

TROOP 629

Newsletter **November 2005** **Happy Thanksgiving!**

**This newsletter is intended for scouts and their families.
Please assist us in sharing this information with other parents
and scouts.**

Hot Topics in this Edition

November 8: Merit Badge Help NIGHT
November 9: Merit Badge Help Night / Backpack check
November 10: 7:30 Order of the Arrow and District Round Table Meeting
November 12: 7:00 a.m. check in for A Trail Backpacking TRIP!
November 13: 3:00 p.m. pickup at MP -Happy Campers return Home!
November 14: 7:15 Troop Meeting – SPL/ PL Elections
November 17: 7:00 Patrol Leaders Council
November 21: 7:15 Troop Meeting and Board of Review
November 24: Happy Thanksgiving Day! (Go Cowboys)
November 28: Troop Meeting and Webelos Visit!
December 2: 7:00 p.m. Lock in at Mount Pisgah!
December 3: 8:00 a.m. pickup Lock in Patrol Service Outing
December 4: Patrol Service Outing
6:00 – Troop Committee Meeting/ Green Bar staff Interviews
December 5: 7:15 Troop Meeting
December 8: 7:30 Order of the Arrow and District Round Table Meeting
December 10: Patrol Service Outing / Cycling Day Trip!
December 11: Patrol Service Outing
December 12: 7:15 Troop Meeting
December 13: 6:00 to 7:00 Merit Badge Help Night
December 15: 7:00 Patrol Leaders Council

Appalachian Trail Backpacking

When: Saturday Nov 12th – Sunday November 13th, 2005
Depart: Mt Pisgah Sat. 7:00 AM, November 12
Return: Sunday 3:00 PM, Nov.13

Cost: \$6.00 (lunch on return)





Scoutmaster Minute, by Scoutmaster Fran Gillis

The next outing, a backpacking trip along the Appalachian Trail while also challenging is not beyond any scouts capabilities. Its all about attitude and a can do approach which along the wilderness trail brings an inner peace and calmness to a hectic life cycle.

On a hike or in camp we reveal our true selves most. Did you ever know a Scout who thought people were always picking on him? I recall a boy who pitched his tent carelessly and it blew down on him in the middle of the night. He tried hard to blame it on someone else, but finally had to admit to himself, "Well, I guess it was my own fault." Another time he burned a steak. "It was the fire's fault," he insisted, until the other scouts laughed at him and showed him how the same bed of coals could help turn out a well-cooked steak. Things usually happen to us because we set the stage for them. Actually, people are too busy to spend their time picking on us. When something goes wrong, the first place to look for the cause is within us.

During December each patrol is asked to conduct a "patrol outing and service" event. These events and days selected by the scouts in the patrol are over one of the first three weekends in December and a good way for a patrol to build their team spirit.

OUTINGS

TROOP 629 PARENTS ORDER A LOCK IN!

Next Troop "overnight" outing is set for our annual lock-in overnight at Mount Pisgah Dec 3-4. Info is on the Troop web site. Bring a board game and prepare for fun! (Parents please enjoy a safe night out on the town!)

Save the Date

Troop 629 Annual Ski Trip - January 5-8th, 2006

Please note the new date!

Dates: Depart Mt. Pisgah: Thursday – Jan. 5th 5:30 PM

Return Mt. Pisgah: Sunday – Jan. 8th 5:00 PM

Destination: Winterplace Ski Resort near Ghent, West Virginia. Driving half way Thursday night, allowing more time for winter sports. Arrive at SKI resort approximately 10:00am Friday morning.

Activities: Two days of skiing, snowboarding and tubing **Sign-up sheets will be available in December** Parental participation is needed. WE NEED BOTH CAR POOL DRIVERS (vans or large vehicles) and SKIERS. You do not have to drive to be a ski leader on this trip but you will need to be a registered volunteer leader. Please note: This is an official troop trip and outing and all participants must be a registered part of the scouting program. Scout regulations and liability coverage does not allow for non-scout guests or non-scout siblings.

EMAIL REQUEST-

Please send all new or revised scout email addresses to Mr. Ruggles, communication director for Troop 629 at joe@realtyexecutivesUSA.com -

SEA BASE 2006

We still need one additional Trained Leader for our Sea Base trip in April of 2006 (Fulton County School Spring Break). Those who have signed on for a week of sailing, sun and fun, please make sure your \$100.00 deposit is in ASAP. If you would like to attend Sea Base but are not yet trained, there are ITOLS and SALT training in September 2005. Please step up and assist us so we can send 2 crews to Sea Base in 2006. For further information, please contact John DiPietro at jddipietro@dir-law.com or call at 404-644-6539 (cell) or 770-667-3414 (home).

Northern Tier 2006

Troop is looking into a Canadian bound backwoods canoeing adventure with Northern Tier High adventure program next summer. Will you be First Class and at least 13 – if so, are you interested in going. We need to know interest soon to lock in a trip so go to the web site or get a form at the meeting and let us know your intentions.

Short on Cash, but love to travel?

