



BOY SCOUT TROOP 629 NEWSLETTER

February 2012

*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

Scouting is really outing! Recently we sent out an activities survey to try and get a handle on our needs for the next year and a half. Yes, it's a long time out to be discussing if a scout would like to participate in one of the great adventures on the horizon. The issue is that we have many plans and registrations that have to start happening now to make those activities happen for the scouts who desire to participate. So make sure you have submitted your survey, so we can at least put you on the "maybe list". Doing so will ensure that we have sufficient slots allocated for anyone that wants to participate. One of my concerns is that there are way too many of our scouts who do not get out and participate in our weekend and week-long type activities. These outings really bring home the group dynamics and patrol method which is so essential to be being a well rounded scout; one who does understand and abides by the program's goals and objectives. So let's add some more outing in our scouting for the newer scouts. Remember we are now following the new national guidelines that quantify what "active" participation means. To get the proper required credit for Star, Life and Eagle means we will need records to reflect 75% meeting attendance and 50% outing attendance during the recorded months for those ranks. Long range planning and schedule coordination will greatly help those goals to be accomplished and meet the need for continual progress.

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

- ❖ Our next Troop Committee meeting is this **Sunday, February 5 @ 5 p.m.** (You don't have to miss the Super Bowl kick-off to attend!) in the Dining Hall.
- ❖ **Summer Camp** Parents it's time to sign up for summer camp. The registration form can be found on the table at the troop meeting and on the "troop629.org" website. Sign up early because class size is limited and may be closed for late request.
 - Cost is \$295 for scouts and \$150 for adults (\$30/day) plus additional fees as selected for certain events.
 - **Deposit of \$100 due Jan 30th. Please get this in as soon as possible if you have not already.**
 - 2nd Payment of \$100 by Mar 26th Troop Meeting
 - Final payment of \$95 by May 7th Troop Meeting
 - We will gladly accept the entire payment earlier

A permission slip and physical are required for all scouts and scouters; need to be turned in by May 7th. For any question regarding Summer Camp please contact Eric Hoang at the following email address erichhoang@yahoo.com

❖ **High Adventure Money Matters**

Upcoming Philmont 2012 payment:

For those going on Philmont this June - the next payment is due March 1st. Please ensure you have the \$320 to cover this in your High Adventure account by the February 27th Troop meeting.

Upcoming Sea Base 2012 payment:

For those going to Sea Base in July - the next payment is due in early April. Please ensure you have the \$320 to cover this in your High Adventure account by the March 26th Troop meeting. Questions regarding finances? Contact Mr. Calvert at stouf29@yahoo.com

WE NEED YOUR HELP FOR A STRONG SHOWING

❖ SCOUT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2012

If you can, please plan on attending the Mount Pisgah Church service Feb 5, 2012. 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 have worked with the Church and they are planning to recognize the scouts during the service.

We need greeters, scouts to stand with the honor/rank board and scouts that will attend both or the 9:30 am service or the 11:00 am service. We also need help at 12 noon with carrying food donations to the NFCC truck and sorting the food pantry donations. 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.

❖ **Troop Fundraiser:** Looking ahead, our troop will have its annual fundraising event on Saturday, April 21st: Garage Sale, Silent Auction, Car Wash, Electronics Recycling- New, and possible Paint Recycling – New. Please mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 21st!** Start thinking about cleaning out those closets, garages, and basements as we rely on donations from our troop family to stock the Garage Sale. The proceeds from the Garage Sale and Car Wash will benefit our troop's fund to purchase/replace equipment and other items needed for our troop's use. The Silent Auction benefits our troop's Scholarship Fund as well as individual scout's High Adventure accounts (to those scout families who donate new items/services for the auction). New this year will be our recycling service project of electronics and possible paint. If you can help in any of these areas, please let Mary Beth Bierbaum (marybeth@bierbaum.com) know as we are looking for parents to help with this event. Please look for more information about this event in upcoming newsletters and at weekly troop meetings.

❖ **Environmental Merit Badge offered at Chattahoochee Nature Center:**

Saturday, March 10, 2012

10:00am-3:00pm

\$25 per Scout; Preregistration Required

Registration ends on March 5 at 4pm

➤ Nature Merit Badge– Sunday, April 29, 2012 from 12:00-5:00pm

➤ Canoeing Merit Badge- Saturday, May 5, 2012 from 10:00am-3:00pm

All details are posted on the CNC website www.chattnaturecenter.org/boy-scouts To register or for more information, please email Scheduling at CNC or call (770)992-2055 ext. 237.

- ❖ **Medical Forms.** Please check with Ian Street for the status of your medical forms. For convenience you can email Ian at ian.street@daltile.com requesting your expiration date. Medical forms expire 12 months from the date of your Scout's last Scout physical. This also applies to adults. Please avoid disappointment for an upcoming trip. Check your forms ASAP. Ian Street will be at the Monday Troop meetings to verify your forms. Forms are available on the home page of the Troop Website.

Highlights, Deadlines and Dates

Upcoming Troop Board of Review: February 20th

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 5th: Scout Sunday/Scouting for Food
February 11th-12th: Pine Mountain backpack/bike trip
February 17th-19th: Rescheduled West Virginia Ski Trip
March 9th-11th: Okefenokee/Shotgun outing

ORGANIZE YOUR FAMILY CALENDAR

February

February 4th: Hawks Scout Game
February 5th: Scout Sunday/Scouting for food~ Troop Committee Meeting
February 6th: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45 p.m.
February 9th: District Banquet/District Roundtable
February 11th-12th: Pine Mountain backpacking/biking trip
February 13th: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45 p.m.
February 14th: Merit Badge Help Night 6 p.m.
February 16th: Patrol Leaders Council
February 17th-19th: Rescheduled West Virginia Ski trip
February 20th: Newtown Park Game Meeting 7:15-8:45 p.m.
February 27th: Troop Meeting~ Board of Review 7:15-8:45 p.m.

March

March 4th: Troop Committee Meeting
March 5th: Troop Meeting/ OA Elections
March 8th: District Roundtable
March 9 – 11th: Okefenokee/Shotgun Outing
March 9 – 11th: OA Pow-Wow
March 12th: Troop Meeting 7:15-7:45
March 13th: Merit Badge Help Night 6 p.m.
March 15: Patrol Leaders Council
March 17th: Harlem Globetrotters

March 19th: Troop Meeting~ Board of Review 7:15-8:45

March 21st: Legislature Day

March 26th: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45

March 31 – April 3rd : 25 Mile Back Pack

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. 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:** Boyd S.

 **STAR:** Brandon B., Chase C., Conner C., and Chapman P.

 **FIRST CLASS:** none

 **SECOND CLASS:** Drew H.

 **TENDERFOOT:** Louis D., Duncan H., and Jermain L.

 **SCOUT:** none

CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH OF YOU!!

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

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

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 occasionally come 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. It's not about a memory test – it is about comprehension and covering the material as stated.

EARNING POWER



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.



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.

Troop 629 Scout Activity Scholarships

In these turbulent times please understand fully that our policy has always been and is still the same – **no scout should 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

Additional 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

- 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