

BOY SCOUT TROOP 629 NEWSLETTER



June 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

A busy summer for most! We have 70 scouts off to summer camp. A crew of 12 off to Philmont Scout Reservation in NM for backpacking and another 7 working on staff for National Youth Leadership Training with 9 signed up to attend the week long experience. It's well over 300 outing nights our scouts and scouters are doing this summer.

Congratulations to our newly elected Patrol Leader Council headed up by our newest SPL Logan W. and supported by our latest PL's Paden H., Robbie W., Bill R., Kevin H., Boyd S., Vijay N., Chase C., and Chap F. Hard at work already, they conducted the annual planning and it's on line at our web site calendar for review. Great time to lock-in the scouting events now and then you can work around other activities as they get announced. Scouts should use the calendar to organize their year activities to maximize their participation in scouting activities. Yes, you will have overlapping events but share that participation with scouting activities.

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



- ❖ Please note, that the attire for summer Troop Meetings is the red class B T-shirt, scout shorts, and **closed toe shoes!** No need to wear your Class A uniform to the regular summer Troop Meetings unless you have a BOR or other special occasion. Troop Meetings during the summer are usually game nights and merit badge work is allowed. As such, there are no Tuesday night Merit Badge Help Nights during the summer.
- ❖ The Troop Committee Meeting for June has been moved to Tuesday, June 7th at 7 p.m. in room A008.



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

The following link provides details regarding summer camp including directions, timing of drop off and pick up, packing list etc. <http://www.troop629.org/camping/summercamp2011.htm> Trouble with the link? Visit the Troop Website www.troop629.org, camping tab, summer camp 2011 info. Questions about summer camp? Contact Eric Hoang at erichhoang@yahoo.com

Final Reminder about Medical Forms! ✓

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. Questions regarding your form status? Contact Ian Street at ian.street@daltile.com

Highlights, Deadlines and Dates

Upcoming Troop Board of Review: July 18th (There is no June BOR)

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

June 14th- June 26: Philmont High Adventure Trip

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

July 14th: Whitewater Outing

July 23rd: Broad River Kayak Trip

❖ ORGANIZE YOUR FAMILY CALENDAR

June

June 5th-10th: NYLT Session #2

June 6th: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45

June 7th: Troop Committee Meeting 7 p.m.

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

July

July 3rd: Troop Committee Meeting

July 4th: No Troop Meeting due to holiday

July 11th: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45

July 14th: District Roundtable

July 14th: Whitewater outing

July 18th: Troop Meeting ~ Board of Review 7:15-8:45

July 21st: Patrol Leader Council

July 23rd: Broad River Kayak Trip

July 25th: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45

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

Each monthly outing for the entire year has been added into the Troop Calendar! Take a moment to log these into your family calendar so you can plan to attend. Scouting is outing and advanced planning helps make it happen.

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:**
- 👤 **SECOND CLASS:** none
- 👤 **TENDERFOOT:** none
- 👤 **SCOUT:** Jack R., Louis D., Andrew D., William B.

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.

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

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.

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