

# TROOP 629

FEBRUARY 2006

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



## ***Backpacking Trip!***

Join us for 12-15 miles on Saturday and Sunday along the Pine Mt. Trail, Georgia

Departs: Mt Pisgah 7:30 AM Saturday Feb 18, 2006

Returns: 3:00 PM Sunday Feb 19, 2006

For all registered Troop members. Scouts pack their own trail meals (lunch, supper and breakfast) and Troop provides hot water.

Cost is \$8.00 (Campsite/trail fees and road meal – scouts buy and pack food for trail).

Return permission slip with money at Troop meeting on **Monday Feb 13, 2006.**

All backpackers need to coordinate with a buddy to pack in all gear including food, tent, cooking gear, water AND crew gear which will be divided out at trail start.

*For further details contact your PL, SPL or SM!*

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

### **Hot Topics in this Edition**

Jan 30: Troop Meeting – OA elections

Feb 4: Junior Leader Training

Feb 5: Scout Sunday – Scouting for FOOD

Feb 5: Troop Committee Meeting

Feb 6: Troop Meeting – **COURT OF HONOR**

Feb 9: RT and OA Meeting

Feb 13: Troop Meeting – **Permission SLIP DUE BACK PACK TRIP**

Feb 14: Merritt Badge Help Night

Feb 16: Patrol Leaders Meeting

Feb 18 -19<sup>th</sup>: **PINE MOUNTAIN Back Packing**

Feb 20: Troop Meeting

Feb 23: Life to Eagle Clinic

Feb 27: Troop Meeting – **BOARD OF REVIEW**

Feb 5: Troop Committee Meeting

Feb 6: Troop Meeting



***Friends of Scouting Campaign Mailer*** - Coming to a Mailbox Near You  
Targeted Deadline for Contributions is Friday, March 3, 2006

A premiere Scouting program requires a significant investment. Each year, the Friends of Scouting fundraising program helps secure the operating funds needed by the Atlanta Area Council to provide the many services offered to support unit programs, e.g., training, insurance, program materials, advancement materials, camping facilities and programs, council and district activities, and much more.

Donations to the Friends of Scouting program are tax deductible and a number of employers in the area offer a "matching funds" contribution program. Anyone who invests \$300 or more in the Friends of Scouting Campaign will receive a special edition "Friendly" collector's patch. Anyone who participates at any level will receive a special Friends of Scouting window sticker.

Our target for collecting all donations is Friday, March 3, 2006. Look for a mailer from Steve McHugh, Friends of Scouting Chairman for Troop 629 in early February for details on how you might participate. Please contact Steve at (770) 594-7226 or at [smchugh@mindspring.com](mailto:smchugh@mindspring.com) if you have any questions. And thanks for considering a donation to this most worthy cause.

***Scouting for Food***

Sunday, February 5, 2006

Mount Pisgah United Methodist Church, North Campus (lobby) All Scouts and families are encouraged to donate can goods which will be given the North Fulton Charities. We currently need volunteers to assist with food delivery, and to assist in the lobby area from 8:30 - 10:30 and from 10:30 - 12:30 on that Sunday.

Please contact **Wendy Kraemer** [wkraemer@bellsouth.net](mailto:wkraemer@bellsouth.net)

***Scout Sunday, February 5, 2006***

Just a reminder to worship at your Church or place of worship or you are invited to worship at Mount Pisgah United Methodist Church, North Campus

All Scouts and families are invited to attend either the 9:30 or the 11:00 am service.

Greeters are needed, volunteer scouts please be at the table out front of New Sanctuary 30 minutes prior to the service beginning. Please contact Mr. Brasher with questions

[c.brasher@comcast.net](mailto:c.brasher@comcast.net)



## Scoutmaster Minute by Scoutmaster Fran Gillis

Congratulations are in order for another of our scouts! David Munoz has just passed his Eagle Board of review. David joins over 30 scouts of Troop 629 who have already attained the highest scouting award. David hopefully is just the lead this year for a large number of our scouts who are just on the edge and can complete their requirements for their board this year as well. So to those 15 or more Life scouts knuckle on down and spend a dedicated amount of time each week and this Eagle award can be yours as well. There is a new special section on our troop web site to help those Life scouts focus on their remaining requirements.

