



BOY SCOUT TROOP 629 NEWSLETTER

February 2011

*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

This is a busy time with lots of decisions to make by scouts. It's vital you keep up with all the postings on our web site. From the Georgia Legislature Day, summer camp sign up, Pine Mt hike sign up, Ossabaw decision to go or not, service support to pinewood derby, scout Sunday, scouting for food, NYLT participant sign up and even holding a slot for Philmont in "2012". Yes we are that far out with asking for decisions. We have the outing in scouting but it still takes you to sign up and attend. Advancement book work is one of the major components but not the only aspect. We strive to have all scouts understand the importance of working with the peer/patrol group as well during these experiences. Put your name on these lists to hold a spot for fun and to provide a true servant leader experience of support in all our endeavors. Each activity can be a very rewarding and positive growth experience for all.

Troop 629 News.....**Hot off the Press!**



Decision Time for Ossabaw Island!

Our troop has a **trip to Ossabaw Island** scheduled to leave during the day on **Friday, March 11**. **March 11** has been recently made into a snow day make-up school day. **It has come to our attention that some principals are willing to authorize an excused absence for this trip.** If your son is interested in going on the Ossabaw Island trip and you do not object to him being out of school for one day, would you consider requesting an excused absence from your son's principal so that your son may attend? If so, the parent is asked to send in a note to his son's school principal requesting the excused absence approval. Please note that in order to gain access to the island, the troop is required to complete an educational request form where we list several educational activities our group will experience as it relates to the environment. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mary Beth Bierbaum – marybeth@bierbaum.com. We need to know your son's participation intent as soon as possible to determine if this trip can continue as planned.

WE NEED YOUR HELP FOR A STRONG SHOWING

**SCOUT SUNDAY and SCOUTING FOR FOOD
FEBRUARY 6, 2011**

If you can, please plan on attending the **Mount Pisgah Church service Feb 6, 2011**. **Boys and leaders should wear their uniforms.** It is important that Troop 629 have a good showing to demonstrate our appreciation for Mount Pisgah being our charter organization. Please know you are not required to be there, nor is this a suggestion that you need to convert to being Methodist or in any

way suggestive of anything other than continuing your current faith life. It would simply be as a show of support to our chartering organization.

We need the boys in three ways:

1. **Helping at the 10:45 am or 11:45 on January 30, 2011.** We need some boys to be in uniform that will help hand out the leaflets and bags to people that will be leaving the Church. The leaflets are a reminder of the food drive for Scout Sunday, February 6th.
2. **Coming to Mount Pisgah on the 6th and being present at 9:00 am and 10:00 am to help greet or coming at 10:00 and 12:00 to open the doors as people exit.**
3. **Helping sort the food at 12:00** and take to the truck that NFCC will have at Mount Pisgah.

Please email Gregg Brasher at c.brasher@comcast.net and let Gregg know if you can attend and which service your son can attend. If you would like to be a part of this, please plan on arriving 15 minutes early for the given service. The Church service is conducted in the main sanctuary on the Old Alabama Road.

Please note: Troop 629 will also be collecting small electronics for recycling in conjunction with Scouting for Food/Scout Sunday activities.

Highlights, Deadlines and Dates



- ❖ **District Pinewood Derby support is needed for February 5th.** See Mr. Sutton or the SPL to sign up to help and get the details.
- ❖ The next **Troop Committee meeting is Sunday, Feb. 6 at 6pm in Room A017.** Please contact Mary Beth Bierbaum with your update if you are unable to attend
- ❖ **Georgia Legislature Day is February 8th.** See details on the web site to attend.
- ❖ **High Adventure 2012** Our Philmont 2011 crew is complete, but we are already asking for pre-registration for a crew for 2012. Yes, **we need to know who wants to go to Philmont in 2012** and you need to hold your slot with a \$100 deposit. Also a summer Sea Base adventure is being planned for 2012, so make your desires to attend known to us to get a slot reserved for you. Age requirement for High Adventure is age 14 and First Class.
- ❖ **National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) participation application process** has started for summer 2011. Details are on the Troop Website or on the Atlanta Area Council website (under training). **If a scout will be FC and 13 by the course you will be eligible to attend** this year. This is one of the courses that almost every Eagle Scout has attended and has gained a lot through the experience.
 - **Congratulations** to the following young men, who have been selected to serve on the NYLT staff for the Atlanta Area Council: Billy J., Logan W., Stuart W., Paden H., Kevin H., Robbie W., Bill R., and Aroon N.

- ❖ **Summer Camp registration** forms are out for this summer- **June 19 thru 25th, 2011**. Please visit the Troop website for your forms. Let us know your intentions for attending camp so we can start registering you for your classes. **Pre-registration at this time is needed** and expected....so don't delay. Get your paperwork turned in!



