

Firm Bound In Brotherhood



The history of the Lowanne Nimat Lodge
Order of the Arrow

Serving Longhouse Council, Boy Scouts of America
Central & Northern New York



1943



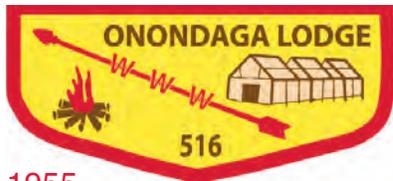
Lowanne Nimat Lodge Founded in 2010 • Longhouse Council, BSA



1949



1969



1955



1999



1947



1982



1951

For he who serves his fellows, is of all his fellows, greatest.

How Did We Get Here?

Lowanne Nimat Lodge was founded in 2010, the product over time of the mergers of eight Councils and legacy Lodges, but it has made a large impact on Scouting in its short tenure. In the Order's Centennial year Lowanne Nimat was the only Lodge in the nation to earn all three national awards. The Lodge recorded a staggering 10,204.5 service hours in 2015.

In the north, Adirondack Lodge 357 was chartered in 1947 to the Jefferson-Lewis Council in Watertown. Manatoanna Lodge 461 was chartered in 1951 serving St. Lawrence Council in Canton. These Lodges came together as Gosh Wha Gono Lodge 120 with the creation of Seaway Valley Council in 1982, headquartered in Canton, NY.

Aola Lodge 410 was chartered in 1949 serving Owego County Council. Onondaga Lodge 516 chartered in 1955 served Syracuse-based Onondaga Council. These Lodges formed Nischa Nitis Lodge 410 in 1969 with the creation of Hiawatha Council. Seaway Valley Council and Hiawatha Council merged in 1999 to form the Hiawatha Seaway Council and created Kayanernh-Kowa Lodge 219.

Lowanne Nimat Lodge was born of the merger between Hiawatha Seaway Council and Cayuga County Council in Auburn, home of Tahgajute Lodge 247, first chartered in 1943. The new Syracuse-based Council was renamed Longhouse Council, symbolic of the entire service area in the heart of the Iroquois Nation.

The Early Days of Our Order; Onondaga Lodge

The Order of the Arrow was first established in 1915 at the Treasure Island Scout Reservation on the Delaware River by E. Urner Goodman and Carroll A. Edson. The purpose of the OA was to recognize scouts who best lived up to the Scout Oath and Law. It was not until 1948 that the OA was fully integrated as an official part of the Scouting program. About two thirds of councils nationwide had OA chapters in 1948.

It was not until 1955 that an OA Lodge was first established in the Onondaga Council. The charter for Onondaga Lodge, Lodge No. 516, was approved by the National Council on July 11, 1955. At that time a Mr. E. Donald Standish of Clayton was the Area Leader and a Mr. Richard Curry, F. S. E. of Auburn was the Area Advisor.

The first order of business was to induct members into the newly formed lodge. The Adirondack Lodge from the Jefferson-Lewis Council gladly accepted a request to conduct an induction ceremony. The ceremony was held at Camp Woodland on September 17, 1955. The Lodge by-laws were adopted on September 18, 1955. The first Lodge Advisor was Leland F. Leinweber, 29 years old and Scoutmaster of Troop 21. The officers of the Lodge were: Chief, Robert Kelly; Vice Chief, Lee Borland; Secretary, Don Fritschel, Treasurer, Dave Duffy. There were 65 members of the charter class, which included 12 transfers from other Lodges.

Leland Leinweber served as Lodge Advisor through 1968. (Except for 1962 and 1963 when Robert Sehnert served as Lodge Advisor.) Membership grew at a steady pace. Active membership for 1956 was 118, 1957 - 118, 1958 - 182, 1959 - 218, 1960 - 296, 1961 - 419, 1962 - 422, 1963 - 430, 1964 - 466, 1965 - 472, 1966 - 600, 1967 - 490, 1968 - 591, 1969 - 985.

In December, 1957 the total number of active members in the Lodge, both adults and youth, were 137. There were 95 Ordeal members, 40 Brotherhood members and two vigil members (Leland F. Leinweber and J. Neal Phillips.) Membership by District was: Interlakes - 17, Limestone - 9, Kit Carson - 30, Buffalo Bill - 35, Daniel Boone - 13, Three Rivers - 32, 1 - no district listed.

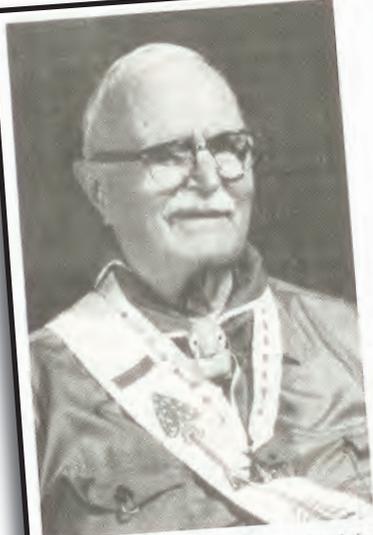
On September 5, 6 and 7, 1958, Onondaga Lodge hosted an area conclave for Area II-G at Camp Woodland. (Each year one of the Lodges in Area II-G would host a Conclave at their camp where all the lodges would come together and have an annual gathering for fellowship, training and competition. This tradition continues today.) Member Lodges invited were: #34 Gonlix Lodge from Madison County Council, Oneida; #294 Kamargo Lodge from General Herkimer Council, Herkimer; #357 Adirondack Lodge from Jefferson-Lewis Council, Watertown; #410 Aola Lodge from Oswego County Council, Oswego; #461 Manatoanna Lodge from St. Lawrence Council, Canton; #465 Yahnundasis Lodge from Upper Mohawk Council, Utica; #500 Ona Yote Kaonaga Lodge from Fort Stanwix Council, Rome. A total of 208 persons attended the conclave, 22 candidates and 186 members. Total income from the event was \$1608.72, expenses \$1028.98, leaving a balance of \$579.87.

Other tidbits of information: The 1959 Area II-G Fall Conclave was held on September 11, 12, 13 and hosted by #34 Gonlix Lodge from Madison County Council at a Madison County Council Camp. Fourteen persons from the Onondaga Lodge attended. The 1960 Fall Conclave was held on August 26, 27, 28 and hosted by #500 Ona Yote Kaonaga Lodge, Rome Council at Camp Kingsley. Fourteen persons became Brotherhood members in the Spring of 1959. The first three persons Vigil Honor members from Onondaga Lodge were: Robert Temple, LeLand F. Leinweber and Dr. Neil J. Phillips. In 1960 Ernest M. Blanchard, Onondaga Council Executive from 1942 to 1958, became a Vigil Honor member. He was 67 years old. His Vigil Honor name was KONWAHENDEKS - Leader.

