



BOY SCOUT TROOP 629 NEWSLETTER

February 2009

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

Here it is already another month into the New Year and we are congratulating another on his recent attainment of the Eagle Scout rank. Ryan Dekle passed his District board of review this January and now hangs his hat along with the sixty others of troop 629, earning their eagle. Give him an atta-boy next time you see him.

Our activity schedule continues with the next outing to Mobile Alabama to sleep overnight on the WWII USS Alabama battleship. This is always a great outing and flyer's are available and of course on the web site along with a special prep hike at the end of February, Okefenokee Swamp trip in March, a District Camporee in March and another prep hike in April. Scouting IS outing and if your scout says he is bored or nothing is happening then we either have totally missed what a scout wants to do or they are just not trying. Our web site is very dynamic so a constant review is necessary to keep up on all the details

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

February Reminders:

- Feb 1st:** Committee Meeting 6:00-7:30
- Feb 2nd:** Groundhog Day
- Feb 2nd:** Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45
- Feb 8th:** Scout Sunday
- Feb 8th:** Adam D. ECOH
- Feb 9th:** Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45 Room A20
- Feb 10th:** Merit Badge Help Night
- Feb 12th:** Lincoln's Birthday
- Feb 12th:** District Banquet
- Feb 12th:** RT & OA Meeting 7:30
- Feb 13th-16th:** USS Alabama
- Feb 15th:** Scout Day at the Circus
- Feb 16th:** President's Day
- Feb 16th:** Troop Meeting
- Feb 18th:** Scout Day at the Capitol
- Feb 19th:** Patrol Leader's Council 7:00-8:00
- Feb 21st:** NYLT Staff Development
- Feb 21st:** Frisbee Outing tentative date
- Feb 22nd:** Washington's Birthday
- Feb 23rd:** Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45 ~ Board of Review 7:15-8:45
- Feb 25th:** Ash Wednesday

March Reminders:

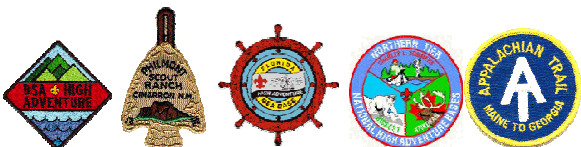
- Mar 1st: Philmont Prep Hike
- Mar 1st: Committee Meeting 6:00-7:30
- Mar 2nd: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45
- Mar 7th: CPR Saturday
- Mar 8th: Start Daylight Saving Time
- Mar 8th: Scout Day with Atlanta Thrashers
- Mar 9th: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45
- Mar 10th: Merit Badge Help Night 7:00-8:00 Room A20
- Mar 11th: NLE
- Mar 12th: RT & OA Meeting 7:30
- Mar 13th: No School ~ Okefenokee Outing
- Mar 14th: Okefenokee Outing
- Mar 15th: Okefenokee Outing
- Mar 16th: Troop Meeting ~ Board of Review 7:15-8:45
- Mar 17th: St. Patrick's Day
- Mar 18th: SALT 1 ~ ECOH Philip K.
- Mar 19th: Patrol Leader's Council 7:00-8:00
- Mar 20th: NYLT Staff Development
- Mar 21st: NYLT Staff Development
- Mar 22nd: NYLT Staff Development
- Mar 23rd: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45
- Mar 25th: SALT 2
- Mar 27th: District Camporee BASR
- Mar 28th: District Camporee BASR ~ ITOLS-1
- Mar 29th: District Camporee BASR ~ ECOH Ryan D.
- Mar 30th: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45 ~ OA Elections

Monday, Feb 2nd Troop Meeting

The troop meeting on February 2nd will take place in the Alpha Room in North Sanctuary which is across the street. You will need to enter at the basement (where the drop off/pick up area is which is on the right-hand side). Once you enter the basement, keep going and you will see the room.

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

Please frequently visit our website at 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. We try to make sure all updates are posted as soon as they are known. Click on Calendar for the most current information with details and events. You'll also find more meeting dates and service project opportunities. The troop annual calendar is formulated by the Patrol Leaders Council once a year at a special meeting where they plan next year's events and activities. Next year's schedule is now posted on the website. Pictures of our scouts in action are also available for all to view. Also look for flyers at meetings or postings on the bulletin board.



