

In the 1930s and early 1940s another honor camper society, The Tribe of the Ku-Ni-Eh, existed at Camp Pioneer. Ku-Ni-Eh meant “Order of Manhood” and the symbol of the society was the “We-Hin-Ah-Pay” which means “Rising Sun” in the Sioux and Maidu Indian language.

Drawing on its heritage, the name chartered for the new Order of the Arrow lodge was Akela Wehinahpay Lodge #232 which means “The Chief is the Arrow of Light”. “Akela” came from Rudyard Kipling’s The Jungle Book and represented “leader” or “chief”. “Wehinahpay” means “Rising Sun” and was chosen to represent “Arrow of Light”. In a short time, through misspelling, “Wehinahpay” evolved into “Wahinapay” – a word that does not exist in any language.

The original totem of the lodge was the Arrow of Light from the new Cub Scout Webelos rank which began in 1941. There is no evidence that lodge members ever knew that this was their totem. During the summer of 1949, a special OA committee was formed at Camp Pioneer to develop a lodge emblem. The committee decided on a Caddo Indian Water Bottle as an appropriate design that would also reflect the Caddo Indian history of the area.

The new lodge totem had the shape of the Caddo Indian Water Bottle outlined in black with a green background. Superimposed on the bottom portion of the bottle was a red arrow, pointing upward to the left and a yellow powder horn hung by a black thong from the middle of the arrow’s shaft. Lettering on the totem included a white, stacked WWW on the neck of the bottle and white CADDO curved around the bottom. The green background stood for the trees and forests in the area; the red arrow, the Indians; the powder horn, the early pioneers; WWW,

the Order of the Arrow; and CADDO, the Scout council. The black outline tied the Indian, the pioneer, and the Scout together in the Brotherhood called the Order of the Arrow – until death. This lodge totem design was produced as the 1st lodge patch and was worn by members on the upper right sleeve of their Scout uniform.

Over the years Akela Wahinapay Lodge has been an active member of the area and region/section structure of the Order of the Arrow. The lodge has been recognized many times for its skill in Indian dancing. Section conclaves have been hosted by the lodge in 1951, 1964, 1972, 1976, 1990, 1996, 2000, and 2005. Lodge delegations have attended all national meetings and National Order of the Arrow Conferences since 1943. Since formation, Akela Wahinapay Lodge has produced one national conference vice chief; three area chiefs, four vice chiefs, and two secretaries; two section chiefs, five vice chiefs, and two secretaries; and 38 Founder's Award and 278 Vigil recipients.

The lodge has been recognized with an E. Urner Goodman National Camping Award and a National Service Award. The lodge often achieved National Standard, Honor, and Quality Lodge. The lodge achieved Journey to Excellence – Gold in 2016.