



BOY SCOUT TROOP 629 NEWSLETTER

September 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

Scoutmaster Minute by Fran Gillis

Congratulations are in order for our two newest Eagle scouts – David Martinez and David White both passed their District Boards of Review in late August and join the roll of 40 prior Troop 629 scouts who have attained scouting's highest youth advancement award. Look for their Courts of Honor for the official presentation of their Eagle Medal in the future. Plenty of activities are on the schedule and our troop calendar on the web site is a very dynamic one so keep abreast of the upcoming activities. School activities are now being inserted on everyone's busy calendars. Please do not lose sight of the need to keep active with the scouting program to fulfill your active participation requirements.

*****ORGANIZE YOUR FAMILY CALENDAR*****

September Reminders:

Bring your Canned Goods to September troop meetings

Keep in mind our Warm Coat Drive in October

Sept 1st: Popcorn sales begin

Sept 4th: Labor Day – No Troop Meeting

Sept 9th & 10th: Callaway Garden Bike Outing

Sept 10th: Adult BBQ Dinner & Meeting

Sept 12th: Merit Badge Help Night and New Leader Essentials Class

Sept 13th: SALT1 (Scoutmaster & Asst. Scoutmaster Leader Training)

Sept 18th: New Parent Scout meeting (during troop meeting – same place)

Sept 20th: SALT2

Sept 20th: Last day to register for Merit Badge Clinic on Sept 30th

Sept 27th: SALT3

Sept 30th: Merit Badge Clinic – UGA – Warnell School of Forestry, Athens, GA

October Reminders:

Oct 1st: Atlanta Braves Scout Day

Oct 6th - 8th: USS Alabama Trip

Oct 9th: Columbus Day – Yes, there is a troop meeting

Oct 10th: Merit Badge Help Night

Oct 15th: New Leader Essentials Class

Oct 16th: Board of Review

Oct 21st: Six Flags Fright Fest

Oct 27th - 28th: Warm Coat drive

Oct 28th: Motor Speedway Scout Day

Oct 30th: Popcorn sales end

Oct 30th: Troop meeting @ Newtown Park

*****DEADLINES AND DATES*****

Click on Calendar at www.Troop629.org for the most current information for the very busy months in the fall for scouts and adults. You'll also find more meeting dates and service project opportunities. The troop annual calendar has been formulated by the Patrol Leaders Council, who recently planned next year's events and activities. Also look for flyers at meetings or postings on the bulletin board.

Adult Dinner & Meeting September 10th @ 6:00 pm

It's time again for our annual Adult Dinner, which is for all adults of Boy Scout Troop 629. Once again, the Yakrus and Sevy families will provide our dinner. This is our monthly meeting where all adults are invited to attend to find out what is on the agenda for the upcoming year and how they can participate. Donation of \$5 per adult. Please RSVP to WLKraemer@bellsouth.net.

Next Outing Preparation!

Next troop outing is biking at **Callaway Garden, September 9th - 10th**. **October 6th - 8th** brings a visit to the **USS Alabama in Mobile Bay**. Money is due by October 2nd. Have you taken care of your paperwork yet? Looking ahead to **November 11th - 12th** is an **Appalachian Trail (AT) Backpacking** trip. Flyers/forms are available at meetings and on our website – on the homepage, click on “more” for “upcoming events” under “News”.

Next Troop Board of Review – September 18th

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**.

New Parent Scout Meeting

This is set for Monday, **September 18th @ 7:15 pm in South Hall** which is the same place where the scouts meet. If your son is new to the troop please consider coming to this informational meeting. We will cover a variety of topics. Contact: Gregg @ cbrasher@comcast.net.

Life to Eagle Workshop

Date, Time & Location To Be Announced (plan for the first week of October and check the Old Chapel door for posted information and the website for current updates)

The purpose of the workshop is to provide the Eagle candidate with perspective on the time and effort required to complete the final advancement step in Scouting. Two types of service projects will be discussed. We will look at successful Troop 629 projects and how and where to find ideas for service projects. Come and receive tools to guide and assist you in this great journey! Parents are welcome. Contact Mr. Walker for more information bob@walker-ga.org.

Merit Badge Clinic Deadline

The deadline for signing up for Advance-A-Rama @ UGA Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources in Athens, GA is **October 20th**. A wide variety of merit badge classes are offered.

*****EARNING POWER*****

Troop 629 Scout activity scholarships

Through a community service work effort opportunities are available to all our scouts who may be in need. No scout should be denied participation in a troop outing or trip purely for temporary financial situations. We can help each scout earn his own way if that is the way to go. If this is your situation, please let Mr. Gillis know.

Fundraisers For Your High Adventure Accounts and Troop Expenses

It is that time of year to start looking for flyers at weekly meetings detailing our annual fundraiser support programs. These programs help each scout earn his own way on those High Adventure trips that he wants to go on. It's never too early for a scout to start his own individual High Adventure account which the troop maintains. Many boys have been able to fund their entire big-ticket trips from accumulating earnings over the years. Look for details at the end of meetings near the bulletin board or from special handouts.