Flyers & Links

Venture Crew New England Ski Trip <http://www.troop629.org/forms/2009/Venture%20New%20England%20Skiing%2009.pdf>
Tons of Troop Pictures <http://tinyurl.com/2yetln>
National Jamboree <http://www.bsajamboree.org/>
BSA Online Learning Center <http://olc.scouting.org:80/>
Scouting Magazine (Adult Leaders) <http://www.scoutingmagazine.org/>
Boys Life Magazine (Scouts) <http://www.boyslife.org/>
Gear Guide for Scouts & Scouters http://www.troop629.org/Adventure/philmont_gear.htm
USS Alabama Outing <http://www.troop629.org/forms/2009/USS%20Alabama%2009.pdf>
Camp Good Turn Days <https://atlantabsa.doubleknot.com/openrosters/DocDownload.asp?orgkey=1457&id=52250>
Scout Day at the Thrashers <http://www.atlantabsa.org/openrosters/DocDownload.asp?orgkey=1456&id=49109>
Scout Nights at Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus
<http://www.atlantabsa.org/openrosters/DocDownload.asp?orgkey=1437&id=51335>
2009 Registration for Eagle Camp www.BSAEagleCamp.com
2009 Summer Camp Staff www.atlantabsa.org or www.atlantabsacamp.org
BSA on the Radio www.radiosandysprings.com
2010 National Scout Jamboree www.MyScouting.org
Council-Sponsored Events <http://www.atlantabsa.org>
Scout Shop News www.scoutstuff.org
Merit Badge www.meritbadge.com

Next Troop Board of Review – February 16th, 2008

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" Field Uniform and Scout handbook are required** for participation in a **Board of Review**.

Upcoming Events

- USS Alabama outing Feb 13th-15th in Mobile Bay
- Scout Day at the Circus Feb 15th
- Frisbee Outing Feb 21st
- Philmont Prep Hike Mar 1st
- CPR Saturday Mar 7th
- Scout Day with Atlanta Thrashers Mar 8th
- Okefenokee Outing Mar 13th-15th
- District Camporee BASR Mar 27th-29th

Look for flyers and handouts at meeting and on web site or click on the links above.

Summer Camp Info

Summer camp sign up has started with the complete package on line. We are heading to Camp Woodruff near Blairsville, GA July 12-18th. All the forms and details are available at the meeting or on our web site. Please note there is a NEW physical form that has started to be used for the scouting program. Scouts will be required to have in 2010 but for now if the current form is still valid (within 3 years of July) all that will be needed is an update on the front Class I portion. Please start working on these now for summer camp.

Court of Honor – May 4th, 2009

All scouts and their families are **invited, encouraged (and expected) to attend** this special ceremony to recognize scouts' and scouters' accomplishments since the fall COH. Among these awards and recognitions will be first badges presented to new scouts ~ **Scout rank: Completion of the instructions in Chapter 1 of the Handbook as well as participation in a Scoutmaster**

Conference. Please ask your Senior Patrol Leader or Scoutmaster Gillis if you have any questions about this process. ~ 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.

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



Eagle Congratulations

WOW! The good news just keeps on coming. Congratulations to Ryan D. on being Troop 629's newest Eagle Scouts! A special ceremony is being planned to celebrate and receive his award so please watch for announcements of time, date and location at troop meetings, on the bulletin board, website and/or email. Eagle Courts of Honor are very special recognition evenings and we hope that all scouts will attend with their families.

Eagle Court of Honor

A special **Eagle Court of Honor** is being planned to celebrate the troop's newest Eagle Scouts:

- Sunday, February 8th - Eagle Court of Honor for Adam Daniel at Mt. Pisgah - 3:00pm
- Wednesday, March 18th - Eagle Court of Honor for Philip Knoetgen at Mt. Pisgah
- Sunday, March 29th - Eagle Court of Honor for Ryan Dekle at Mt. Pisgah

CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH OF YOU!!!

