

BOY SCOUT TROOP 629 NEWSLETTER

January 2008

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 THE
www.troop629.org



Scoutmaster Minute by Fran Gillis

The real scouting program is based on the “patrol method” run *by* the scouts *for* the scouts. That entails an active Patrol Leaders Council who puts together our program and then executes it with its youth leadership. That brings with it some bumps and bruises along the way as the plan and execution are not up to what adults expect sometimes. The program is truly all about the scouts’ efforts and that they learn through experience and with Troop 629 we continually try to adhere to that ... with all that does bring sometimes.

Scouts actively participating at all levels at times bring about some truly noteworthy accomplishments and then there are those with little or no active support that fall flat and do not meet anyone’s desires. Reflect back on those good and bad events and ask yourself “was it something I did or not do that contributed to the overall effect?” Each and everyone is a part of the team effort contributing to its ultimate success. The saying that “you get out of the program what you put into it” holds well with any of our activities. So with this New Year let’s all do our own part well and everything should fall into a great plan and program, meeting everyone’s needs.

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

January 2008 Reminders:

- Jan 1st: New Years Day ~ Christmas Tree Pickup
- Jan 3rd-6th: WV Ski Trip
- Jan 6th: Troop Committee Meeting ~ NLE
- Jan 7th: Fulton Co. Schools resumes
- Jan 8th: Merit Badge Help
- Jan 9th: Camp Kick-off Meeting
- Jan 10th: RT & OA Meeting
- Jan 12th: GB Staff Orientation
- Jan 14th: Board of Review
- Jan 17th: Patrol Leader Meeting
- Jan 18th-21st: Venture NH Ski Trip
- Jan 20th: Atlanta Thrasher Night (‘Be Prepared’ section)
- Jan 21st: ML King Day ~ no school ~ Slips due for Silver Comet Trail bike ride
- Jan 23rd: Camp Kick-off Meeting for selected adult leaders
- Jan 26th: Silver Comet Bike Trip
- Jan 28th: Court of Honor ~ Permission slip & fee for Lock-in due

February Reminders:

Feb 1st-2nd: Lock-in

Feb 2nd: CPR Saturday, GB TG Training "A" ~ Gwinnett Gladiators Night ('Be Prepared' section)

Feb 3rd: Committee Meeting

Feb 4th: Summer Camp Deposit due ~ Pine Mountain Backpacking Money and Slips due

Feb 9th-10th: Pine Mountain Backpacking

Feb 10th: Mount Pisgah Scout Sunday

Feb 11th: OA Elections

Feb 12th: Merit Badge Help

Feb 14th: RT & OA Meeting

Feb 16th: GB TG Training "B" ~ KSU Basketball night ('Be Prepared' section)

Feb 17th: Scout Night at Circus ('Be Prepared' section)

Feb 18th: Board of Review ~ Presidents Day (No School in Fulton Co.)

Feb 21st: Patrol Leader's Council ~ Scout Night at Circus ('Be Prepared' section)

Feb 22nd: Scout Night at Circus ('Be Prepared' section)

