

# TROOP 629

## *Newsletter* **DECEMBER 2005** **Happy HOLIDAYS!**

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



***New Pictures from the Appalachian Trail at [www.troop629.org](http://www.troop629.org)***  
***NEW\*\* DOWNLOAD THIS NEWSLETTER AT [WWW.TROOP629.ORG](http://WWW.TROOP629.ORG)***

## Hot Topics in this Edition

November 28: Troop Meeting and Webelos Visit!

**November 28: LOCK IN MONEY DUE!**

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 on the Comet Trail!

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

December 17-18: Patrol Service/Outing

December 19: Troop Meeting Board of Review

December 22: Life to Eagle Clinic

December 26: No Meeting

Jan 1: Christmas Tree Pickup! – Troop Committee Meeting

Jan 2: Troop Meeting

Jan 5, 6, 7, 8: SKI TRIP BABY!!!

Jan 9: Troop Meeting



## Overnight lock-in

**Where:** Mount Pisgah Chapel for registered scouts only! Sorry ....  
Not guests. Registered scouts only! Sorry... no guests.

**When:** Friday, December 2nd - 7:30 PM to Saturday, December 3rd – 8:00 AM

**Cost:** \$8:00 includes snacks/pizza for night and breakfast.

**Bring a sleeping bag, pad, and pillow.**

“Scout activity (red T-shirt) to be worn by all” ***Return permission slip with money at Troop meeting on Monday Nov. 28th.***

Dress for weather and variety of activities/games some may be outside!  
Games, movies and entertainment!

Are you musically talented - bring your instrument to try out with the group. Special game of challenge (bring a chess/checkers board) or other games you wish to share.

# HO! HO! HO! Christmas Tree Recycling Elves needed!

Christmas will be here soon! Troop 629's annual Christmas tree recycling fundraiser is in need of both adult and Boy Scout elves to help with the recycling for our community.

Boy Scouts need to sign up for flyer distribution that starts the second week of December and tree pickup on **Sunday January 1**, 2006. All monies earned go directly into the boys' personal high adventure accounts.

No experience necessary for adult elves - a variety of opportunities from which to choose - drivers, shotgun riders, cleanup, and more. If you are a parent new to Troop 629 and are looking for a brief but fun way to participate in supporting your son's scouting, Santa would like to talk to you! See Chris Cotney at Monday night scout meetings or call 770-410-1730.



## US POSTAL SERVICE WARNS THE TROOP!

### *Christmas Tree Flyer Distribution Guidelines*

A short reminder for the parents of scouts who accept flyers for distribution: Please follow up with your scout about the actual placement of the flyers into the mailboxes of their chosen subdivisions. The number of trees the troop collects correlates with the number of flyers actually placed into the neighborhoods. The more trees collected the more money becomes available to the scouts for their High Adventure accounts. Boy Scouts are Trustworthy, but as we all may have noticed, are also at times Forgetful. So, if parents can help their sons to remember to stuff the flyers, it will be a richer experience for all.

- 📮 **Please deliver flyers to mailboxes preferably on the weekends of 12/10 or 12/17 since some people leave town for the holidays before school ends. However, all flyers must be delivered by Friday 12/23/2005.**
- 📮 **Do NOT place inside of mailbox (illegal) – instead tape, wedge, put in cubby, etc**
- 📮 If there is a NO Handbills sticker on mailbox – do not leave flyer at that address
- 📮 Credit system => 100 flyers = 1 hour; Trees => ½ day = 4hrs. & Full day = 8 hours
- 📮 Return any left over flyers on Monday night or to Chris Cotney 2915 Roxburgh Dr. Roswell, GA 30076 or call 770-410-1730

Questions? Contact Chris Cotney at 770-410-1730 or [ccotney@mindspring.com](mailto:ccotney@mindspring.com)

**Save the Date**  
**Troop 629 Annual Ski Trip**  
**January 5-8<sup>th</sup>, 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.