🏅 EAGLE~👤 LIFE~🌟 STAR~👤 FIRST CLASS~👤 SECOND CLASS~👤 TENDERFOOT~👤 SCOUT

Advancement congratulations for the month of January go to:

- 🏅 **EAGLE:** Ryan D.
- 👤 **LIFE:** Aroon N.
- 🌟 **STAR:** none
- 👤 **FIRST CLASS:** none
- 👤 **SECOND CLASS:** none
- 👤 **TENDERFOOT:** none
- 👤 **SCOUT:** none

Thank You Note!

Thank you to the Troop 629 family for selecting us for the annual "Godsend" recognition, and for the gift of a digital photo frame in honor of the occasion. We are truly honored to be recognized in the tradition of this award. It has been and continues to be our pleasure to serve and support the Scouting program and this troop.

Yours in Scouting,

- Mike and Julie Deaton

*****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. 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. Check out this newsletter for details, as well as the website and troop bulletin board for future to *sign up* and earn.



Popcorn Update

We have some popcorn left over that we would like to sell.

- Unbelievable Butter \$15 each
- Butter Light \$15
- Kettle Corn \$15
- Miscellaneous Tins for \$8 and \$15

Anyone interested in buying this can call John Rausch at 678 319 0913. Remember 35% of all sales go towards scout buck.

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]. **Groceries and Discounted Gas in one location!** The new Kroger Fuel Center at the corner of Old Alabama Road and Haynes Bridge Road is open; customers can use their Kroger Plus Card (free and easy to obtain) and accumulate points (from their purchases) for gas discount – 10¢ per gallon (\$100 minimum in purchases) – go to Customer Service Desk to obtain Kroger Plus Card. You can use your Gift Card you've purchased through the troop to make it even easier to purchase gas. What a great way to budget food and gas! 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 (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 22nd of the month or you can bring payment on a Monday night troop meeting and give to her.

Troop 629 Scout Activity Scholarships

In these turbulent times please understand fully that our policy has always been and is still the same – every scout should never miss participating in any activity due to a temporary shortfall in their families ability to afford the activity. We have been blessed to have sufficient funds to offer every scout the ability to quickly earn their way through a service project of their choosing. Coordinate with the SM to bring this about but do not hold back asking if the need exists. The scouting family can handle this continuation in each of the scout's important participatory development process. Scouting is outing and if you miss that portion then it can be rather boring.

*****SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES*****



Scouting for Food

Scouting for food during scout Sunday on Feb 8th at Mount Pisgah. We are encouraging all scouts to participate in the Sunday morning services at Mount Pisgah to celebrate one of our own recognition and all those others who have grown in the program. The scouts will assist in collecting food to help fill up some of the food banks in the area. Good time to accomplish service, good time to be reverent and good time to celebrate our scouting history.

North Fulton Community Charities is in need of the following items: all types of non-perishable food including tuna fish, canned meat, cereals, grits, dry beans (such as pinto beans), rice, macaroni & cheese, peanut butter & jelly, single serving foods, canned soup, fruit, vegetables, pasta, spaghetti sauce, and sugar. For more information, visit their website at www.nfcchelp.org

Once again we will need our scouts to assist with the sorting and organizing of the canned goods several times during the month of February. Look for the sign-up sheet in the next couple of meetings. We will also need a couple of adults with large vehicles to deliver the canned goods to NFCC. If you can help in this area, please contact Ann Herring @ johnannpaden@gmail.com

Scout Sunday

Scout Sunday at Mount Pisgah will be organized around the Sunday Feb 8th morning services. All scouts and families are welcome to attend and our scouts will help with some greeting services and on site table displays. More details will be provided at troop meetings leading up to that Sunday.

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.

BSA on the Radio!

Check out the Boy Scout segment on Radio Sandy Springs. 1620 AM, Saturdays from 3:00 – 4:00 pm. You can also stream the broadcast from www.radiosandysprings.com.

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



Report from the Librarian, Bill Rettig:

Our Troop library contains 297 Merit Badge books and 2 other Scout books. This does not count books that are out in circulation. If you have a Merit Badge book at home, please call me (404/374-9306) and let me know what you have.