Feb 22nd-24th: Green Bar Staff Development

Feb 25th: Flower Sales Start

Feb 27th: Half Day of School

March 1st: Advance-A-Rama MB Clinic

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

Please frequently visit our [website](#). 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 ...

~~~~~ Two ski trips are planned during January 2008: **Winterplace in WV** for any scout interested will be **Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>**. Think snow for the South! ~~~~~ **New England Ski Trip** will be **Jan 18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>** is only for scouts **over 14 years old**. Flyer links are below. Your Scoutmaster needs your forms now to finalize your trip plans. ~~~~~ **Silver Comet bike trip** is not to be missed on **Jan 26<sup>th</sup>** (great fun for scouts *and* adults!). The flyer link is below and at meetings – be sure to sign up. **Permission slips due Mon., Jan 21<sup>st</sup>**. ~~~~~ **Troop 629 Lock-in** is always anticipated and well attended. Please check out the flyer below and sign up at the next troop meeting. **Permission slips and fees are due at the Jan 28<sup>th</sup>** troop meeting. ~~~~~ **Pine Mountain Trail in Georgia** is a fun annual 12-15 mile backpacking trip and this year will be on **Feb 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>**. The **fee and permission slip is due Feb 4<sup>th</sup>**. ~~~~~ **Summer Camp 2008 (June 15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>)** packets on line and at troop meetings along with sign up start this month with **initial deposits due by Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>**. Web link is included in the Flyers section below. (Some details will be covered at the Court of Honor on Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>.)

## Flyers

Tons of Troop Pictures - fantastic new format! <http://tinyurl.com/2yetln>

Scout CPR Saturday <http://www.goodturn.net/>

January Ski Trip to Winterplace [http://www.troop629.org/forms/2007/SKI\\_08\\_signup\\_sheet1.pdf](http://www.troop629.org/forms/2007/SKI_08_signup_sheet1.pdf)

Silver Comet Bike Ride <http://www.troop629.org/forms/2008/biking%201-08.pdf>

January New England Venture Ski Trip [http://www.troop629.org/forms/2008/New\\_England\\_Skiing\\_081.pdf](http://www.troop629.org/forms/2008/New_England_Skiing_081.pdf)

Lock-in <http://www.troop629.org/forms/2008/Overnight%20lockin%20jan%202008.pdf>

Pine Mountain Backpacking <http://www.troop629.org/forms/2008/pine%20mt%20backpack%2002%2008.pdf>

Summer Camp 2008 <http://www.troop629.org:80/camping/summercamp2008.htm>

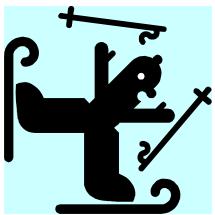
Sea Base 2008 (Tall Ship Sailing) <http://www.troop629.org/forms/Sea%20Base%20Flyer%201-08.pdf>

Northern Tier [http://www.troop629.org/forms/NT\\_flyer\\_1\\_081.pdf](http://www.troop629.org/forms/NT_flyer_1_081.pdf)

## Next Troop Board of Review – Jan. 14<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**. *This is the last B.O.R. to be held before the next Court of Honor (Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>) where a scout is properly recognized in front of parents and friends.*

## Annual Ski Trip to West Virginia



The trip is on **January 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> (Thurs – Sun.)** at **Winterplace Ski Resort** on Friday morning. We will ski all afternoon and into the night on Friday (yes, they have night-skiing). Here is the Winterplace website to get excited about the trip (BUT DO NOT BOOK ANYTHING through the website) <http://www.winterplace.com/> or check out the current snow conditions [http://www.winterplace.com/the\\_snow\\_report.php](http://www.winterplace.com/the_snow_report.php). Please contact **Gregg or Carol Brasher** if you have any questions [g.brasher@comcast.net](mailto:g.brasher@comcast.net).

## Silver Comet Trail Bike Ride is on the agenda



Be sure to mark your calendar for a really fun day trip on **Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>, Saturday**, on the **Silver Comet Bicycle Trail in Dallas, GA** (a short drive away). Permission **slips are due on Jan 21<sup>st</sup>** at the Monday troop meeting. Check out the flyer for details (in Flyer section above or at meetings) so you are prepared with proper gear for the day. If you have any questions ask your SPL or SM, and then sign up!

## \*\*\*\*\* ADULT VOLUNTEERS WANTED \*\*\*\*\*

**2008 NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION:** This section is usually at the end of the newsletter - but it has been moved to the front of the newsletter due to the importance and urgency in search of troop adults to take over some key positions. Many of the troop adults organizing some positions for several years need to step down as their scouts have achieved Eagle rank (or are about to) and must have replacement volunteers.

*Behind the scenes of any great Troop are many helpful adults doing their part to keep the activities and events running smoothly. If you could find some time to help out, please see our Committee Chair, [Wendy Kraemer](#), to learn about the available open positions.*

## ~~Troop Garage Sale Organizer

This annual fundraiser 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. Usually work begins in February (flyers and announcements) with the garage sale taking place in April. ASAP 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.