CORNS A-POPPIN'!!!

Our annual popcorn sale is underway. Be sure to get your popcorn packet from Mr. Rocchio at the Monday night Troop meeting and begin selling right away. Scouts – this is your opportunity to start building money in your High Adventure account for a trip in your future. New this year is a chance to win an iPod! Check for dates at the meeting for the arrival of the show-n-sell boxes (great for customers who want it NOW). Also announcements will be made at the meeting and on the website for group show-n-sells at various nearby storefront locations. This makes it a fun easy way to sell that yummy popcorn.

KROGER DEBIT CARDS - \$\$ Turn your grocery shopping into funds for our Scouts in Troop 629 at no cost to you! Why not participate?

Join Troop 629 families in this fabulous, painless and easy monthly fundraiser. By just participating in this generous Kroger program at no cost to you and in conjunction with your normal routine of buying groceries for the family, our **troop receives 5%** of our total debit card orders each month. These funds go directly to keep the costs down on each of our monthly activities and to help pay for various troop costs. The debit cards can be used at any Kroger store [during each use your purchase is deducted and 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 debit card, you will receive a \$50 Kroger debit card)! To get started, call or e-mail **Susan Cook (678-297-7766; ssbcook@bellsouth.net)** with this information:

- Name; Address; Phone #; E-mail address; Amount for Monthly Kroger debit card (i.e. \$25; \$40; \$50; \$75; \$100, \$200...etc.)

Orders are placed at the end of the month for the following month. At the beginning of the month, Susan will mail your Kroger debit card to you (with enclosed reminder of amount owed and her address to send payment). Return payment in the mail to Susan (requested to be received by the 22nd of the month) or you can bring payment on to Monday night troop meeting and give to Susan.

*******BE PREPARED*******

Patrol Leaders Council - Next PLC is set for September 21st, 2006

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.

Scoutmaster's notes on High Adventures for 2007

For those scouts 14 and older adventures include a New England ski trip over a January weekend, Bahamas tall ship sailing in April, Rocky Mountain backpacking in Philmont, NM in June and if interest is given, a backwoods Canadian canoe trip in July with Northern Tier. If you haven't made your interest known and signed up for your High Adventure – what are you waiting for? See the SM at the meeting or the web site (click on "more" for "2007 High Adventure" under "News" on the home page for flyers/forms and details.) Parental information fliers have been given out and forms and initial payments are due.

Next Court of Honor – January 29, 2007

All scouts and their families are invited to recognize those accomplishments over the past few months. It is a great place to re-confirm next year's activities and how they all fit together for each scout. Hope to see you all there.

Georgia Tech Football Game Ushers

Some of the home games allow scouts to act as ushers and this year our SPL will be looking to see if there is any interest to participate. See him for details and to sign up if you are interested.

Trip Paperwork – It is important

Each trip we ask for a permission slip for a scout's participation to ensure we have the parents' concurrence and have the latest info on that scout. This permission slip is important for each activity and should be carefully completed including if you can help with the driving to and from any activity. Please fill them out completely and have them in by their deadlines so we can gather the proper resources to carry out each and every activity.

Troop meetings are back to their formal process of starting at **7:15 PM and ending by 8:45 PM each Monday**. Full uniform is expected unless otherwise noted. Merit badge work time is limited to the designated game time at each meeting. If it is a patrol competition night then there is no merit badge time at those meetings. Scouts are expected to be active members of their patrols and cannot be constantly away working on their own advancement. Its not just about the individual – Scouting is Outing, using the patrol method and working with the group.

Merit Badges

Scouts in our Troop earn merit badges only after they have read the entire merit badge book and have met with a designated approved adult who will verify the completeness of all the requirements. Clinics and camp earned badges are to be verified with this process as well to ensure quality control over the process being used to help a scout actually learn the expected materials. When a scout is ready to get checked out by a counselor, he needs to ask Mr. Gillis to direct him to an approved counselor for that particular merit badge. Troop meetings are not the normal place to accomplish merit badge verifications, but rather with adult counselors at separate settings. Advancements to achieve Scout through First Class are conducted during Troop meetings and that is where new scouts need to be concentrating their time. Merit badge help nights will commence again on the **second Tuesday of each month from 6-7PM September 12th**.

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>

*******A SCOUT IS THRIFTY*******

Lending Closet

A lending (and donating) closet of items from gear to uniforms is available to Troop 629 scouts. Our closet has recycled items that any scout can seek to use or have just for the asking. Those who have items to pass along are also encouraged to do so for the next thrifty scout.

Patrol food items

Non-perishable (left over) food 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.

*******SCOUT HANDSHAKE*******

EAGLE COURT OF HONOR

We have two scouts who have achieved the honored rank of Eagle this month: David White and David Martinez. Special ceremonies are being planned to celebrate and receive their awards so please watch for announcements of times, dates and locations at troop meetings, on the bulletin board, website and/or email. This is a very special recognition evening and we hope that all scouts will attend with their families.