Also, there will be a moratorium on fees and fines until January 31, 2009. If you have a merit badge book at home, please bring it to me before ASAP. No fines. No fees. If you checked out a book and there is \$5 in your envelope, please let me know what book you have. Then we can buy the books that we do not have in the library.

Right now it looks like we are missing 14 Merit Badge titles -- Communications, Computers, Emergency Preparedness, Environmental Science, Fingerprinting, Golf, Indian Lore, Insect Study, Mammal Study, Motorboating, Nature, Nuclear Science, Photography, and Pioneering.

All merit badge books have been revised. Revised books have color covers. We will be updating our library this year, so if you have a new merit badge book (full color cover), please donate it to the troop library.

Finally, if you have a Merit Badge Book that you bought and no longer need, please donate it to the library.

Scout CPR Saturday - March 7th 2009

Boy Scouts routinely invest their time and effort to "Be Prepared" for emergencies. First Aid training is required for rank advancement and is an essential life skill offered to each scout. Our boys are camping in the woods every month – experiencing the wonder of nature and learning how to plan for and to react to emergencies and injuries that may occur – anywhere.

CPR Saturday is open to the community and Atlanta Area Council Boy Scouts are encouraging Metro Atlanta's to "Be Prepared" and learn skills to save a life.

Classes will be held at the BSA Service Center - 1800 Circle 75 Parkway. Each class should take about 3 1/2 hours to complete and begin:

8:00 AM 8:40 AM 9:20 AM 10:00 AM 10:40 AM 11:20 AM

Please note: The Scout CPR Saturday discounted cost is a \$25.00 per person for the Adult CPR/AED and \$35.00 for the Adult/Child CPR/AED class cost for this event. (Note... The Standard Class Cost for a Adult CPR Class from the American Red Cross is \$55.00 per person) The address is:

Atlanta Area Council, BSA
1800 Circle 75 Parkway
Atlanta, Ga. 30339

Need More Information? Contact Wayne Miller (404) 874-7421 x 202 wayne@donate.net

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 gillisfx@aol.com. Judi Dammann jdamma@bellsouth.net** is organizing the troops past Eagle project packages to create a useful binder for future reference material for our Life to Eagle candidates.

Registration for Eagle Camp 2009

Registration for Eagle Camp 2009 is open to the scout community. Interested scouts should download the registration forms from the Eagle Camp Web Site www.BSAEagleCamp.com. In 2007, we had almost half our attendees from outside Milton District. Last year we exceeded this ratio. Word is getting out. Our program and the camp have limits. Remember, Eagle Camp is unique for the Atlanta Area Council. We are accepting COMPLETE applications for Eagle Camp on a first come, first served basis. Incomplete applications will not "reserve" a space. We will return payment checks for all participants that do not qualify. Remember the rates change on 1 February.

Please visit the www.BSAEagleCamp.com site for more information and for the request for admission forms to sign up for Eagle Camp 2008. The email address for questions is EagleCampInfo@gmail.com.

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.

Camp Good Turn Days February 28, March 14, and April 4, 2009

The Atlanta Area Council needs volunteers to help with several maintenance and improvement projects along with general cleanup at each of our camps. These special workdays are an excellent opportunity to do a good turn for the camp and to enjoy fellowship with other Scouters. Please plan on joining the team!

- **What to bring:** Basic hand tools, work gloves and clothing appropriate for the weather, cup, water bottle and medical form.
- **We will provide:** Coffee, water, bug juice, snacks and fellowship will be provided throughout the day. The Council will also provide lunch and dinner for all volunteers who register in advance. A t-shirt will also be provided to each participant
- **Who should come:** adult volunteers, friends and Scout youth 16+

Advance registration is required. Use this link to get a form:

<https://atlantabsa.doubleknot.com/openrosters/DocDownload.asp?orgkey=1457&id=52250>

Please complete the form and mail or fax to:

Good Turn @ AAC Camps
Atlanta Area Council
1800 Circle 75 Parkway, SE
Atlanta, GA 30339
Attn: Bion Jones
Fax: 770-956-5980

If you have questions, please contact:

Jason Eiermann (770)989-8821 ext 2099, Email: JEiermann@AtlantaBSA.org

Bion Jones (770)956-3175 Email: BJones@AtlantaBSA.org

Georgia State Legislature Day

Georgia State Legislature Day is Wednesday Feb 18, 2009. Scouts in uniform can visit the state capital and meet their representatives for a special scout day 9AM to 3PM and learn more about their operating government structure. Sign up by Feb 9th so we can get your reservation in. This is an official excused day of absence from the GA school system.