### ~~Christmas Tree Pickup Elf – please apply!

Chris and Leslie Cotney have been long-time volunteers with our troop and have organized the Christmas Tree Fundraiser during several past winter holidays. Thanks to them the troop has just completed another successful year of tree pickup and they are willing to share their secrets. Please contact **Wendy Kramer** [wkraemer@bellsouth.net](mailto:wkraemer@bellsouth.net) to let her know you would like to step into these well-documented pointed shoes. ONE SIZE FITS ALL!

### ~~Eagle Court of Honor Ceremony Coordinator Needed

Lu Ann DiPietro has been organizing the position of coordinating all of the details for celebration ceremonies for new Eagle Scouts for the last three years. Once a scout has achieved the rank of Eagle, she requests letters of congratulations from government officials and companies around the United States. She also coordinates the Eagle Court of Honor ceremony with the families and attends the Court of Honor to serve refreshments. We really need a couple of parents to do what Lu Ann has been doing for the troop. Please let **Wendy Kraemer** know that you would like to help the troop by taking over this position.

### ~~Troop Secretary Needed

We need a volunteer to take notes during Adult Leader Committee Meetings, which usually fall on the first Sunday of the month at 6pm at Mount Pisgah UMC in the dining room. You will take notes, have them edited by a few committee members via email, and then email the final notes to all committee members.








### ~~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 email **Kathleen Narayanan** or call her at **770-740-8496** so she can add your information to her list to draw from when we have an upcoming BOR. No experience required. (Unfortunately, unit leaders and assistant unit leaders may not serve as a BOR member.)

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

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

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

-  **EAGLE:** (none this month)
-  **LIFE:** Greg G.
-  **STAR:** Robert M.
-  **FIRST CLASS:** Billy J. and Logan W.
-  **SECOND CLASS:** (none this month)
-  **TENDERFOOT:** Walker B.
-  **SCOUT:** Isaac S.

### A Green Thank You!

A big scout salute and thank you go to **Chris Cotney and family** along with **Albert Bodamer** for their expert orchestration and operation of the annual Christmas tree pick-up program. This was a great opportunity for the scouts to earn high adventure money for their accounts. If you missed it this year, you definitely need to plan for next. ~~ A little bookkeeping to wrap up: If you worked on the Christmas Tree pickup fundraiser, please see **Chris Cotney** at Monday night scout meetings to verify

how you want your hours documented (as service hours or as money in your high adventure account.) *The position of the Grand Old Elf is open to any adult volunteer. Please see the Adult Involvement section for details and contact information.*

### **Another Successful Troop 629 Popcorn Drive**

Thank you **Lisa and Don Dekle** for running the troop's very important annual popcorn fundraiser. Please be sure to let the Dekles know that you appreciate the time and attention to detail they donate to the troop and your son. Did you deliver all your popcorn orders and realize that you didn't purchase any for your family? Or did you finish that can of Caramel Corn and wish you had more? *It seems the Popcorn Kernel's job is never done*, but you are in luck as they have a few popcorn items left for purchase. They have Unbelievable Butter and Butter Lite Microwave Popcorn, as well as Chocolate Caramel Crunch (24 oz tin) and Caramel Corn with Almonds (26 oz. tin). Please **see Don or Lisa Dekle** at a troop meeting or email them at [dldekle@bellsouth.net](mailto:dldekle@bellsouth.net) to grab one more package or tin of popcorn.

### **Uniform Organizer Found**

Thank you John Harper for taking over the position of Uniform Organizer (troop t-shirts, nametags and whistles). The troop appreciates its adult volunteers. Thank you, Mitch Yakrus, for many years of troop service of managing the position of Uniform Organizer.

## **\*\*\*\*\*MAKING HISTORY\*\*\*\*\***

(A section dedicated to articles submitted by our Scouts)

### **The Hairy Pigs service project by James D., Patrol Leader**

The Pigs went to the Old Roswell post office and assisted Mount Pisgah volunteers to do maintenance, build, clean, and test ride bikes. These bikes are going to North Fulton Community Charities for their Santa shop. We helped with about 120 bikes. After the service project we went to see *Fred Clause*, the movie. Erik F., James D, Even T., and Robbie W. came out to help. They each did 3 and a half hour of service.

### **Cohen Home by Derrick G., Patrol Leader**

Stuart W., Nate B., Timmy H. and I all assisted with card and board games for the residents of the Cohen Home for two hours on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December.

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

