



# BOY SCOUT TROOP 629 NEWSLETTER

October 2012

*This newsletter is intended for Troop 629 scouts and their families.  
All Newsletters and up to date information are at [www.troop629.org](http://www.troop629.org)*



## Scoutmaster Minute by Fran Gillis

It is a difficult time of year for a scout to make decisions on which extra-curricular activity is the highest priority to attend. Scouts, sports, band and even church outings all come into play. We normally offer our "outing" once per month and so that means there are three other weekends to participate in other activities. We are not all consuming every weekend like other activities and our policy is to encourage a balanced approach. Those who attended the Whitewater Trip to Charlotte know that it was time well spent! (Check out all the on-line pictures from this trip!) In October, would you consider giving your balanced attendance to the Florida beach camping and USS Alabama sleep-a-board event?

High adventure is normally a highlight of a scout's growth and 2013 offers the opportunity for many including: Sea Base sailing the Bahamas, Northern Tier canoeing in the boundary waters or even the National Jamboree in West Virginia with 30,000 other scouts. Try two or more venues as HA's are not normally offered every year so you may miss out because the dates do not align with your scout growth. We passed on a Philmont trip next summer because of lack of sign ups and we are about to close off the NT and SB as being full. Have you submitted your \$100 deposit and slip?

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

- ❖ **Annual Dues** – Scouts are \$75 and all registered adults with the troop are \$25. Please make your checks payable to "Troop 629" and note on your check your son's name (or your name if a registered adult) and state "for dues". The dues pay for national dues to the BSA, your son's subscription to *Boys Life* magazine, his advancement recognitions (rank/merit badges) throughout the year, and support of the troop. If anyone has any questions, please contact our Troop Committee Chair, Mary Beth Bierbaum, by email at [marybeth@bierbaum.com](mailto:marybeth@bierbaum.com). **We would like to receive all dues no later than our Monday, October 1 troop meeting.**
- ❖ **Registered Adults** – please submit your updated Youth Protection Training certificate to Karen Korshak ([karcpa@aol.com](mailto:karcpa@aol.com)) as soon as possible. **We MUST have it in order to re-register you with the troop.** Thank you in advance for your time.
- ❖ **LAST CALL!** If you want to attend **Sea Base Bahamas or Northern Tier Canoeing in 2013**, please sign up now. Talk to Mr. Gillis for details on signing up for these **High Adventure trips** available to scouts age 14 or older next summer.
- ❖ There are still spaces available for the **2013 National Jamboree**. If interested see Mr. Gillis.

## ❖ **629 Eagle Scout Project- Helpers needed!**

Calling all scouts for Nate Bramel's Eagle Scout Project final work day.

**October 6, 2012**

**When:** 9:00am- 1:00pm - come at any time, and stay as long as you can!

**What:** We will restore the Liberty Garden at Haynes Bridge Middle School. We will install benches, trim trees, and lay down pine straw.

**Where:** Haynes Bridge Middle School, 10665 Haynes Bridge Road, Alpharetta, GA 30022

**Call Nate at 770-402-8654 for more information**



❖ **Winter Camp is coming to Atlanta!**

Merit badge winter camp session is being offered at Bert Adams Scout reservation **Dec 27-31** and if we have enough scouts we will try to attend as a unit. **Let Mr. Gillis or Mr. Hoang know now if you want to attend.** Activities will include: Merit Badges (both traditional and some unique only for winter camp) Cold weather camping programs and activities; Talent shows, campfires, and nightly cracker barrels.

**The fee for each scout is \$180.** If any scouts want to attend please sign up by Oct-31, we need to know the headcount to make our reservation. The sign up sheet and winter camp flyers are on the table during the Troop Meetings. You may get more Winter Camp info from this link <http://www.atlantabsa.org/winter-camp/44887>

❖ **October Committee Meeting** is on Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. in the staff break room.

❖ Thank you to all the parents who came out for Troop 629 Cobbler Night. It was a fun evening and we appreciate you supporting your sons and their cooking!

❖ Reminder: **Our October 29<sup>th</sup> troop meeting will be held at Newtown Park.** Please meet at the pavilion near the playgrounds at 7:15 p.m. (Parents you will also pick up your son at this location at 8:45 p.m.) This is a really fun night with games and treats. Scouts need to bring a jacket if weather is cool and each scout needs a headlamp or flashlight with them.



