

SCOUTS-L

MIC-O-SAY

Date: Fri, 25 Aug 1995 11:12:59 GMT
From: Rodger Morris <rodger@FISHNET.NET>
Subject: Re: Mic-O-Say and OA

Jim Sleezer said:

...

> Mic-O-Say and Order of the Arrow are similar but also very different.
Each
>is an honor camper program and each uses an American Indian theme.
They were
>started around the same time in different locations. There were a
number of
>other honor camper programs started as well but most have gone by the
wayside.

...

The Long Beach Area Council has the tribe of Tahquitz, which is akin to both the tribe of Mic-O-Say and the Order of the Arrow (OA). The Ventura County Council had the Tribe of Matilija until they voted to adopt the OA program in the 1940s (?). San Gabriel Valley Council adopted the OA program, but retained the Tribe of Torqua as a summer camp honor camper program at their Camp Cherry Valley on Catalina Island.

The Tribe of Torqua has four levels for boys and one for adults. They are:

- 1) Brave
- 2) Warrior
- 3) Medicine Man
- 4) Chief

Adults receive the "Tribesman" award as recognition for making the effort to bring the Scouts out to camp for a week. The others may be earned by Scouts and camp staff only. I hold all five levels in the tribe of Torqua, by virtue of having served on staff there in 1974.

I believe that a Scout council in central California did the same thing with "The Tribe of the High Sierra"; e.g., adopted the OA program, but retained the previous program as a summer camp honor program. Those are all the examples I have heard about, but there are likely to be other

examples elsewhere within the BSA.

Hopefully this will provide a bit of wider perspective on the Tribe of Mic-O-Say/Order of the Arrow thread.

Yours in Scouting,

Rodger

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Ventura County Council, Boy Scouts of America
National Woodbadge 416-18, Philmont, 1973
"I used to be a Beaver..."

Date: Sat, 26 Aug 1995 15:28:54 -0500
From: Sara Duff <0700167@ACAD.NWMISSOURI.EDU>
Subject: Re: Mic-O-Say and OA

I am not an expert on Mic-O-Say but my husband and both sons are members of the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Tribe of Mic-O-Say was started in the 1920's or 1930's by Mr. H. Roe Bartle. The two tribes of Mic-O-Say that exist today are the Tribe of Mic-O-Say at Camp Geiger, St. Joseph, MO and the Tribe of Mic-O-Say at the H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation, Osceola, MO. My family belongs to the Tribe at Camp Geiger. The Tribe of Mic-O-Say is the honor camping society of Camp Geiger whose ceremonies, customs, and traditions are based on the folklore of the American Indian. The purpose of Mic-O-Say is to reinforce the principles of the Scout Oath and Law. Since most ceremonies and traditions are secrets from non-tribesmen (that's me) my knowledge is somewhat shallow. I do know that a boy is usually tapped into the tribe his 3rd year at Camp Geiger. He must show leadership and maturity plus be active and advancing in Scouts. If adults are not tapped as boys they usually get in their 2nd year at Camp. All this depends on the Tribal Council. Thursday night is tapping night and a very impressive ceremony to watch. After a boy is tapped he is able to advance through the ranks of brave, warrior and paint stations of firebuilder, tom-tom beater, runner, and keeper of the sacred-bundle. Usually his 7th year at Camp Geiger (provided he has kept active) he will advance to

runner. All boys hope to be runners. I might note that every year we take 100 percent of our boys that are registered to Camp Geiger and we are sure it is the Tribe of Mic-O-Say that keeps them active. They all enjoy building Indian Costumes, and most enjoy the dancing. They present programs throughout the year around the area. For more information contact

the Mic-O-Say Director, Pony Express Council, P.O. Box 8157, St. Joseph, 64508.

Sorry I ramble so long we are very proud of the Tribe of Mic-O-Say in our area.