



# BOY SCOUT TROOP 629 NEWSLETTER

*July 2007*

*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](http://www.Troop629.org)

## Scoutmaster Minute by Fran Gillis

Young men stand before us now, smiling broadly as their honor is bestowed. They stood before us once as *Tenderfoot*, but now they are an *"Eagle Scout"*.

*"On my honor, I will do my best"* they promised from the start; They said that they would obey the Law that is known by every scout.

The Oath and Law become their creed, their Motto *"Be Prepared"*; *"Do a good turn daily"* was the Slogan to which they agreed.

With Slogan, Motto, the Oath and Law, they traveled the *"Eagle"* trail; a trail completed by just a few, but an asset to those who do.

They learned to do whatever is right no matter what others might think. They learned to be proud, yet not aloof, to respect all other men.

Who are these young men who before us stand accepting their *"Eagle"* with pride? They once were a Boy Scout with boyish ideals; but now they are nearly men.

## \*\*\*\*\*ORGANIZE YOUR FAMILY CALENDAR\*\*\*\*\*

### July Reminders:

**July 1<sup>st</sup>:** Color Guard assist in Church Services ~ Committee Meeting ~ Philmont ends

**July 4<sup>th</sup>:** Fourth of July (fly your flag proudly)

**July 12<sup>th</sup>:** RT & OA Meeting

**July 15<sup>th</sup>:** Eagle Court of Honor for John DiPietro

**July 16<sup>th</sup>:** Permission slips and fees due for Broad River Kayaking/Canoeing

**July 19<sup>th</sup>:** Patrol Leader's Council Meeting

**July 21<sup>st</sup>:** Broad River Kayaking/Canoeing

**July 29<sup>th</sup>:** Eagle Court of Honor for Greg Yakrus

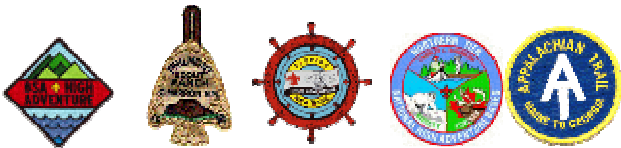
**July 30<sup>th</sup>:** Permission slips due for White Water/Six Flags

## August Reminders:

**Aug 1<sup>st</sup>:** 100-Year Celebration for BSA  
**Aug 5<sup>th</sup>:** Committee Meeting  
**Aug 8<sup>th</sup>:** White Water/Six Flags  
**Aug 9<sup>th</sup>:** RT & OA Meeting  
**Aug 13<sup>th</sup>:** School Begins in Fulton County  
**Aug 14<sup>th</sup>:** Merit Badge Help Night  
**Aug 16<sup>th</sup>:** Patrol Leader's Council Meeting  
**Aug 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>:** Lake Allatoona: Back to Basics  
**Aug 20<sup>th</sup>:** Board of Review  
**Aug 27<sup>th</sup>:** Court of Honor

## \*\*\*\*\*DEADLINES AND DATES\*\*\*\*\*

Please frequently visit our web site [www.troop629.org](http://www.troop629.org). It is a dynamic, changing document that will keep you abreast of all troop activities and catch up on any of the latest changes. Click on Calendar for the most current information. You'll also find more meeting dates and service project opportunities. The troop annual calendar has been formulated by the Patrol Leaders Council, who has a special meeting once a year to plan next year's events and activities. Also look for flyers at meetings or postings on the bulletin board.



