



TROOP 629



MARCH 2006

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

DOWNLOAD THIS NEWSLETTER AT WWW.TROOP629.ORG

Hot Topics in this Edition

Feb 27: Troop Meeting – SPECIAL MEETING AT COKE DISTRIBUTION CENTER

Feb 27: Summer CAMP Deposit DUE

March 3: *Friends of Scouting DEADLINE*

March 5 Sun 6:00p.m.: Troop Committee Meeting at the dining hall

March 6: Troop Meeting 7:15 p.m.

March 6: *FLOWER SALE BEGINS*

March 9: RT and OA meeting 7:00 pm

March 13: Troop Meeting 7:15 p.m.

March 14: Merit Badge HELP night 6:00pm

March 16: Patrol Leaders Council

March 17: *May the LUCK OF THE IRISH BE WITH YOU!*

March 17, 18, 19: GREEN BAR STAFF

March 18: NESA DAY

March 20: Troop Meeting 7:15 p.m. / Board of REVIEW

March 23: Eagle to Life Clinic / Board of REVIEW

March 24, 25,26: District Camporee

March 25: CPR Saturday FREE!

March 27: Troop Meeting 7:15 p.m.

April 1: April Fools Day – ‘Fool!’

April 3: Troop Meeting 7:15 p.m. – CASH WASH SIGN UP

April 3: Flower SALE ENDS

April 14: Flowers Delivered

April 29: Car WASH and Garage sale

May 5: Cancer Walk



Semi-annual Flower Sale Kick Off!

March 6th is the exciting kick off of the semi-annual flower sale fund raiser. **The sale lasts until April 3rd**, at that time all orders and money will be due. For those of you away for Spring Break, please get your orders in before you leave. The flowers are scheduled to be delivered Friday, April 14th with pickup at Mount Pisgah. Mrs. Adams quotes three ways to sell flowers:

- 1) Use the order forms and simply take orders from family, friends and neighbors. Offer to deliver the orders, less hassle = bigger sales.
- 2) Post or hand out a flyer with your email address
- 3) Hand out or post a flyer with the Troop's website (www.troop629.com) the customer can place orders online.

This is a great opportunity to increase your High Adventure account.

Volunteers will also be needed for truck unloading (adults) and ordering Filling (scouts) on the 14th. Please contact Mrs. Adams if you can help that day. If you have any questions or are in need of additional order forms please contact Mrs. Adams at 678.468.9976 or suzie@hidc.com

CPR Saturday

Note from Mrs. Sue Knoetgen ASM, Medical Records

- ❖ CPR Saturday on March 25th - it is a good deal - FREE (\$45 value). For registration information, call 404-575-3094 or http://www.atlantaredcross.org/site/c.csJLKZPLJvH/b.1425683/k.8786/CPR_Saturday.htm

Kaiser Permanente and the American Red Cross invite you to mark your calendar for March 25, 2006 then point your car in the right direction - one of seven metro locations hosting Red Cross CPR Saturday throughout the day. Thanks to the sponsorship of Kaiser Permanente, thousands will learn Adult CPR - a \$45 value - for free at this community-wide event! Block-out four hours for training - classes start every half-hour from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Registration is necessary and begins February 18, 2006. (ages 12 and up). Please check back soon or call 404-575-3094 for registration information.

American Cancer Society - Cancer Walk

Please leave the evening of May 5th open for the annual event. Details will be coming soon. Contact Nan Brown nantbrown@hotmail.com or Mike Furick mikefrk@bellsouth.net

Scouting For Food

Troop 629 - Scorpion Patrol assisted Mount Pisgah United Methodist Church in their Outreach Program by helping sort and deliver food to North Fulton County Charities. Service hours were earned for this project. A big thank you to both the Scorpion Patrol and the adults who participated: Dorothea Norris and Susan Cook



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 if you have any questions. And thanks for considering a donation to this most worthy cause.

NEW SCOUTS will be joining our Troop over the next few months and a big Welcome to them all. Some realignment of patrols will be ongoing and integration activities will be as well to help them fold into the Troop and set off on their trail to Eagle!

Welcome to all Webelos II that will be crossing-over.

FREE EMAIL NEWSLETTER

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

Annual Garage Sale and Car Wash

Mark Your Calendar for the Coming Up **Saturday April 29th** -

Save your unwanted items. Tell your neighbors to save theirs, too. Donate them to Troop 629 Annual Garage Sale. Items can be brought to the South Campus Friday April 28th from 5- 9 pm. (desired items include household items, furniture, small appliances, tools, hardware, clothes, sporting goods, bikes, collectibles, computer hardware and software.) All funds raised from the sale of donations go to the Troop for camping equipment and Troop supplies. While you browse at the Garage Sale have your Car washed by the Scouts! Look for the sign-up sheets Monday April 3. Helpers are needed to sort and price Friday night when items arrive, Saturday morning to set-up, Saturday to cashier, Saturday to run the concession stand and Saturday to help with the Car Wash. **Service hours will be awarded the scouts participating.** If you would like to sign up already please contact doronorris@yahoo.com for the Garage Sale and Jerry Sevy jsevy@prattindustries.com for the Car Wash.