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**.

Custom "629" Patches for New Shirts

If you are buying a new-style BSA uniform shirt (not mandatory), you will need the new-style green troop numerals. We have received a custom order of our "629" troop number all in one patch. No need to sew on the 6, 2, and 9 patches individually! If you need one for a new shirt, **please see Mrs. Deaton for a "629" patch** at the next troop meeting. *The troop is picking up the tab for these new unit number patches.*

National Youth Leadership Training

Another year and another National Youth Leadership Training program being offered. Details are on our web site under the training tab. Scouts who will be 13 and First Class by June are eligible to attend this week long leadership training event and it is the troop policy that scout's will be re-paid the cost in their high adventure account for attending this course and returning to the troop in the fall. So sign up now to save a space.

2009 Summer Camp Staff

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, www.atlantabsa.org or www.atlantabsacamp.org. It will be available on our website very soon. Direct your inquiries to Donna Carr, 770-989-8821 ext 2010, or e-mail: dcarr@atlantabsa.org.

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 December 9th.**

High adventure for 2009!

Yes, we now have a Philmont trip scheduled for Jun 13-26, 2009. Get your reservation slip in now to hold your slot. Those who will be 14 by Jan 2009 are eligible to attend. Lots of time and preparation goes into these trips. If you are willing and able, please contact SM so you can get on a High Adventure lists to start the ball rolling.

Gear Guide for Scouts & Scouters

With Philmont back in the mix for 2009, the November hiking trip coming up and Christmas just around the corner here is a gear guide for scouts and scouters in the market for backpacking gear. It's posted on the Troop website at http://www.troop629.org/Adventure/philmont_gear.htm

2010 National Scout Jamboree

It is not too late for your scouts to sign up for the 2010 Jamboree! Slots are still available at this time. Youth positions and Adult Staff positions are still available online and maybe accessed through www.MyScouting.org for non-BSA employees. We are no longer accepting applications for the Council Troop leaders with the exception of 3rd Assistant Scoutmasters who must be 18 but not reach their 21st birthday during the Jamboree. Applicants will need to use their BSA ID number or their Social Security number to access the application Web site. This application does not guarantee you a position for the jamboree, but does get you started on the process to be approved as a participant or staff member. For further information contact: Tom Morin, tommorin@aol.com, Bion Jones, bjones@atlantabsa.org

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 of these special events <http://www.atlantabsa.org>

Scout Shop News!

The brand new **Centennial Scout Uniform** was unveiled in August. Although you are not required to buy this new uniform, it will be hard to resist wanting to add this one to your Scouting wardrobe. Go online to www.scoutstuff.org and take a peek. For more information on this uniform contact the Scout Shop at 770-988-9912. The Scout Shop will have them ready and waiting when it is time to replace your old one (i.e. wear/tear/growth spurts).

*******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. If you are missing an item after an outing, it might be waiting for you in the Lending Closet to come claim it.

For all our activities the troop has a lending closet to allow scouts to borrow essential items necessary for a particular event. Just let us know the need and we can sort out the right item for any scout. See the SM for coordination.

Scout Day at the Atlanta Thrashers!

Its hockey season sports fans and that means **Scout Day at the Atlanta Thrashers!** The next Thrashers Scout Day is March 8, 2009 as the Thrashers take on the Calgary Flames. Tickets start at \$24 and include a collector patch and a food credit at the game! You can order you discounted tickets by downloading the [order form from the Council Web site](#) and sending it to the address on the form. <http://www.atlantabsa.org/openrosters/DocDownload.asp?orgkey=1456&id=49109> for the order form.