## Preparation for Next Troop Outings ... a.k.a ... Cures for Boredom and Laziness ...

~~~~~ The next troop outing to look forward to is **Broad River Kayaking/Canoeing** on **July 21<sup>st</sup>**. Permission slips and fees will be due **July 16<sup>th</sup>**. Look for flyers with details to come out soon at a troop meeting. ~~~~~ **August 8<sup>th</sup>** brings another planned troop event with a trip to **White Water/Six Flags**. Permission slips will be due **July 30<sup>th</sup>** and this will help determine if we have enough participants to receive a group rate. ~~~~~ There will be a **Back to Basics** program at **Lake Allatoona** on **August 17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>**. Detailed flyers and signup sheets will be displayed at troop meetings as this August event nears. ~~~~~

## Flyers

Tons of Troop Pictures – (Summer Camp 2007 group shot with a promise of more to come, Cloudland & Caving, and more....) <http://www.troop629.org/pictures/pictures.htm>

## Broad River Troop Outing

Mark your calendar for **July 21<sup>st</sup>** to join your friends for a day-trip of kayaking or canoeing for 5-10 miles on the **Broad River** (north of Athens, Georgia). Although details are still being firmed up, here are a few as they stand. Cost for rentals and fees will be \$25 which will be due with your permission slip by **July 16<sup>th</sup>**.

## White Water/Six Flags

Another troop day-trip is planned for **August 8<sup>th</sup>** for an outing to **White Water/Six Flags**. Permission slips will be due by **July 30<sup>th</sup>**. If you have a season pass or your own ticket, you may use it. We will be able to obtain a group ticket rate with at least 15 scouts in order to get a savings of \$13 per ticket from the gate price. We will need parents to help drive to and from so please look at your calendar and volunteer to help if you are available.

## Lake Adventure and Fishing Trip Outing

Another fun outing to look forward to in August will be on **Lake Allatoona**. **August 17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>** will be weekend of camping, fishing and boating. Permission slip and \$27 will be due by **August 13<sup>th</sup>** to save your spot on the adventure. Flyers and sign-up sheets will be available at a troop meeting as the day gets closer.

## Next Troop Board of Review – August 20<sup>th</sup>

*Please read carefully:* After a scout completes his Scoutmaster Conference, he must notify Mrs. Narayanan, Troop Advancement Chair, that he is ready for the next B.O.R. Reminder: **Full Class “A” uniform and Scout handbook are required** for participation in a **Board of Review**.








## \*\*\*\*\*SCOUT HANDSHAKE\*\*\*\*\*

## Eagle Court of Honor

**Two special Eagle Courts of Honor** have been planned to celebrate two of the troop's newest Eagle Scouts, **John DiPietro** and **Greg Yakrus**. *Congratulations Greg and John!* John's ceremony will take place on **Sunday, July 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm** to honor his achievement and will be held *in Room S305, which is located upstairs in the new Sanctuary building on the North Campus (not the South campus where the troop usually meets)*. Greg's ceremony will take place on **Sunday, July 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm** to honor his achievement and will be held in the same room as John's on the North Campus. These are very special recognition evenings and we hope that all scouts will attend them with their families.

 **EAGLE**~ **LIFE**~ **STAR**~ **FIRST CLASS**~ **SECOND CLASS**~ **TENDERFOOT**~ **SCOUT**

## Advancement Congratulations for the month of June go to:

-  **EAGLE:** (none this month)
-  **LIFE:** (none this month)
-  **STAR:** (none this month)
-  **FIRST CLASS:** **Bryan R.**
-  **SECOND CLASS:** (none this month)
-  **TENDERFOOT:** (none this month)
-  **SCOUT:** (none this month)

## \*\*\*\*\*EARNING POWER\*\*\*\*\*

## Missed the opportunity to earn High Adventure \$\$\$? Don't despair ...

Fundraising programs provide our scouts an opportunity to earn their own way on those High Adventure trips as well as skiing and summer camp. 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. Keep an eye on the newsletter, website and troop bulletin board for future opportunities (**popcorn and flowers in September**) to sign up and earn.

## Troop 629 Scout Activity Scholarships

Through a community service work effort, opportunities are available to all our scouts who may have a temporary cash flow problem. Troop 629 believes that no scout should be denied participation in a troop outing or event because of this very solvable problem. We can help each scout earn his own way easily enough by working off his payments with approved service hours. Just ask Scoutmaster Gillis to work out your scholarship plan, then sign up for that outing you want to go on.

