



BOY SCOUT TROOP 629

NEWSLETTER

February 2013

*This newsletter is intended for Troop 629 scouts and their families.
All Newsletters, pictures and up to date information are at
www.troop629.org*



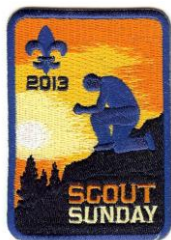
Scoutmaster Minute by Fran Gillis

And we add another to our growing flock of Eagles. Nate Bramel sat for his District Eagle Board of Review and now is part of the 86 other Troop 629 Eagles over the 23 years our Troop has been formerly registered. Nate will schedule a separate ceremony in the future but pass along your "Atta-boy" when you next see him. The Troop provides every scout the opportunity to succeed as an Eagle Scout. It is up to each boy to use those assets to his best advantage and make some choices along the way for success. The bottom line in most scenarios is that an Eagle Scout recognition is used as a special stand out indicator of what an individual's potential may be in whatever future pursuit; whereas a season on a sports team is just that. So take the long term view and choose at times to also participate in one of our monthly outings rather than 100% on just that sports team (How about 25% for scouting each month and 75% for the team)?

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

- ❖ **Congratulations to Mike and Tena Hargrove, who are our Troop 629 "Godsend" award recipients this year.** During the District banquet on Feb 21 they will be recognize as special contributors to Troop 629's overall program this year. Mike and Tina, thank you for all you have done for the young men of Troop 629. Your example of community service has been amazing! Congratulations and thank you!
- ❖ **Our next Troop Committee meeting has been changed to Sunday, Feb. 10** so as not to interrupt Super Bowl Sunday festivities!

SCOUT SUNDAY and SCOUTING FOR FOOD FEBRUARY 3, 2013



If you can, please plan on attending the Mount Pisgah Church on Sunday, Feb 3, 2013. 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. 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. It is okay if you wanted to be a greeter and not attend the worship service. Everyone is invited to attend the worship service. **We also need scouts to help collect food during each service, load it on the truck and help make this day a success!**



- ❖ **Feb. 9th-10th Pine Mountain Backpacking Trip:** This is a great trip for Scouts young and old. Details are on the website under events/flyers. If you plan to attend, make your intentions known now so arrangements can be made for transportation and food. **Paperwork due Feb. 4th!** Also, if you need to borrow a Troop backpack, talk to Mr. Gillis.
- ❖ **West Virginia-Winterplace Ski Trip Feb. 14-17th:** All details of this great trip are posted on the website under events/flyers. Make your plans now! This trip requires a lot of coordination and Troop Leaders need to make plans now for transportation etc. **Permission slip and paperwork are due Feb.4th!**
- ❖ **Ossabaw Island Trip March 15th-17th:** Join your Troop friends on secluded and beautiful Ossabaw Island. Explore miles of beautiful sandy beaches and salt marshes full of wildlife. This IS a trip to remember. Flyer and Details are on the website. **Permission Slips and payment are due Monday, March 7th.**



Merit Badge Clinic

The 13th Law of Scouting is in full effect - **A Scout is Busy** - that's why Troop 1134 is offering an all day Merit Badge Clinic where scouts can participate in either a morning or afternoon course or perhaps stay all day and participate in two merit badge sessions.

Who: Chattahoochee District Troop 1134 - 4th Annual Merit Badge University
Where: Georgia State University's Alpharetta Campus
 3775 Brookside Parkway

Alpharetta, GA 30022

When: Saturday, Feb 9, 2013
 Session 1 course runs 8-12 am
 Session 2 course runs 12:30-4:30 pm

Cost: \$10 per scout per class

Register at www.meritbadge.info

Full breakfast and lunch will be available at a modest cost.

Adults - We will have adult courses in **Youth Protection** and **New Leader Essentials**. Morning and afternoon **CPR certification** will also be provided. Adults, please register for these **free adult training classes** so we can plan resources accordingly.

