

The Talking Leaf



Newsletter of Timmeu Lodge #74

Nov 2025

The Chief's Minute

Austin Hammel | Lodge Chief

At some point in everyone's life, we come to a moment where we have to decide who we want to be and what we want to do with our lives. Some have this moment multiple times, some only have it once, but it is always a hard decision that has a monumental impact on everyone around us. These crossroads in life define us, not because of the decision itself, but because of the courage it takes to make that decision. We may make the wrong decision and stumble because of it but stumbling and sometimes just out right failing is what truly teaches us how we are on the inside.

Growth doesn't come from staying in your comfort zone, letting others decide for you. In those times that we stumble, most often we fall into a new path that we didn't plan for ourselves but is, in the end, better than we could ever hope for. So let yourself stumble on your path through life because not only will you learn more about yourself than you realize, it will also show you some of the best adventures.

WWW,
Austin Hammel
Lodge Chief
Timmeu Lodge 74

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Gratitude: Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast

Jacob Blanchard | 2024-25 MDPB Chair

Happy fall, everyone!

It has been an honor and a pleasure serving as the Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast chairman for the last four breakfasts! I turned 21 back in September, so therefore, 2025's breakfast was my last as chairman. This year's Mother's Day Breakfast was a success, as usual. We had beautiful weather and a great turnout! We could not have done it without the hard work and dedication of my committee. My committee consisted of four youth, including myself, and four adult advisors. Zach Wlochall was my logistics chair and Mike Henry was the logistics advisor. Kenzie Kieffer was my PR chair and Melissa Neuhaus was the PR advisor. Emma Kearney was my labor chair and Dan Hammel was the labor advisor. Curtis DeWulf was the committee advisor. Emma Kearney has agreed to take my place as Mother's Day Breakfast chairman for next year's breakfast. Thank you to my committee, the lodge chief and advisor, and everyone who volunteered or donated to the breakfast! We truly couldn't have done it without the hard work and dedication of everyone involved!

WWW,

Jacob Blanchard

Recap 2025:

Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast and Stick Pickup

This past May 11, 2025 Timmeu Lodge hosted its annual Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast at Eagle Point Park in Dubuque, Iowa. The event which dates to 1958 provides funds for our Lodge's activities, promotes fellowship, service to the community, and develops brotherhood among our membership. This event is our time in the public eye, our time to shine and show the community what we are about.

Members of the 2025 Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast Committee; Breakfast Chair Jacob Blanchard, Emma Kearney, Dan Hammel, Zach Wlochall, Mike Henry, Kenzie Kieffer, Vice Chief Mike Wlochall, Lodge Chief Austin Hammel, Lodge Advisor Dave Scofield. Additional advisors were Curtis DeWulf, Ryan Graney, Luke Hartman, and Steve Sheston. Help from the Scout Office included Melissa Neuhaus, Michaela Freiburger, Pam Klein, and Council Executive Carl Bobis. Several businesses in the Council area also provide services to help this event.

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Some numbers from the breakfast; we plan for 1400-1500 people and with good weather we usually get 1200-1300 but the weather in 2025 was the best since 2016 and we feel we served close to 1550 people at the breakfast and made a profit of over \$5,000.

We will keep some things the same, like Mickey Mouse Pancakes, table center pieces, and the bright faces of the Arrowmen and Arrow women serving the community and moms. We introduced some new things; chafers for holding the hot eggs, cheese sauce and salsa on the serving line, replaced the handwashing sink, supplying our own garbage cans, separating out food waste, looking for recycled items to be used and recycling items we use at events. We will investigate doing more at the next breakfast.

In 2025 we did not have the annual stick pick up due to the park being used for a frisbee tournament, at the request of the Parks Department.

We look forward to the 2026 breakfast which will be chaired by Emma Kearney. If you or someone you know would be interested or like to volunteer, please contact Emma, Michaela, or Curtis.