## Events:

# Bike Ride on the Silver Comet Trail



**When:** Saturday, December 10th

**Depart:** Mt. Pisgah Sat. 8:30 AM

**Return:** Saturday 4:00 PM

**Cost:** FREE. Bring a day pack, bag lunch and water.

Must have a **helmet** and will have to wear it.

**“DRESS FOR THE WEATHER”**

(gloves, knit cap and layer clothing)

Activity Red T-Shirt uniform only.

Permission Slip due on Monday, December 5th

## **Scoutmaster Minute by Scoutmaster Fran Gillis**

Holidays are here and so to some extra time for all scouts to work on their individual advancements and for quite a few maybe even the possibility to finish up their trail to Eagle. Mark some time now on each of those days off to open up your scout book or a merit badge pamphlet and finish up those missing requirements. Just a few minutes each day goes a long way.

**December/January Outings:** Lots of activities coming up and get your info off the Troop web site or from the flyers at the meetings. Highlights include the annual lock-in Dec 2-3, patrol service and outings, Christmas Tree fund raiser Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, WV ski trip Jan 5-8<sup>th</sup> and more.

## **OUTINGS**

### **SKI TRIP !!**

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## **NOTES FROM THE FIELD**

### **FREE EMAIL NEWSLETTER**

*Please send all new or revised scout email addresses to Mr. Ruggles, communication director for Troop 629 at [joe@realtyexecutivesUSA.com](mailto:joe@realtyexecutivesUSA.com) -*

### **JANSSEN REAPPEARS**

Justin Janssen, First Class Scout in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, moved to Phoenix, Arizona last summer. He recently joined Boy Scout Troop #329 in the Grand Canyon Council. Justin and his family would enjoy hearing from any old friends at:

**20 E. Orangewood Avenue**

**Phoenix, AZ 85020**

**602-358-8766**

**[clairejanssen@cox.net](mailto:clairejanssen@cox.net)**

There are lots of great camping and other fun activities in Arizona. Justin's family invites Troop 629 families for a visit or for a stop during your Arizona/Western travels.

# NOTES FROM THE FIELD

## COOKIES AND BOOKS

Many thanks to all who participated in last month's Cookie and Book Drive for the Troops of the 48<sup>th</sup> GA National Guard. We sent three large boxes filled with cookies, paperbacks, DVDs, CDs, and personal letters, totaling over 95 lbs!! This project was a great success due to your involvement! -\_Joe Di Pietro

## SEA BASE 2006

SEABASE participants: Remember that all participants need a SeaBase Medical form to be filled out and they should make an appointment with their doctors for this purpose between now and February 1<sup>st</sup>. Extra forms can be obtained from John DiPietro or Mike McGoff.

Look for email updates about airline reservations." For further information, please contact John DiPietro at [jddipietro@dir-law.com](mailto:jddipietro@dir-law.com) or call at 404-644-6539 (cell), 770-667-3414 (home) or Mike McGoff 770-457-7000 [mmcgoff@law-ga.com](mailto:mmcgoff@law-ga.com)

## 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 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!**

## November Rank Advancements

Tenderfoot - William Haynes

2nd Class - William Haynes

1<sup>st</sup> Class - Chris Brown, William Haynes

## NEXT Troop Board of Review (BOR) - 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.

## **Merit Badge University**

- Check out Merit Badge University at: <http://www.meritbadge.info/>. 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.

## **NESA Advancement Day –**

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 [smithhta@mindspring.com](mailto:smithhta@mindspring.com). No experience required. (Unfortunately, unit leaders and assistant unit leaders may not serve as a BOR member.)

## **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.

## **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 December 13th

## **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](http://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:*    **DECEMBER 19****

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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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 **December 15, 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).

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](http://www.troop629.org)

Our Chattahoochee District ([www.cdbsa.org](http://www.cdbsa.org)) and Atlanta Area Council ([www.atlantabsa.org](http://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](mailto:joe@RealtyExecutivesUSA.com)**

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