



BOY SCOUT TROOP 629 NEWSLETTER

November 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

Yet again a congratulations is being sent out for another of our newest Eagle Scout. Collin Cook is our most recent addition who recently completed his district board of review and is the 65th scout in Troop 629 to attain the prestigious recognition. Scouts sticking with it and coming back over and over again to finish up the all the requirements the way they are expected to be accomplished does pay off. It would be much better to have it all wrapped up by your Junior year in High School to afford yourself the opportunity to say you are and eagle on any Job or future school application. There is no place for a "wanna-be" on those applications and waiting right up to your 18th birthday just means you are hoping that nothing was in error and all the requirements are accurate and complete as required on time. Keep those long range planning calendars out, annotate your goals to make those visions happen and just be methodical about your accomplishments. You too can make it!

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

November Reminders:

- November 1st: Committee Meeting 6:00-7:30
- November 2nd: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45
- November 7th-8th: AT Backpacking
- November 8th: Scout Day at Atlanta Thrashers
- November 9th: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45
- November 10th: Merit Badge Help Night 6:00-7:00
- November 12th: District Roundtable
- November 13th-15th: OA Ordeal Allatoona
- November 14th: Scout Day at Fernbank
- November 16th: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45 ~ Board of Review ~ SPL/PL Elections
- November 19th: Patrol Leaders Council
- November 19th: Scouting for Food
- November 21st: Autrey Mill Nature Center Merit Badge Day/Service Project
- November 23rd: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45
- November 26th: Thanksgiving
- November 29th: Scout Day at Atlanta Falcons
- November 30th: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45 ~ WEBELOS Visit

December Reminders:

December 5th or 6th: Patrol Service Project/Outing

December 6th: Committee Meeting 6:00-7:30

December 7th: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45

December 8th: Merit Badge Help Night 6:00-7:00

December 10th: District Roundtable

December 11th: Lock-In at Mt Pisgah

December 12th: CPR Training

December 12th or 13th: Patrol Service Project/Outing

December 13th: NYLT Staff

December 14th: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45

December 17th: Patrol Leaders Council

December 18th: Last Day of 1st Semester

December 19th or 20th: Patrol Service Project/Outing

December 21st: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45 ~ Board of Review

December 28th: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45

Check out your Troop 629 web site to get the latest on all our upcoming events and view the latest pictures of our scouts in action.

Calendar and Web Site Information

The Troop has its annual calendar published and it's available for all on the web site www.troop629.org. Keep in mind the Troop web site is a dynamic place always having items added and the latest updates being posted as soon as they are known. Scouting is outing and it should just be a habit to look at each week before a meeting to make sure you are submitting your participation permission slips for the designated times.

Our Chattahoochee District (www.cdbsa.org) and Atlanta Area Council (www.atlantabsa.org) have web sites as well where additional information is also available concerning upcoming events. Please note that Troop meeting start time at 7:15 and closing at 8:45 PM on Mondays. Please show up on time so we can start the program on time.

Keep an eye out for new opportunities that crop up for special events and classes being offered. Details can be found on the bulletin board for emergency disaster exercises looking for scouts to participate in, special merit badge sessions for railroad MB and nature events. Those kind of events are open to all scouts but generally are not organized for attendance as a Troop activity. Normally an individual parent takes on the lead to help arrange rides and details.

Keep us updated on changes to phone numbers, address and e-mail accounts. Communication channels works best when everyone is getting and giving timely information. "View the bulletin board and troop web site for latest details."

Check out your troop 629 web site to get the latest on all our upcoming events and view the latest pictures of our scouts in action.

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



Flyers & Links

Tons of Troop Pictures <http://tinyurl.com/2yetln>

Troop Events <http://www.troop629.org/events/events.htm>

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

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

New Leader Essentials for Boy Scout Leaders <http://training.cdbsa.org/ClassSignup.aspx?classtype=NLE>

SALT - Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Leadership Training

<http://training.cdbsa.org/ClassSignup.aspx?classtype=SALT>

ITOLS - Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills

<http://training.cdbsa.org/ClassSignup.aspx?classtype=ITOLS>

Jamboree on the Air and on the Internet (JOTA/JOTI)

http://www.scout.org/en/information_events/events/jota/the_52nd_jota_2009# and <http://www.joti.org/>.