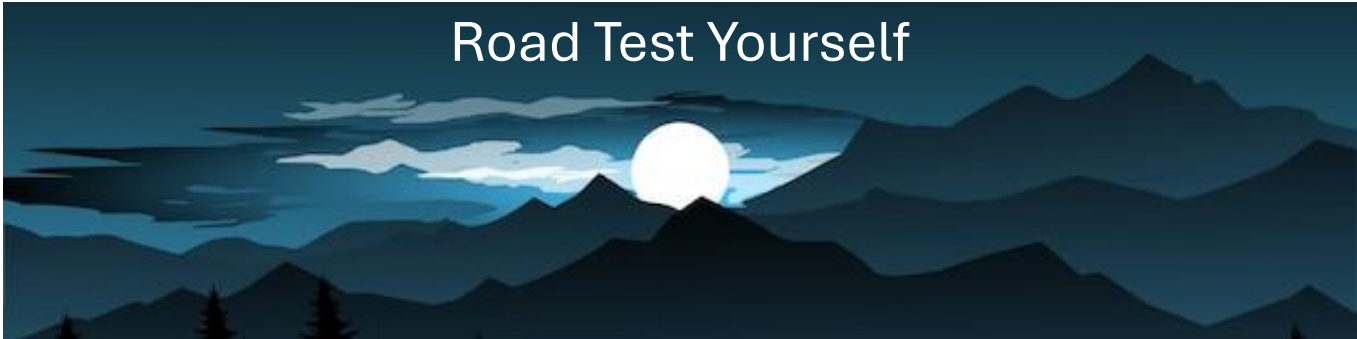




Lodge Advisor Minute

Dave Scofield | Timmeu Lodge Advisor

Road Test Yourself



Did you know that car manufacturers try out their new models on some of the worst roads in the world? They can't find any ordinary roads that are bad enough for the purpose, so they build special tracks with ruts, bumps, and potholes that are incredibly bad. Now why do they do that, do you suppose? They want to give their cars the toughest possible test so that they can learn about the weak spots. The idea is that they will fix the weak spots before the cars go on sale.

Are you like a new car model that never was tested? Are you cheerful when the going is easy but a grumbler and griper when there is trouble? Are you like a shiny new car that falls to pieces when it gets a tough road test?



In a way, Scouting is like a road test. We challenge ourselves with rugged backpacking trips and other adventures to see whether or not we can take it. As Scouts we like to find out what our limits are, and if we find weak spots, we try to correct them. That way, we'll be ready for life's bumps and potholes. Then people will say of us, "They can take it."



Vigil Weekend Update

Dom Hammel | Vigil Chief

On August 16-17, the vigil members of Timmeu lodge gathered at Camp C.S Klaus for the Vigil Weekend. This is a time dedicated to reflection, service, and fellowship. The Vigil Honor is the highest recognition within the Order of the Arrow. It is reserved for those who have demonstrated exceptional service, personal commitment, and leadership to Scouting and the lodge.

This year we are proud and honored to have four new arrowmen welcomed into the vigil honor. Mike Henry, Ryan Graney, Wes Devaney, and Michael Wlochall. Each of these Arrowmen have exemplified the principles of brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service in their ongoing contributions to the lodge and scouting.

These arrowmen spent their time at Ruprecht Campsite, splitting firewood and making sure the wood bins were stocked and ready to go for summer camp.

Overall, the weekend proved to be a great success, characterized by dedication, fellowship, and a renewed commitment to the principles that define the Order of the Arrow.

Congratulations once again to Mike Henry, Ryan Graney, Wes Devaney, and Michael Wlochall on receiving the Vigil Honor. Their commitment to service continues to inspire all who wear the sash.

In WWW

~Dom Hammel~

2025 Vigil Chief



RAR – Red Arrow Rally

An adventure at Camp Loud Thunder for all our Section!



Where do I begin when talking about RAR?! Red Arrow Rally (RAR) is always a huge and popular event not only for our lodge, but for our entire section, and this year was no different! The event ran from September 12th to September 14th. RAR was hosted at Camp Loud Thunder in Illinois with the host lodge being Konepaka Ketiva.

We started off our adventure with a joyful hayride around the camp to see the ins and outs of the camp. After we finished setting up our tents, we all gathered at the fire ring for a performance that we won't forget. At the fire ring, all of the lodges gathered around and watched a very intriguing introduction video to RAR 2025. Our section chief Keegan Herzmann and our National Vice Chief Ben Jones opened and threw out some "gifts" to people. We then all gathered at the dining hall and ate dinner.

On Saturday morning, the first training that our lodge attended was a training based on Activation and getting members involved in the lodge. Our second training that we attended in the morning was entirely based on outreach using social media and different platforms, and this training was led by our very own Lodge Chief, Austin Hammel! Finally, for the last event in the morning, the majority of us went to bracelet making and made our lodge advisor a very cool bracelet.

The afternoon was the Climbing Tower, Archery, Arts and Crafts, Bean Bags, Escape Rooms, among many other things were all available from after lunch until dinner time. After dinner, the fun continued with a disco party and auction. By the next morning, everyone was very tired, but there was still more to go.

The last thing that happened at RAR was elections of our new section officers! Returning as Section Chief is Keegan H, our new Section Vice Chief is Connor E., and our new Section Secretary is Charlie H. RAR was an extremely fun and well ran event! We can't wait to go back next year, hosted at Ingersoll Scout Reservation!





Meet the LEC

Meet Some of the Youth Who Help Timmeu Lodge Every Day!

Meet...

Austin Hammel

Lodge Chief

What are the duties of this role?