Onondaga Lodge was known as "The People of the Longhouse," its totem being an Iroquois longhouse.

An OA national meeting was held in Bloomington, Indiana on August 27 through August 31, 1965. Onondaga Lodge sent three delegates, Tom Doran, John Mishko and Steve Verescak. The cost to attend was \$32.00 per delegate. Round trip transportation by Greyhound Bus was \$41.05. Round trip by Mohawk Airlines was \$100.00 first class, \$82.00 tourist. Transportation chosen is unknown. Eight delegates attended the National Conference In Lincoln, Nebraska in 1967.

The Onondaga Lodge operated from 1955 until 1968 when it merged with the Aola Lodge of Oswego County Council becoming Nischa Nitis Lodge.



**A FINAL SALUTE
TO THE CO-FOUNDER**

**COLONEL
CARROLL A. EDSON**

**DECEMBER 29, 1891 —
OCTOBER 25, 1986**

On October 25, 1986 the Order of the Arrow was saddened by the loss of its cofounder Col. Carroll A. Edson. During his long and faithful service, thousands of arrowmen's lives were influenced in a highly positive manner. We will always have a debt of gratitude for his vision, foresight, and role in the establishment of our Order.

It is only fitting that we should review some of the highlites of his life of service. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a B.S. degree from Dartmouth College in 1914 and an M.A. from Columbia University. He was a captain in the Army during World War I, and served in the reserves. Edson was a Boy Scout executive in Philadelphia, Pa. and Chicago, Ill., and in Jersey City, N.J., from 1915 to 1931. He continued his association and leadership through most of his life, serving on national scout committees, and as principal speaker at many Jamborees and Order of the Arrow national meetings.

From 1937 until his retirement in 1961, he was with the Social Security Administration as manager of the Syracuse, N.Y. office.

He was called back to active duty with the Army in 1940 and remained until 1946, serving as colonel, on the faculty of the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Col. Edson was active in many civic groups, holding office in most of them. He was an active member of the Kiwanis International, the Retired Officers' Association, AARP, National Association of Retired Civil Employees, and "Retreads" (men who served in both World War I and World War II). He also served as general chairman of the American Red Cross campaign in Onondaga County, N.Y.

He was also an active churchman, holding many offices at the local association and national levels of the Congregational Church. He was a delegate to the Second General Synod of the United Church of Christ.

Following his release from active duty in World War II, he wrote the Edson Family Genealogy, which is now in the large national genealogical libraries. He organized the Edson Family Association, wrote and edited a quarterly magazine and served as its president until 1974 and subsequently was elected president emeritus.

We stand in silent salute to Carroll A. Edson for a life of service to God and country through brotherhood and a cheerful spirit.

Article about Edson's death

From <http://history.aa-bsa.org/node/3399>

Did you know?

OA founder Carroll Edson became a member of Onondaga Lodge when he retired here. Current Vigil Honor member David Mele fondly recalls that Edson was his merit badge counselor when he was a youth, only to realize much later the true history of this great Scouter!

A Founder Is Called Home

Remarkably Order of the Arrow Co-Founder Carroll A. Edson settled in Syracuse after his retirement from the Boy Scouts of America. He managed the local Social Security office for nearly 25 years. He became a member of the Onondaga Lodge and a Scout volunteer. In 1940 he was just the second person ever awarded the Distinguished Service Award and is officially listed in national OA records as residing in Syracuse at the time of the award. Edson passed in 1986, the second iconic Scouter from the BSA's earliest days to spend his final years in the Syracuse area. William "Green Bar Bill" Hillcourt also resided in the Council service area for his final 20 years on earth. Hillcourt was a famous writer for Boy's Life magazine and wrote three editions of the official Boy Scout Handbook.

Adirondack 357 & Manatoanna 461 Lodges

Adirondack Lodge 357 was chartered in 1947 and served Scouting in the Jefferson-Lewis Council, headquartered in Watertown, New York. The Lodge totem was the Beaver and its name translated to "Barkeaters."

Adirondack Lodge made its home at Camp Portaferry for all inductions and ceremonies.

Manatoanna Lodge 461 was chartered in 1951 serving St. Lawrence Council in Canton, New York. Its home was Camp Vigor. Its totem was the wild grey goose and its name translates to "Garden of the Great Spirit."

Manatoanna Lodge merged with Adirondack Lodge to form Gosh-Wha-Gono Lodge in 1982. Manatoanna has the distinction of being the only legacy Lodge to win National OA awards. Manatoanna Lodge won the E. Urner Goodman National Camping Award in 1972 and 1976. Lowanne Nimat would capture this same award in 2015.

Aola 410 & Nischa Nitis 410 Lodges

Founded in 1949, Aola Lodge 410 served The Oswego County Council and made its home at Camp 12 Pines. The Aola Lodge totem was the White Egret.

In 1968 the Aola Lodge and Onondaga Lodge, two of the great original Lodges in Upstate New York, merged together to form Nischa Nitis Lodge 410 (mergers always taking the lower Lodge's number). The new home of the combined Lodges would be Camp Woodland in Constantia, New York, which remains the home of Lowanne Nimat Lodge to this day. The Lodge also served Sabattis Scout Reservation in the Adirondacks., owned by the then Hiawatha Council, BSA.

It was rumored that the Nischa Nitis flap patch contained more colors than any other Lodges' flap patch in the nation. Nischa Nitis translates to "Brotherhood of Two Native Americans" and the Lodge totem was the Peace Pipe. The Council headquarters was in Syracuse, New York.

Nischa Nitis would enjoy a relatively long run from 1968 to 1999 when yet another merger changed the course of history.