Northern Tier Camp http://www.ntier.org/Ntier_Home.html

NEW Northern Georgia Forest Backpacking Trip

Next Troop outing is our Nov 7-8 backpacking trip to the Northern Georgia Forest. Permission slips and backpack checks for all on Nov 2 meeting and personal food is part of the packing list for each scout. As always more details are available on our web site.

NEW November 30th is our Troop 629 Open House / WEBELOS Visit

Do you have a friend or sibling in Cub Scouts or know a boy who may not be in scouting at all but considering joining. Please invite both the boy and their parent to our Troop 629 Open House which will be hosted during our regular Troop meeting November 30th from 7:15 - 8:45 PM. We will incorporate the new boys into a typical troop meeting to give them a sense of scouting and have a parent presentation to provide information on our program. Current adult leaders in Troop 629 should try to attend to show our strong parent involvement and to help answer visiting parent questions. For any questions contact Dave Pendery h 770-552-4220 w 404-676-4686 penderyclan@comcast.net

NEW Annual Lock-In

Lock –in at Mount Pisgah for scouts of Troop 629 is set for Friday Dec 11th to Saturday morning the 12th. A good time and long night for all in attendance is a sure bet.

NEW Newtown Park Troop Meeting

Our recent troop meeting at Newtown Park was a huge success. A huge thank you to all the parents who helped with this event. Our scouts love it! We need someone to organize this event next year. If you are interested, please see Wendy.

NEW Annual Christmas Tree Pickup 20+ Adult Volunteers Needed!

The Troop 629 Annual Christmas Tree pickup is scheduled for January 2nd, 2010. This annual fundraiser requires many adults to put on but fortunately, many hands makes for light work! (The Scouts do most of the “heavy lifting”). We’ll need Drivers to pull trailers, Drivers for “chase vehicles”, shotgun riders, drop off coordinators, a cashier, Food and Snack volunteers; about 20 adult positions total on January 2nd. If you have a vehicle capable of pulling a trailer and are willing to help, that would be especially appreciated. In addition, this year I’d like to get Neighborhood representatives to help contact HOAs of the neighborhoods we serve to us help promote this event. If you’re available on January 2nd, please volunteer. The Scouts really enjoy this fundraiser and it’s a great way to be involved with the Troop and the Scouts in a very “hands on” activity.

NEW Annual Registration

Annual re-registration is ongoing and each family should have received their envelope to complete and submit. This year we want to re-emphasize that there is a requirement to have an annual physical on the new form in our files for each scout and scouter to participate in activities. Forms are available on our web site.

NEW High Adventure Opportunities

A number of high adventure opportunities are out their for our 14 and older scouts in 2010. First is the NH ski trip Jan 15-18, followed by the Florida sea Base April 2-11 and finally a Minnesota Northern Tier canoe expedition in July. Look for details on our web site and at meetings. Payments and arrangements are now being finalized for all trips.

NEW West Virginia Ski Trip

The annual ski trip to WV is set for Feb (11-14) and details should be out soon.

Sea Base 2010

Sea Base high adventure planning for the April 2 – 12, 2010 Florida key trip is well underway. Make sure your payments and permission slips are being turned in promptly to hold your spot.



Ready for some high adventure?

How about some canoeing at the Boy Scout Camp in the boundary waters in Northern Minnesota!! We are beginning to organize a high adventure outing for next summer to Northern Tier. This trip is eligible for boys who will be 13 or over by September 2010 and able to handle the maturity, physical capability and compatibility for an extended trip. Please contact Dave Pendery at (h) 770-552-4220 or (c) 770-402-6679 or penderyclan@comcast.net if you are interested. We will need at least 6 boys to be able to form a full crew.

Here are the pictures of the last time Troop 629 went to Northern Tier ==>
<http://www.troop629.org/pictures/2008/Northern%20Tier/index.html>

Click here for information on the Northern Tier Camp ==> http://www.ntier.org/Ntier_Home.html

Philmont 2010: Individual scout spots are available to attend Philmont High Adventure backpacking in the Council sponsored provisional crew. If you are interested see the SM to details.