Plan and oversee LEC meeting and lodge activities.

What motivated you to join the LEC?

I wanted to give future arrowmen the same great experience that I got when I joined.

What are you looking forward to this year in the OA?

Meeting lodge members and spending time in service.

What has been your favorite OA experience so far?

2025 National Council of Chiefs at Philmont.

What do you do outside of the OA?

Asbury fire/rescue and sundown mountain ski patrol.

What has been your most meaningful experience in scouting?

My eagle court of honor.





Meet the LEC

Meet Some of the Youth Who Help Timmeu Lodge Every Day!

Meet...

Zach Wloch

Lodge Secretary

What are the duties of this role?

Some of the things that I do are keeping track and recording what happens during each LEC and documenting it. Along with that, I'm in charge of the lodge email as well as influencing growth within the lodge by promoting people to pay their dues and hopefully in the future, use the influence of social media to make it easier to inform people on events such as Lodge Leadership Development (LLD), Red Arrow Rally (RAR) and our Winter Banquet!



What motivated you to join the LEC?

One of the things that made me want to join the LEC is that I've been a part of the OA and Scouting for many years now, and I want people to be able to experience the same amount of fun that I have experienced through this program. My goal in scouting is to get as many people to events and participate in scouting and OA events as possible.

What are you looking forward to this year in the OA?

The thing that I'm looking forward to this year the most is the OA Mothers day Pancake Breakfast. Definitely an event that I enjoy a lot as I have been attending the event ever since I was a young tiger scout.

What has been your favorite OA experience so far?

My favorite OA experience so far has been the first LLD that I have attended. The reason that this is, is because of how well the event was run and there were a lot of fun activities to do there along with a great learning experience.

What do you do outside of the OA?

I've been bowling ever since I was 5 years old and now I am a senior in High School. I also decided to pick up playing Tennis in the last few years!

What has been your most meaningful experience in scouting?

My most meaningful experience in scouting has to be Camp Klaus. The amount of entertainment and fun that I have had at Klaus over the last 12 years has been amazing and it's all made possible by the scouting program that I am thankful for.



It's time for your 2026 OA Dues

2026 Dues

For your convenience we have attached a simple form you may fill out and send in with your 2026 OA dues. Dues are \$15 and remember: you must be registered in Scouts-BSA either through a Troop, Pack, or the Council. Your dues help fund many of the projects at both Camp Klaus and Camp Burton.

Mail your payment to:

Northeast Iowa Council
PO Box 732
Dubuque, IA 52004-0732

Or call the Council Service Center:
563-556-4343

OA Dues

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Join Camp Staff

CAMP C.S. KLAUS SUMMER STAFF 2026

Ready for the **best** experience and to be a part of Klaus history?

Join the Camp C.S. Klaus Staff or become a CIT - make a difference that lasts a lifetime!

Why Join Staff?

- Make lifelong friends
- Build leadership and outdoor skills
- Be part of a 70 year camp legacy
- Inspire the next generation of scouts

"The most meaningful experience I have had in scouting is ... staffing at camp. Staffing at camp has allowed me to grow in knowledge and life skills. Due to my area I grew a stronger knowledge of STEM and also cause of what I taught I improved in my communication skills. By being a staffer, I was able to improve how I interact with people and extend the people I know. It allowed me to meet a bunch of new people and get close to people that I would likely have never have talked to otherwise."

~Mateo Rivera, IMPACT Instructor 2025

Age Requirements

- CITs (Counselor in Training): Must be 14 by June 1, 2026
- Staff: Must be 15 or older by June 1, 2026

[Apply today and join the adventure!](https://scoutsiowa.org/camping/cskstaff/)

<https://scoutsiowa.org/camping/cskstaff/>

Camp Klaus gladly thanks Timmeu Lodge for its continued support!



Photos Feature!



Upcoming Events

Roadside Clean Up

All Hands!

Nov 23 | Camp Klaus

LEC

All Arrowmen Welcome!

Dec 14 | TBD

Winter Banquet

Celebrate With Us!

Jan 3 | TBD

Council of Chiefs

Help Plan RAR!

Jan 23 | TBD

Timmeu Winter Activity

Training and Fun!

Feb 6-7 | Camp Klaus

OA Dues

To best help Timmeu Lodge, all arrowmen must register ASAP! It's up to YOU to help us grow out due-paying members by the end of 2025. Please pay by calling Nettie at the Council Service Center: 563-556-4343

You are not a current, paid member of the OA if your dues are not paid. The time frame is from **January 1st** to **December 31st**. Bear in mind, your dues for 2025 are *not* your dues for 2026! If your dues aren't paid, you may not be eligible for advancement to Brotherhood, Vigil, Founder's Awards etc.

If you're unsure if dues are paid, contact the Council Service Center.