Scoutmaster Minute by Scoutmaster Fran Gillis

Active participation is one of the requirements that a Scoutmaster has to approve for each rank advancement. While this particular requirement has no real goal or actual quantifiable amount of time and events to participate in it should entail more than just showing up at a few meetings during the time frame for that rank being worked on. So what guidance can I give? I am looking at the total growth experience for that particular scout involved. If I know the scout is wrapped up in swim team practices and swim meets then I know that scouts has a balancing act between school and scouts and his special activities and I take that into account. If I know a scout is just sitting at home and not activity involved in anything and just doing school and scouts then I feel more obliged to demand at least one overnight outing for that rank, some routine meeting attendance and some actual participation in other scouting service or programs for that time frame. *Paying for annual registration is not enough to be considered active* and showing up just to pass off your personal requirements is far less than expected. Participation is expected in troop and patrol sponsored activities. Make sure that every time you are participating in more than a troop meeting the records are getting updated by the advancement chairperson to reflect those events and your efforts so you are truly reflecting an active participating scout.

Youthful indiscretions have been ongoing all along but at times they get beyond normal tolerances. Recently we have had a number of scouts who have failed to follow the principles of being a good scout and have thought that BSA stood for the Baby Sitters of America and taken liberties far beyond what we can tolerate. A scout is a scout all the time and we expect their best behavior and obeying of the rules set out at all times. Just because we can not watch you at every moment does not mean that you can revert when not being observed. Participation means compliance with all the rules or an invitation to find another group to belong to will be offered.

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS.. BE SOMEBODY!

January and February Rank Advancements:

Scout

Brandon Seals

Dylan Lu

Life

Jamry Jones

2nd Class

Robby Mitchell

EAGLE

David Munoz

Star

Will Padget and Zack Padget

February Advancement

The February 27 BOR was cancelled due to a change the Troop meeting location. **Please NOTE: February BOR candidates will appear before the March 20 BOR.** Mark your calendar now!

New Troop Advancement Chair - Mrs. Narayanan

As of March 1, Mrs. Narayanan will be taking over as Troop Advancement Chair. You may contact her via email at Kathleen@avalonintl.com

Next Troop Board of Review - March 20

Note: February BOR candidates will appear before the March BOR. After a scout completes his Scoutmaster conference, he must notify **Mrs. Narayanan**, Troop Advancement Chair, 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.

Merit Badge Counselors Needed

Being a Merit Badge Counselor is an easy and fun way to be involved in the Troop. All Merit Badge Counselors must complete a Merit Badge Counselor application and Adult Leader Registration form (both can be found on our Troop website Forms page). To learn more about your role as a merit badge counselor visit www.meritbadge.com/info/. Please give completed forms to Mrs. Narayanan.

We are seeking counselors for all BSA merit badges; however, we currently have no one registered for the following merit badges:

Archaeology	Disability Awareness	Plant Science	Veterinary
Bird Study	Fly Fishing	Railroading	Waterskiing
Bugling	Graphic Arts	Reptile/Amphibian	Whitewater
Cinematography	Medicine	Sculpture	
Climbing	Model Design	Skating	
Collections	Music	Textile	
Dentistry	Nuclear Science	Theater	

Adult Leaders - Tell Us You've Been Trained

We need trained leaders! Upon completion of any BSA training program, please send a copy of your course "completion" card to Mrs. Narayanan, at Kathleen@avalonintl.com or bring a copy to her at the Troop meeting.

TRAVEL? ADVENTURE? GET AWAY FROM DAILY DUTIES!

Summer Camp 2006 : Woodruff Scout Reservation (Near Blairsville, GA)

New scout advancement, merit badges and high adventure activities!

Application sheets will be available at www.troop629.org soon - Cost is \$240 plus additional fees as selected for certain events as noted on the attached sheets. Sign up early - class sizes are limited and may be closed for late request. Registration night is Monday, Mar 27th.

Deposit of \$60 due Feb 27th , 2nd Payment of \$100 by Apr 24th & final \$80 by May 22nd.

A permission slip and physical (enclosed) are required for all scouts and need to be turned in by May 22nd. Depending on activities a Class II or III physical is required. If a "Class II" is on file with the Troop & not older than 3 years it will suffice. A "Class III" is required to be updated annually. Class I portion of all physicals needs to be "updated annually".

Drop off your scout by 1:00 PM Sunday, June 11th at Camp in full uniform with all his gear and pick him up by 9:00 AM Saturday, June 17th

Questions? Contact Mr. Brasher c.brasher@comcast.net

Green Bar National Youth Leadership training is to occur again this year and we have 9 of our scouts who will be serving on this Council level staff. Applications are available for those new participants who will be FC and 13 years or older by May 29. See the SM or go to our web site for applications.

Philmont 2007: The Troop has been approved for a crew to go to Philmont, NM in the summer of 2007. Hold your spot now with a \$100 reservation fee. Must be 14 by Jan 1, 2007 and FC to participate. Slots going fast.

Sea Base 2007: Two of our Sea Base crews are off for a glorious trip this April spring break for the Florida Keys. Next spring break in April 2007 will also offer an opportunity to sail in the Bahamas. Those who will be FC and 14 by Aug 2007 are eligible so sign up now with a reservation fee of \$100 to hold your space for this great adventure. This is a new event being scheduled.

Summer Camp 2006 at Woodruff sign ups are now ongoing and class reservations will start soon. Do not be left out for this June 11-17 experience in the Georgia outdoors for all registered scouts. Flyers are available at the meetings and on our web site.

Camporee is coming up for us March 24-26 out at Camp Jamison near Covington. Look for a flyer a couple of weeks prior for sign up. Great activity for patrol team building and a new scouts first overnight outing with us.

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.

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.

Nat Padget - Den Chief Coordinator

Meals – HELP?! We are looking for someone to fill this position.

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 **Kathleen Narayanan** kathleen@avalonintl.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.

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: **MARCH 20**

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 Wendy Kraemer at wkraemer@bellsouth.net**

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 Wendy Kraemer at 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 **MARCH 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

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
joe@realtyexecutivesUSA.com***