



BOY SCOUT TROOP 629 NEWSLETTER

May 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

Summer is in the wind and so is summer camp! Many activities are planned; so keep abreast of our changing calendar. Our next "outing in scouting" is the combo trip to the Georgia Aquarium, World of Coke and GT swim event on May 14th and also that weekend is a Philmont shake down hike. Help us all have successful trips and ensure the paperwork is up to date and on time. Permission slips and valid physicals are a must at all our activities. Special conditions need to be highlighted to the adult leaders so we are adequately prepared for events. Our semi-annual Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) and Patrol Leader (PL) elections are being held in mid May; so look for a new youth leadership team. Our Patrol Leader Council (PLC) will then be meeting soon to plan out next year's calendar. So look for those details to come out before the end of May. A busy time for all with school ending and events to track, but of course we have it all on our one stop, up-to-date web site!

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



- ❖ 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. Mothers of Scouts advancing rank, be prepared to stand on stage with your son for recognition.

- ❖ **Summer Camp Information Meeting.** **Attendance at this meeting is strongly encouraged for parents of new scouts attending Summer Camp for the first time.** All other parents are also welcome to come ask questions and gather information.

BSA Summer Camp Information Meeting for Parents

Please join us on Monday, May 9th at 7:30 pm in the Mount Pisgah Dining Hall
See Gregg Brasher (c.brasher@comcast.net) or Eric Hoang (erichoang@yahoo.com)
for more details.



Notes from the Treasurer

- ❖ **All Summer Camp payments are now past due.** As a reminder - the total payment due for each boy is \$275. Questions? Contact 629 Treasurer, Chris Calvert at stouf29@yahoo.com
- ❖ 2011 Philmont Crew - final pre-trip payments are due now. The total payment is \$1325. If you need information on how much you specifically owe - please check with the Crew Leader - Steve Morgan at Steve.Morgan@ch2m.com



Summer camp June 19th-June 25th: Check List ✓ Are you prepared?

- ✓ Paper work should be submitted to ASM Mr. Hoang
- ✓ If you have registered, you should have your courses for the week- Work out any change requests with ASM Mr. Hoang
- ✓ Payment should be submitted to 629 Treasurer, Mr. Calvert
- ✓ Double check your on file Troop Medical Form. It must be up to date to attend!
- ✓ Tent buddies need to see ASM Mr. Hoang and request tenting together for the week
- ✓ Parents- Attend the Summer Camp Information meeting on Monday, May 9th at 7:30 during the regular Troop Meeting.

Questions? Contact Eric Hoang at erichhoang@yahoo.com

Another Reminder about Medical Forms? Yes...it's just that important! ✓

We have a number of Scouts going to Summer Camp that either have expired medical forms or forms that will expire prior to or during Summer Camp. All are required to have parts A,B and C current and on file to participate.

Adult leaders that are attending also need to have a current Medical Form for the trip.

We have to send a copy of all medical forms for Scouts attending summer camp to Camp Woodruff by the middle of May. Please make sure your son's forms are up to date. Questions on your form status? Contact Ian Street at ian.street@daltile.com

Highlights, Deadlines and Dates

High Adventure 2012: 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: May 23rd (please note this is a date change!)

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

May 14th -15th : Philmont Shake Down Hike

May 14th: GaTech swim, Georgia Aquarium and World of Coke outing

May 15th: Eagle Court of Honor~ Chris Brown

June 19th- 25th: Woodruff Scout Camp~ Summer Camp Week for 629

❖ ORGANIZE YOUR FAMILY CALENDAR

May

- May 2nd**: Troop Meeting~Court of Honor 7:15-8:45
- May 9th**: Summer Camp Parent Info Night (7:30)- Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45
- May 10th**: Merit Badge Help Night
- May 12th**: District Roundtable
- May 14th**: Georgia Tech swim/ Aquarium/ World of Coke
- May 14th-15th**: Philmont Shake Down
- May 15th**: Eagle Court of Honor- Chris Brown
- May 16th**: Troop Meeting- Patrol Leader Elections
- May 19th**: Annual Planning Meeting~ PLC
- May 20-22nd**: OA- Bert Adams
- May 21st**: NYLT set-up
- May 23rd**: Board of Review ~Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45
- May 29th- June 3rd**: NYLT Session #1
- May 30th**: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45 (Memorial Day-check website for update on this meeting)

June

- June 5th-11th**: NYLT Session #2
- June 5th**: Troop Committee Meeting 6 p.m.
- June 6th**: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45
- June 9th**: District Roundtable
- June 12th-17th**: NYLT Session #3
- June 13th**: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45
- June 14th-26**: Philmont High Adventure Trip
- June 14th**: Merit Badge Help Night
- June 16th**: PLC
- June 18th**: NYLT Tear Down
- June 19th-25th**: Summer Camp~Woodruff
- June 20th**: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45
- June 27th**: 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:** Court of Honor for Chris Brown is this month

👤 **LIFE:** none

🌟 **STAR:** none

👦 **FIRST CLASS:** Ross H., Chapman P., Nick P., Shane S.

👦 **SECOND CLASS:** Colin C.

👦 **TENDERFOOT:** Joseph C., Luke L

👦 **SCOUT:** Drew H., Duncan H., Jermain L., Aidan M., Tyler M., Brandon S.

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 Board 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



Scribe Note

Hello Troop 629. May is going to be an epic month for scouting. We have a summer camp meeting for parents coming up. Hopefully, everyone is going to summer camp. All scouts in leadership positions should be at the annual PLC meeting. We always welcome fresh ideas for troop trips. If you come, you could suggest a trip to Russia, Japan, Iran, Kenya, and possibly Antarctica!

Troop Scribe
Chris Bertrand

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