



BOY SCOUT TROOP 629 NEWSLETTER

April 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

Another month and another congratulations going out to our newest Eagle Scout, Chris Brown. Recently Chris completed his district board of review and will be setting up his recognition ceremony for everyone's participation. Next time you see Chris let him know, "Yes, he finally made it!"

A lot of great effort went into our recent garage sale, auction and donut sale. While the car wash was not able to be successful, we exceeded our expectations with the other three activities. It took a lot of great support and volunteer effort by the Troop 629 team to help bring up the coffers to run our annual program. Thank you!

We allow a lot of flexibility in active participation in our troop. We understand today's busy schedules and therefore have scouts popping in and out of our annual program. However, a scout that steps up to be a leader amongst his peers is stating he is going to make a more active commitment to do HIS job. He has asked to serve as a leader. Therefore, Scouts cannot be on the serving plate or forgotten each time another event or activity happens. A youth scout leader has to be an "I choose to do my job position" to meet the obligations of a leader. If you find yourself unable to meet the obligations of a leadership position then you should pass on being in that position for someone else who will commit. How much is enough? – Well if you are not attending at least 50% of the meetings and activities you are not committed to our troop to be considered really putting the required effort in. Scouting is outing and if you are not attending then you are not generally showing any leadership to be recognized for. Remember we have work sheets to help you document your leadership efforts available on the web site.

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



🌴 No Meeting Monday, April 4th due to Fulton County Spring Break!

The April 18th troop meeting will be held in the Family Life Center (Gym) on South Campus. South Hall is being used for a school program. Please remember to be quiet when you enter the building so as not to disrupt the South Hall program.

Welcome New 629 Boy Scouts!

We are honored to have 21 new scouts and their families join our Troop 629 family during March. Welcome! We hope you are getting oriented and enjoying the beginning of your Boy Scouting adventure! **The troop is planning a New Parent meeting to go along with our Summer Camp Parent Information meeting on Monday, May 9, during the normal troop meeting time. More information will follow as to the location. Please plan to attend as this is a must if your son is going to summer camp for the first time.** Please feel free to contact the Troop Committee Chair, Mary Beth Bierbaum, if you have any questions – marybeth@bierbaum.com.

- ❖ Our troop's next Court of Honor is Monday, May 2, at 7:15pm in South Hall. **We encourage ALL parents and families to attend the Court of Honor.** This is a special time for our scouts as they are recognized and honored for their individual rank advancement, merit badges earned, and other achievements since our last Court of Honor which was held in December. Please plan to attend this event and support all our boys as they advance in the scouting program.



A BIG **THANK YOU** to the many volunteers who came out to help with our Troop Garage Sale, Silent Auction, Krispy Kreme Donut Sale, and *attempted* Car Wash on Saturday, March 26. We so appreciate everyone's time on Friday night assisting with the donations drop-off and on Saturday for the event itself.

A special thank you to **Pam Sutton** who organized and ran the **Garage Sale**, to **Wendy Kraemer** who orchestrated and ran the **Silent Auction**, to **Don Harden** for coordinating the **Krispy Kreme donut sale** for the boys, and to **Jerry Sevy and Peter Johns** who organized and planned to run the **Car Wash**. The weekend's event would not have happened, nor have been as successful, without your time, input, and expertise. Thank you!

Although the weather didn't cooperate with our event, we had a good turnout. As a result, High Adventure funds were earned for the patrols and/or families who made donations to the Silent Auction. The funds earned from the Garage Sale will support youth leadership training and program development for our troop. Our boys earned many service hours for their time and efforts during the fundraiser. If you missed out on this weekend's event, mark your calendar for next year!

*Since the Car Wash had to be cancelled due to bad weather, we are planning to reschedule. The date has yet to be determined but we will let you know when it has!

Summer camp registration: ✓ **Have you turned in your paperwork?** It's important that registered scouts get their summer camp forms in so we can properly get the scouts their desired class schedule. Classes registration starts NOW so if you wait to turn in your form, you may not get your desired courses. 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**. **Don't forget to talk to a buddy about tenting together for the week.** Both scouts need to see Mr. Hoang to inform him of their agreement. Also, parents please plan to attend the Summer Camp Information meeting on Monday, May 9th during the regular Troop Meeting. **New parents this is one meeting you don't want to miss!** Scouts that have registered will be receiving their course schedule for the week soon. Questions? Contact Eric Hoang at erichhoang@yahoo.com It's not too late to get on board for summer camp at Woodruff!



