



The Deerpath



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AUGUST 2013

ECHECONNEE LODGE

CENTRAL GEORGIA COUNCIL, BSA MACON, GEORGIA

THE CHIEF'S SUMMER

Let Me Tell You About My Summer...

We've all heard the stories. People tell us about how great it is being able to backpack in the backcountry of Philmont. The tall tales of bear encounters. What trail food not to get, and how much you stink after not taking a shower for two weeks. I heard the stories too. And, just like everyone else, I smiled and nodded, not fully comprehending how carrying around a 40 pound backpack could be that much fun. But I'm here to tell you...IT IS!

It was the beginning of June. While all my friends were heading for the beaches, getting their tans and playing in the waves, I was boarding a plane headed for a yet to be discovered adventure. I'd be spending my summer with the OA Trail Crew (OATC) at Philmont. Along with 22 other arrowmen, I'd be not only hiking trail, but building it also.

I arrived at Philmont on June 8th, met the rest of my crew, got gear and food, and headed for the backcountry that evening. The next morning, we started out with picks, hazel hoes, and spoons (shovels). Two rock walls and several hundred shovels of dirt later, we had ourselves 700 feet of new trail! It felt great to be able to build that much trail in only a week. But the fun had only just begun.

After packing up base camp, we hit the trail. Over the course of a week we summited Baldy, Mt. Phillips, and the Tooth of Time. We visited staff camps, met tons of people, sang songs, and had a blast! We hiked close to 70 miles and had fun every step of the way.

On our hike across the beautiful landscape of Philmont, we met a group of scouts going in the

opposite direction. They were excited to see a crew of OA arrowmen, so we got to talking about the OA. They mentioned they were inactive OA members, and they expressed their desire to get more involved with their lodge back home. Upon asking which lodge they were from, they told us they were from Echeconnee! Little did they know that they were talking to their Lodge Chief! Funny how you have to go all the way to the New Mexico to see people from your own Lodge.

OATC really is the best way to experience Philmont. Not only does it cost less, but you get to spend an additional four days in the backcountry. You make friendships that will last a lifetime. And the staff treats you like family. Through the program, I also gained a deeper understanding of what brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service mean and how to apply them to everyday life. What I learned and experienced at Philmont through the OA will stay with me for a lifetime!

So the next time you're thinking about going to a High Adventure Base consider what the OA has to offer! You'll be glad you did. As for me... I'm going to continue experiencing High Adventure with the OA. Next stop – Northern Tier and the OA Wilderness Voyage!

Kenny Higginbotham
Lodge Chief

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FAQ-1: How Can I get Involved?

Answer: Besides the regular LEC positions, there are many opportunities to get involved in comities, Elangomats, and ceremonies. If you are interested, here is who you need to contact and how:

Committees: Contact the Lodge Chief at lodgechief@echeconnee.com

Elangomats: Contact the Vice Chief of Membership at 3rdvicechief@echeconnee.com

Ceremonies: Contact the Vice Chief of Indian Affairs at 2ndvicechief@echeconnee.com

FAQ-2: Does the Lodge have a scholarship for OA High Adventure?

Answer: Yes! The Lodge sets aside money in order to help arrowmen pay for the cost of OA High Adventure. It covers the \$250 in order to participate in the program at whichever base you choose. There will be forms available at the September Induction and Fall Fellowship. Just fill out the form and return it to the LEC, who will decide who gets the scholarship. Scholarships are awarded at the Annual Banquet in January.

September Induction

We hope everyone had a great summer but our next big event is coming up very soon! September Induction is right around the corner and we hope all members will attend and help us out this year. Its the final time this summer for elected scouts to participate in their Ordeal. We would love for those who are interested to come and help as elangomats or even the ceremonies team. For those who are eligible for brotherhood don't forget to show up with the form and your Handbook ready and we hope to see you there. don't forget to mark your calendars because it'll be here faster than you think! Registration form on page 4.

This Summer...

LEC members Robert and Kevin Sweat, as well as former LEC member Nathan van Loenen worked at boy scout summer Camp Rainey Mountain. They spent two months as counselors at this camp. While Nathan and Kevin spent there time teaching Cultural and Technology merit badges., Robert spent his time teaching scouts about the pioneering and survival aspects of the 1830s in the Gold Rush program.

SEPTEMBER INDUCTION WEEKEND REGISTRATION



Echeconnee Lodge...It's time for another weekend full of food, fun, and fellowship.

Brotherhood will be available for any Ordeal member that has been in the OA for ten months. There will be a Brotherhood ceremony Saturday night prior to the Ordeal Ceremony. **The cost for Brotherhood is only \$17.**

Convenient online registration: <http://2013septemberinduction.eventbrite.com/>

Or, download the application online at www.Echeconnee.com and mail it in or turn it in at check-in if turned in after Aug 31st.

Echeconnee Lodge Spring Induction Weekend, Sep 7 –Sep 9 2013 at Camp Ben Hawkins

Registration must be received by Friday, Aug 31st

In order to attend, your dues must be current for 2013. Dues can be paid at the event.

Name	Dates of your Ordeal/ Brotherhood/Vigil	Male/ Female	Youth/Adult
	/ /		
	/ /		
	/ /		
	/ /		

<p>IF REGISTERING BY MAIL: Mail this registration form, and payment to: Central Georgia Council, BSA 4335 Confederate Way Macon, GA 31217</p> <p>NOTE: If you purchased a 2013 EVENT PASS, you have already paid the weekend fee. Please annotate with "Event Pass" and it will be confirmed when checking in.</p>	<p>Brotherhood Only Fee : \$17.00 x (number of registrants) = \$ _____</p> <p>Brotherhood w/ Full Weekend: \$32.00 x (# of registrants) = \$ _____</p> <p>WEEKEND FEE: \$15.00 x (number of registrants) = \$ _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">If you have a 2013 Event Pass, please indicate so on the form.</p> <p>TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED = \$ _____</p>
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Make checks payable to: Central Georgia Council, Boy Scouts of America

Cash or check (circle one)	Check #	Amount \$
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If you have any comments, please
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WE ARE ON THE WEB
WWW.ECHECONNIE.COM



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