



BOY SCOUT TROOP 629 NEWSLETTER

April 2008

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

ALL NEWSLETTERS ARE AT www.troop629.org

Scoutmaster Minute by Fran Gillis

It's not just about being an Eagle Scout. At times we loose site of the true purpose of scouting. I have been associated with many scouts over the years who have more than lived up to the purpose of scouting who did not finish the eagle requirements and truthfully, I must say even some of those who have earned Eagle scout have not understood or modeled themselves with the full benefits of the program. Advancement in scouting is a tool used to help develop a young man as a "citizen who is physically, mentally, and emotionally fit; has a high degree of self-reliance as evidenced in such qualities as initiative, courage, and resourcefulness; has personal values based on religious concepts; has the desire and skills to help others; understand the principles of the American social, economic, and governmental systems; is knowledgeable about and takes pride in their American heritage and understands our nation's role in the world; has a keen respect for the basic rights of all people; and is prepared to participate in and give leadership to American society."



To properly groom a young man in these traits takes more than rushing through or even just lingering through the advancement process. Yes, you can make Eagle by checking the blocks. But, scouting is about being actively involved in all aspects of the programs we provide and associating frequently with members of the troop, patrol or crew in these endeavors to assimilate the total effect to be the best they can be. So take a seat and reflect. Is it about me, myself and I ... or is it about being the best scout possible?

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

April Reminders:

- Apr 1st: Patrol Box cleaning
- Apr 4th-13th: Sea Base Bahamas
- Apr 5th-13th: Fulton Co. Spring Break
- Apr 6th: ?? Committee Meeting ??
- Apr 7th: Troop Meeting
- Apr 8th: Merit Badge Help Night
- Apr 10th: OA Meeting
- Apr 14th: Troop Meeting ~ Camporee fee & permission slip due ~ Spring flower sales orders due
- Apr 17th: PLC and RT Meetings
- Apr 18th-20th: District Camporee @ Woodruff
- Apr 21st: Troop Meeting ~ Board of Review
- Apr 22nd: SALT I of III Course
- Apr 25th: Flower Pickup
- Apr 25th-27th: Green Bar Staff Development
- Apr 28th: Troop Meeting
- Apr 29th: SALT II of III Course

May Reminders:

May 2nd-3rd: OA Woodruff

May 3rd-4th: Caving

May 4th: Committee Meeting

May 5th: Troop Meeting ~ Court of Honor ~ Final Summer Camp fee and physicals due

May 6th: SALT III of III Course

May 8th: RT & OA Meeting

May 9th: Relay for Life

May 10th: Registration deadline for FBLA Merit Badge Clinic

May 11th: *Mother's Day*

May 12th: Troop Meeting

May 13th: Merit Badge Help

May 15th: PLC Meeting

May 16th-18th: OA Bert Adams

May 17th: Green Bar Staff Set Up ~ Armed Forces Day ~ FBLA Merit Badge Clinic

May 19th: Troop Meeting ~ Board of Review

May 20th: TCT Course

May 23rd: Last Day of School (Fulton Co.)

May 26th: Troop Meeting (Summer Class B Uniform change) ~ Memorial Day

May 25th-31st: Green Bar Week 1

Welcome New Scouts and Families

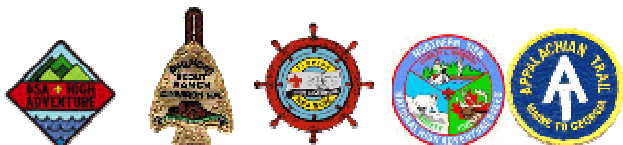
*It is Crossover "season" and Troop 629 would like to welcome our new group of incoming scout members and their families. To date, the troop has received 17 new scouts and also adult leaders. Our newsletter and website (www.troop629.org) will help you keep up with what you don't get to hear about from the meetings ☺ and help in transitioning from Cub Scouting to Boy Scouting. Adults, please don't overlook the *****Adult Involvement***** section of the newsletter that has good information on how you can be involved in the troop by getting trained and volunteering for a variety of positions. Your involvement will affect the benefits your son and his friends receive from the program. (Thank you). We're glad you're here.*

Court of Honor – May 5th, 2008

All scouts and their families are **invited, encouraged (and expected) to attend** this special ceremony to recognize scouts' accomplishments since the January COH. Court of Honor is a great place to re-confirm the year's activities (more details on **Summer Camp 2008** will be covered) and how they all fit together for each scout. If you've not attended a COH in a while, you are missing out on a very impressive ceremony that speaks highly of our youth who run Troop 629 and adult volunteers who aide them. It is also an opportunity for moms to get out their Mother's Ribbon and proudly wear them whether their scout gets to pin on a rank advancement or not. It is 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 you don't miss this hour-packed, inspiring ceremony which only occurs approximately three times a year. Mark your calendar for **May 5th for the troop's next COH**. Chances are pretty good that your scout will be standing to receive recognition for his accomplishments and an adult volunteer being recognized is your friend who will deserve your applause. Hope to see all scouts and their families in attendance.

