



BOY SCOUT TROOP 629 NEWSLETTER

December 2010

*This newsletter is intended for Troop 629 scouts and their families.
All Newsletters and up to date information are at www.troop629.org*



Scoutmaster Minute by Fran Gillis

Congratulations yet again to another of our scouts, James D. has attained the rank of Eagle Scout at his recent district Board of Review. Next time you see James pass along your special congrats and look for his eagle Court of Honor in the future.

I also want to pass along a special congrats to Logan W. who was recently invited to be on the national Staff for the National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience held in Philmont, New Mexico. Across the nation only a very select few of less than 50 youth annually get to serve on this staff and he joins two other youth in our Troop's history who also had that opportunity. This is our month for extra community service with the patrols seeking out small service projects to participate in over one of the weekends and also the Troop Tree Recycle collection at the end of the holidays. It is hoped that each and every scout has an opportunity to participate and fulfill one of the pillars of the scouting movement, service to others. While we make much ado about the Eagle Award it is not the only true indication of a quality scout. One who delivers of his personal time and efforts to others, making a mark in his own way as a true servant leader is just as worthy of our recognition. Why not seek out those opportunities and "pay back" now when you have the chance.

Let's get our act together and properly register for our upcoming activities: not only patrol projects but our Troop level lock in, our troop service tree recycle project and then our WV ski trip. Please get your slips in now.

Highlights, Deadlines and Dates

- ❖ The **December 20th** meeting will be a fun filled evening. YOUR patrol council invites all scouts to participate in the **White Elephant Gift Exchange** and enjoy some holiday cheer (cookies and juice). If you plan to participate in the "white elephant" gift exchange, please bring a **LESS than \$20 wrapped gift to the meeting**. Parents if you can help by providing 2 dozen cookies, cupcakes, brownies or snacks for the meeting, please let Mary Beth Beirbaum know at Marybeth@bierbaum.com
- ❖ **Troop Lock In is Friday, December 10th – Sat. December 11th**. Details are on the website, under EVENTS flyers. **Paperwork for this super fun event is DUE now!**
- ❖ December is our Patrol Service outing month. Look for details from YOUR Patrol Leaders. They may include a fun patrol outing as well!
- ❖ **Need money for high Adventure?** Look for Mr. Brown at this month's Troop Meetings and sign up for **Troop 629's Christmas Tree Recycle Day, January 1st**. This is a fun way to make money, work together in teams and ring in the New Year. **Parents: We need volunteers to make this day a success**. Please contact Mr. Brown cliffdbrown@hotmail.com if you can help.

- ❖ Two ski trips are planned again. Beginners and basic to **West Virginia (Jan1-4)** details are posted on the website. Also posted are the trip details of the venture/older scouts (age 14+) ski trip to NH. Sign up now to ensure we have a slot for you!
- ❖ This troop supports and gets involved with **National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT)** each year and it is time for those who want to serve on staff (must be a graduate of NYLT) to sign up on line and go through the interview process for selection. Participants to be (13 and FC) will start signing up at the end of January.
- ❖ **Upcoming Troop Board of Review: December 13th**
After a scout completes his Scoutmaster conference, he must notify Mrs. Narayanan, Troop Advancement Chairperson, that he is ready for the next BOR. Mrs. Narayanan can also be reached at Kathleen@narayanan.us **Reminder: Full Class "A" uniform and Scout handbook are required for participation in a Board of Review.**

Upcoming Events

- ❖ **December 10th-11th:** Troop 629 Lock In
- ❖ **January 1st:** Christmas Tree Pick Up Fundraiser
- ❖ **January 1-4th:** West Virginia Ski Trip
- ❖ **January 14-17th :** New Hampshire Skiing: Venture Crew

Details on these events are already posted on the website. Be prepared and fill out your trip paperwork on time. 😊

ORGANIZE YOUR FAMILY CALENDAR

December Reminders

December 4th: Patrol Service Outing
December 5th: Troop Committee Meeting 6 p.m.
December 6th: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45
December 9th: District Roundtable
December 10-11th: Troop Lock in (Detailed flyer on website)
December 11th: CPR Training/ Patrol Service Outing
December 12th: NYLT Staff Interviews
December 13th: Troop Meeting~ Board of Review 7:15-8:45
December 14th: Merit Badge Help 6 p.m.
December 16th: Patrol Leader Council
December 18th: Patrol Service Outing
December 20th: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45

January Reminders

January 1st: Christmas Tree Pick Up
January 1-4th: West Virginia Ski Trip
January 2nd: Troop Committee Meeting 6 p.m.
January 3rd: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45
January 9th: OA Banquet
January 10th: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45
January 13th: District Roundtable
January 14-17th: New Hampshire Ski Trip (Venture Crew)
January 17th: Troop Meeting~Board of Review 7:15-8:45

January 19th: Camp Kick Off
January 20th: Patrol Leaders Council
January 22nd: NYLT Staff Orientation
January 23rd: Eagle COH- Blake C.
January 24th: Troop Court of Honor & Eagle COH Aaron N.
January 25th: Philmont Leader Training
January 29-30th: Troop Caving Trip
January 31st: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45

Calendar and Web Site Information~ Check out www.troop629.org








The Troop web site is a dynamic place with information being updated as soon as it is known. Scouting is outing! **Make it a habit to look at the website each week to ensure you are submitting your participation permission slips for designated trips and events on time.** Flyers and details of trips can be found under **EVENTS** on the website.

