

# **Totanhah Nakaha Lodge #16 -- Vigil Induction Plan**

## **2011 Vigil Conclave**

**We plan to move to doing a single lodge-wide Vigil Conclave in 2011.**

**Our focus is on providing the best possible induction experience for the Vigil Candidates while meeting the national requirements for Vigil.**

**This is best done through a single lodge-wide Vigil Conclave which incorporates the good aspects of the previous chapter and lodge Vigil events.**

**We recognize the many benefits that Chapter Vigil service and fellowship events can provide, and so encourage chapters to still hold these events, although without candidate inductions.**

**A single Vigil Conclave will provide a better experience for our Vigil candidates.**

- They get to meet and have fellowship with other key leaders in the lodge and council
- Their induction takes place at an event that is focused entirely on their Vigil Induction
- Their Ceremonies will be done correctly, following national requirements
- They will have youth Vigil members to do the Ceremonies
- They get a higher level of recognition (more people to honor them, a more elaborate event)
- All Candidates will share the same good experience (they do not miss out due to location)
- All Candidates will have adequate notice and time to prepare for their Vigil Induction
- All Candidates will avoid being placed in a position of having to drive themselves home
- We can pool our resources from across the lodge to make the best possible experience
- Will create a "main event" for distinguished visitors to attend (Scout Exec, Section Officers, etc)
- Will provide more public recognition and allow more people special to the candidate to attend

**A single lodge-wide Vigil Conclave will also be better for our lodge and council.**

- Enables our key lodge leaders, our Vigil members, to get to better know each other
- Allows us to ensure an appropriate positive experience for all our Vigil Candidates
- Strengthens and builds lodge traditions related to Vigil
- Follows national OA requirements
- Provides all Vigil members with sufficient notice of candidates so the members can participate
- Makes Vigil Induction and membership records easier to track
- Avoids well-intentioned but incorrect actions
- Avoids confusing Candidates with activities that are not part of the Vigil
- Increases youth leadership opportunities (not all Vigil youth need to be doing ceremonial roles)
- Allows better public recognition of candidates, though a common plan for all of them
- Improves OA Vigil youth retention and involvement through a better experience

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## **Vigil Conclave Date**

### **We plan to hold the lodge-wide Vigil Conclave the last full weekend of August**

The Vigil Conclave will be held the last full weekend of August before the Labor Day weekend. (For 2011, this will be August 26-28). The Vigil Induction ceremonies will be held on Saturday night through Sunday Morning. See the separate Vigil members section for more specifics on the event.

### **Moving the event to late August will provide a better experience for candidates and members. A late August date:**

- Allows some youth that are heading off the college to participate before they go
- Enables the candidates to attend their Fall Conclaves as new Vigil members
- Enables the candidates to attend the Section Conclave as new Vigil members
- Allows use of all the area in a camp, while minimizing the impact on unit camping
- Provides warmer weather for a better outdoor experience
- Gives longer hours of daylight (shorter night, more daylight for outside activities & setup)
- Takes place after our summer camps end, and after NOACs and Jamborees end
- Takes place after most other summer events (band trips, etc.) end.
- Takes place before most schools begin and before most high school conflicts begin
- Takes place before opening dates of most hunting seasons
- Avoids MEA weekend (which has conflicts with family trips, college visits, etc.)
- Provides better ground cover (before the leaves fall) for better ceremony experience
- Allows for a nicer tenting experience for participants

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## **Planned 2011 Vigil Induction Calendar**

### **Candidate Selection** (by April 15)

The Vigil Selection process stays at the current dates, so new candidates are selected and approved by the National Office by April 15<sup>th</sup>. Chapter Advisers will be given the list of names of selected candidates from their chapter. The lodge Vigil Induction Chair and Adviser will be given the full list of all selections.