Upcoming Troop Board of Reviews: November 16, 2009

After a scout completes his Scoutmaster conference, he must notify Mrs. Narayanan, Troop Advancement Chairperson, that he is ready for the next BOR. Reminder: Full Class "A" uniform and Scout handbook are required for participation in a Board of Review.

Upcoming Events

- AT Backpacking (outing for all) – November 7th – 8th
- Scout Day at Fernbank – November 14th
- Scout Day at Atlanta Falcons – November 29th
- Patrol Service Project/Outing - December 5th or 6th
- Lock-In – December 11th
- Patrol Service Project/Outing - December 12th or 13th
- Patrol Service Project/Outing - December 19th or 20th

Look for flyers and handouts at meetings and on web site or click on the links above. Our on line calendar is pretty dynamic so always refer to it to get the latest changes.








Medical Forms

If you are attending a Boy Scout event, (as a scout or parent chaperone) please make sure there is a current medical form on file with the troop. Please contact Mary Beth Bierbaum at marybeth@bierbaum.com or 770-442-5306 to find out the status of your current medical form.

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

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

Advancement congratulations for the month of October go to:

-  **EAGLE:** Collin C.
-  **LIFE:** none
-  **STAR:** none
-  **FIRST CLASS:** none
-  **SECOND CLASS:** none
-  **TENDERFOOT:** Matthew Jacob K.
-  **SCOUT:** none

CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH OF YOU!!!

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

Short on Cash, But Love to Travel?

For all scouting activities the Troop has set up a scholarship fund to help any individual who may just not capable to participate at any particular time or event through a service hour trade off agreement with Committee Chair know you if you have any individual needs. Our goal is not to deny any scout an opportunity they truly want to participate in. The high adventure bases and camps also normally run scholarship applications for those various events, just ask us for the forms if help is needed for a particular event. The High Adventure bases and camps also normally have scholarship applications available for those individual events. Just ask the Scoutmaster for the form if help is needed for a particular event.



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 and each scout received 75% of those funds for their personal high adventure account.*** 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.

~~NEW~~ Popcorn Update:

Congratulations to our top pop corn seller, Logan W. who has far exceeded our top past sellers. Not only did he surpass \$1600.00 in sales but he earned himself an XBOX to boot to go along with the other pop corn sale program awards.

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.

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*****

NEW Service Project Opportunity

Scout Day at Autrey Mill Nature Preserve and Heritage Center, November 21st 9:30 am to 2 pm.

Scout day is a day for Cub Scouts and Jr. Girl Scouts to earn badges at learning stations all throughout Autrey Mill. Volunteer Boy Scouts are needed to help at game, craft and learning stations such as Maps and Compasses and Geology. All of the materials are provided; volunteers are there to keep the tables organized and ensure the families know which instruction sheets to read at each station.

Drop off is at Autrey Mill Nature Preserve and Heritage Center at 9:30 am, and pick up is by 2:30. Parents, please sign your scout in at the office before leaving. Boy Scouts are welcome to help for part of the day if they cannot make it for the entire time. We will have hot dogs, PB&J, chips and Gatorade free for volunteers.

Directions to Autrey Mill Nature Preserve can be found at the Website www.autreymill.org They are also offering a Reptile and Amphibian Study Merit Badge Clinic that day from 2-4, advanced sign up through the website is required, the cost for the clinic is \$20.

NEW Patrol Service Projects

Patrols will be conducting a service project and patrol outing over the December weekends. Lets all try to show up and provide the support to the patrol and the effort being undertaken.

Krispy Kreme Fundraiser

Attention all adults: The scouts are working with Krispy Kreme Doughnuts as a new fundraiser for high adventure. They will be selling doughnuts at sporting events, festivals, etc. We are in need of parents to drive scouts to/from event and to pickup supplies of doughnuts. If you would like to get involved, please forward your name to Don Harden hardenl@gmail.com. We will gather a list of parents and setup a meeting later in the month to organize.

Special Opportunities

There are many special scouting opportunities for sport venues and community activities that are not normally organized on a troop level for individuals to participate in. keep an eye out for those notices on our bulletin board on go straight to the Atlanta Area Council program web section (http://www.atlantabsa.org/openrosters/view_homepage.asp?orgkey=1474) for flyers and details.