## **Fabulous Troop Fundraising Activity: KROGER GIFT 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 family grocery shopping, our **troop receives 5%** of our total gift 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 operational costs and scholarships. The gift cards can be used at any Kroger store or Kroger fuel center [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 gift card, you will receive a \$50 Kroger gift card)! To get started, call or e-mail **Susan Cook (678-297-7766; [ssbcook@bellsouth.net](mailto:ssbcook@bellsouth.net))** with this information:

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

Orders are placed at the end of the month for the following month. Susan will mail your Kroger gift card to you at the beginning of each month (with enclosed reminder of amount owed and her address to send payment). Return payment in the mail to Susan (she should receive this by the 22<sup>nd</sup> of the month) or you can bring payment on a Monday night troop meeting and give to her.

### **\*\*\*\*\*SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES\*\*\*\*\***

**Service project opportunities** are available almost every weekend. Ask yourself when you say you're bored: Am I really *bored* or am I just being *lazy* and not really looking to get involved? Active participation for each rank is simple but many are making it difficult to meet this requirement. Active quite literally means showing up and the participation part is just as simple ... you've got to get out and do something at least.

Many **service opportunities** exist and are open to all. Why not sign up for a few exciting service opportunities with one of your scout friends today? Flyers and handouts with details are available at the meetings, check out the troop calendar below or express your interest with the SPL and SM as to how you can get involved - it's easy - just ask! Or you can email **Noreen Mitchell** at [nakmitchell@yahoo.com](mailto:nakmitchell@yahoo.com) for some ideas.

### **\*\*\*\*\*BE PREPARED\*\*\*\*\***

#### **Patrol Leaders Council – July 19<sup>th</sup>**

Our **annual Troop planning meeting** took place during the **Patrol Leaders Council** meeting in May with our newly elected and appointed troop leadership. Our new calendar of events for the upcoming year has been posted on the troop website calendar.

#### **A Scout's Responsibility**

A scout's advancement record is only as accurate as the information he has provided to the record-keeper. It is the individual scout's responsibility when working with his youth leaders and assigned adults on his advancement to make sure all updates are given to our **Advancement Chairperson, Mrs. Narayanan.**

#### **B.S.A. Religious Emblems Program**

"A Scout is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties..." "On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God..." What's a great way for a Scout to demonstrate his "duty to God"? The B.S.A. Religious Emblems Program. A religious award is available to Scouts of all major religions. You can earn the award for your faith by meeting certain requirements of religious study and service.

Work on these awards is done with a religious leader of your faith and your parents. Please contact **Mr. Mike Deaton** ([mdeaton@mindspring.com](mailto:mdeaton@mindspring.com)) or look for him at a troop meeting for more information on how to get started in the program.

### **Next Court of Honor – August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

All scouts and their families are **invited and encouraged to attend** this special ceremony to recognize scouts' accomplishments over the past few months. We will catch up on all the awards and recognitions for our scouts and scouter's since May. This includes our new scouts who will be presented their first badge ~ Scout ~ *after completing the instructions in Chapter 1 of the Handbook as well as participation in a Scoutmaster Conference*. It is a great place to re-confirm the year's activities and how they all fit together for each scout. It is held in lieu of a regular troop meeting, same time, same place. Hope to see you all there.

### **Scoutmaster's Notes on High Adventures for 2007**

For those scouts 14 and older adventures include Bahamas tall ship sailing in April and 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 Scoutmaster at the weekly meeting or visit the web site <http://www.troop629.org/Adventure/adventure.htm> for more info.

### **Trip Paperwork – It is important**

Prior to 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. Include details 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. Please make your intentions known early so we can properly make reservations for everyone and have the food and travel arrangements ironed out. Adults wishing to participate are *always welcome and appreciated*. However, we do require each to be registered, complete the minimum training and have an updated physical. Details and troop website links can be found in the \*\*\*\*\*ADULT INVOLVEMENT\*\*\*\*\* section in this newsletter.