### **Missed the opportunity to earn H.A. \$\$\$? Don't despair ...**

Fundraisers have provided many of our scouts with additional funds to use for skiing, summer camp and any High Adventure outing. Look for the next (think **spring flower sales on Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>**). 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 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](mailto:SusanCook@comcast.net) (678-297-7766) 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.

**“Scouting for Food” by Hairy Pig Patrol Leader, James D.**

Yes it is that time again. Patrols will be collecting food for the North Fulton Community Charities all through January and February. They will be doing it differently this year though. Each patrol will collect as many cans as possible. At the end of the two months which ever patrol gets the most cans they **will win a trip to Q-zar for laser tag and all you can eat at Cici's pizza. If the troop gets 10,000 cans or more Mr. Gillis will dress up ridiculously. So talk to your Patrol Leader and collect, collect, collect!!!!**

**Mount Pisgah Scout Sunday**

**Feb 10<sup>th</sup>** will be the day the scouts are honored during church service at our sponsor, **Mount Pisgah United Methodist Church**. This will be an opportunity for scouts and leaders to wear your uniform and attend a service with your family. It is important that Troop 629 have a good showing to demonstrate our appreciation for Mount Pisgah being our charter organization. Please know you are not required to be there, nor is this a suggestion that you need to convert to being Methodist or in any way suggestive of anything other than continuing your current faith life. It would simply be as a show of support to our chartering organization. We have worked with the Church and they are planning to recognize the scouts during the service. ~~ We need greeters, scouts to stand with the honor/rank board and scouts that will attend the 9:30 am service and/or the 11:00 am service. Please email **Gregg Brasher** at [g.brasher@comcast.net](mailto:g.brasher@comcast.net) and let him know if you can attend and which service your son can attend. If you would like to be a part of this, please plan on arriving 30 minutes early for the given service. The Church service is conducted in the main sanctuary on the Old Alabama Road.

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

**Leaders Council – January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

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. Meet at **7pm in Room A008**.

**SCOUT NIGHT WITH THE ATLANTA THRASHERS (Council Activity)**

**Sunday, January 20, 2008** at 2:00 PM vs. Edmonton Oilers. Tickets are \$21, \$28 or \$41 which includes a hot dog and Coke. Purchase tickets through the Thrashers by faxing in the Thrashers order form from [www.atlantabsa.org](http://www.atlantabsa.org) or pick up the form in the Program Center.

**SCOUT NIGHT WITH THE GWINNETT GLADIATORS (Council Activity)**

**Saturday, February 2, 2008 at 7:35 PM.** Tickets are \$14 which includes parking. Purchase tickets now through the Gladiators by faxing in the Gladiators order form from [www.atlantabsa.org](http://www.atlantabsa.org) or the Program Center **now**.

**SCOUT DAY WITH KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL (Council Activity)**

**Saturday, February 16th at 6:30 PM.** All seats include a hotdog, soda, and a special Scout patch for only \$12. Reserve your tickets **by February 14th**. For more information, go to the council website at [www.atlantabsa.org](http://www.atlantabsa.org).

**SCOUT NIGHT AT THE CIRCUS (Council Activity)**

Sunday, **February 17, 2008** at 7:00 PM – Tickets are \$18; Thursday, **February 21, 2008** at 7:30 PM – Tickets are \$13; Friday, **February 22, 2008** at 7:30 PM – Tickets are \$18. Price Includes Patch! Regularly priced at \$28 & \$22 a seat. Purchase tickets through the Program Center or by mailing in the order form from [www.atlantabsa.org](http://www.atlantabsa.org). Mail orders must be received in the Program Center before **Thursday January 31, 2008**. All mailed tickets are subject to a \$3.75 handling charge.

**Scout CPR Saturday - March 8, 2008 (Council Activity)**

"Be Prepared" is more than just the Boy Scout Motto. Sign-up now to be one of the 750 participants to Scout CPR Saturday... sign-up at [www.goodturn.net](http://www.goodturn.net) - the Atlanta Area Council Boy and Girl Scouts are getting ready to participate in and volunteer to help run Scout CPR Saturday in coordination with the American Red Cross on **March 8, 2008**. In a program that will involve participation in two different ways " one as **facilitators** and one as **participants** - plans are underway to train the Atlanta Area Council Scouts and Adult leadership in First Aid skills that can save a life and at the same time support the program by serving as volunteers running the event. Question??? Email ... [wayne@donate.net](mailto:wayne@donate.net)

**2008 Summer Camp Staff (Council Activity)**

**Applications** for youth and adult positions at both Robert W. Woodruff and Bert Adams Scout Reservations are being accepted. The application form is available at the Program Service Center and on the two camp websites. It may also be accessed by going to:  
<https://www.doubleknot.com/openrosters/DocDownload.asp?orgkey=1457&id=29595>