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

Please frequently visit our 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 more helping hands, the faster the cleanup will go... **Patrol Box Cleanup, April 1<sup>st</sup>, Tuesday, 6pm @ the Troop Trailer** ~~~~~ **Summer Camp 2008 at Woodruff (June 15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>)** information on-line and at troop meetings along with sign-up at Monday night meetings **3rd deposit and physicals are due May 5<sup>th</sup>. Merit badge class selections are (past-)due to Mr. Gillis ASAP.** Web link is included in the *Flyers* section below. ~~~~~ The **April** outing will be the **District Camporee at Woodruff, April 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>**. Details are on the troop website, at troop meetings and in this newsletter. Register through **Mr. Gillis (do not register on-line)**. Fee and permission slip is **due April 14<sup>th</sup>**. ~~~~~ Keep our May outing on your radar: **May 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> is Caving!** Details will be announced next month.

### Flyers

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

Spring Flower Sales <http://www.troop629.org/flowers/index.htm>

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

Friends of Scouting (FOS) <http://www.cdbsa.org/Events/FOS/FOS.htm>

Spring Camporee <http://www.troop629.org/forms/2008/District%20camporee%2004%2008.pdf>

Greenbar <http://www.troop629.org/training/greenbar.htm>

Relay for Life [www.roswellrelayforlife.org](http://www.roswellrelayforlife.org)

SALT <http://www.cdbsa.org/Training/tabid/63/Default.aspx>

TCT <http://www.cdbsa.org/Training/tabid/63/Default.aspx>

Wood Badge 2008 <http://www.doubleknot.com/openrosters/DocDownload.asp?orgkey=1456&id=29147>

Sea Base 2008 (Tall Ship Sailing) <http://tinyurl.com/2jbzh3>

Northern Tier <http://tinyurl.com/2zm7fm>

### A SCOUT TROOP IS HELPFUL

In February, Rivermont S/D had a house fire, destroying a house and displacing a family that was renting. Our troop has asked how we can help the mother and young daughter while they get their lives back in order. If one of our troop families has a "dark-wood bookcase" to donate, the family could really use one - please contact **Wendy Kraemer ([wkraemer@bellsouth.net](mailto:wkraemer@bellsouth.net))** or **Sue Knoetgen ([spluspcubed@mindspring.com](mailto:spluspcubed@mindspring.com))**. ~~ In addition, if anyone wants to make a cash donation of any amount (or check made out to BSA Troop 629), we will use our collection to purchase a Kroger gift card for them which will surely come in handy. Please bring any monetary donations to the troop meeting Monday to drop in the basket. The family has expressed their gratitude to our generous community to which the troop belongs. Contact Sue or Wendy with questions. Thank you for being such a generous troop.

## Next Troop Board of Review – April 21<sup>st</sup>

*Please read carefully:* After a scout completes his **Scoutmaster Conference**, he must notify **Mrs. Narayanan** [kathleen@narayanan.us](mailto:kathleen@narayanan.us), 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**.

## Spring Flower Sales Underway

Information packets have been distributed at troop meetings to several scouts. If you have not picked up your packet, find Mr. Cotney at the meeting Monday night. The easy order link is up and running on our troop website [www.troop629.org/flowers/index/htm](http://www.troop629.org/flowers/index/htm). Do not fret over the drought ruining our fundraiser. **Hanson Nurseries** has worked with our troop to help with these difficulties. This fundraiser is designed especially to boost the individual scouts' High Adventure accounts. It has one of the highest profit margins of the troop's various fundraising events, and there are scouts who earn hundreds of dollars every year from it. They will earn \$5 per basket and \$4 per planter that they sell! **Flower orders are due Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup> and distribution will be Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup>.** Volunteers will be needed for distribution day – please find Chris Cotney at a meeting and let him know how you can help him out.