### **Troop meetings start at 7:15 PM and end by 8:45 PM each Monday.**

Full uniform is expected unless otherwise noted. Time spent on Merit badge work is limited to the designated "game time" only at each meeting. If it is a patrol competition night, 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. Scouting is not just about the individual scout – **Scouting is Outing**, using the patrol method and working with the group. *Please dress appropriately for the weather as some activities are outside at night. (Be Prepared)*

### **"YOU'VE GOT TO READ THE BOOK"**

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 are on the **second Tuesday of each month from 6-7pm. The next MB Help Night schedule resumes August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007.**

**\*\*\*\*\*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 holds 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.

**Grubby Details**

During some troop outings, patrol food is purchased by scouts working on advancement requirements (Grubmasters). Families are asked to purchase designated food from a list provided and then they are reimbursed by the Troop Treasurer. Families can ask for an advance and handle reconciliation after the trip.

**Leftover Patrol Food**

Non-perishable (leftover) food from camping trips that can be re-used needs to be turned in with the patrol gear at the end of each trip and is stored by the troop in special patrol containers. This will help cut back on costs for future trips and eliminate waste now on-going. A scout buying food will get a menu to use with a budget to follow. It's important to follow the list of 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.

**Why Pay Full Price When You Can Get It At A Discount?**

We have some outdoor equipment stores in the area that want your scout's business and will offer a discount on some or all of their products *just because he is a scout*. Here are a few that our adult leaders have found (email me with your own discoveries of stores that support scouts by giving a scout discount). Most stores want to see your scout membership card and it is always a good idea to verify with an employee prior to purchase that the discount is still offered:

~REI: 10% off at Customer Service; 3 local locations; 770-901-9200, 404-633-6508, 770-831-0670

~Dick's: 10% off by showing your BSA card or with 10%-off-coupons on specific items (posted on troop bulletin board); Northpoint Pkwy; 770-521-1195

~Brigade Quartermaster, Marietta: 10% off by showing your BSA card; 770-428-6870

**\*\*\*\*\*ADULT INVOLVEMENT\*\*\*\*\***

*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 out, please see our committee chair, Wendy Kraemer, [wkraemer@bellsouth.net](mailto:wkraemer@bellsouth.net) to find which areas open for your assistance.*

**We have Committee Positions which need to be filled (new scout parents are welcome):**

**~~~Popcorn Should Be a Food Group!**

Our popcorn fundraiser starts in the fall. This is an open position (wide open!). If you currently do not have a position with our troop, *please volunteer*. We need you and will help you learn the ropes.

**Frank Rocchio** has organized this position for several years and is now ready to step down and advance **you** to the rank of Popcorn Kernel! If you are motivated by troop appreciation for your good deeds, then this position is for you. Please email **Wendy Kraemer** at [wkraemer@bellsouth.net](mailto:wkraemer@bellsouth.net) to tell her you are the troop's next Popcorn Kernel!

**~~~Troop Garage Sale Organizer**

This annual fundraiser has been organized for several years by our troop parent, **Dorothea Norris**. It has been very successful each year, bringing in anywhere from \$600 to \$1,000 annually. This also

generates money for High Adventure accounts for those scouts who wish to participate. Dorothea is handing over the reins to some lucky troop parent who would like to volunteer for this position. Usually work begins in February (flyers and announcements) with the garage sale taking place in April. Please email **Wendy Kraemer** at [wkraemer@bellsouth.net](mailto:wkraemer@bellsouth.net) to tell her that you are perfect for this job, or find her or **Fran Gillis** at the next troop meeting.

### **Troop Committee Meeting**

Our July committee meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, July 1<sup>st</sup> from 6:00pm – 7:30pm** at the Mount Pisgah Dining Room on South Campus.