**Order of the Arrow,
Central New York,
1974 (left).**

**Vintage Order of
the Arrow Logo
(right).**

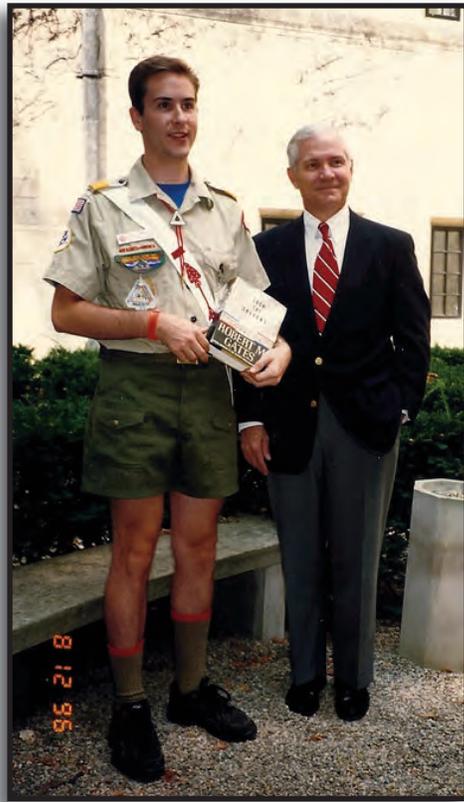


Gosh-Wha-Gono Lodge 120

Adirondack Lodge 357 was chartered in 1947 to the Jefferson-Lewis Council in Watertown. Manatoanna Lodge 461 was chartered in 1951 serving St. Lawrence Council in Canton. These Lodges came together as Gosh Wha Gono Lodge 120 with the creation of Seaway Valley Council in 1982, headquartered in Canton, NY. The Lodge was established on May 26, 1982 and its totem was the three teepees representing each of the counties that it served: Jefferson, St. Lawrence and Lewis Counties.

Gosh-Wha-Gono ("G" in Gosh is silent) translates to "People of the Big River" - a tribute to the St. Lawrence Seaway. The home of the Lodge was Camp Portaferry located on 435 acres in Harrisville, NY.

Lodge Chief Brian McGrath was elected in 1994 and served with distinction. He was said to be one of the most effective Chiefs in the Lodge history and was known for his ability to inspire, recruit talent and organize. In 1995 he was voted by his peers as "Most Outstanding Arrowman" at the Section NE-3B Conclave. He was elected Section Chief and served from 1995-1996.



In 1996 McGrath was tapped to serve as CVC of Publicity at NOAC and worked directly with former CIA Director and fellow Arrowman Robert Gates. Gates would become President of the Boy Scouts of America in 2015, the OA's Centennial year (picture, left).

McGrath served as a Conclave adviser to the Lodge in 1997 when the Lodge hosted the event at Camp Portaferry. McGrath is a 1998 recipient of the Distinguished Service Award and has been named a Lowanne Nimat Centurion.

Zach Shepard would also serve at the Section NE-3B level as the Secretary. Shepard was noted for his development of a Brotherhood Trail Guide that new Ordeal members would receive to start them on the path to Brotherhood. Shepard is a Founder's Award recipient.

Original Gosh-Wha-Gono Arrowmen McGrath, Shepard and Michael Hinman contributions to the Order would be recognized by Lowanne Nimat by being named OA Centurions in 2015.

(Above) Lodge Chief and 1996 NOAC CVC of Publicity Brian McGrath escorts CIA Director and future President of the Boy Scouts of America Dr. Robert Gates.

Gosh-Wha-Gono J2 213mm "Soar with the Spirit" patch, issued in 1987 (right).



Kayanernh-Kowa Lodge 219

Kayanernh-Kowa Lodge 219 was formed during the Spring Fellowship at Camp Portaferry in June of 1999, the result of the mergers of the Hiawatha and Seaway Valley Councils and their respective Nischa Nitis 410 and Gosh-Wa-Gono 120 Lodges. Kayanernh-Kowa translates to "The Great Binding Law of Peace" and the Lodge totem was the Wampum Belt of the Iroquois Nation.

Planning began in January of 1999 at a meeting at Camp Woodland. Those present included Cody Dolly, Aaron Percy, Joe Gianfagna, Brandon Devito, Justin Byington, Even Griffith, Jacob Brown, John Byrne, Jeff Anthony, Eric Holt, Michael Hinman (named a Centurion in 2015), Luke Bilow, Wayne Farnsworth (named a Centurion in 2015) and Brian Bay. Great care was made to please both parent Lodges.



Special Lodge Flap issue (left) to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Sabattis Scout Reservation, a true Adirondack wilderness camping and high adventure trek experience.

The merger weekend was held at Camp Portaferry on June 4th – 6th, 1999. There were over 200 Arrowmen from both lodges where in attendance at this, the first Kayanernh-Kowa event ever. On Saturday Nischa Nitis and Gosh Wha Gono held their final lodge meetings and prepared to officially merge.

During the first lodge meeting and hopefully the longest ever at 6 hours the first Kayanernh-Kowa lodge officers were elected the results were as follows: Lodge Chief – Joe Gianfagna, Vice Chief of Activities – Brandon DeVito, Vice Chief of Membership Affairs – Pat Martin, Vice Chief of Service – C.J. Spotswood, Secretary – Andy Gianfagna, Treasurer – Evan Griffith, Historian – John Byrne. The Lodge Adviser would be Wayne Farnsworth. Also Charter Member flaps were sold to those in attendance at the weekend for \$3. All Charter Member flaps were sold at Camp Portaferry that weekend.

In the summer of 1999, Kayanernh-Kowa sent 8 delegates to Fort Collins Colorado to attend the National Leadership Summit. Those delegates were: Pat Martin, John Goloski, Joe Gianfagna, Brandon DeVito, Dan Villa, Wayne Farnsworth, Phil Chatterton and Ed Coe.

The Summit was a learning experience that taught the delegates many leadership skills and techniques to use here in New York. Early lodge events of Kayanernh-Kowa were a chance for lodge members to develop brotherhoods and friendships that will last a lifetime. Many members of the newly formed lodge were chosen to serve on the Lodge Executive Committee.

In August of 1999 Kayanernh-Kowa sent 48 delegates to the NE-3B Conclave held at Camp Kingsley. Despite 219 only being 3 months old the lodge walked away with Most Outstanding Lodge as well as victories in various competitions. However on a down note Joe Gianfagna lost the annual Lodge Chief pie eating-contest. The 1999 Fall Fellowship at Camp Woodland drew only 65 members. This may seem to be a low attendance but those present had three times as much fun as usual to compensate.