For all scouting activities the Troop has set up a scholarship fund to help any individual who may just not be capable to participate at any particular time or event through a service hour trade off agreement with Committee Chair know you if you have any individual needs. Our goal is not to deny any scout an opportunity they truly want to participate in. The high adventure bases and camps also normally run scholarship applications for those various events, just ask us for the forms if help is needed for a particular event. **The High Adventure** bases and camps also normally have scholarship applications available for those individual events. Just ask the Scoutmaster for the form if help is needed for a particular event.

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS BE SOMEBODY!

Rank Advancement - Congratulations to all!

October Rank Advancements

Tenderfoot - Austin Duffield

2nd Class - Aroon Narayanan, Gabe Unger

Future Boards of Review (BOR) - November 21 & December 19

All Scouts must have their Scoutmaster Conference before signing up for their BOR with Mrs. Smith. Remember: Wear your Class A uniform and bring your Scout handbook to your BOR.

NESA Advancement Day - The November 19, 2005 NESA Advancement Day HAS BEEN CANCELED. Mark your calendar for the next NESA Advancement Day, which is tentatively scheduled for March 18, 2006.

Parents Needed for Troop Boards of Review

A troop Board of Review (BOR) provides a great opportunity for parents to better understand rank advancement and to get to know the Scouts. Each Board consists of three troop parent volunteers. Boards of review are typically held each month for those Scouts who have completed all requirements and Scout Master conference for rank advancement. If you are interested in participating as a Troop BOR member please contact Kathy Smith at 770-998-6752 or smithta@mindspring.com. No experience required. (Unfortunately, unit leaders and assistant unit leaders may not serve as a BOR member.)

Merit Badge University

The Merit Badge Calendar offers many merit badge opportunities. Scouts follow the links to download Registration Forms and Merit Badge fliers. The Merit Badge Calendar is updated as new merit badge opportunities become available. Check out Merit Badge University at: <http://www.meritbadge.info/>.

Life Scouts from Scout Master Gillis

All you need to know about moving up and completing your Eagle is on our web site and the Atlanta Area Council site as well. It's never too early to start but it is too late to finish if you wait to put together the necessary documents at the last minute. Plan ahead, space your time (better yet do it now so you will not feel under pressure when you begin running out of time). We have over 20 Life scouts now and so few working to knock out a little at a time. We certainly have procrastination running rapid throughout these scouts so whoever is bottling it and passing along please pass it to someone else besides our scouts.

Merit Badge Reminder from Scout Master Gillis

PLEASE UNDERSTAND OUR POLICY: TROOP MEETINGS ARE FOR GROUP AND TEAM DEVELOPMENT AND NOT GENERALLY FOR MERIT BADGE TIME. THERE IS TO BE NO MERIT BADGE WORK DURING PATROL MEETING TIME, INSTRUCTIONAL TIME AND COMPETITION TIMES. THE ONLY EXCEPTION ON MONDAY'S IS THAT SCOUTS CAN OPT TO WORK ON MERIT BADGES DURING "GAME TIME".

Reading the whole MB book from cover to cover is required. This is not a negotiable and it doesn't matter where the MB was started or with who. To complete the summer camp merit badges or any other follow the simple rules. Read the book from cover to cover. Bring any completed paperwork to a meeting or merit badge help night and coordinate an approved counselor from the scoutmaster. Sit down with the counselor and explain, show or complete the requirements as detailed. Its not about a memory test – it is about comprehension and covering the material as stated.

The second Tuesday of every month the SM will be available at the Mount Pisgah Rm C006 from 6-7 PM for those who need extra help with merit badge requirements or advancement. The next one is scheduled for November 9

Order of the Arrow

Every month on the second Thursday there is a district OA gathering OA members can attend. See your OA rep for details.: <http://www.cdbsa.org/Pages/OA.htm>

KRAEMER'S CORNER (Troop Committee Chairman, Wendy Kraemer)

Check out Scouter's Academy - Classes for adults - see website for additional information.

www.troop629.org

Scout Merit Badge Opportunities

SERVICE PROJECTS and Special Events:

The Troop frequently has last minute service project opportunities and their scouting activities for scouts to participate in. Keep an eye out for them weekly, look on the bulletin board and pick up the flyers that are usually at the meeting.

Upcoming Troop Board of Reviews: November 21

After a scout completes his Scoutmaster conference, he must notify Mrs. Smith, Troop Advancement Chairperson, that he is ready for the next BOR. *Reminder:* Full Class "A" uniform and Scout handbook are required for participation in a Board of Review.



ADULTS – PARENTS TROOP 629 NEEDS YOU!

All adults are required by this troop to be properly trained for the event they are participating in. From being properly prepared just for a weekend outing to getting all the specialized training for high adventure now is the time to get yourself into those classes so you can help be ready on time.

Our adults are encouraged to participate in one of the many training opportunities available for scouting. A great way to get started is by completing the online Boy Scout Fast Start or Youth Protection Training located at the Chattahoochee web site via a link from our troop's web site: www.troop629.org. To participate as an adult leader in the troop on overnight camping, you must complete Youth Protection Training, Fast Start and review the Troop 629 Adult Guide.