ADVANCEMENT FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST:

EAGLE: David Martinez and David White

LIFE: Joe DiPietro

STAR: Jonathan Atz and Jacob McGoff

FIRST CLASS: Robby Mitchell and Gabe Unger

SECOND CLASS: Benjamin Mortimer

TENDERFOOT: Benjamin Bierbaum, Jake Brasher and Benjamin Mortimer

SCOUT: Robbie Warren

New Flower Sales Coordinator

A big thank you goes to Heather Barton who has volunteered for the coordinator position of Flower Sale Fundraiser. This fundraiser is a great way for the scouts to earn money for their High Adventure trips. The money you earn goes into your High Adventure account where it is ready to be applied to the cost of a future HA trip.

*******ADULT OPPORTUNITIES*******

***Behind the scenes** of any great Troop are many helpful adults doing their part to keep the activities and events running smoothly. If you have some time and can help see our committee chair, Wendy Kraemer, to find out which areas are open for assistance.*

Open Committee Positions:

Popcorn Fundraiser (Assistant - with promotion forthcoming!)

We are in need of an **Assistant** for our Popcorn Kernel, Frank Rocchio, who has headed up this project over the last two years. You can work with Frank this year, and then take it over next year. This is an annual fall project that has just kicked off again this month. **We need you!** Please contact Wendy Kraemer or Frank Rocchio for more information.

Newly created position - Service Hours & Project Coordinator

Blaze new trails! We are looking for someone to coordinate all service projects where scouts can earn service hours. We have several opportunities with Mount Pisgah and within the community. We need someone who can keep an on-going list of what is coming up, promote sign-up and document each participating scout's service hours.

Please contact Wendy Kraemer for more information on either of these open positions, wkraemer@bellsouth.net

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 Scoutmaster Conference for rank advancement. If you are interested in participating as a Troop BOR member please contact Kathleen Narayanan at 770-998-6752 or kathleen@avalonintl.com. No experience required. (Unfortunately, unit leaders and assistant unit leaders may not serve as a BOR member.)

Adult Training: All adults wanting to participate in any of our activities have a number of pre-training requirements we like to and need to have accomplished depending on the activity. It's best to get your qualifications completed early so when that trip comes up that you want to go on, you aren't scrambling to get in. Many of the courses are held on limited basis. Check our web site under Training for the minimum needs and look for notices of when the classes are coming up.

So now you are ready to get started? Want more insight on what scouting is all about?

Your first step is to go to our troop website homepage and click "Forms" then "Misc. Forms and Reports". Finally, click on "Registration Form—Adult", print and complete the **Adult Application** and give to Kathleen Narayanan at the next troop meeting. Your next step begins your training — click on "Training" on our homepage on the troop website. Click on **Youth Protection Training** and follow it through to the end. After you've completed this simple on-line course, you are on your way to being trained.

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 Kathleen Narayanan, at Kathleen@avalonintl.com, or bring a copy to her at the Troop meeting.

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 Kathleen 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	Theater
Bugling	Fly Fishing	Railroading	Veterinary
Cinematography	Graphic Arts	Reptile/Amphibian	Waterskiing
Climbing	Medicine	Sculpture	Whitewater
Collections	Model Design	Skating	
Dentistry	Music	Textile	

WEB SITE INFORMATION

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 send all email address changes, deletions and additions to this address:

spluspcubed@mindspring.com Do you know of a troop adult or scout who is not receiving their newsletter by email and would like to be included? Forward this copy to them and have them send me their name and email address.

Why not print out the calendar and post it near your family calendar. Remember to verify dates often on the website and bulletin board.

September 2006

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<u>27</u> Aug	28	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>1</u> Sep	<u>2</u>
New Leaders Essentials	7:15p -8:45p Troop Meeting Court of Honor Eagle: Joe Dembowski				ITOLS-O Popcorn Sales Begin	
<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>
	Labor Day (Fed) 7:15p -8:45p NO MEETING Canned Goods Drive		Life to Eagle Seminar		OA Fellowship	OA Fellowship Callaway Bike Outing
<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>
OA Fellowship Callaway Bike Outing 6:00p -7:30p Troop Committee Meeting	7:15p -8:45p Troop Meeting Canned Goods Drive	New Leader Essentials	SALT 1	7:30p RT & OA Meeting		Sandy Springs Festival Service Project
<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>
	7:15p -8:45p Troop Meeting Canned Goods Drive		SALT 2	7:00p -8:00p Patrol Leader's Council	Erev Rosh Hashanah	Rosh Hashanah Troop Leader Training
<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>
Rosh Hashanah	7:15p -8:45p Troop Meeting Canned Goods Drive		SALT 3		ITOLS	ITOLS River Alive Service Advance-A-Rama @ UGA Warnell School
Add Events:	Daily	Duration	Periodic	Administer:		This Calendar