Congratulations are also on order for 9 of our scouts who have been selected to serve this year on the Atlanta Area Council Green Bar National Youth Leadership Training staff. Two of scouts (**Dan T and David W**) will also be Senior Patrol Leaders for those four Troops being formed along with the remaining selected staff of **Steven M, Neal R, Grayson C, Adam D, Dustin H, Jacob M and Colin C.**

Some changes to our February outing due to high cost and long travel estimates for the Manatee Swimming in Florida. The Patrol Leader council has opted to go on an overnight backpacking trip to Pine Mountain Feb 18-19. Look for the details on our web site and sign up soon. We are also headed for the District Spring camporee at the end of March and as this edition gets published we will have finished another round of Order of the Arrow elections which results will be announced at that camporee. Summer camp registration forms will be out at the **next Troop Court of Honor Monday night Feb 6th** which is just after we finish our Scout Sunday celebration on Feb 5<sup>th</sup> along with the annual scouting for food drive to be held at Mt Pisgah and assisted by our scouts who have signed up to attend.

Finally we have a crew slot in the *summer of 2007 for Philmont New Mexico* for a rocky mountain high backcountry expedition to remember forever in ones life. If you are going to be 14 by Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 2007 then this trip might be just the one for you. Look for the flyers to sign up soon with your deposit to a slot for you.

## **HELPING FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

**Greg Gehrhardt**, along with **David Dorfeld** and scouts from two other troops (organized by Gehrhardt), were very involved with the NFCC Mary Drake Christmas donation program this past December.

Gehrhardt states after December 14<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> “it was a fun experience and hard to complete describe the event in words”.

A combination of my friends and our families helped at North Fulton Charities during the Holidays. Volunteers pulled together at the Christmas present drop-off a location that the sponsored families received presents. Also we helped in Christmas gift distribution, where we distributed the gifts from the Sponsored families to their assigned family. Finally, volunteers helped in the giving of presents to kids and their families, called Santa Shop. In this experience we would walk around with parents to find gifts for their child or children. This experience was breath-taking and a memory maker for life.

If I could ‘make a single wish’ it would for every scout and friend to partake in this marvelous activity next year! It is an adventure you will never forget. I loved it and you will too!

– Greg Gehrhardt

## **AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS.. BE SOMEBODY!**

### **January Rank Advancements**

Robby Mitchell - 2nd Class

Will Padget - Star

Zack Padget - Star

*Jamry Jones* - Life

## ***Congratulations to David Munoz, Eagle Scout (January 26, 2006)***

### **Date Change! NEXT Troop Board of Review (BOR) – February 27**

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@realtyexecutivesUSA.com](mailto:joe@realtyexecutivesUSA.com) -

## Smile!

### Taking pictures of Scouts for Troop 629 Leader's Photo Guide to Scouts

The Troop Leaders have requested a "photo guide" to our Scouts. This will assist them in getting to know every Scout by name. With such a large Troop, this can be a challenge at times. This is especially true for those Scouts who do not participate on a regular basis. Mike Deaton has volunteered to take the photos and put this guide together.

We will begin taking photos at the ***Court of Honor on February 6th***. We will try to get a shot of every Scout over the next few months, including new cross-over Webelos. We hope to have this project completed for this year by April or May. The guide should be ready in plenty of time for Summer Camp in June.

Photos will be collected along with Scout's name and the year they joined Troop 629. To protect privacy, no other information will be included in this document. This guide will be for internal Troop use only, by Scoutmaster/ASMs and the Troop Committee, and is not for any other purpose. (Note: This is not for the Troop's website.) If you have any questions or concerns about this project, please contact **Wendy Kraemer [wkraemer@bellsouth.net](mailto:wkraemer@bellsouth.net) or Mike Deaton [mdeaton@mindspring.com](mailto:mdeaton@mindspring.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**

*Will all Scouts scheduled for our Sea Base trip please keep in mind the following deadlines; Medical forms due to Mr. McGoff on February 1, 2006 Final payment for all expenses due by February 16, 2006. In addition, any Scout who wishes to be considered for an alternate on the trip, please contact John DiPietro or Mike McGoff*

*We are looking forward to a wonderful Trip"*

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.

## **Committee Changes....**

Suzie Adams will be taking over the flower fundraiser from Kathleen Narayanan.

Erica Fica will be taking over the membership committee.

Bob Walker will be taking over the Life to Eagle Coordinator.

Thank you parents for your dedication to the Scouting program!

## **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: **FEBRUARY 27**

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 **FEBRUARY 16, 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***

**Receive this by email, just send your email address to [joe@RealtyExecutivesUSA.com](mailto:joe@RealtyExecutivesUSA.com)**

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