Assistant Scoutmasters and Committee Members must complete the above training and New Leaders Essentials, SALT, ITOLS and/or Committee Training. Information on these training opportunities are available on the [Chattahoochee District web site](#). To participate in High Adventure, leaders must complete all the above along with special classes such as CPR, FA, safety afloat, and safe swim.

- NOTE: For Youth Protection and Fast Start, print from web site your completion form page and pass to the unit's training chairperson. When you have completed any of the BSA training, please contact Linda Dembowski at lindahd@ofsoptics.com or call her at 770-552-1472 or/ and to volunteer

Adult volunteers

A lot of behind the scene necessary support in running an active Troop comes from many adults giving special efforts in their own way. If you are one of the adults that just isn't able to lock in a routine support directly with the program other support needs are there waiting. Contact our committee chair for a list of those opportunities to help the evolving dynamic program.

On all trips we request adults clearly state their intentions if providing transportation support with the number of passengers that you can handle in the vehicle being used.

There are currently several KEY positions which are in need of new volunteers!!! If you are interested in helping out, please contact Linda Dembowski at lindahd@ofsoptics.com or call her at 770-552-1472 to volunteer.

Monthly reminders



Patrol Leaders Council

Once a month our SPL leads his PLC to formulate the plans for meetings and activities. Changes and or improvements are discussed at that time and all scouts should be making sure their representative is up to date on issues, concerns and program request. Next PLC is set for **November 21, 2005**. Another reason to check the Troop bulletin board or web site to keep the ever dynamic and fluid scouting calendar up to date.

LET'S GO KROGERING – TURN YOUR GROCERY SHOPPING INTO CASH FOR TROOP 629!

DID YOU KNOW? The Kroger Gift Card program is the largest fundraiser for Troop 629. Just by grocery shopping at Kroger you can support the Scouts of Troop 629. This fundraiser does not cost anything above your donation – the amount you donate to the Troop is the amount you receive in the Kroger Gift Card. (Example: Donate \$100 monthly to Troop 629 and you receive a monthly Kroger Gift Card in the amount of \$100).

[In May, our Troop received \$294.25; in June - \$298.00; in July - \$285.50, and in August - \$271.00.] We have lost several participants due to family moves, graduates, etc. **We need more participants!**

Thanks to all of the families currently participating (35 families)! If you would like to increase your monthly amount, please contact Susan Cook at (678) 297-7766.

If you are not currently participating, **please** consider this painless and easy fundraising opportunity – for additional information/questions and to sign up, please contact Susan Cook at (678) 297-7766.

Lending Closet

The Troop maintains a scout uniform exchange or drop off point for all to use. With growth spurts for young scouts it's hard at times to keep them outfitted for activities. Bring in your used or any pieces you come across and add to closet and feel free to pick up an item at any meeting. Ask for other items that may be store at another of our locations.

Uniforms

At all troop activities a designated uniform is specified. Also during Troop meetings the proper wear of the uniform shirt during the school year is expected and all great scouts are not without their handbook to make a complete uniform. Proper uniform includes your shirt tucked in and closed toe shoes! Please dress for the weather as some activities are outside.

REMINDER: It is the BSA insurance policy that no open toe shoes to be worn on any activity. This includes meetings, camping and water activities. The only exception is flip flops for showers but sandals are a no go for any activity we do including weekly meetings. ***Scouts will not be allowed to participate if they show up with open toe shoes.*** Once school is out we will conduct meetings with our Troop Red Field T-shirt as the primary uniform throughout the summer.

Patrol food items

Non Perishable (left over) from camping trips that can be reused need to be turned in with the patrol gear at the end of each trip and are stored by the troop in special patrol containers. This will help cut back on some cost for future trips and eliminate some waste now ongoing. A scout buying food will get a menu to use with a budget to follow. It's important to follow the list and items/quantities specified as the menu has been planned for patrol guest and other program considerations. Purchase slips are turned into the Troop Treasurer for reimbursement after each trip by the patrol scout grubmaster for that trip.

CALENDAR AND WEB SITE INFORMATION

The Troop has its annual calendar published and it's available for all on the web site

www.troop629.org

Our Chattahoochee District (www.cdbsa.org) and Atlanta Area Council (www.atlantabsa.org) have web sites as well where additional information is also available concerning upcoming events.

Please note that Troop meeting start time at 7:15 and closing at 8:45 PM on Mondays.

Please show up on time so we can start the program on time.

Keep an eye out for new opportunities that crop up for special events and classes being offered. Details can be found on the bulletin board for emergency disaster exercises looking for scouts to participate in, special merit badge sessions for railroad MB and nature events. Those kind of events are open to all scouts but generally are not organized for attendance as a Troop activity. Normally an individual parent takes on the lead to help arrange rides and details.

Keep us updated on changes to phone numbers, address and e-mail accounts. Communication channels works best when everyone is getting and giving timely information. "View the bulletin board and troop web site for latest details."

Questions concerning this publication? Joe and Neal Ruggles

Receive this by email, just send your email address to joe@RealtyExecutivesUSA.com

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