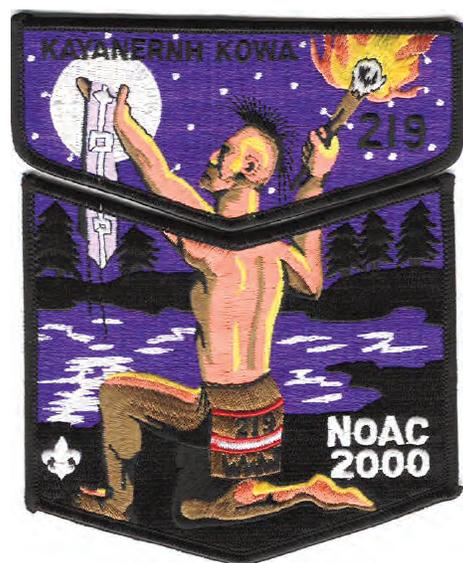
A new flap was issued this weekend; it was the first flap bearing the name Kayanernh-Kowa. At a price of \$3 per flap it is referred to as the S-2. Over 200 brothers attended the Fall Ordeal at Camp Portaferry. Kayanernh-Kowa added 89 new Ordeal members into the Order of the Arrow. As the lodges first Ordeal it was a huge success and is encouraging to the future of the lodge.

Joe Gianfagna and Brandon Devito presented training sessions at the council's annual Institutes of Scouting training seminar for scoutmasters. The lodge held a Lodge Leadership Development Course at Camp Woodland on November 12th – 14th, 1999. This weekend attracted approximately forty lodge leaders and advisers that par took in training and fellowship. The LEC planned the 2000-2001 calendar and created a budget. The event was enjoyed by all in attendance. On January 22nd, 2000, Kayanernh-Kowa hosted its first Winter Banquet at the North Side Improvement League in Watertown. Ted Swan planned an excellent dinner that drew 230 Arrowmen and guests. The guest speaker, Mike Whiting spoke about his experiences while climbing Mt. Denali. The lodge issued its first backpatch, designed by Ray Gould it is referred to as J-1.

On April 8th, 2000 the lodge held its first Trade-O-Ree at blessed Sacrament Church in Eastwood NY. Attended by traders from across the state it was a success. The lodge's Spring Fellowship was held at Camp Portaferry on May 5th-7th. This event included athletic competitions, a patch auction, NOAC promotion, fellowship and much merriment. Approximately 165 brothers attended this exciting event. On June 4th-6th, 2000 held its Spring Ordeal at Camp Woodland. Arrowmen at this event par took in games of volleyball, soccer, and OA Jeopardy as well as an ice cream social and patch auction. This event also marked 219's 1-year anniversary as a lodge.

On July 26th Kayanernh-Kowa sent a delegation of about 55 members off to the 2000 National Order of the Arrow Conference in Knoxville Tennessee. The excited bunch headed off to Knoxville by way of bus were they started off at a huge Trade-O-Ree were they discovered what REAL trading was like. Some members also took a side trip to Atlanta Georgia to watch a baseball game and tour the city. While at NOAC, Kayanernh-Kowa delegates attended training seminars to learn how to be lodge leaders, as well as other skills. Events such as meet the man, patch trading, shows, and other activities made NOAC 2000 an event to remember.

The 2000 NE-3B Conclave was held at camp Barton. Kayanernh-Kowa sent 48 delegates. Special guests for the weekend included 2000 National Chief, Carey Mignerey, 2000 National Vice-Chief, Jordan Hitchens, and 2000 Northeast Region Chief, Scott Schmidt. The Hawaiian theme and events like sports competitions and training sessions made for a festive weekend of inter-lodge fellowship. The Fall Ordeal at Camp Portaferry was the best Ordeal yet. Drawing more than 200 members and adding over 100 members to the Order it was a huge success. Many members crossed over to Brotherhood.



***Kayanernh-Kowa NOAC 2000
contingent patch/flap set (left).***

***Commemorative patch marking the life
of William "Green Bar Bill" Hillcourt.
Hillcourt was a founding father of
Scouting and writer for the BSA (right).***

***Hillcourt retired in the Longhouse
Council service area. The museum at
Camp Woodland, home of our Lodge, is
named after this prolific Scouter.***





**Final Vigil Honor Class of
Kayanernh-Kowa Lodge 219
2009 Winter Banquet**
(l-r) Dan O'Brien, Kevin Nelson, Alex Tyler,
Lodge Chief Sam Spalding, Lodge Adviser Ellen
Tyler, Nate Wadsworth.

**Sam Spalding would be the last Chief of
Kayanernh-Kowa and the first Chief of
Lowanne Nimat Lodge.**

Tahgajute Lodge 247

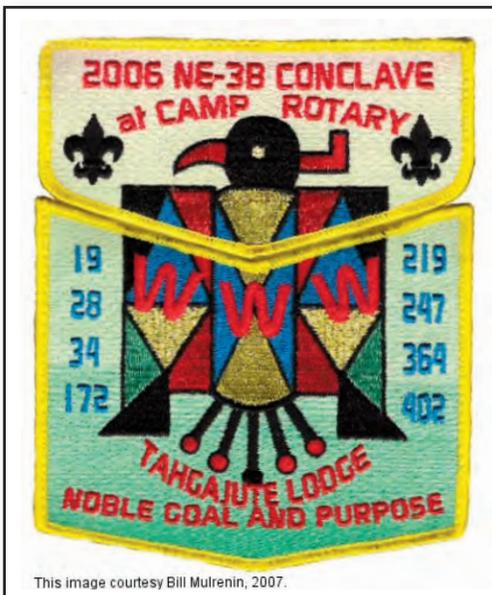
Tahgajute Lodge #247 was chartered in 1943 in the Cayuga County Council #366 headquartered in Auburn, NY. The Lodge totem was the Thunderbird.

It is the oldest and longest continually operating legacy lodge in the Lowanne Nimat pedigree. It's home was at Camp Rotary on the north shore of Cayuga Lake.

Interaction between Tahgajute Lodge and its neighbor Kayanernh-Kowa, was already a common occurrence. This included attendance at various NOAC events as a combined contingent. At the 2009 NOAC the brothers of Tahgajute learned they would be merging with Kayanernh-Kowa. A purposeful and successful effort was made to build bonds of friendship and brotherhood at NOAC that year to prepare for the impending merger.

Tahgajute won awards in its final year at the Section NE-3B Conclave in 2009.

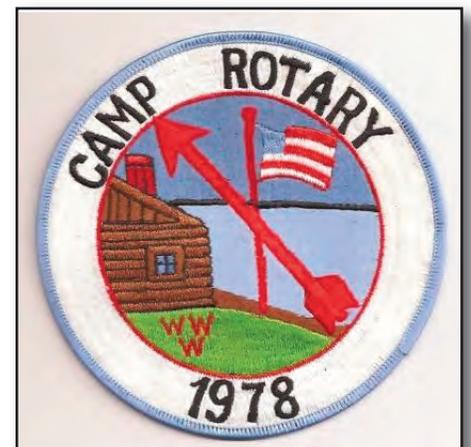
The 2009-2010 merger of the Cayuga County Council and the Hiawatha-Seaway Council was very difficult on a business level. The youth of the two Lodges led by example and merged fairly easily after two meetings at Camp Woodland to form what is now Lowanne Nimat Lodge - the "Brothers of the North" serving Longhouse Council. Ian Malloy would be the last Chief to serve Tahgajute Lodge before the merger.



