requirement (in which it becomes an optional add-on) would lower the cost to approximately \$68 per participant, and applying the \$1,045 in surplus from the 2025 SLS could further reduce it to approximately \$61 per participant. For reference, the 2025 SLS had an on-time registration fee of \$50 per participant and a late registration fee of \$60 per participant.



- v. He noted that there is currently no price difference between full SLS registration and inductions-only participation, though that could change in the future. Registration will be handled through Central Florida Council's Black Pug system, with on-time registration opening as early as July (though targeted for September) and closing November 6th, followed by a brief late registration period ending the following Monday to meet food ordering deadlines (food orders for the La-No-Che dining hall need to be placed by 12pm on Tuesday).
- vi. All were given time to review the planbook, and additional discussion included clarification that La-No-Che costs approximately \$2,000 per day to operate with nobody on camp property, increasing with higher usage.
- vii. Alternative venue options were also discussed, including Uh-To-Yeh-Hut-Tee offering Flaming Arrow at a reduced food cost of approximately \$30 per person with no camp usage fee, and Echocotee offering Camp Shands under similar conditions pending approval from their staff adviser.
- viii. After further discussion, a motion was made by Andrew to table the planbook in its entirety, which was seconded by Ethan and unanimously approved.

6. A Look at the Past Year

- a. Nick reflected on the section officers' year, noting that the officers traveled extensively across the state and emphasized a continued focus on transparency and outreach at the section level.
- b. He highlighted that the section officer team aimed to be present and engaged throughout the year, whether through providing small moments of guidance at events or participating in ceremonies. He credited the growth and success of the section to its members and lodges, emphasizing that progress was a collective effort rather than the result of leadership alone.
- c. He expressed appreciation for the hospitality shown by lodges across the section and noted how meaningful it was to be welcomed into different camps throughout the year. He referenced a series of slideshow photos capturing key moments and events from the year, including the Section Officers Seminar (SOS), SLS, and NLS, which visually highlighted the section's experiences and activities. He concluded by looking ahead to upcoming events and the weekend at-hand, expressing optimism for a strong finish to the year.

7. Adviser's Minute - Michael Todd

- a. Michael's adviser's minute was given by Aal-Pa-Tah's Lodge Adviser Sharon Webb. She shared that she has sat in COC meetings for several years, and two of her sons were Lodge Chiefs in the past.
- b. She reflected on the past year, expressing appreciation for the unity and collaboration she has observed amongst the lodges. In particular, she highlighted the way lodges have come together to address challenges related to SLS and supporting one another, stating that she has not seen that level of cooperation in



years and commending it as a strong example of the Order of the Arrow in action. She concluded by encouraging everyone to continue the positive spirit and commitment that defines our section, emphasizing the importance of why they serve.

8. Staff Adviser's Minute - David Mott

- a. David reflected on historical changes within the section, sharing that while cleaning out the Central Florida Council office he found an old Section Conference budget showing a \$6 attendance cost, when lodges were responsible for preparing and providing their own meals in camp. He noted how significantly things have changed since then and acknowledged that continued change is inevitable and largely outside of individual control.
- b. He encouraged everyone to remain aware and respectful of the different circumstances others may be experiencing, and expressed appreciation for that mindset within the section. He concluded by thanking the section officers for their service, reflecting on the journey since the section leadership team's launch at Disney Springs, and offered his gratitude for their work over the past year.

Meeting ended at 11:49 PM ET