NOTE: Doughnut sales will net the scouts a 100% profit and save the purchaser over the counter cost that they would pay. Each donut at 50 cents each gains the scout 25 cents in profit!

Service Projects

The Troop frequently has last minute service project opportunities for scouts to participate in. Keep an eye out for them weekly, look on the bulletin board and pick up the flyers that are usually at the meeting.

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*******

Uniforms

Yes there is a new uniform and now there is a new scout handbook. However they are NOT required by everyone and the current uniforms and books are still acceptable for all events. Do not feel obliged to get your new version. But take note; there will be some new advancement requirements required to be added to you current book starting in January to include in your trail to Eagle. The last board of review for the year will be the last time you can get by without doing those new items. The first board of review in January will require all scouts to have completed the revised requirements fully. Those changes are listed on our web site and available from the SM as a handout.

At all troop activities a designated uniform is specified. Also during Troop meetings the proper wear of the uniform shirt during the school year is expected and all great scouts are not without their handbook to make a complete uniform. Proper uniform includes your short tucked in and closed toe shoes! Please dress for the weather as some activities are outside.

REMINDER: It is the BSA insurance policy that no open toe shoes to be worn on any activity. This includes meetings, camping and water activities. The only exception is flip flops for showers but sandals are a no go for any activity we do including weekly meetings. Scouts will not be allowed to participate if they show up with open toe shows. Once school is out we will conduct meetings with our Troop Red Field T-shirt as the primary uniform throughout the summer.

Merit Badge Reminder from Scout Master Gillis

PLEASE UNDERSTAND OUR POLICY: TROOP MEETINGS ARE FOR GROUP AND TEAM DEVELOPMENT AND NOT GENERALLY FOR MERIT BADGE TIME. THERE IS TO BE NO MERIT BADGE WORK DURING PATROL MEETING TIME, INSTRUCTIONAL TIME AND COMPETITION TIMES. THE ONLY EXCEPTION ON MONDAY'S IS THAT SCOUTS CAN OPT TO WORK ON MERIT BADGES DURING GAME TIME.

Scouts are still coming forward to work on a merit badge **WITHOUT** reading the whole MB book from cover to cover. This is not a negotiable and it doesn't matter where the MB was started or with who. To complete the summer camp merit badges or any other please follow the simple rules.

- Read the book from cover to cover.
- Bring any completed paperwork to a meeting or merit badge help night and coordinate an approved counselor from the scoutmaster.
- Sit down with the counselor and explain, show or complete the requirements as detailed.
- Its not about a memory test – it is about comprehension and covering the material as stated.

The second Tuesday of every month the SM will be available at the Mount Pisgah 6-7 PM for those who need extra help with merit badge requirements or advancement. The next one is scheduled for November 10th.

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. Another reason to check the Troop bulletin board or web site to keep the ever dynamic and fluid scouting calendar up to date. Of special note: November will be elections time again for SPL and PL on the 16th.

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. If you would like to review past Eagle project packages, please contact Ms. Narayanan who will bring the binder to a troop meeting for your review.

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 Scott Bowen**. He still has slots available and waiting for you. Remember ... Mr. Gillis must approve you for a spot after you have received training.

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.*

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)*

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 but will be gone soon.

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.

Please do not apply for any Scoutmaster positions unless you are under 21 and qualify for the third assistant position. All Adult troop positions have been filled. For further information contact: Tom Morin, tommorin@aol.com, Bion Jones @ bjones@atlantabsa.org

Scout Shop News!

The brand new **Centennial Scout Uniform** was unveiled in August 2008. 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).

New Scout Handbook is now available as well! IT IS NOT REQUIRED TO BE PURCHASED. However, there are new requirements for advancement and scouts will be responsible to add those to their list effective Jan 2010. A copy of those changes is available on our Troop web site under the advancement tab.

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

Lending Closet

The Troop maintains a scout uniform exchange or drop off point for all to use. With growth spurts for young scouts it's hard at times to keep them outfitted for activities. Bring in your used or any pieces you come across and add to closet and feel free to pick up an item at any meeting. Ask for other items that may be store at another of our locations.

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.