This image courtesy Bill Mulrenin, 2007.

Tahgajute Lodge's famous Thunderbird Totem forms the basis of its 2006 NE-3B Conclave Patch (left).

A very rare Dance Team issue patch (right) from 1978 noting the home of Tahgajute Lodge, Camp Rotary on the shores of Cayuga Lake.



Lowanne Nimat Lodge #219

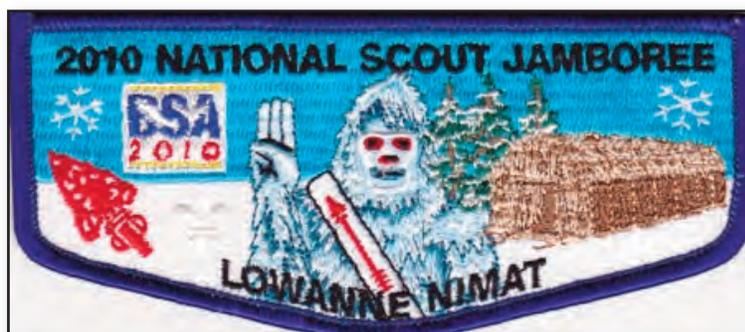
Kayanernh-Kowa Lodge 219 serving the Hiawatha - Seaway Council and Tahgajute Lodge #247 serving Cayuga County Council officially merged on January 1, 2010 after two successful meetings at Camp Woodland to decide the structure and Lodge positions. The delegations were led by Tahgajute Lodge Chief Ian Malloy and Kayanernh-Kowa Lodge Chief Sam Spalding. Both Lodges were 2009 Section Award winners and had participated in a combined 2009 NOAC contingent when they learned of the merger.

It would take some months before the Councils settled on a proposed name of Longhouse Council - the result of a contest and selection committee process that wanted to re-name the Council to be reflective of the entire service area. After completion of extensive cultural consultation with the Chiefs and Clan Mothers of the Onondaga Nation and business representatives of the Oneida Indian Nation, Longhouse Council was approved as the new Council Name.

Lowanne Nimat was to be the new unified name of the Order of the Arrow Lodge and was finalized before the new Council name was selected. The LEC had decided on the GouGou as the Lodge Totem. The GouGou was an giant evil beast in Iroquois culture, stealing people and objects and storing them in pockets until the GouGou was hungry and devoured them. While this myth would certainly be attractive to boys and young men, the Supreme Chief of the Fire rejected this totem.

The LEC came back with the Red Fox which was and remains the approved totem of the Lodge. The 2010 National Scout Jamboree Lodge Flap was issued with the GouGou image on it (resembling a yeti giving the Scout Sign) due to time constraints. It is a sought-after collectable due to the totem controversy.

Lowanne Nimat's controversial "first flap" was the 2010 National Jamboree Flap with the "GouGou" - a terrible beast in traditional Iroquois Indian mythology. Due to negative cultural connotations the totem was rejected but the Lodge Flap was issued due to time constraints.



The early days of Lowanne Nimat Lodge began in earnest. It was the 100th anniversary of Scouting in 2010 and much was expected of the brotherhood of honored campers. In January 2010 a Lodge Leadership Development and Annual Planning Conference was held to select and train the new Lodge Executive Committee. The officers elected were Chief Sam Spalding, Vice Chief/Communications Paul Harvey, Vice Chief/Finance Matt Lees, Vice Chief/Inductions Robbie Fanning, Vice Chief/Membership Alex Tyler and Vice Chief/Program CJ Rohr.

At the March 2010 Annual Banquet youth leaders Matt Lees, formerly of Tahgajute, and Alex Tyler, formerly of Kayanernh-Kowa, were recognized for their outstanding leadership during the merger of two prominent Lodges. Forty-one members would attend Conclave in August and won the first of many awards to come.

The Amangi Mawinsin (Re-Kindling The Fire) in May, Jesse Murray was elected Lowanne Nimat Lodge Chief. An amazing five Brotherhood Trails were held in February, April, May, August and October of 2010. Six members Held the Vigil becoming the first to do so as Lowanne Nimat members - Mike Skinner, Christian Rohr, Tim Morgan, Matt Spalding, Rick O'Brien and Nick Burdick. Lodge Adviser Ellen Tyler received the Founder's Award. The year concluded with two more LLD's in September and November and the Bonihen Tindey (The Great Gathering) in October.

2011 continued to build on the success of the Lodge merger year and the BSA's centennial celebration. The spring was filled by the Annual Banquet in March at which Kayla Coe and Jesse Murray received the Founder's Award; a Brotherhood Trail in April, May, July and October; and an Amangi Mawinsin at which Stephen Gasparini was elected Lodge Chief.

The summer was very busy with a contingent going to Summit Corps in July, a contingent to Indian Summer in August and 20 Conclave attendees also in August. Vigil Honor was bestowed upon five brothers - Paul Thompson, Mike Cruz, Jesse Murray, Nelson Burdick and Jamie St. Onge. Brotherhood Trails were held in April, May and July. The year concluded with a successful LLD in November.

2012 started with a very large Vigil call-out at the Annual Banquet - Patrick Burke, John Steinbach, Gary Moshier, Stephen Gasparini, Robbie Fanning, Brandon Rexford, Jon Pinckney, Joe Andrus, Leo Brizzi, Tim Herne, Phillip Tyler and Richard Fields were all selected to Hold the Vigil. In addition Patrick Burke and Stephen Gasparini were given the Founder's Award.

At the 2012 Amangi Mawinsin Sam Fey was elected Lodge Chief. There were 31 Conclave attendees in June and a contingent attended NOAC that summer. Sam improved Lodge elections with the first ever video promotion effort.

2012 also saw the significant transitioning-out of the "old guard" that had fostered the successful 2010 merger. These young men were off to college or had begun to age-out of this youth led program.

The 2013 Vigil Class was comprised of John Harrington, Karen Heiss, Tim Jordan, Patrick Lacombe and Todd Lowe.

