



BOY SCOUT TROOP 629 NEWSLETTER

March 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

Twenty to thirty years from now, what will you remember and how will it have contributed to your success and fulfillment in life? Is it going to be that friend's birthday party one weekend or the challenging backpacking trip, overnight sky lights, vistas and crew experiences you could have had? Is it going to be that one ball game on a weekend or an outing exploring the slippery cave passages, sleeping overnight underground with a nature pavilion having a live bob cat or up close eagle viewing? Is it going to be staying at home playing a video game or out providing service to others, participating in cub pinewood derbies, helping collect food for the needy or participating in a successful garage sale? Scouting is about outing and it's also a program that spans 5-7 years of your life commitment not just one season of sports or marching band. When it comes down to it are you choosing the right option each time or sharing those experiences to include more scouting activities? Do not exclude scouting and see it as your next choice each time when it should be your first choice.

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



National Youth Leadership Training: If you'll be 13 and First Class by May and have attended Troop Leader Training (TLT), you should be looking to attend NYLT to gain the leadership skills to be more proficient in everything you want to accomplish in scouting and later in life. This premier training opportunity should not be passed up and should be on your must do list. A lot of our scouts have already participated and speak highly of how it has contributed to their growth. Review the details on our web site and go to www.aacnylt.org to complete an on-line registration. Go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Bi2W0QzwJc> to watch a short video on the program produced, filmed, edited and completed by one of our own Eagle Scouts.

Our March outing to Ossabaw Island off the Georgia coast is still a go! Even though the teacher work day has been traded in for a make-up school day, local principals if properly asked have been giving excused absences for this educational trip. Details and flyer are on our web site.

Summer camp registration: ✓ **Turn in your paperwork and check this off your to do list!** It's important that registered scouts get their summer camp forms in so we can properly get the scouts their desired class schedule. Classes fill up and some scouts will not get what they desire if not put in now. Please let us know if you are going or not. Delays impact our registration efforts for the Troop. Summer camp is slated for the **week of June 19th – June 25th**. Get your paperwork in today!

Troop Leader Training(TLT): Newly added to the calendar for all current Patrol Leader Council meeting members and those going to NYLT this year. **March 4 at 7 PM lock in till Sat at 8 AM.** Details and flyer are on our web site.



Saturday March 26 from 8 am – 1 pm
Save the Date and Save your Clutter for the Troop's Garage Sale and Car Wash Fundraiser

A BIG thank you to Pam Sutton for agreeing to help organize the Garage sale and to Jerry Sevy and Peter Johns for agreeing to help run the Car Wash.

We are still in need of donated items to sell at the Garage Sale. Please contact Mary Beth Bierbaum at marybeth@bierbaum.com to let her know what you have to donate. Please note that on Friday, March 25, we will have a donation drop off at Mt. Pisgah in front of Building C –next to South Hall where we meet for the Monday troop meetings. We need boys and adults/parents there to help unload cars and organize the items for the garage sale for Saturday morning. We also need boys to help with the sale and the car wash on Saturday. Please ask your son to find the sign-up table at all Monday troop meetings between now and March 21st to register to help with these two fundraisers. The boys will earn service hours for their time. There are two hour shifts for each event:

Friday, March 25 – donation drop off help (5-7pm) in front of Building C
Saturday, March 26 – Garage Sale 8am-1pm
Saturday, March 26 – Car Wash 9am-1pm

Silent Auction - March 26th

New for the troop! We will be having a silent auction and we need donations! We are asking all of our members to talk to your family members, friends and neighbors about donations for the silent auction. Currently, each patrol is working on their 'themed' gift basket.

Packets of information will be distributed Monday evening. Be sure to come in and pick yours up! We are forming a committee for this and need your assistance. If you can help, please email Wendy at wkraemer@bellsouth.net or come to the meeting on Monday. We need to work fast.

For the Scout/Family that donates an item for the silent auction, **100% of the proceeds will be placed in their High Adventure account.** This is a great way to build your account for a fabulous trip to Sea Base, Philmont or Northern Tier.

Thank you! Many thanks to Julie Deaton for her dedication to our troop as Troop Treasurer over these past several years! **Chris Calvert has agreed to take on this position**, so if you have any payments to make to the troop for trips or have a reimbursement request, **please direct all to Chris Calvert – stouf29@yahoo.com.**

Highlights, Deadlines and Dates

- ❖ **The next Troop Committee Meeting is Sunday, March 6 at 6pm in Room A017.** Please forward all committee reports to Mary Beth Bierbaum (marybeth@bierbaum.com) no later than Saturday, March 5th, if you are unable to attend the meeting.
- ❖ **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.

❖ **Upcoming Troop Board of Review: March 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

- ❖ **March 11th – 13th:** Ossabaw Island Trip
- ❖ **April 1st – 10th :** Sea Base High Adventure Trip
- ❖ **April 2nd-5th :** A.T. Backpacking Trip
- ❖ **April 15th – 17th:** District Camporee

❖ **ORGANIZE YOUR FAMILY CALENDAR**

March

- March 4th-5th:** Troop Leader Training (TLT) lock in
- 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./ BSA Capitol Day
- 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~ OA Elections 7:15-8:45

April

- April 1st-10th:** Sea Base High Adventure Trip
- April 2nd-5th:** A.T. Backpacking Trip
- April 4th:** Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45
- April 11th:** Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45
- April 12th:** Merit Badge Help Night 6 p.m.
- April 14th:** District Roundtable
- April 15th-17th :** District Camporee
- April 15th- 17th :** OA Conclave
- April 18th:** Troop Meeting ~ Board of Review
- April 21st:** Patrol Leader Council Meeting
- April 25th:** Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45
- April 29th- May 1st:** NYLT Staff Development #3
- April 29th- May 1st:** OA Ordeal
- April 30th:** Philmont Leader Training

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!
- ❖ 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 this month go to:

- 🦅 **EAGLE:** none
- 👤 **LIFE:** none
- 🌟 **STAR:** none
- 👦 **FIRST CLASS:** Austin T. and Ryan S.
- 👦 **SECOND CLASS:** none
- 👦 **TENDERFOOT:** Damani P.
- 👦 **SCOUT:** none

CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH OF YOU!!

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

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 No experience required. (Unfortunately, unit leaders and assistant unit leaders may not serve as a BOR member.)

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.**

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



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

Double Check your Medical Forms! ✓

You can't go on an outing with an expired medical form!

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

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.



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. **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

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.

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 pieces and add to the closet and feel free to pick up an item during the regular Monday night Troop Meetings.

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