❖ **9<sup>th</sup> Annual Merit Badge University at Kennesaw State University**

BSA Troop 1776 is presenting their 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Merit Badge University this fall at Kennesaw State University

**Date: October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

**Time: 7 a.m. to 12:30**

**Event Details:** <http://meritbadge.info/mbn/EventDetails.aspx?ID=A6BE893B-6707-4B85-8D79-D45798EFBDF2>

Units and individual parents have the opportunity to register Scouts for classes at [www.meritbadge.info](http://www.meritbadge.info). Any 629 Scout who wants to attend the event please inform Mr. Hoang ([erichhoang@yahoo.com](mailto:erichhoang@yahoo.com)) asap so he can register you on line. The fee is \$13 to attend. Breakfast and a drink will be provided at no-charge thanks to a donation by Chick-fil-a. **Remember, final Merit Badge completion occurs when the Scout finishes all requirements, reads the book and a 629 Merit Badge Counselor signs off on the requirements ☺**

❖ **Popcorn sales for high adventure fund raising has started!** Are you earning your way to a life changing High Adventure Trip? Packets and details are available at the Troop Meetings.



❖ Please check-in with Mr. Street to see if your son's medical form has expired. Remember that all medical forms are required to be updated annually. Please contact Mr. Street by email - [Ian.Street@DalTile.com](mailto:Ian.Street@DalTile.com). This is especially important for all of our Adult registered leaders as well.

629 @ Victoria Bryant



629 @ National Whitewater Center



## Highlights, Deadlines and Dates

### Upcoming Troop Board of Review: **October 15th**

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](mailto:Kathleen@narayanan.us) **Reminder: Full Class "A" uniform and Scout handbook are required for participation in a Board of Review.**

### Upcoming Events

**October 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>:** USS Alabama Trip and Beach

**October 29<sup>th</sup>:** Newtown Park Meeting-Game Night!

**November 10-11<sup>th</sup>:** AT Backpacking Trip

## ORGANIZE YOUR FAMILY CALENDAR

### October

**October 1<sup>st</sup>:** Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45

**October 6<sup>th</sup>:** Allatoona Merit Badge Day

**October 7<sup>th</sup>:** Troop Committee Meeting @ 6 p.m.

**October 8<sup>th</sup>:** Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45

**October 9<sup>th</sup>:** Merit Badge Help Night

**October 11<sup>th</sup>:** District Roundtable

**October 13-15<sup>th</sup>:** **USS Alabama Trip & Beach**

**October 15<sup>th</sup>:** Troop Meeting~Board of Review

**October 18<sup>th</sup>:** Patrol Leaders Council & **Popcorn Orders Due!**

**October 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Troop Meeting

**October 26-28<sup>th</sup>:** Duty to God encampment

**October 27<sup>th</sup>:** Fright Fest

**October 29<sup>th</sup>:** **Newtown Park Meeting**

**November 2-4<sup>th</sup>:** OA Fall Ordeal BASR

**November 4<sup>th</sup>:** Troop Committee Meeting

**November 5<sup>th</sup>:** Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45

**November 8<sup>th</sup>:** District Roundtable

**November 10-11<sup>th</sup>:** **AT Backpacking**

**November 12<sup>th</sup>:** Troop Meeting~ SPL/PL Elections

**November 13<sup>th</sup>:** Merit Badge Help Night

**November 15<sup>th</sup>:** Patrol Leader Council

**November 17<sup>th</sup>:** Autry Mill Service Day

**November 19<sup>th</sup>:** Troop Meeting~Board of Review

**November 26<sup>th</sup>:** Troop Meeting/Webelo Visitation Night

Calendar and Web Site Information~  Check out [www.troop629.org](http://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 Pendery at [penderyclan@comcast.net](mailto: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:** Duncan H., Jermain L., and Sam W.  
👤 **SECOND CLASS:** Joshua A. and Josh H.  
👤 **TENDERFOOT:** Matthew W  
👤 **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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:Kathleen.Narayanan@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](mailto: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](mailto: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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 current 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](mailto: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](http://www.cdbsa.org)) and **Atlanta Area Council** ([www.atlantabsa.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.troop629.org/Adventure/philmont_gear.htm)

BSA on the Radio [www.radiosandysprings.com](http://www.radiosandysprings.com)

Council-Sponsored Events <http://www.atlantabsa.org>

Scout Shop News [www.scoutstuff.org](http://www.scoutstuff.org)

Merit Badge [www.meritbadge.com](http://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>