In May 2013 Chris Finn was elected Lodge Chief at the Amangi Mawinsin. The Chief was concerned that the Lodge was losing direction and purpose with the generational changes that were naturally occurring. Many of its newer members had never met each other. The new Chief's first order of business was to have all Arrowmen attending the Council Spring Camporee to wear their sash for the afternoon and evening program. All the buzz was about the Scouts with the sashes! What was this "Order of the Arrow?" The interest had been sparked.

At the National Annual Meeting were Supreme Chief of the Fire Rich Avery and Council Vice President Scott Armstrong. They met mutual friend Mark Chilutti who was serving at the time as the Northeast Region Chairman for Order of the Arrow. A quick greeting among friends turned into a two-hour detailed discussion on the status of Lowanne Nimat Lodge.

The three Arrowmen devised a plan to present to Chief Finn. Providing scheduling could be worked out, Mark Chilutti was going to hand-pick four of his best trainers from the Northeast Region to come to Syracuse for a two-day LLD taught at a regional level, just for Lowanne Nimat. Avery and Armstrong eagerly returned to Longhouse Council and delivered the news of the opportunity to Chief Finn. He readily agreed. With schedules finally nailed-down in August, Lowanne Nimat Lodge scheduled it's first Region level training.



**2010 Lodge Chief
Jesse Murray**



**2011 Lodge Chief
Stephen Gasparini**



**2012 Lodge Chief
Sam Fey**



**2013 Lodge Chief
Chris Finn**



September 2013 Lodge Leadership Development - Lowanne Nimat Lodge

An LLD To Remember: Re-Birth of the Lodge

With just four weeks to plan, the LLD was scheduled for September just after the return of students to school. The Skydeck at Destiny USA was secured which gave the Lodge access to an easy access central location, state-of-the-art conference space and technology, break-out rooms, catering and fellowship activities.

Organizers included Council Vice President Scott Armstrong, former Lodge Adviser Ellen Tyler, Supreme Chief of the Fire Rich Avery, Lodge Adviser John Finn and Lodge Chief Chris Finn. 40 youth and 15 adults were selected by the organizers based on their perceived potential for leadership and were invited to participate in what would hopefully be the start of a re-energized Lodge.

24 youth and 11 adults were able to attend for a Friday night/Saturday all-day LLD at which Mark Chilutti brought his best instructors: Section NE-3A Chief Kyle Piper, Section NE-2A Chief Mitchell Heisler, Section NE-3B Vice Chief Kevin Montano and Section NE-4B Chief Braden Stewart.

The immediate goals of the LLD were:

- Identify and train our likely next two to three cycles of youth leaders;
- Secure a brand identity for the Lowanne Nimat Lodge designed around the Lodge's totem of a Fox;
- Expose our Arrowmen to opportunities, events and Order of the Arrow leadership beyond the borders of our Council;
- Give them a training experience that would inspire them to do great things on behalf of the OA;
- Build Lodge friendships and have fun with a unique fellowship event for our youth;
- Leave with a plan of action.

Greeting each LLD participant was a welcome & orientation packet, a brand-new Lowanne Nimat branded lodge cap, Chief Finn, the Region Training Team and a spread of catered food. It was evident quite quickly that this was not an average LLD and that the Arrowmen were in for an amazing weekend of training and fellowship.



Lowanne Nimat brand identity was a top goal.



A great event at a great conference facility.



Interactive instruction was a key to success.



Fellowship at the Canyon Climb was a hit!

The LEC was very careful to make sure that all attendees were introduced to their brothers and that all were included in conversations and ice breakers activities. Northeast Region Director Mark Chilutti started the program with a discussion of "Our Path: Where We've Come From" to give those in attendance an appreciation for the history and role the OA has had in Scouting. Mark was followed by Section NE-4A Chief Braden Stewart who discussed "Building Our Team" on how to recruit, train and inspire the right youth leaders for Lodge success. The LLD adjourned late Friday night with those living more than an hour away bunking at the houses of local Arrowmen.

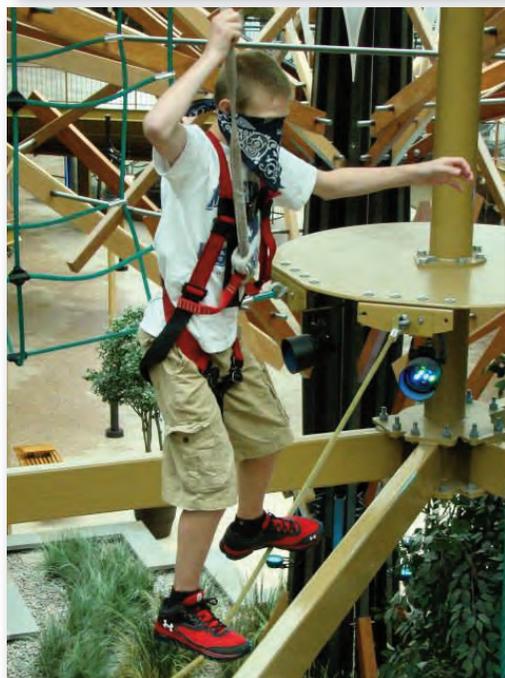
Saturday morning came early with two outstanding blocks of instruction - "Lodge Management" by Section NE-3B Vice Chief Kevin Montano and "Lodge Program" by our own Section NE-3A Chief Kyle Piper. Kyle had discovered a strangely catchy song released earlier in the week "What Does The Fox Say?" by the then unknown European comedy group Ylvis. Part of his program presentation was to design program around our identity. With the Red Fox as our totem the coincidence of this song being released was too convenient not to use. Chief Piper had the group, a little reluctant at first, up to dance and sing to what would become over the following weeks a YouTube and global pop-culture smash hit. At the time the video had less than 3 million hits. Today it has over 631 million!

At that point the youth attendees went to the WonderWorks Canyon Climb confidence course for 90 minutes of activity and fellowship and a fun time was had by all. In true OA fashion the Arrowmen took it up a notch with blindfolding some participants while others used their communications and leadership skills to guide them through obstacles 70 feet above the shopping floor. While the youth were having their well-earned fun Region Director Mark Chilutti met with the eleven adults attendees to discuss the role of OA Adviser, the importance of a youth led program and the challenges Lowanne Nimat faced as a Lodge.



After a hearty lunch the LLD was back to business with one of the most dynamic speakers of the weekend, NE-2A Chief Mitchell Heisler. Mitchell led a very interactive discussion about "Setting Goals and Putting Them In Action."

