



# BOY SCOUT TROOP 629

## NEWSLETTER

### December 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

End of a busy scouting year and off to run another exciting one. We have had a variety of activities to meet everyone's needs and our new PLC headed up by the new SPL, Vijay N. is already heavily involved in executing those programs. We hope all can participate in our annual white elephant gift exchange Dec 17th and support the Christmas Tree recycle pick up on Dec 30th. Patrol outings and service projects are also slotted for this month. Winter Camp Dec 27-31 at Bert Adams is still open for participants and our scouts are moving along the Eagle trail with two more Eagle Board of Reviews scheduled this month.

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

- ❖ Remember to make time for the highly anticipated **LOCK IN Night Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>** evening thru the morning of the 15<sup>th</sup>. Games, Pizza and fun for everyone.
- ❖ Mark your calendars for the **Annual White Elephant Gift Exchange** during the Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> Troop Meeting. It's a fun night for all. Ask your Patrol Leader for details!



**Christmas Tree pick up** is a great way to earn High Adventure money. Remember you can help by passing out flyers, working the pick up on Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> or BOTH! Look for a detailed flyer at the Troop Meeting or ask Mr. Gillis for more details.

- ❖ **Winterplace Ski Trip** details (Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> thru 4<sup>th</sup>) are posted on the website under EVENTS. The deadline for registration is Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> and all Scouts are welcome. Make your plans known now!
- ❖ **New Hampshire Ski Trip**: Venture Scouts (age 14 and older) that are interested in skiing New Hampshire should also begin making plans now. Details for this January 18<sup>th</sup> thru 21<sup>st</sup> trip are posted on the website under Events.
- ❖ **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. 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> at Bert Adams. The Winter Camp flyer and sign up sheet can be found at the troop website on the right hand side under "What's New" ([http://www.troop629.org/forms/2012/Winter\\_Camp.pdf](http://www.troop629.org/forms/2012/Winter_Camp.pdf)).
- ❖ If you have questions regarding the status of your Medical Form, please contact Mrs. Bierbaum at [MaryBeth@bierbaum.com](mailto:MaryBeth@bierbaum.com)
- ❖ Please note that our next Troop Committee Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 6, 2013 at 6pm in the Dining Hall on South Campus.

- ❖ **Parents**, please see the **snack donation sign-up sheet** at our Monday troop meetings for the boys' Holiday Troop Meeting being held on Monday, December 17, 2013. If you would like to send in a snack for the boys to enjoy during this meeting, please find the sign-up located on the back table at our Monday meetings. Also, we are still in need of snack donations for our Christmas Tree Pick-up fundraiser on Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup> (NEW date). Please find the sign-up sheet at our Monday meetings. Thanks in advance for your donation and your support!
- ❖ We are thrilled to report that our troop has completed its annual recharter with the Boy Scout National office. Many thanks go to Karen Korshak for taking care of this important annual duty for our troop. We are happy to report that we have 80 youth members in Troop 629 and are thrilled to have so many boys ready for another year of fun activities and learning in Boy Scouts for 2013!

## **Highlights, Deadlines and Dates**

### **Upcoming Troop Board of Review: December 10<sup>th</sup> (This is a date change!)**

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**

**December 14<sup>th</sup>:** Lock-in Night  
**December 30<sup>th</sup>:** Christmas Tree Pick Up  
**January 1-4<sup>th</sup>:** WinterPlace Ski Trip  
**January 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>:** Venture Scouts Ski Trip to New Hampshire

## **ORGANIZE YOUR FAMILY CALENDAR**

### **December**

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

### **January**

**January 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>:** **Winterplace Ski Trip**  
**January 6<sup>th</sup>:** Troop Committee Meeting  
**January 7<sup>th</sup>:** Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45  
**January 8<sup>th</sup>:** Merit Badge Help Night 6 p.m.  
**January 10<sup>th</sup>:** District Roundtable

**January 13<sup>th</sup>:** Eagle Court of Honor- Pendery  
**January 14<sup>th</sup>:** Troop Meeting~Board of Review 7:15-8:45  
**January 17<sup>th</sup>:** Patrol Leader Council  
**January 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>:** Venture Ski in New Hampshire  
**January 21<sup>st</sup>:** No Meeting  
**January 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>:** Caving Trip  
**January 26<sup>th</sup>:** NYLT Staff Orientation  
**January 27<sup>th</sup>:** Eagle Court of Honor-Bierbaum  
**January 28<sup>th</sup>:** Troop Court of Honor (Parents and Families all attend) 7:15-8:45

**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:** Chapman P.  
 🌟 **STAR:** none  
 👤 **FIRST CLASS:** Joshua H. and Jordan M.  
 👤 **SECOND CLASS:** Nolan S.  
 👤 **TENDERFOOT:** Curran M.  
 👤 **SCOUT:** Spencer S.

**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.**

## District Training News

### MyScouting.org

Leader Specific Training modules are now available online at [MyScouting.org](http://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](mailto:kathleen@narayanan.us)



## Scouts in Action



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### **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.

## **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](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>