



BOY SCOUT TROOP 629 NEWSLETTER

November 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

Wow! Three more of our scouts have achieved the rank of Eagle Scout! Chris Bertrand, Connor Pendery and Bill Rettig all sat for their District Boards of Review and have been approved for the Eagle Rank. Congratulate them the next time you see them. They will be coordinating for their official medal presentation in the future months. You too can be an Eagle Scout. The troop provides all the activities, events, opportunities and programs to make it happen. You provide the active participation, "can-do" attitude and enthusiasm.

Back packing is one of the highlights of most Scouts' activities. The annual fall hike is the best place to jump in and be a part of this year's hike along the AT trail. We split it up into two sections, one for experienced scouts and another for first timers. Come join us, pack your own food and the follow the gear list on our event flyer. All those participating **MUST** have their back-pack checked at the Monday, November 5th meeting.

Our semi-annual SPL and PL elections are coming up in mid November. All those scouts who meet the requirements of First Class; graduate of NYLT leadership training course for a PL position or staffing the NYLT course for the SPL position, need to turn in their name to the SM to be slated on the ballot. Yes, it takes time to be a leader but for our troop to be successful as a youth led troop requires those who qualify to step up and volunteer to run. And yes, we are asking our best to come forward and do it again to fill out all the necessary positions. It's not just about getting the block checked for advancement. It's about being a true leader in our team, Troop 629.

NYLT staff interviews are coming up in Dec. All those NYLT graduates should be considering their participation to enhance their leadership skills even more. Go on-line and apply for an interview.

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

- ❖ **Popcorn pick up!** **It's time to pick up your popcorn orders.** Pick up is at John Rausch's home
110 Pine Mist Circle

Johns Creek, GA 30022

from 1 to 3 pm this Saturday, November 3

If you need to make other arrangements call Mr. Rausch at 404 597 8222



- ❖ **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". **Please send in your check at the next Troop meeting.**
- ❖ **Registered Adults – please submit your updated Youth Protection Training certificate to Karen Korshak (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.
- ❖ **Many thanks to everyone** who donated food/drink items for our annual Newtown troop meeting. Everything looked delicious and was enjoyed by all. **Special thanks to Tena Hargrove** for coordinating the refreshments for the meeting.

- ❖ Please note that our next **Troop Committee Meeting** will be held **THIS Sunday, November 4** at 6pm in Room A231A - which is the staff lounge on the 2nd floor of South Campus just past the Dining Hall hallway.
- ❖ **Winter Camp:** Troop 629 is attending Winter Camp and room is still available. **Let Mr. Gillis or Mr. Hoang know now if you want to attend.** This camp is held Dec. 27th – 31st at Bert Adams. You may get more Winter Camp info from this link <http://www.atlantabsa.org/winter-camp/44887>
- ❖ 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. This is especially important for all of our Adult registered leaders as well.
- ❖ On **November 17th**, **Autrey Mill** will be the site of an organized scouting event for younger boy and girl scouts. Troop 629 scouts are being asked to help during the day with the various activities. **See your PL or Mr. Sutton for details and set up some volunteer service hour times.**

Merit Badge Clinic hosted by Troop 1717

When: Saturday November 10th

Where: Cross of Life Lutheran Church
1000 Hembree Road Roswell, GA

Registration information: meritbadge.info/mbn/
Questions? Contact

Dana Champion ga.champions@yahoo.com or
Jackie Kassler jkassler@bellsouth.net

Highlights, Deadlines and Dates

Upcoming Troop Board of Review: November 19th

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

November 10-11th: AT Backpacking Trip

November 12th: PL/SPL elections

December 14th: Lock-in Night

ORGANIZE YOUR FAMILY CALENDAR

November

November 2-4th: OA Fall Ordeal BASR

November 4th: Troop Committee Meeting

November 5th: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45

November 8th: District Roundtable

November 10-11th: **AT Backpacking**

November 12th: Troop Meeting~ SPL/PL Elections

November 13th: Merit Badge Help Night

November 15th: Patrol Leader Council

November 17th: Autry Mill Service Day

November 19th: Troop Meeting~Board of Review

November 26th: Troop Meeting/Webelo Visitation Night

December

December 1st & 2nd: Patrol Service outings/OA Banquet
December 2nd: Troop Committee Meeting
December 3rd: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45
December 8th & 9th: Patrol Service outings/CPR Training
December 9th: NYLT Staff Interviews
December 10th: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45
December 11th: Merit Badge Help Night
December 13th: District Roundtable
December 14^{th/15th}: **Lock-In Night**
December 15th & 16th: Patrol Service Outings
December 17th: Troop Meeting~Board of Review~Gift Exchange
December 20th: Patrol Leaders Council
December 24th: **No Meeting**
December 27th-31st: **Winter Camp BASR**
December 29th: Christmas Tree Pick up
December 31st: **No meeting**
January 1st-4th: **Winterplace Ski Trip**

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 Pendery at penderyclan@comcast.net

SCOUT HANDSHAKE

🏅 EAGLE~🏅 LIFE~🏅 STAR~🏅 FIRST CLASS~🏅 SECOND CLASS~🏅 TENDERFOOT~🏅 SCOUT
Advancement congratulations for this month go to:

- 🏅 **EAGLE:** Chris Bertrand, Connor Pendery, and Bill Rettig
- 🏅 **LIFE:** Kevin H.
- 🏅 **STAR:** none
- 🏅 **FIRST CLASS:** Aidan M.
- 🏅 **SECOND CLASS:** Luke S
- 🏅 **TENDERFOOT:** none
- 🏅 **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 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.**

District Training News

MyScouting.org

Leader Specific Training modules are now available online at MyScouting.org.
Get 100% trained and a flag banner to show it off!

Council Calendar for Training

If the course you are looking for is not found here, please visit the Council Calendar
<http://www.atlantabsa.org/openrosters/Calendar.asp?orgkey=1437>

Training Descriptions

Please go here: <http://www.cdbsa.org/training/TrainingDescriptions.shtm>

This is Scouting (Formerly New Leader Essentials – NLE)

The On-line THIS IS SCOUTING class replaces the New Leader Essentials class. THIS IS SCOUTING is a prerequisite to all other ADULT BSA trainings (except Youth Protection Training).



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.



Be Prepared and Friendly Reminders

Troop 629 Scout Activity Scholarships

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 family’s 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>