Now armed with a sense of purpose and the tools for planning the LLD was broken into small groups and issued the "Chief's Challenge." Chief Finn challenged every attendee, youth and adult, to meet with their groups, discuss what had been covered and come up with a personal goal and a Lodge goal that they would pledge themselves to completion. After the breakout sessions were complete the LLD gathered as a whole and each Arrowman publically stated his or her personal and Lodge goals to the group.



After each member had shared their goals a confident Chief Finn led the discussion on the Lodge's future plans and how to make them happen. The LLD was a huge success a marked a turning point in the Lodge's activity and commitment to its purpose. Lowanne Nimat Lodge is forever grateful to their guest instructors and to those who made this unique event possible.





**2013-14 Lodge Adviser
John Finn. (above)**

2013 Ordeal Induction Ceremonies Team at Camp Woodland. (Top right)

A very snowy Camp Woodland Brotherhood ceremony in December 2013 positioned Lowanne Nimat to be rated "Gold" on JTE for the first time. (Above left)

Our March 2014 NLS and NLATS Graduates. (Below)



2013 saw the first attempt at a WEBELOS-Ree, an OA designed and run event in the Fall that would give WEBELOS a Boy Scout level camping and activity experience. Vigil Honor Member Cathie Cullen became the adviser for this inaugural event that would hold a very important place in our future.

As a most memorable year was reaching conclusion a renewed emphasis on tracking progress and setting and reaching goals successfully was embraced. Part of the effort was a rare December Brotherhood Trail to meet the required conversion rate of our Arrowmen for a "Gold Rating" on Journey to Excellence. The ceremonies team completed the ceremony in full regalia during a very cold, snowy and memorable ceremony at the Council Fire at Camp Woodland.

The Lodge unveiled it's new "Leaping Fox" logo and trading post sales of hats, hoodies, stickers and shirts were brisk. Lowanne Nimat finally had a branded identity of its own.

2014 saw the Lodge focus on three priorities: Training, service and preparation for the OA Centennial in 2015. With Chief Chris Finn heading off to college and military service the generational transition was complete. Jake Waddington became Lodge Chief and filled many of the LEC vacancies by appointment as the Lodge attempted a re-start, capitalizing on the September 2013 LLD.

In March of 2014 Zach Hill completed the National Leadership Seminar (NLS) and professional Scouter Tim Herne and Lodge Associate Adviser Scott Armstrong completed the National Lodge Adviser's Training Seminar at Camp Alpine.

The 2014 Vigil Honor class was comprised of Tim LaChance, Ian Sherlock, Lance Stetson, Jacob Newhart, Jake Waddington, Willis Farnsworth and incoming Council President Scott Armstrong. In Armstrong the Lodge had an active adult member and ally assume the top volunteer position within the Council for the next two years, an arrangement that would push the Lodge to the front of many Council projects.

At the request of the new president Ron Hill was appointed the Lodge Adviser by the Supreme Chief of the Fire, a decision that Armstrong publically recognized as the "...best decision of my tenure." The Lodge took the lead in administering and collecting a participant survey at Sabattis Scout Reservation that summer that would provide the baseline for a new and innovative bottom-up customer oriented strategic planning process.



Our own branding at last! The "Leaping Fox" (above) logo would come to identify Lowanne Nimat Lodge starting in 2014. Design by Zach Hill.

Lodge Executive Committee, Oct. 2014 (l-r):
 Vice Chief/Ceremonies Matt Pedrosa
 Vice Chief/Finance Shawn Traynor
 Vice Chief/Membership Jonah Stacy
 Vice Chief/Communications Tom Hall
 Vice Chief/Program Stephen Wong,
 Vice Chief/Conclave Zach Hill
 Vice Chief/Camping Caleb Gretsky
 Lodge Chief Jake Waddington.
 (Below)

(Bottom) In Nashville, TN, May 2015 at the BSA National Annual Meeting to collect Lowanne Nimat's first national award - The 2014 Order of the Arrow National Service Award.
 (l-r) Lodge Adviser Ron Hill, Jr.; Conclave Vice Chief Zach Hill; Lodge Chief Jake Waddington.



By the Fall Bonihen Tindey the LEC was complete and service in preparation for the multiple celebrations at Camp Woodland in 2015 were well underway. Chief Jake had a firm control on the Lodge's objectives and Ron Hill proved himself to be an outstanding mentor and practitioner of youth-led activity.

The 2014 WEBELOS-Ree was hosted at Fort Ontario which turned-out to be an excellent and interesting venue...except for the gale force wind and rain storm coming off of Lake Ontario at the end of the activity day. With the program already complete the Saturday overnight was cancelled as sustained 40mph winds made the situation dangerous. A total of 10 tents were damaged and four pop-up flys were destroyed.

Service hours came in at an amazing 5,500 hours for the year and were enough to win the first ever National Service Award for Lowanne Nimat Lodge. A delegation was sent to the BSA's National Annual Meeting in Nashville the following May to collect this most impressive recognition at the Northeast Region Luncheon.

The service efforts would pay dividends as Camp Woodland was to be host to the 2015 Zombie Apocalypse Venturing eVent, the 2015 Section NE-3A Centennial Conclave and a major stop on the Centennial ArrowTour. Three major functions plus a regular activity, training and camping schedule would test the Lodge's ability to perform.

With a particularly harsh winter the Lodge service started with routinely removing snow from camp facilities and stocking the cabins with ample firewood. The first Centennial Brotherhood Trail was held with over four feet of snow on the ground where the Ceremonies Team and candidates truly earned the moniker of "Brothers of the North."

What followed was a year worthy of a Centennial celebration.



First Centennial Brotherhood Trail - March 2015



**Centennial Spring Ordeal Induction
89 New Arrowmen of Lowanne Nimat Lodge**

2015. The Centennial of our Order. A Year for the History Books.

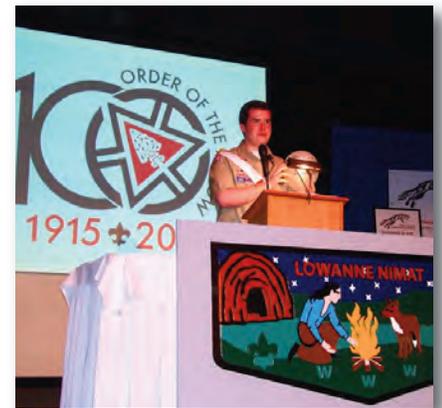
Lowanne Nimat Lodge poured its heart and soul into the Order of the Arrow's Centennial celebration. The Centennial Bash was a record-setting gala and featured National Vice Chief Donnie Stephens. The Spring Ordeal Induction produced the largest Ordeal class in at least fifteen years. Lowanne Nimat was honored to host the Section NE-3A Conclave, sending 196 of its own to Camp Woodland and contributing to a record attendance of nearly 500 including special guest National Chief Alex Call. CVC Zach Hill and his staff did an outstanding job. Zach would be elected Chief in the Fall.