- ❖ **Save the Date and Save your Clutter for the troop's March 26 Garage Sale and Car Wash Fundraiser.** We need parent volunteers to help man the sale and car wash but more importantly, **we need items for the garage sale.** While we're all cleaning out our basements,garages, and closets for the New Year, please remember to set aside items for the troop garage sale. We'll take furniture, clothing, toys, tools, anything! We will collect the items for the garage sale the day before the sale so make sure to save a spot in your garage or basement for items you can donate to the sale. Please contact Mary Beth Bierbaum at marybeth@bierbaum.com if you can help and/or donate items to the sale

- ❖ **Upcoming Troop Board of Review: February 21st**
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

- ❖ **February 8th:** Georgia Legislature Day
- ❖ **February 12-13th :** Pine Mountain Backpacking Trip
- ❖ **March 11th – 13th:** Ossabaw Island Trip

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

❖ ORGANIZE YOUR FAMILY CALENDAR

February Reminders

- February 5th:** Pinewood Derby Service Day
- February 6th:** Scout Sunday/ Scouting for Food @ Mount Pisgah UMC
- February 6th:** Troop Committee Meeting 6 p.m.
- February 7th:** Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45
- February 8th:** BSA Capitol Day & Merit Badge Help Night 6 p.m.
- February 10th:** District Roundtable & Banquet
- February 12-13th:** Pine Mountain Backpacking
- February 13th:** James Deaton Eagle Court of Honor
- February 14th:**Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45
- February 17th:**Patrol Leaders Council
- February 21st:**Troop Meeting~Board of Review 7:15-8:45
- February 22nd:** Philmont Leader Training
- February 26th:** NYLT-Staff Development
- February 27th:** Derrick G. Eagle COH
- February 28th:** Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45

March Reminders

- March 5th:** District CPR Saturday

March 6th: Troop Committee Meeting 6 p.m.
March 7th: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45
March 8th: Merit Badge Help Night 6 p.m.
March 10th: District Roundtable
March 11-13th: Ossabaw Island Trip/ OA spring pow-wow
March 14th: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45
March 17th: Patrol Leaders Council
March 18-20th: NYLT Staff Development #2
March 21st: Troop Meeting ~ Board of Review
March 26th: Troop Garage Sale & Car Wash
March 27th: Troop Committee Meeting 6 p.m.
March 28th: 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! **Please 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 most recent trips are always being added to the website. Check 'em out!
- ❖ All event fliers through February are posted on the Troop Website.
- ❖ Keep us updated on changes to phone numbers, address and e-mail accounts. Not getting the newsletter? Contact Heather Penderly at penderyclan@comcast.net

More **New** News!

- ❖ **Merit Badge Clinic.** Troop 1717 is hosting a Merit Badge Clinic on February 26, 2011 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Cross of Life Lutheran Church. Registration information can be found at www.meritbadge.info/mbn/ Questions? Contact Dana Champion at ga.champions@yahoo.com or 404-667-8115. This is not a Troop 629 event but feel free to go with a friend or on your own to enjoy a day of learning and working toward another Merit Badge!

- ❖ **HBO Documentary & Eagle Scout -James Cook**

One year ago, President Obama revealed a new strategy designed to win the war in Afghanistan. Additional troops were ordered to be deployed into areas of strong insurgent activity. The operation was called "Mushtaraq," and was the largest offensive of the Afghan war. Leading the offensive was Bravo Company of the 1st Battalion 6th Marine Division. **An Eagle Scout from Troop 629 served with Bravo Company during the offensive, L.Cpl. James Cook-Eagle Scout-Feb. 2008.** A filmmaker was embedded with 1/6 Bravo during the operation and on **Feb. 17th, 2011, at 9:00pm the HBO documentary, "The Battle for Marjah" will premier.**

Troop 629 and Boy Scouts of America will be well-represented in this film.



❖ 2011 Exploring Engineer Academy @ Georgia Tech

Who: Rising 9-12th graders (males & females) for the 2011-2012 school year

What: A weeklong engineering program sponsored in conjunction with the Georgia Engineering Foundation and the Exploring Program an affiliate career education program of the Boy Scouts of America.

When: June 5 - 10, 2011

Where: Georgia Tech Campus

Why: To provide students with hands-on experience in the field of engineering. Students will get the opportunity to tour research facilities, interact with engineers and enhance necessary skills such as project management, problem solving, analysis, and team building.

Cost: \$700.00 (if you apply by April 15th) after April 15th the cost is \$800.00 - cost includes for all meals and activities, as well as lodging on Tech's campus for the week.

Questions: Please call/email Stephanie Hynes, Academy Director @ 770-989-2860 or shynes@atlantabsa.org

How do students register? For application forms and informational brochure go to this website to download documents: www.exploringaac.org



❖ CPR Saturday ~ March 5th, 2011

Scout CPR Saturday is March 5th, 2011. Choose from six class times with the first starting at 8 a.m. The course takes about 3.5 hours to complete. **Sponsored by the Atlanta Area Council.** Classes held at the Volunteer Center, 1800 Circle 75 Parkway- Atlanta, GA Register on line at www.goodturn.net Questions? Contact, Wayne Miller, CPR Saturday Coordinator at 404-874-7421 ext 202



Scribe Note

Remember, Feb. 12-13 Pine Mtn Backpacking is in the wilderness! Make sure you let Mr. Gillis or Mrs. Bierbaum know if you are joining the Excused Absence Group for the Ossabaw Island trip on March 11th. Some principals are allowing this trip to be excused! It is a trip like no other. DO NOT MISS IT!

Chris Bertrand
Epic Troop Scribe

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



Troop Treasurer Position- We need a parent to assume the Troop Treasurer position. Julie Deaton will help with training and acclimation. Please contact **Julie Deaton** for more information at jideaton@mindspring.com or marybeth@bierbaum.com

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

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 with 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.



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.

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.



KROGER GIFT CARDS – Easy money that adds up!

Join Troop 629 families in this easy on-going monthly fundraiser. By participating in this Kroger program, ***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]. There is no service charge – (if you order a \$50 Kroger gift card, you will receive a \$50 gift card)! **To get started, contact Mike Bramel at bramel.mike@gmail.com or 678- 234-7188** 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 Mike by the 22nd of the month or you can bring payment on a Monday night troop meeting and give to him.

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 \(www.cdbsa.org\)](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)**.



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