



BOY SCOUT TROOP 629 NEWSLETTER

August 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

Have you seen the pictures on our web site? The outing in scouting was ramped up for backpacking in the high rocky mountains of New Mexico; sailing in the Florida keys and camping in the Georgia Mountains. We continue to have great activities and everyone reporting some awesome trips. We are already gearing up for next year's adventures: canoeing in the Minnesota wilderness, sailing in the Bahamas and back to the Georgia mountains. Scouts are having fun! There are many more fun outings planned over the fall and winter which are identified on our troop web site calendar. So get your plans together and start signing up for these adventures. Great memories of a life time on the trail to Eagle.

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

High Adventure 2013: Sailing in the Bahamas for spring break and off to Minnesota lakes for canoeing are on tap for 2013. Slips and details are out on flyers or on the web site. **Sign up now to hold your spot (spaces are limited).**

Annual calendar has been posted on the web site so you properly plan and schedule events throughout the school year.

Active participation now means a documented 75% attendance for the time period listed under Star, Life and Eagle for advancement. It also includes 50% participation for outings during that same time period. Make sure your records are being updated accurately with our advancement chairperson.

First day of Fulton school (**Aug 13**) is also when we move back to North Campus for meetings and return to full Class A attire for meetings. Beginning Aug. 13th, **scouts should show up in full uniform (Class A) with their books and summer camp check sheets for meetings.**

August outing is to **Victoria Bryant State Park, Aug 17-19.** This is a great time for us to rehash what the patrol method and patrol camping is all about. Add in some free adventure time and swimming in the on-site pool. A good time for winding down summer activities before all the school events kick in. **Helen river tubing is also scheduled for Sep 1 as we have done the past few years.**



Popcorn sale fundraiser begins in August so look for details to participate and help get your high adventure account up to the level to afford those special activities we have planned.

Important! Mark your calendar for **Parent's Night and Troop Court of Honor on Monday, Aug 27** North Campus Studio A. We will recognize all the scouts' achievements since last spring. **ALL PARENTS PLEASE ATTEND;** this is a **special** ceremony for ALL of our boys and we would appreciate your attendance to help celebrate their achievements in Scouting since our last Court of Honor. **If your son has earned a rank advancement since our last Court of Honor, he WILL be recognized at this ceremony and you as his parents will be recognized with him in front of the audience so PLEASE ATTEND.** There will be refreshments following the ceremony

MANY thanks to all of our adult leaders who accompanied our High Adventure trips this summer to Philmont and Sea Base!



Philmont, New Mexico: Steve Morgan and John Rausch



Sea Base – Florida Keys: Dave Pendery, Ben Bierbaum, Ted Clark, Courtney Morgan, Kelley Gibson, and Don Harden

Thanks go also to our adult leaders at Woodruff during our troop's week at summer camp: Mike Hargrove, Jason Sutton, Paul Phillip, Dirk Loedding, Kathleen Narayanan, Aroon Narayanan, Don Schoenl, Randy Spence, and Dave Pendery. Special thanks to Eric Hoang for coordinating summer camp registration and planning and to Ian Street for gathering all of the required medical forms!



Thank you!

We would like to extend our **sincere gratitude to Ms. Sue Levin** for her many years of service to Troop 629. This past June was her last month coordinating our troop permits for all of our troop activities throughout the year. **Thank you, Sue, for ALL you have done for our troop!** You will be missed! Carrying on Sue's duties is **Ms. Junon Leon**; **thank you for stepping up and keeping us going** – Scouting is Outing!

Are you on Facebook? Then search for the newly launched “Troop 629” Facebook page and “Like” it! In the search, simply type in Troop 629. There are several on Facebook, so here's what our page looks like:



Once you “like” it, feel free to send it to any Troop 629 scouters that may be interested. We will be posting reminders on the Facebook page about upcoming Troop Meetings and Trips. In addition, some trips will have pictures posted during the trip – like Summer Camp was!

This is just another way to keep you – and your scout (encourage them to “like” it) informed about all the happenings at Troop 629.

Our **August Troop Committee Meeting will be held on Sunday, August 5 at 6pm** in Room A231A - which is the staff lounge on the 2nd floor of South Campus just past the Dining Hall hallway.

Highlights, Deadlines and Dates

Upcoming Troop Board of Review: August 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

August 17-19th: Victoria Bryant State Park

September 1st: Helen Tubing

ORGANIZE YOUR FAMILY CALENDAR

August

August 5th: Troop Committee Meeting- 6 p.m. A231-South Campus

August 6th: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45 Family Life Center-summer attire

August 9th: District Roundtable/Popcorn Kick off

August 11th: Venture Rafting
August 13th: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45 (North Campus/Class A uniforms)
August 14th: Merit Badge Help Night 6 p.m.
August 16th: Patrol Leader Council
August 17-19th: Victoria Bryant State Park outing
August 20th: Troop Meeting~Board of Review 7:15-8:45
August 25th: Alatoona Water Mania
August 27th: Troop Court of Honor~ Parents Attend 7:15-8:45
August 29th: Popcorn orders due

September








September 1: Helen Tubing Day
September 3rd: No Meeting due to Labor Day
September 7th-9th: US National White Water Center
September 9th: Troop Committee Meeting
September 10th: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45
September 11th: Merit Badge Help Night 6 p.m.
September 13th: District Roundtable
September 14-16th : OA Fall Fellowship
September 15-16th: NYLT Leader Conference
September 17th: Troop Meeting~Board of Review 7:15-8:45
September 20th: Patrol Leaders Council
September 24th: Troop Meeting
September 29th: Scout Day at the Braves

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

Each monthly outing for the entire 2012-2013 school year is ON 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. Keep us updated on changes to phone numbers, address and e-mail accounts. Not getting the newsletter? Contact Heather Penderly at penderyclan@comcast.net

SCOUT HANDSHAKE

 EAGLE~ LIFE~ STAR~ FIRST CLASS~ SECOND CLASS~ TENDERFOOT~ SCOUT
Advancement congratulations for June and July go to:

 EAGLE: none
 LIFE: none
 STAR: Nick P.
 FIRST CLASS: Reed C., Alex D., and Connor S.
 SECOND CLASS: Aiden M., Louis D., and Ashwin R.
 TENDERFOOT: Jordan M.
 SCOUT: Joey B. and Conner N.

Eagle Scout, Jake Brasher~received the Gold Palm!!!!

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.**

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 or call her at **770-740-8496** so she can add your information to her list to draw from when we have an upcoming BOR. No experience required. (Unit leaders and assistant unit leaders may not serve as a BOR member.)



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.

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



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. **The upcoming Popcorn sale is a great way to add money to your high adventure account!**

Be Prepared and Friendly Reminders

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

Lending Closet

The Troop maintains a scout closet “uniform exchange” for all to use. With growth spurts for young scouts it can be hard to keep them outfitted for activities. **Everyone please go through your closets and please consider donating items that no longer fit.** Bring in your used Scout pieces and add to the closet and feel free to pick up an item during the regular Monday night Troop Meetings.

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.

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>