## 2008 Summer Camp at Woodruff

Summer Camp 2008 registration is off and running. **Merit badge selections were due March 31<sup>st</sup>.** **If you have not already done so, it is important to turn in your selections to Mr. Gillis ASAP.** The sooner you review the material and make your decisions, the more you'll love summer camp. Important details are on the troop web site under the *Camping* tab (across the top of page) or see the link in the *Flyers* section above. **The first deposit was due Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>; second deposit was due March 24<sup>th</sup>; and final deposit is due May 5<sup>th</sup> along with your troop permission slip and medical form (Class II or III, depending on activities).** Plan ahead as these medical forms involve a doctor's visit and signature ~ appointments aren't always easy to get at the last minute. **See your Scoutmaster (Mr. Gillis)** with any summer camp questions.



## Green Bar National Youth Leadership Training (GBNYLT)

The Council week-long National Youth Leadership Training course is ready for this year's participants to **sign up online** (<http://www.aacnylt.org/Home.html>). The course is held at **Bert Adams Scout Reservation (BASR)** and is offered three different times: **May 25<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>; June 1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>; and June 8<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>.** If you are First Class, 13 years old or older and are looking for a proven opportunity to hone your lifelong leadership skills this is the course to attend. We have a large number of graduates of this course and many who have gone back to volunteer their service to serve on the staff. It's the path to leadership opportunities in our troop as well.

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

🦅 EAGLE~🌳 LIFE~🌟 STAR~👤 FIRST CLASS~👤 SECOND CLASS~👤 TENDERFOOT~👤 SCOUT

**Advancement Congratulations for the month of March go to:**

- 🦅 **EAGLE:** (none this month)
- 🌳 **LIFE:** Philip K. & Jacob M.
- 🌟 **STAR:** (none this month)
- 👤 **FIRST CLASS:** (none this month)
- 👤 **SECOND CLASS:** Chris B., Bill R. & Chris W.
- 👤 **TENDERFOOT:** (none this month)
- 👤 **SCOUT:** (none this month)

## A Hearty Thank You

The troop extends a big thank you to **Albert Bodamer** who has actively volunteered in many areas – from flower sales, tree pickup, scout outings – and the time-consuming, on-going job of upgrading and maintaining the troop website. If you have not checked out all of the information available on the website, click here [www.troop629.org](http://www.troop629.org) and pass on your own personal ‘thank you’ to Albert for his commitment to the troop the next time you see him. (Or click on the Webmaster’s spider web to say ‘thanks’.)

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

(A section dedicated to articles submitted by our Scouts)

### Scouting for Food results by James D.

Great patrol participation! Here are the final numbers: Hairy Pigs - 181; Spartans - 34; Venture - 49; Deer Meat - 27; Llama Love - 24. The troop collected 137 items on Scout Sunday.

## \*\*\*\*\*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-going now**). 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 gift card)! To get started, contact [Susan Cook, ssbcook@bellsouth.net](mailto:ssbcook@bellsouth.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. Your Kroger gift card will be mailed to you at the beginning of each month (with enclosed reminder of amount owed and address to send payment). Return payment in the mail to Susan by the 22<sup>nd</sup> of the month or you can bring payment on a Monday night troop meeting and give to her.



## **Just because it is not the Fall Popcorn season...**

...it does not mean you and your customers have to do without your Scouting popcorn. To order popcorn online throughout the year go to [www.orderpopcorn.com](http://www.orderpopcorn.com). Then put our **Troop's code** in the blank which is **TE3HMC** and the unit will receive credit for the sale. The council will then send the profit to our unit each month and this money will be applied to each scout's High Adventure account.

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

**Service project opportunities** are available almost every weekend and are open to all. 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. 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 and on the troop calendar on the website. Express your interest to the SPL and SM as to how you can get involved - it's easy - just ask.

### **American Cancer Society Relay for Life**

Troop 629 will continue its tradition of supporting the **American Cancer Society Relay for Life** on **May 9th from 5pm to 11 pm at Centennial High School**. Scouts and parents may register to participate online at [www.roswellrelayforlife.org](http://www.roswellrelayforlife.org). From this website, you may also send emails to family and friends announcing your participation in RFL. They may make donations in support of your walk and/or order luminaria in honor or memory of cancer survivors directly through the website. Scouts will assist with luminaria lighting during the Relay and vie for RFL Diva (ask Martin J. about that!). Roswell RFL is also conducting a silent auction – an excellent opportunity to re-gift ☺ Contact **Nan Brown at 770-643-6859 or [nantbrown@hotmail.com](mailto:nantbrown@hotmail.com)** for further information or details on registration.

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

### **Patrol Leaders Council – Next PLC is April 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**.

### **Friends of Scouting**

This is a council fundraising program which continues through April. The money collected pays for crucial services that support our excellent scouting programs in the Atlanta Area Council. See **Flyers** section for the FOS link for more information. Please consider answering the plea with your generous support of a *tax-deductible donation*. Thank you very much for whatever you choose to contribute. If you have any questions, please contact **Nat Padget [nat.padget@earthlink.net](mailto:nat.padget@earthlink.net)** or look for him at troop meetings.

