

AKELA WAHINAPAY LODGE BROTHERHOOD

The lodge's 1st Brotherhood member was 1946 Lodge Chief, Mitchell M. Young. He was inducted in late August at the 1946 National Lodge Meeting at Chanute Field, Illinois. Mitchell was the lodge's delegate to the meeting. Eleven more lodge members were inducted in September 1948.

In the early days Ordeal members were "watched" by the youth Brotherhood and Vigil members. After several months of service, those deemed worthy received a letter informing them that they had been selected to be a Brotherhood candidate. With the letter was a rectangular block of cedar wood. The letter instructed them, while alone, to carve an arrow out of the cedar block using nothing but a pocket knife. They were also given a lodge service project to perform. The project was something that the lodge needed, like a dance drum or a new headdress; the materials were provided. They were told the things they had to study and learn prior to the Summer Pow Wow where they would be questioned. They were to bring their handmade arrow with them to the Brotherhood ceremony at the Pow Wow. There was also an elected Chief of the Brotherhood to promote Brotherhood conversion, make the selections, and serve as the chief on the ceremony team.



In later years the assigned service project was discontinued along with the letter selecting them as a candidate. Everyone is told that they are eligible after 10 months service and what they have to study and learn. They are told to obtain a 6" block of cedar wood, carve their arrow, and bring it with them to the ceremony. Brotherhood ceremonies are now offered at the Summer Pow Wow and the Fall and Spring Arroweews. Testing of the required knowledge and inspection of the arrows occurs prior to the ceremony.