Troop 629 is registered to participate as a team in the American Cancer Society's Roswell Relay for Life, to be held on Friday evening, April 29, 2011, at Roswell High School.

Relay will begin at 6 p.m. and our troop will leave by 11:30 pm. Scouts are not required to stay the entire period to participate. Troop members are encouraged to participate in any or all activities related to the Relay (Relay night, luminaries, etc.).

Registration for the Relay is via the Relay website; we are registered on the site as Troop 629. Scouts may use the Relay site to notify family and friends via e-mail that they will be Relaying, and donations may be made through the website as well as personally. Donation envelopes will be available to all scouts at Monday night meetings.

Another participation option is through the luminary sales. Luminary bags will be available at Scout meetings, if families prefer to decorate their own bags, or they may be ordered through the website and labels will be created by ACS. A ten dollar donation is requested for each bag.

For further information regarding Roswell Relay for Life, please contact Teresa Gibbs Way at

(tgibbs-way@att.net) or Nan Brown (770-642-6859 or nantbrown@hotmail.com) or visit the RRFL website at www.roswellrelayforlife.org.

- ❖ We are participating in the Milton District Camporee Apr 15-17 at Woodruff. Details on-line, as a handout or on the bulletin board. Permission slips are due Monday Apr 11th meeting.

Highlights, Deadlines and Dates

The next Troop Committee Meeting is Sunday, May 1st at 6pm in Room A017.

High Adventure 2012 High adventure activities are going strong with 2011 Sea Base heading out to the Bahamas in April and the Philmont NM expedition hiking in the Rockies set for June. Looking ahead there is a Sea Base crew set up for July 2012 and a Philmont expedition in June 2012 and maybe even a Northern Tier group if interest is indicated by the scouts. Let your desires be known with a deposit to hold your slot. Age requirement for High Adventure is age 14 and First Class.

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.

Upcoming Troop Board of Review: April 18th

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

- ❖ **April 1st – 10th** : Sea Base High Adventure Trip
- ❖ **April 15th – 17th**: District Camporee
- ❖ **April 29th** : Relay for Life Night
- ❖ **May 14th**: Georgia Tech swim/ Aquarium

❖ ORGANIZE YOUR FAMILY CALENDAR

April

- April 1st-10th**: Sea Base High Adventure Trip
- April 4th**: No Troop Meeting- Fulton County Spring Break
- 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: Relay for Life Night
April 29th- May 1st: NYLT Staff Development #3
April 29th- May 1st: OA Ordeal
April 30th: Philmont Leader Training

May

May 2nd: Troop Meeting~Court of Honor 7:15-8:45
May 9th: Summer Camp Parent Info Night- Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45
May 10th: Merit Badge Help Night
May 12th: District Roundtable
May 14th: Georgia Tech swim/ Aquarium
May 16th: Troop Meeting-Board of Review- Patrol Leader Elections
May 19th: Annual Planning Meeting~ PLC
May 20-22nd: OA- Bert Adams
May 23rd: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45
May 29th- June 3rd: NYLT Session #1
May 30th: 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!

- ❖ 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:** Chris Brown
 **LIFE:** none
 **STAR:** Boyd S.
 **FIRST CLASS:** Blake G.
 **SECOND CLASS:** none
 **TENDERFOOT:** none
 **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](mailto:Kathleen@narayanan.us), 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



Scribe Note

April is going to be a righteously fantastic month for scouts. We have some scouts going out to sea base for spring break. Other scouts will be enjoying their spring break elsewhere. Remember to turn in your summer camp forms before it is way too late
The scribe~ Chris Bertrand

Double Check your Medical Forms! ✓

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

Please check with Mr. Street to ensure that your son's medical form is up to date. All forms must be renewed each year as they are only valid for 12 months. An email will be sent out next week reminder those Scouts who have forms expiring in the next 30 days. Please note that most trips require a valid form/record to be on file at the Troop. If your son is going to Summer Camp both part "A" and "B" forms are required.

If you are an Adult leader please ensure that your forms are current too.

If you are going to Summer Camp Adults are also required to have Part "A" &

"B" forms on file too. 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