### **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**.

### **Update Your Contact & Medical Information**

It is important that we have your son's most current emergency information on a Class 1 form at all times. **Class 1 is necessary to attend weekly meetings and is valid for one year from date of**

**signature.** A parent/guardian can update it by reviewing the Class 1 on file, noting any changes and initialing it with a new date. Please ask Sue Knoetgen ([spluspcubed@mindspring.com](mailto:spluspcubed@mindspring.com)) or Fran Gillis to pull your scout's medical file to make changes as they occur. Or you can click on the Troop Forms link <http://tinyurl.com/22f6u8> print a new Class 1&2 and fill out the Class 1 portion (sign and date it) and have your scout hand it to Mr. Gillis or Mrs. Knoetgen. **Class 2 form is signed by a doctor (valid for 3 years from exam date) and is needed for outings that extend past 72 hours (this would be summer camp!). Class 3** is only necessary when signing up for a High Adventure trip.

### **Scouts – Available openings for Den Chief Training**

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 **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.

### **FBLA Day of Merit**

FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) at North Forsyth High School, Cumming, is sponsoring a merit badge clinic on **May 17<sup>th</sup>**. There are many good merit badges offered with spots left for you to sign up <http://tinyurl.com/36blj3>. Registration deadline is **May 10<sup>th</sup>**.

### **Order of the Arrow meeting on April 10<sup>th</sup>**



Every month on the second Thursday there is a district O.A. gathering open to O.A. members. See your O.A. Representative for details: <http://www.cdbsa.org/Pages/OA.htm>

### **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://tinyurl.com/2jbzh3> or **Northern Tier flyer** <http://tinyurl.com/2zm7fm>.

### **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 for April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008.**

## **Council-Sponsored Events**

Check our website for more opportunities for activities and training through the Council. Individuals from our troop are welcome to participate in any special events <http://www.atlantabsa.org/>. This is an individual signup, unless our troop otherwise specifies.

## **\*\*\*\*\*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 Sue [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 \*\*\*\*\***

*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, \(wlkraemer@bellsouth.net\)](mailto:wlkraemer@bellsouth.net) to learn about the available open positions.*



### **~~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 Kraemer** [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** [wkraemer@bellsouth.net](mailto:wkraemer@bellsouth.net) 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**. After meeting notes have been recorded, they are then edited by a few committee members via email, and then final notes are emailed 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**, [Kathleen@narayanan.us](mailto:Kathleen@narayanan.us) 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.)

### **~~ Troop 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 \(www.meritbadge.com\)](http://www.meritbadge.com). 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     | Whitewater |
| Bugling     | Medicine     | Railroading       | Textile     |            |
| Climbing    | Model Design | Reptile/Amphibian | Waterskiing |            |

### **Troop Committee Meeting**

The next scheduled committee meeting is tentatively for **April 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm – 7:30pm** at the **Mount Pisgah Dining Room on South Campus**.

## 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>.

### Attention All Adults (Reasons to Be Prepared)

Are you planning on getting involved with scouts? Want to go on an overnight scout trip? Troop 629 always needs, welcomes and *loves* its volunteers. If you want to participate in any of our activities we have a couple of pre-training requirements we need to have accomplished. 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:

~1~ Complete **Adult Registration Form** (check with Wendy K. if you can't remember if you've already done this). (Found under *Forms* on Troop website, [www.troop629.org](http://www.troop629.org), *Registration Form-Adult*)

~2~ Complete **Youth Protection Training** (found under *Training* on Troop website)

~3~ Complete **Fast Start** (found under *Training* on Troop website)

Upon completion of any BSA training program, please email a copy of your course "completion" certificate to **Kathleen Narayanan** at [kathleen@narayanan.us](mailto:kathleen@narayanan.us) or bring a copy to her at the Troop meeting.

