



**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
District of New Mexico**

United States Courthouse
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District Judge

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January 17, 2008

Members of Tutelo Lodge No. 161
Blue Ridge Mountains Counsel, Boy Scouts of America

Dear Fellow Arrowmen:

This past November when I was visiting family in Roanoke, my father, John P. Johnson, my brother, John C. Johnson and my nephew, Thomas Johnson, took me to the Blue Ridge Scout Reservation to see Camp Powhatan, Camp Ottari and the new aquatics camp at Claytor Lake. The last time I set foot on the Blue Ridge Scout Reservation was in the summer of 1977 before I left to become a new cadet or "Rat" at the Virginia Military Institute. I was extremely impressed at seeing all the new buildings and positive changes that have occurred over the last three decades and even more impressed upon learning how many scouts and their leaders are experiencing the best of what scouting has to offer in the majestic mountains of Southwest Virginia at the Blue Ridge Scout Reservation.

I walked through Rockridge Campsite at Camp Powhatan where, during the summer of 1970 as an 11 year old Tenderfoot Scout from Troop 221, I spent my first week of what would be many weeks and weekends on the Blue Ridge Scout Reservation as a camper, arrowman and Camp Ottari staff member. I vividly recall the first Friday night campfire at Camp Powhatan and the highlight of that campfire program was the Order of the Arrow tap out ceremony. I will always remember how solemn and impressive that ceremony was, beginning at dark with the sound of the Indian drummer in the distance and then witnessing the three flaming W's on the dam of Lake Powhatan followed by flaming arrows being shot into the air preceding the arrival of the Indians by canoe to tap out those scouts and leaders elected by their fellow troop members to become members of Scouting's honor society. I decided then and there in the summer of 1970 that I wanted to become a member of the Order of the Arrow and in the summer of 1972, I was fortunate to be tapped out at a Friday night campfire at Camp Powhatan. I became an Ordeal member in the Powhatan Lodge in the fall of 1972 just as the Powhatan Lodge was merging with the Koo Koo Ku Hoo Lodge so that in January of 1973, Tutelo Lodge No. 161 came into existence. Around the same time Tutelo Lodge was created, I earned the rank of

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Eagle Scout and so the Order of the Arrow offered me, just as it does many other senior scouts, the continued opportunity to participate and benefit from Scouting at a different and higher level.

When I toured Camp Powhatan last November, I hiked up to the Brotherhood Ceremonial Ring which was the same ceremonial ring used in the 1970's when I was a member of the Brotherhood and Ordeal ceremonial teams. I saw the Onion Ring at Camp Ottari and took pride in the fact that I had been one of the many volunteers who worked on building the Onion Ring under the leadership of Tutelo's first Lodge Chief, Brad Roscoe.

I have always had a passion for and interest in government and politics and my involvement in Tutelo Lodge certainly helped foster that interest. The various offices I held in the Lodge helped to instill in me a sense of leadership and responsibility. Being a member of the Ceremonial Team and having to stand up and speak in front of other scouts and leaders gave me the confidence for public speaking which helped me as a lawyer. Finally, I learned a little bit about how to give a speech and run a campaign which I demonstrated when I won the contested race in the fall of 1975 for Lodge Chief.

I was the fourth Chief for Tutelo Lodge and was privileged to know and work with the other lodge chiefs from the 70's. I was also privileged to have a number of very dedicated adult advisors with whom I worked including the late George D. Carr and other dedicated adult advisors such as Al Croy and Bill Irvin who are still very active in scouting.

Dr. E. Urner Goodman and Carroll Edson founded the Order of the Arrow in 1915 as a means (i) to recognize those scout campers and leaders who best exemplify the scout oath and law in their daily lives, (ii) to develop, maintain and promote camping traditions and spirit, and (iii) to crystallize the scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others. It was very rewarding for me to see that those founding principles and traditions of the Order of the Arrow remain with Tutelo Lodge and its members.

My home in Albuquerque, New Mexico is a long way from the Blue Ridge Scout Reservation but I should mention that it was the Philmont Scout Ranch that led me to New Mexico. After many years of being away from Scouting, I have returned as a volunteer in my son's troop, as the Council Camping Chairman for the Great Southwest Council and I recently reactivated my membership in the Order of the Arrow. Whatever leadership I can provide to Scouting as an adult will no doubt be inspired by the time spent on the Blue Ridge Scout Reservation and as a member of Tutelo Lodge.

Yours in Scouting,



William P. "Chip" Johnson
Vigil Honor Member, 1975
Tutelo Lodge Chief, 1976