**HEADS UP:** Mark your calendars for **March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008** (Sat.) for the **Cherokee District Spring 2008 Advance A Rama Merit Badge Clinic** to be held at Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources @ Univ. of GA, Athens. They plan to offer 20 different classes to 300 Boy Scouts as well as Adult Leader Training on several topics. Look for sign up at troop meetings this month or check with **Mrs. Narayanan**.

## 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.**

## Get trained as a Den Chief – openings available

We have Cub Scout Dens looking for Den Chiefs. If you are trained and need the leadership position for rank advancement, see **Scoutmaster Gillis** and **ASM Nat Padgett**. He still has slots available and waiting for you. Remember ... Mr. Gillis must approve you for a spot after you have received training.

## Life to Eagle Candidates

Is your project stalled? Do you need fresh ideas or perspective? Does your project plan effectively address the expectations of the Chattahoochee District? Contact [Mr. Gillis](#). [Judi Dammann](#) is organizing the troops past Eagle project packages to create a useful binder for future reference material for our Life to Eagle candidates.

## 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](#) or look for him at a troop meeting for more information on how to get started in the program.

## Next Court of Honor – January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008

All scouts and their families are **invited, encouraged (and expected) to attend** this special ceremony to recognize scouts' accomplishments over the past few months. Court of Honor is a great place to re-confirm the year's activities (some details on **Summer Camp 2008** will be covered) and how they all fit together for each scout. It is also a convenient time to ask about and sign up for open volunteer troop positions. C.O.H. is held in lieu of a regular troop meeting, same time, same place. Hope to see all scouts and their families in attendance.

## Scoutmaster's Notes on High Adventures for 2008

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 check out the **Sea Base 2008 flyer** <http://www.troop629.org/forms/Sea%20Base%20Flyer%201-08.pdf> or **Northern Tier flyer** [http://www.troop629.org/forms/NT\\_flyer\\_1\\_081.pdf](http://www.troop629.org/forms/NT_flyer_1_081.pdf).

## 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 is scheduled Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008.**

**AAC has Philmont 2008 slots available**

Troops are not allowed to apply for a Philmont trip for two consecutive years, so Troop 629 will not be organizing a Philmont 2008 crew because we sent a crew this past summer. The Atlanta Area Council Philmont 2008 expedition is accepting applications for Provisional Crew 1. This crew will be filled with scouts from council troops who have no crews going to Philmont and who otherwise would not have an opportunity to experience Philmont. Nine openings for scouts and one opening for an adult leader are available. Scouts and adult leaders who are interested in going to Philmont in 2008 should complete an application form, which can be obtained from Mr. Paul Gordy at the Council Program office. **Philmont 2008 is June 17 - June 29, 2008.** Questions may be directed to **Mr. John Pelick, 770-934-5807 or Mr. Paul Gordy 770-989-8821, x2004.** Application forms are available upon request in the Program Center or via e-mail.

**\*\*\*\*\*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. Check frequently as scouts are always outgrowing their clothes or going to college after earning Eagle.

**Grubby Details**

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

## 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 [spluspcubed@mindspring.com](mailto:spluspcubed@mindspring.com) 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-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 (training, etc.)\*\*\*\*\*

### NESA Eagle Scout Search is Underway!

National Eagle Scout Association has launched a national **Eagle Scout search program**. NESA has partnered with Harris Connect Inc., the nation's membership publication experts, to help locate all Eagle Scouts and to produce *Roll Call: The National Eagle Scout Registry*--a publication that will capture the tradition, history, and honor of our nation's Eagle Scouts and will be available only to bona fide Eagles. If you know an Eagle Scout, please alert him about this important project and pass on this link. <http://www.nesa.org/misc/essearch.html>.

**Adult Updates:** All adults please update your training with **Mrs. Narayanan** and update you car/driving info with **Sue Levin**. Look for them at troop meetings.

**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 [here](#) then print and complete the **Adult Application** and give to **Kathleen Narayanan** at the next troop meeting. Your next step begins your training - go [here](#) 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 email a copy of your course "completion" card to [Kathleen Narayanan](#) 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 [the merit badge website](#). 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](#) and [Atlanta Area Council](#). These websites have additional information regarding upcoming events, training, contacts and library.

Troop 629 is sponsored by [Mount Pisgah United Methodist Church](#).