Patrol Food Items

Non Perishable (left over) from camping trips that can be reused need to be turned in with the patrol gear at the end of each trip and are stored by the troop in special patrol containers. This will help cut back on some cost for future trips and eliminate some waste now ongoing. A scout buying food will get a menu to use with a budget to follow. It's important to follow the list and items/quantities specified as the menu has been planned for patrol guest and other program considerations. Purchase slips are turned into the Troop Treasurer for reimbursement after each trip by the patrol scout grubmaster for that trip.

*******ADULT INVOLVEMENT*******



Annual Christmas Tree Pickup 20+ Adult Volunteers Needed!

The Troop 629 Annual Christmas Tree pickup is scheduled for January 2nd, 2010. This annual fundraiser requires many adults to put on but fortunately, many hands makes for light work! (The Scouts do most of the “heavy lifting”). We’ll need Drivers to pull trailers, Drivers for “chase vehicles”, shotgun riders, drop off coordinators, a cashier, Food and Snack volunteers; about 20 adult positions total on January 2nd. If you have a vehicle capable of pulling a trailer and are willing to help, that would be especially appreciated. In addition, this year I’d like to get Neighborhood representatives to help contact HOAs of the neighborhoods we serve to us help promote this event. If you’re available on January 2nd, please volunteer. The Scouts really enjoy this fundraiser and it’s a great way to be involved with the Troop and the Scouts in a very “hands on” activity.

Want to be more involved?

Many behind the scenes activities are run organized and run by our committee chair, Wendy Kraemer. If you have some time to help your sons troop let her know what you can do or can assist with.

Adults wishing to participate in any of our overnight activities have to be properly trained and registered with us. Now is the time to get all the paperwork accomplished not just prior to a trip. So if you need to have your vehicle registered with us, register as a scouter, obtain the proper on line certificates or complete any of the specialized training check with the team hovering around the troop meetings to get all the details. The troop has a particular way adults are involved with the scouts so get the latest details on our web site under the training tab for adults.

Health/Medical Forms

For all registered adults and scouts: The troop needs a current health/medical form on file for you! Please go to our website (<http://www.troop629.org/forms/annualhealthandmedicalrecord.pdf>) to find a PDF 'fill-in' medical form. Please complete, forward to your doctor for signature, and bring it completed to the next troop meeting. Please note that this is a **new** BSA Medical form which the BSA requires of all scouts to have on file with their troop beginning January 1, 2010. Troop 629 is asking all of its scouts to have this new form on file with our troop by December 15, 2009. Please contact Mary Beth Bierbaum if you need to know the status of your medical form currently on file with the troop => marybeth@bierbaum or 770.442.5306. Thank you!

Adult Leader Training

Our adults are encouraged to participate in one of the many training opportunities available for scouting. A great way to get started is by completing the online Boy Scout Fast Start or Youth Protection Training located at the Chattahoochee web site via a link from our troop’s web site: www.troop629.org.

To participate as an adult leader in the troop on overnight camping, you must complete on line Youth Protection Training, Fast Start Training and review the Troop 629 Adult Guide. Assistant Scoutmasters and Committee Members must complete the above training and New Leaders Essentials, SALT, ITOLS and/or Committee Training. Information on these training opportunities is available on the [Chattahoochee District web site](#).

To participate in [High Adventure](#), leaders must complete all the above along with special classes such as CPR, FA, safety afloat, and safe swim.

NOTE: For Youth Protection and Fast Start, print from web site your completion form page and pass to the unit's training chairperson. When you have completed any of the BSA training, please notify our Committee Chair, Wendy Kraemer.

Adult volunteers

A lot of behind the scene necessary support in running an active Troop comes from many adults giving special efforts in their own way. If you are one of the adults that just isn't able to lock in a routine support directly with the program other support needs are there waiting. Contact our committee chair for a list of those opportunities to help the evolving dynamic program.

On all trips we request adults clearly state their intentions if providing transportation support with the number of passengers that you can handle in the vehicle being used.

There are currently several KEY positions which are in need of new volunteers!!! If you are interested in helping out, please contact Wendy Kraemer.

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) 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** wlkraemer@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](mailto:Kathleen.Narayanan@narayanan.us), 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 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.

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) and **Atlanta Area Council** (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).

Please send all email address changes, deletions and additions for adults and scouts to the **Troop Newsletter** (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.