### **Sponsor selection** (April 15-June 7)

After the names are given to them, chapter advisers will line up an appropriate Vigil member to serve as a sponsor for the candidate. The lodge Vigil Induction Adviser will line up Sponsors for any council level candidates. The names of all sponsors must be given to the lodge Vigil Induction Adviser by June 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **Call-Out** (April 15 – June 20)

All chapters should do some kind of Vigil Call Out to recognize the new Candidates from their chapter. The chapter can decide when and where to do one or more Call Out ceremonies (Camporee, Chapter mtg, Roundtable, district dinner, etc.). Chapters can use their own Vigil Call Out ceremony, or the Lodge Vigil Induction Chair and Adviser will provide a sample ceremony. Vigil Call outs should be done by June 20<sup>th</sup> if the chapter wants to surprise the candidates.

### **Notification and Public Announcement** (June 20 – July 8)

On June 20, all nominators of the candidates that were selected will be sent a letter that the person they nominated was selected. On the same day, a letter will also be sent to the designated Sponsors. The Sponsors will be asked to contact their candidate and give them the good news of their selection. One week later (June 27) a letter will be mailed to each candidate directly, congratulating them again, and giving them information on the Vigil Conclave. About a week after that (by July 8) the list of new Vigil Candidates will be publicly released on the lodge web site, put in the newsletter, etc.

### **Vigil Conclave** (August 26-28)

The lodge-wide Vigil Conclave will be held the last full weekend of August before Labor Day weekend. (For 2011, this will be August 26-28). The event will include fellowship, service, and appropriate ceremonies. The Vigil Induction ceremonies will be held on Saturday night through Sunday Morning.

### **Public Recognition** (August – November)

The initial public recognition of the new Vigil Members will be done at a Public Recognition Ceremony at the camp on the morning following their Vigil. Congratulatory articles and photos will be posted on the lodge web site and in the council newsletters after the Lodge Vigil Conclave has completed. New members will also be recognized at the Lodge Fall Fellowship. All chapters are encouraged to recognize their new Vigil members at their fall conclaves or other meetings.

### **Chapter Vigil Fellowships** (September- October)

Chapters that wish to run a Vigil Fellowship event can do so anytime after the Lodge Vigil Conclave. They should recognize their new Vigil Members and involve them fully in the service & fellowship.

### **Make-up Vigil** (if needed)

If any Vigil Candidates are unable to participate in the Lodge Vigil Conclave, the Lodge Vigil Induction Chair and Adviser will arrange to do a make-up Vigil Induction for them. By national policy, any make-up needs to take place within one year. If possible, the make-up Vigil will take place in conjunction with another lodge event, such as a camp service weekend.

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## **The Chapter Role in Vigil Induction**

**Chapters will continue to have a major role in the Vigil Induction process.**

**Chapters are involved with the following aspects:**

### **Candidate selection**

Youth members from multiple chapters serve on the Vigil Selection committee. Any chapter member can submit a Candidate nomination form. Chapter leadership provides required comments on all nominations of members from their chapter.

### **Sponsor selection**

Chapter members often know the candidates from their chapter the best. That is why the Chapter Advisers are charged to identify an appropriate Vigil member to serve as a sponsor for each candidate from their chapter.

### **Vigil Call-Out**

Every chapter should do one or more Vigil Call Out ceremonies to recognize the new candidates from their chapter. The chapter decides when and where to do the Call Out ceremonies (Camporee, Chapter meeting, Roundtable, district dinner, etc.) to best recognize the candidates. We ask chapters that are currently not doing a Vigil Call out to please add this event to their plans. Chapters can use their own Vigil Call Out ceremony, or the Lodge Vigil Induction Chair and Adviser will provide a sample ceremony.

### **Vigil Conclave**

All chapters should have Vigil members involved in the lodge-wide Vigil Conclave, helping on the event staff, serving as sponsors for candidates from the chapter, or just participating in the fellowship and service activities of the weekend.

### **Public Recognition**

Every chapter should publicly recognize their new Vigil members at their fall conclave or other appropriate meeting soon after they receive their Vigil.

### **Chapter Vigil Fellowships**

Chapters that wish to run a Vigil Fellowship & Service event are encouraged to do so at any time after the Vigil Conclave. The chapter can carry out all their traditional fellowship and service activities, although without candidate inductions. Chapter should involve their new Vigil members fully in all activities at these events.