Scout Nights at Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey

Come one come all to Scout Nights at the Circus with Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey's Greatest Show on Earth as they present "Over the Top." Tickets start at \$10 and include a free Scout Patch with purchase. Three shows are available: Sunday, February 15 7:00 p.m., Thursday, February 19 at 7:30 2:00 p.m., and Friday, February 20 7:30 p.m. Tickets are limited so [click here](#) to download the [order form](#) or <http://www.atlantabsa.org/openrosters/DocDownload.asp?orgkey=1437&id=51335> or visit the Program Center today!

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. Turn your receipts into **Julie Deaton, Treasurer**, to be reimbursed for any authorized cost. 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 Shelley 629newsletter@avants.net 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); North Point Pkwy; 770-521-1195
- Brigade Quartermaster, Marietta: 10% off by showing your BSA card; 770-428-6870

Troop 629 is now an REI Affiliate. That means anything you purchase from REI by clicking on the links in our website generates a **5% commission** to the Troop. Check out the enhanced gear guide with new REI links at http://www.troop629.org/Adventure/philmont_gear.htm. Happy shopping!

***** 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**, (wkraemer@bellsouth.net) to learn about the available open positions:*

Eagle Court of Honor Ceremony Coordinator Needed

Lu Ann DiPietro has been coordinating all of the details for celebration ceremonies for new Eagle Scouts for the last three years. She 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 help out with the Eagle Court of Honor Ceremonies. Please let **Wendy Kraemer** wkraemer@bellsouth.net know if you can help out with this for the upcoming year.

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

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.)

Upcoming adult leader training – more details at the District web site (cdbsa.org).

- Wed, Mar 11, 7pm NLE-New Leaders Essentials.
- Wed Mar 18, 7pm SALT - Scoutmaster/ASM Leadership Training 1 of 3
- Wed Mar 25, 7pm SALT - Scoutmaster/ASM Leadership Training 2 of 3
- Fri-Sun, Mar 27-29 Wood Badge 92-61 Weekend 1
- Sun, March 29 Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills (ITOLS) Orientation
- Wed Apr 1, 7pm SALT - Scoutmaster/ASM Leadership Training 3 of 3
- Fri-Sun, Apr 17-19 Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills (ITOLS) Weekend
- Fri-Sun, Apr 17-19 Wood Badge 92-61 Weekend 2
- Fri-Sun, Apr 24-26 Wilderness First Aid Basic



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 update/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.

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
Model Design
Skating

Climbing
Plant Science
Textile

Dentistry
Railroading
Waterskiing

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 Kraemer if you can't remember if you've already done this). (Found under *Forms* on Troop website, 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 or bring a copy to her at the Troop meeting.

A Helping Hand

On occasion the troop is able to provide a helping hand in preparing meals for a Troop 629 family going through a stressful situation. We would like to thank Donna Martinez for taking over this position. If you know of a troop family going through a difficult time and they need assistance or if you are able to provide a meal when needed, please contact Donna Martinez at mom3drm@aol.com.

Friends of Scouting

Friends of scouting is a fund raising campaign run by the scouting program amongst the scouting family community to help raise supplemental funds to support the overall local council in its related mission to provide the scouting program needs to the local units. At the Court of Honor Nat Padgett

will briefly explain the program and start our campaign to have at least 100% of families contacted and given the opportunity to participate.

Youth Protection Training

Youth Protection Training must be updated every two years. Please check with Kathleen Narayanan.

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 for adults and scouts to the [Troop Newsletter \(629newsletter@avants.net\)](mailto:629newsletter@avants.net). 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.

February 2009

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
6:00p -7:30p Committee Meeting	Groundhog Day 7:15p -8:45p Troop Meeting					
<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>
Scout Sunday Adam D ECOH	7:15p -8:45p Troop Meeting	7:00p -8:00p Merit Badge Help - Rm A20		Lincoln's Birthday 7:30p RT & OA Meeting Dist Banquet	USS Alabama	USS Alabama Valentine's Day
<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>
USS Alabama Scout Day at Circus	Presidents Day (Fed) 7:15p -8:45p Troop Meeting		Scout Day at GA Capital	7:00p -8:00p Patrol Leader's Council		NYLT Staff Development frisbee outing?
<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>
Washington's Birthday	7:15p -8:45p Troop Meeting Board of Review Flower Sales Start		Ash Wednesday			Philmont Prep Hike