### **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 **770-740-8496** or [kathleen@avalonintl.com](mailto:kathleen@avalonintl.com). No experience required. (Unfortunately, unit leaders and assistant unit leaders may not serve as a BOR member.)

### **BSA License Plates**

The GA Motor Vehicle Division is now offering Boy Scouts of America "In God We Trust" specialized license plates. These plates will not be manufactured until 1000 are ordered. You may request this tag at your county tag office during the established application period (01-01-2007 thru 12-31-2008) with the \$25 manufacturing fee per tag. Important: If the required number of 'paid' requests (1,000) is not received by the deadline (12-31-2008), these tags will not be manufactured & the manufacturing fees will be refunded. Click here to find out how you can help make this happen:

<http://motor.etax.dor.ga.gov/motor/plates/plate.asp?ptitle=BA>

**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 website 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 click on this link <http://www.troop629.org/forms/adult%20ldr%20app%2028-501.pdf> then print and complete the **Adult Application** and give to **Kathleen Narayanan** at the next troop meeting. Your next step begins your training- go to <http://www.troop629.org/training/training.htm> and 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](mailto: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/](http://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 | Dentistry    | Plant Science     | Skating     |
| Bugling     | Medicine     | Railroading       | Textile     |
| Climbing    | Model Design | Reptile/Amphibian | Waterskiing |
|             |              |                   | Whitewater  |

**BSA and Sponsor Websites**

We are Chattahoochee District ([www.cdbsa.org](http://www.cdbsa.org)) and Atlanta Area Council ([www.atlantabsa.org](http://www.atlantabsa.org)). These websites have additional information regarding upcoming events.

Troop 629 is sponsored by **Mount Pisgah United Methodist Church** [www.mountpisgah.org](http://www.mountpisgah.org)

Please send all email address changes, deletions and additions to this address: [spluspcubed@mindspring.com](mailto: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 troop calendar and post it near your family calendar? Remember to verify dates often on the website and bulletin board.

**July 2007**

| Sun                                                                              | Mon                                         | Tues       | Wed                              | Thurs                                   | Fri       | Sat                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| <u>1</u> Jul                                                                     | <u>2</u>                                    | <u>3</u>   | <u>4</u>                         | <u>5</u>                                | <u>6</u>  | <u>7</u>             |
| Philmont<br>6:00p -7:30p<br>Committee Meeting<br>Color Guard for Church services | 7:15p -8:45p<br>Troop Meeting               |            | Independence Day (Fed)           |                                         |           |                      |
| <u>8</u>                                                                         | <u>9</u>                                    | <u>10</u>  | <u>11</u>                        | <u>12</u>                               | <u>13</u> | <u>14</u>            |
|                                                                                  | 7:15p -8:45p<br>Troop Meeting               |            |                                  | 7:30p RT & OA Meeting                   |           |                      |
| <u>15</u>                                                                        | <u>16</u>                                   | <u>17</u>  | <u>18</u>                        | <u>19</u>                               | <u>20</u> | <u>21</u>            |
| John D Eagle<br>COH 4:00p                                                        | 7:15p -8:45p<br>Troop Meeting               |            |                                  | 7:00p -8:00p<br>Patrol Leader's Council |           | Broad River Kayaking |
| <u>22</u>                                                                        | <u>23</u>                                   | <u>24</u>  | <u>25</u>                        | <u>26</u>                               | <u>27</u> | <u>28</u>            |
|                                                                                  | Tisha B'Av<br>7:15p -8:45p<br>Troop Meeting | Tisha B'Av |                                  |                                         |           |                      |
| <u>29</u>                                                                        | <u>30</u>                                   | <u>31</u>  | <u>1</u> Aug                     | <u>2</u>                                | <u>3</u>  | <u>4</u>             |
| Greg Y Eagle<br>COH 5:00p                                                        | 7:15p -8:45p<br>Troop Meeting               |            | 8:00a 100 yr celebration for BSA |                                         |           |                      |