

# TROOP 629

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



GEORGIA AQUARIUM

**January 21, 2006 Georgia Aquarium TRIP!**

*New Pictures from the Appalachian Trail  
and*

**DOWNLOAD THIS NEWSLETTER AT [WWW.TROOP629.ORG](http://WWW.TROOP629.ORG)**

## Hot Topics in this Edition

Jan 1: Christmas Tree Pickup! – A great success – thanks to involved.

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

Jan 9: Troop Meeting – **MONEY DUE AQUARIUM TRIP \$21.00**

Jan 9: Adult Leader Meeting

Jan 10: Merit Badge Help Night

Jan 12: 7:30- RT and OA Meeting

Jan 16: Troop Meeting

Jan 19: Patrol Leaders Meeting – whaz up PL?

Jan 21 – **8:00a.m.- GEORGIA Aquarium TRIP!**

Jan 23: Troop Meeting – BOARD OF REVIEW

Jan 26: Life to Eagle Clinic – Be somebody

Jan 28: Green Bar staff Interviews – good luck!

Jan 30: Troop Meeting – OA elections

Feb 4: Junior Leader Training

Feb 5: Scout Sunday – Scouting for FOOD



## Scoutmaster Minute by Scoutmaster Fran Gillis

A new year already! It's amazing but for some of our scouts a wrapping up of a productive enjoyable scouting year. For others it has been loaded with procrastination and indecisiveness about their scouting future. Why should I continue? Why shouldn't I just put it off to later? I have plenty of time. My sitting at home for a small event is more important to me than this long term scouting stuff.

The goal here is clear and many new challenges will occur throughout another new year without specific goals which will distract and delay yet again your path to the scouting's highest youth award and recognition which is attainable by all. Take this time to set specific goals for each month and they really do not need to be that much. A merit badge a month? Active participation/attendance at an activity once every few months. And finally trying to help others and suggesting ideas of what we can do to improve. ***Getting your Eagle done before your Junior Year is completed is the real goal to have the recognition begin paying off right away in the fall.*** So why not knuckle down and give it a specific jump start this year.

## AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS.. BE SOMEBODY!

### December Rank Advancements

**Tenderfoot** - Stephen Avant

**2nd Class** - Brandon Padget

**Life** - ***Neal Ruggles***

### Date Change! NEXT Troop Board of Review (BOR) - January 23

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.

## FREE EMAIL NEWSLETTER

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



**Philmont is currently accepting staff applications for the 2006 Season**

Philmont is the pinnacle of high adventure program experiences. Situated in the heart of the Sangre de Cristo mountain range of northern New Mexico, Philmont is owned and operated by the Boy Scouts of America and annually hosts more than 25,000 participants in backcountry

Working at Philmont, each season Philmont employs more than 1000 staff members. A wide variety of paid positions are available, including rangers, backcountry program counselors, and training center and base camp support staff. Applicants must be 18 or older. Previous Philmont or other high-adventure experience is helpful.

Other opportunities are available for Scouts and Ventures willing to work on trails or perform other tasks during their stay. Those special experiences include Order of the Arrow Trail Crew and R.O.C.S., the Roving Outdoor Conservation School.

Employment Details:

- Salaries: Starting at over \$800 per month plus room and board
- Season: Mid May through Mid August

Click on the following link (or input into your web browser) to get more information and an application.

<http://store.philstaff.com/> (click the link 'Philbreak')

### **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.

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

## **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>

## **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

## **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 Review: JANUARY 16**

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.

### **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.

### **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 Wendy Kraemer at [wkraemer@bellsouth.net](mailto:wkraemer@bellsouth.net) 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 **January 19, 2006**. 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!**

**TROOP 629 FUNDRAISER :** Join the families of Troop 629 in our monthly fundraiser – Kroger Gift Cards. Our troop receives 5% of our total order each month; participation has resulted in the following funds going directly to our Troop 629 in recent months:

September - \$251.00  
October - \$241.00  
November - \$251.50  
December - \$238.50

The Gift Cards can be used at any Kroger store [when the amount of the card is depleted, it is kept by the cashier – new cards are issued each month and mailed to you. There is no service charge – (if you order a \$50 Kroger Gift Card, you will receive a \$50 Kroger Gift Card)! To participate and get additional information, call Susan Cook (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.

### ***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.

### ***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.

### **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**

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