

AKELA WAHINAPAY LODGE TOTEM

The name of the Order of the Arrow lodge in Caddo Area Council evolved to be Akela Wahinapay, meaning “The Chief is the Arrow of Light”. According to records in the national office, the lodge was originally chartered with the Arrow of Light from the new Cub Scout program rank as its totem. There is no evidence that the totem was ever used for anything or 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. Lodge Chief Ken Pearson had seen a Caddo Indian Water Bottle in the artifact collection of his Scoutmaster, L. D. “Mr. Mac” McCown, Troop 54, DeQueen, Arkansas. The committee decided that the water bottle design would be an appropriate totem for the lodge and would reflect the Caddo Indian history of the area. Scout Urban B. Bond, Jr. of Stamps, Arkansas, drew the original design.

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.



It was around this time that the J. E. Caldwell & Co. of Philadelphia was commissioned to make OA lodge totems in sterling silver as Brotherhood and Vigil pins for civilian wear. The totems were connected to a silver arrow by a chain. The Vigil pins had a small triangle superimposed on the totem. Akela Wahinapay had these Brotherhood pins available but no one can remember ever having seen a lodge Vigil pin. J. E. Caldwell & Co went out of business in 2003.