Lowanne Nimat set the standard for ArrowTour, a national traveling celebration of the OA Centennial open to all Scouts and the public. Lowanne Nimat featured a "Remember The Boys In Blue" activity center for Cub Scouts, a USMC Fitness Course and the only display by a BSA Sikh Troop for all of ArrowTour. Lowanne Nimat then sent a large contingent to the sold-out Centennial NOAC at the University of Michigan where the prized token for attendance was the Centennial Red Sash with the White Arrow.

The Fall kicked-off with our third-annual WEBELOS-Ree, an Arrowmen designed and run patrol-based method experience for our older Cub Scouts at Camp Woodland. This gave the WEBELOS and Arrow of Light Scouts a Boy Scout level camping experience and allows them to earn adventures from the newly updated program. For this outstanding event Lowanne Nimat was nationally recognized with the OA National Innovation Award.

The Centennial was concluded at the BSA's 2016 National Annual Meeting in San Diego, California, with the presentation to Lowanne Nimat of all three national awards - The National Service Award, The National Innovation Award and the E. Urner Goodman National Camping Award. Lowanne Nimat Lodge was the only Lodge in the Northeast Region and one of just four Lodges in the nation with such a distinction in our Order's Centennial year.

In the end Lowanne Nimat Lodge booked an astounding 10,204.5 hours of cheerful service in 2015, our Centennial Year. It was a year to remember.



10,204.5
Service Hours in 2015
Lowanne Nimat Lodge

Congratulations, Brothers.
You did it!

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
ORDER OF THE ARROW



2015 Vigil Honor

Brian Winoski, Sean Winoski, Peter Demlein, Zach Hill, Stephen Wong, Steven McHarg and Steve Fanning.

2015 NOAC
Contingent from
Lowanne Nimat Lodge
with Red Centennial Sashes
University of Michigan



Lowanne Nimat Lodge: 2015 National Service Award; 2015 National Innovation Award; 2015 E. Ulmer Goodman National Camping Award.

2016 BSA National Annual Meeting

Collecting all three national OA Awards are Assoc. Adviser Tim LaChance, Vice Chief Jake Waddington, Lodge Adviser Ron Hill, Area 3 President Orrin "Mac" MacMurray, Chief Zach Hill, NER OA Chairman Bob Black and Past Section NE-3A Adviser Wayne Farnsworth.



Lowanne Nimat Centurions

This award is a one-time recognition associated with the centennial anniversary of the OA that is bestowed by the national Order of the Arrow committee. Youth and adult candidates had to be nominated and meet a number of rigorous requirements to be considered.

Recipients received a certificate, a Centurion Medal and recognition at ArrowTour and NOAC.

The Centurion Award is modeled after a similar program in the BSA's 100th anniversary celebration, the 2010 National Hall of Leadership. Lowanne Nimat was honored to nominate the following eight outstanding Arrowmen whom shall always be remembered as among our, and the Order's, very best.



CENTURIONS OF SERVICE™



CENTURION
Lowanne Nimat Lodge
Order of the Arrow
1915 - 2015



Zachary Shepard



CENTURION
Lowanne Nimat Lodge
Order of the Arrow
1915 - 2015



Brian McGrath



CENTURION
Lowanne Nimat Lodge
Order of the Arrow
1915 - 2015



Alex Tyler



CENTURION
Lowanne Nimat Lodge
Order of the Arrow
1915 - 2015



Ellen Tyler




CENTURION
Lowanne Nimat Lodge
Order of the Arrow
1915 - 2015



Tyson Ford



CENTURION
Lowanne Nimat Lodge
Order of the Arrow
1915 - 2015



Michael Hinman



CENTURION
Lowanne Nimat Lodge
Order of the Arrow
1915 - 2015



David Mele



CENTURION
Lowanne Nimat Lodge
Order of the Arrow
1915 - 2015



Wayne Farnsworth

Lowanne Nimat "Brothers of the North" Lodge Chiefs

Distinguished Service Award

2010	Sam Spalding		
2010-2011	Jesse Murray	Carroll A. Edson	1940
2011-2012	Stephen Gasparini	Syracuse, NY	
2012-2013	Sam Fey	(Co-founder of the Order)	
2013-2014	Chris Finn		
2014-2015	Jake Waddington	Marcell Cinquina	1969
2015-2016	Zach Hill	Massena, NY	

Totem: Red Fox

Thomas J. Doran
Syracuse, NY 1971

National Awards:

		Charles S. Gibbs	1973
		North Syracuse, NY	
1972	E. Urner Goodman Camping Award (Manatoanna Lodge)	John McLaughlin	1973
		Watertown, NY	
1976	E. Urner Goodman Camping Award (Manatoanna Lodge)	Brian Scott McGrath	1998
		Lowville, NY	
2014	National Service Award		
2015	National Service Award		
2015	National Innovation Award	Tyson Eliot Ford	2006
2015	E. Urner Goodman Camping Award	Watertown, NY	

Stay Connected!

The home of Lowanne Nimat Lodge is Camp Woodland, located on Kibbe Lake Road in Constantia, NY. We serve Scouting in the Longhouse Council, BSA, headquartered at: 2303 Brewerton Road, Syracuse, NY 13211
(315) 463-0201 • www.CNYScouts.org

Lodge Website: www.CNYScouts.org/oa/

Twitter: @Lowanne_Nimat

Facebook: <http://on.fb.me/21fOCg5>



© 2016 Lowanne Nimat Lodge, Longhouse Council, Boy Scouts of America.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Scott Armstrong, Longhouse Council President 2014-2016

Photo Credits: Denise Ippolito, Scott Armstrong, Thomas Hall, Bob Black, David Mele

Research: David Mele, Ron Hill, Jr., Scott Armstrong, Scott Hinman, Tom Doran, Noel Brown, Ellen Tyler, Alex Tyler, John Binkowski, Curt Carpenter and the William Hillcourt Museum Staff

Research Sources: Boy Scouts of America - Hiawatha Council, 1913-1980 History; Longhouse Council History 1980-2010 Celebrating 100 Years of Scouting; A Moment In Local Scouting History: The Establishment of the Order of the Arrow; www.history.OA-BSA.org; archives of the William Hillcourt Scout Museum at Camp Woodland