Please send all email address changes, deletions and additions to the [Troop Newsletter](#). 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.

# January 2008

| Sun                                                        | Mon                                                                                                                                     | Tues                                                | Wed                                                     | Thurs                                      | Fri                      | Sat                                                               |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>30</u> Dec                                              | <u>31</u>                                                                                                                               | <u>1</u> Jan                                        | <u>2</u>                                                | <u>3</u>                                   | <u>4</u>                 | <u>5</u>                                                          |
|                                                            | New Year's Eve<br>7:15p -8:45p<br>Troop Meeting<br>NOT THIS DAY<br>- SEE YOU ON<br>THE 1ST                                              | New Year's Day<br>(Fed)<br>Christmas Tree<br>Pickup |                                                         | WV Ski Trip                                | WV Ski Trip              | WV Ski Trip                                                       |
| <u>6</u>                                                   | <u>7</u>                                                                                                                                | <u>8</u>                                            | <u>9</u>                                                | <u>10</u>                                  | <u>11</u>                | <u>12</u>                                                         |
| WV Ski Trip<br>6:00p -7:30p<br>Committee<br>Meeting<br>NLE | 7:15p -8:45p<br>Troop Meeting<br>School Begins                                                                                          | 6:00p -7:00p<br>Merit Badge<br>Help                 |                                                         | 7:30p RT & OA<br>Meeting                   |                          | GB staff<br>orientation                                           |
| <u>13</u>                                                  | <u>14</u>                                                                                                                               | <u>15</u>                                           | <u>16</u>                                               | <u>17</u>                                  | <u>18</u>                | <u>19</u>                                                         |
|                                                            | 7:15p -8:45p<br>Troop Meeting<br>Board of<br>Review                                                                                     |                                                     |                                                         | 7:00p -8:00p<br>Patrol Leader's<br>Council | Venture Ski Trip<br>- NH | Venture Ski Trip<br>- NH                                          |
| <u>20</u>                                                  | <u>21</u>                                                                                                                               | <u>22</u>                                           | <u>23</u>                                               | <u>24</u>                                  | <u>25</u>                | <u>26</u>                                                         |
| Venture Ski Trip<br>- NH                                   | Venture Ski Trip<br>- NH<br>ML King Day<br>(Fed)<br>7:15p -8:45p<br>Troop Meeting<br>Board of<br>Review moved<br>to 14th - No<br>School |                                                     | Camp Kick off<br>Meeting for<br>selected adult<br>Ldr's |                                            |                          | Silver Comet<br>Bike Trip                                         |
| <u>27</u>                                                  | <u>28</u>                                                                                                                               | <u>29</u>                                           | <u>30</u>                                               | <u>31</u>                                  | <u>1</u> Feb             | <u>2</u>                                                          |
|                                                            | 7:15p -8:45p<br>Troop Meeting<br>Court of Honor                                                                                         |                                                     |                                                         |                                            | Lock-in                  | Groundhog Day<br>CPR Saturday<br>Lock in<br>GB TG Training<br>"A" |