- ❖ Check out your Troop 629 web site to get the latest on all our upcoming events. **Pictures from the recent backpacking trip have been added to the Troop website.**
- ❖ Many of the event fliers through January are already posted on the Troop Website.
- ❖ Keep us updated on changes to phone numbers, address and e-mail accounts. Not getting the newsletter? Contact Heather Pendery at penderyclan@comcast.net

SCOUT HANDSHAKE

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

Advancement congratulations for the month of September go to:

-  **EAGLE:** James D.
-  **LIFE:** none
-  **STAR:** none
-  **FIRST CLASS:** Brandon B., Chase C., Connor C.
-  **SECOND CLASS:** Reed C., Chris C., Ryan S.
-  **TENDERFOOT:** Reed C., Ryan S.
-  **SCOUT:** Tyler M.

CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH OF YOU!!



Troop Treasurer Position- For years Julie Deaton has graciously volunteered her time as the Troop Treasurer. Thank you Julie! Now we need another parent to assume the Troop Treasurer position. Julie will help with training and acclimation. Please contact **Julie Deaton** for more information at jideaton@mindspring.com



Troop Historian Update

If you are a first class scout looking for a leadership position you should try being Historian. It is a very fun job and you get to take a lot of pictures. There are only a few requirements.

You must attend the troop leader training even if you have attended in the past. You are expected to attend the following; troop meetings, patrol leaders council meetings, outings and service projects.

The Historian's main responsibility is to set up a scrap book of the troop's outings. About once a month I spend an hour sorting pictures and updating the scrap book.

If you have any questions about the Historian position please get with me at the next meeting.

Nolan Rausch- Troop Historian

ADULT INVOLVEMENT

"Many Hands make light work"



Want to be more involved?

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, **Mary Beth Bierbaum** at marybeth@bierbaum.com to learn about the available open positions

TRAINED LEADERS- The Backbone of 629 (Reasons to Be Prepared)

Are you planning to get 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.

All adults must complete the Youth Protection on line course before registration.

1. Complete **Adult Registration Form** (Found under *Forms* on Troop website, www.troop629.org, *Registration Form-Adult*)
2. Complete **Youth Protection & 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.

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 Website at www.cdbsa.org

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

❖ **When you have completed any of the BSA training, please notify Kathleen Narayanan.**

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@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



BE PREPARED....FRIENDLY REMINDERS

High Adventure

Remember, the Troop has three high adventure activities planned for older scouts in 2011. First up is the NH skiing trip in January, followed by an April Bahamas tall ship sailing experience and finally Rocky Mt backpacking at Philmont, NM in June. **If you are interested in any of these trips, make your intent known NOW.** Spots are limited! Adults wanting to participate have very specific pre-training requirements in order to be eligible.

Double Check your Medical Forms! ✓

Please contact Mr. Street to check on the status of your troop medical form. Many of you have medical forms that have just expired or are coming up for renewal. (Remember that your medical form is valid for only twelve (12) months from the date your physician signed your form and therefore must be renewed annually.) We don't want anyone to miss out on a trip because they do not have a current medical form on file with the troop. If you have any questions, please contact Ian Street at ian.street@daltile.com

Leaders- Check Your Youth Protection Training ✓

Youth Protection Training is required for ALL registered adult leaders and must be taken every two years. To ensure that we fully comply to the BSA's policies, please take the following steps:

- Please log on to MyScouting (<http://www.myscouting.org>) to take or validate the training. Be sure to have your member ID number. The number can be found on your Boy Scouts of America membership card.
- To take the training: From the MyScouting portal, click on E-Learning and take the Youth Protection Training. The training consists of watching a short video (30 mins.) and taking a post assessment test. Upon completion, print or save the certificate for your record.
- To validate your training: From the MyScouting portal, click on Training Validation and enter your user name or member ID to search for your training records.

If you have any question regarding the training please contact Eric Hoang through e-mail erichhoang@yahoo.com or cell phone 770-265-7945.



Scribe Note

This month, we have the Lock-In which is always cool. Bring your video games. We have the freezing cold, yet extremely fun Winterplace Ski Trip. Of course, we have the best of the best, Venture Ski Trip. It should be amazing skiing in the snow!

Troop Scribe, Chris Bertrand

Uniforms

Please wear your Class A uniform to all events unless otherwise noted. Remember all great scouts carry **their handbook** to make a complete uniform. **A proper uniform includes a tucked in shirt and closed toe shoes!** Please dress for the weather as some activities are outside.



Merit Badge Reminders from Scout Master Gillis

- ❖ Please remember our policy: **Troop Meetings are for group and team development and NOT generally for Merit Badge time.** (Summertime is an exception and unfortunately summer is over!) **There is to be NO merit badge work during patrol meeting time, instructional time and competition. The only exception on Mondays is that a Scout 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 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 these simple rules.
 1. **Read the book from cover to cover.**
 2. Bring any completed paperwork to a meeting or merit badge help night and coordinate an approved counselor from the scoutmaster.
 3. Sit down with the counselor and explain, show or complete the requirements as detailed.
 4. 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.

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.

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**. Kathleen@narayanan.us

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 are on the troop website.

EARNING POWER



High Adventure Accounts

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. High Adventure earning opportunities will be announced at Troop Meetings, the Newsletter and the Troop Website.



Christmas Tree Pick Up and Recycle Program

Need extra cash for High Adventure. Sign up now to participate in the Troop's annual Christmas Tree Recycle Day, January 1st. This is a great way to earn High Adventure money. Rumor has it....it's fun too. A little winter work can have big payoffs. Contact Mr. Brown if you plan to participate. cliffdbrown@hotmail.com And Parents....this is a great way for you to work off those holiday cookies and help the Troop too!

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 or Committee Chair to bring this about but do not hold back asking if the need exists. In addition, the high adventure bases and camps also normally run scholarship applications for various events, just ask us for the forms if help is needed for a particular event. Scouting is outing and if you miss that portion then it can be rather boring.

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)**.



Flyers & Links

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

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

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

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>

CPR Saturday www.goodturn.net