### A message on Adult Training from our Chattahoochee District Training Team

Our training team will be holding two courses aimed at training our District Troop Committees. We are asking all Troop Committee Chairs to have their members register and attend these courses ASAP so we can continue to provide a quality program through the best trained leaders possible. *This is especially important with all of the new Cub Scout parent's crossing over into a Boy Scout Troop.* You must first complete **NLE (New Leaders Essentials)** before taking these courses. The new courses are **SALT (Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Leadership Training)** and **TCT (Troop Committee Training)**. These courses are the foundation of an effective Troop Committee. **SALT** is a three-part course offered **April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and May 6<sup>th</sup> at St. Andrews Catholic Church**. It demonstrates skills and methods which Scoutmasters and Committee Members can use to organize a Boy Scout Troop and support its boy leaders in developing and delivering an effective, exciting Scouting program. **TCT** is tentatively offered **May 20<sup>th</sup> (need 10 people to register)**. It will provide an overview of the core elements of the Troop Committee. Registration will be set up on the district website <http://www.cdbsa.org/Training/tabid/63/Default.aspx> in a few days (keep checking back). If there is a need to hold another NLE class, we will accommodate you. Please feel free to contact **David Rundell** at **770-640-0656** or [dlrundel@bellsouth.net](mailto:djrundel@bellsouth.net). You can also ask your SM (Scoutmaster) or any ASM (Assistant Scoutmaster) or CM (Committee Member) about the training.

### 2008 Wood Badge Training

Are you an ASM who has attended ITOLS and would like to receive further scout leader training? Wood Badge Training is the next step and will be available three times this year: A week-long course **March 31<sup>st</sup>-April 5<sup>th</sup>**; a two-weekend course **Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>- 3<sup>rd</sup> & Aug. 22<sup>nd</sup>- 24<sup>th</sup>**; a two-weekend course **Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>- 28<sup>th</sup> & Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>- 19<sup>th</sup>**. To learn more, please check out the flyer in the *Flyer* section above and contact **Janet Horton, District Senior Patrol Leader for Summer 2008 Wood Badge Course** [janet@vanepps.com](mailto:janet@vanepps.com).

## 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, training, contacts and library.

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 the [Troop Newsletter, \(spluspcubed@mindspring.com\)](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.

# April 2008

| Sun                                                             | Mon                                                                                   | Tues                                                      | Wed                      | Thurs                                              | Fri                                                                | Sat                                              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <u>30</u> Mar                                                   | <u>31</u>                                                                             | <u>1</u> Apr                                              | <u>2</u>                 | <u>3</u>                                           | <u>4</u>                                                           | <u>5</u>                                         |
| Green Bar Staff Development                                     | 7:15p -8:45p Troop Meeting<br>Flower Sales End                                        | April Fool's Day<br>6:00p Patrol Box Cleaning             |                          |                                                    | Sea Base                                                           | Sea Base<br>Spring Break                         |
| <u>6</u>                                                        | <u>7</u>                                                                              | <u>8</u>                                                  | <u>9</u>                 | <u>10</u>                                          | <u>11</u>                                                          | <u>12</u>                                        |
| Sea Base<br>Spring Break<br>6:00-7:30p<br>??Committee Meeting?? | Sea Base<br>Spring Break<br>7:15p -8:45p Troop Meeting                                | Sea Base<br>Spring Break<br>6:00p -7:00p Merit Badge Help | Sea Base<br>Spring Break | Sea Base<br>Spring Break<br>7:30p RT & OA Meeting  | Sea Base<br>Spring Break                                           | Sea Base<br>Spring Break                         |
| <u>13</u>                                                       | <u>14</u>                                                                             | <u>15</u>                                                 | <u>16</u>                | <u>17</u>                                          | <u>18</u>                                                          | <u>19</u>                                        |
| Sea Base<br>Spring Break                                        | 7:15p -8:45p Troop Meeting<br>Camporee fee & permission due<br>Flower Sale orders due | Taxes Due                                                 |                          | 7:00p -8:00p Patrol Leader's Council<br>RT Meeting | District Camporee - WDF                                            | District Camporee - WDF                          |
| <u>20</u>                                                       | <u>21</u>                                                                             | <u>22</u>                                                 | <u>23</u>                | <u>24</u>                                          | <u>25</u>                                                          | <u>26</u>                                        |
| District Camporee - WDF<br>Passover (Pesach)                    | Passover (Pesach)<br>7:15p -8:45p Troop Meeting<br>Board of Review                    | Passover (Pesach)<br>SALT I of III                        | Passover (Pesach)        | Passover (Pesach)                                  | Green Bar Staff Development<br>Passover (Pesach)<br>Flower Pick up | Green Bar Staff Development<br>Passover (Pesach) |
| <u>27</u>                                                       | <u>28</u>                                                                             | <u>29</u>                                                 | <u>30</u>                | <u>1</u> May                                       | <u>2</u>                                                           | <u>3</u>                                         |
| Green Bar Staff Development<br>Passover (Pesach)                | 7:15p -8:45p Troop Meeting                                                            | SALT II of III                                            |                          | Ascension Day                                      | OA Woodruff<br>Holocaust Memorial                                  | OA Woodruff<br>Caving                            |