- ❖ **Adult Help Wanted: We need an additional adult volunteer to work with the Relay for Life program.** You will work with Teresa Way this year and take over the liaison role in future years. No experience necessary ☺ Please contact Mary Beth Bierbaum or Wendy Kraemer if you can help
- ❖ Remember the best way to stay "in the know", is to check the Troop Website regularly. www.troop629.org has it all and is up to date. **Thank you Albert Bodamer for years of service in maintaining our wonderful website!** For the latest council information, check out www.atlantabsa.org
- ❖ **Camp card fundraiser will start at the end of February.** Look to participate in this fabulous way for each scout to earn his own way to summer camp or towards a high adventure trip. Sell the card at \$5 and earn \$2.50 in your account. All cards are worth more than the value of the card so it can practically sell itself.
- ❖ **It's time to plan your Summer Camp experience.** Our Troop will attend Summer Camp at Woodruff Scout Reservation June 16th- 22nd. Registration has started! All information regarding summer camp can be found on the website under the camping tab then on the right hand "Informational Packet/Registration Forms" link. Make sure we know that you want to attend and what your desired classes so we can make that happen. **Sign up early to help ensure you get the classes you want; classes do fill up! ALL forms must be turned in by Monday, March 25th!**

Don't forget your medical forms! Remember you must have an up to date medical form for summer camp and any other outing with Troop 629. **Medical Form A, B, and C must be completed each year.** The form is only valid for 12 months, so make your doctor appointment NOW so you have your forms ready for camp and other fun activities. Forms are on the website under FORMS. If you have questions regarding the status of your Medical Form, please contact Mrs. Bierbaum at MaryBeth@bierbaum.com

- ❖ Many thanks to all who donated snacks and waters to our hard working Christmas Tree volunteer scouts during our service day.



Friends of Scouting

As many of you know, each year the Atlanta Area Council participates in the Friends of Scouting program. **By contributing to the Friends of Scouting program, your tax deductible contribution ensures that every youth in metro Atlanta can be a Scout, no matter their economic circumstances.** BEAUTIFUL *Woodruff, Bert Adams, and Allatoona Aquatics* camping programs are supported via Friends of Scouting. Important Adult Training programs are also supported through this program. If you would like to contribute or have questions, please contact ASM, John Herring at johnannpaden@gmail.com Information is available at Troop meetings and will be coming in the mail to you soon.

Highlights, Deadlines and Dates

Upcoming Troop Board of Review: February 25, 2013

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

Feb. 9th-10th: Pine Mountain Backpack Trip
Feb. 14th-17th: Winterplace WV ski trip
March 15th-17th: Ossabaw Island Trip

ORGANIZE YOUR FAMILY CALENDAR

February

February 3rd: Eagle Court of Honor- Bill Rettig
February 3rd: Scouting for Food/Scout Sunday
February 4th: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45 p.m.
February 9-10th: Pine Mountain Backpacking Trip
February 9th: Scout Sabbath
February 10th: Troop Committee Meeting
February 11th: Troop Meeting~ OA Elections 7:15-8:45 p.m.
February 12th: Merit Badge Help Night 6 p.m.
February 14th: District Roundtable
February 14th-17th: West Virginia Ski Trip
February 18th- **No Meeting**
February 20th: Patrol Leader Council
February 21st: District Banquet
February 23rd: NYLT Staff Day
February 24th: Eagle Court of Honor-Billy Johns
February 25th: Troop Meeting~Board of Review 7:15 – 8:45 p.m.

March

March 3rd: Eagle Court of Honor-Robbie Warren

March 3rd: Troop Committee Meeting

March 4th: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45 p.m.

March 6th: Georgia Legislature Day

March 11th: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45

March 12th: Merit Badge Help Night 6 p.m.

March 14th: District Roundtable

March 15th-17th: Ossabaw Island

March 18th: Troop Meeting~Board of Review 7:15-8:45

March 21st: Patrol Leaders Council

March 22nd-24th: NYLT Staff Development

March 22nd-24th: OA Ordeal @BASR

March 25th: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45

March 29th- April 7th: SeaBase Bahamas

March 30th-April 2nd: 25 Mile Backpack

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:** Nate Bramel

 **LIFE:** Ryan S.

 **STAR:** Brandon S.

 **FIRST CLASS:** none

 **SECOND CLASS:** none

 **TENDERFOOT:** Nathan J. and Will S.

 **SCOUT:** none

CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH OF YOU!



Nate Bramel
Eagle Scout
Board of Review Night

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.

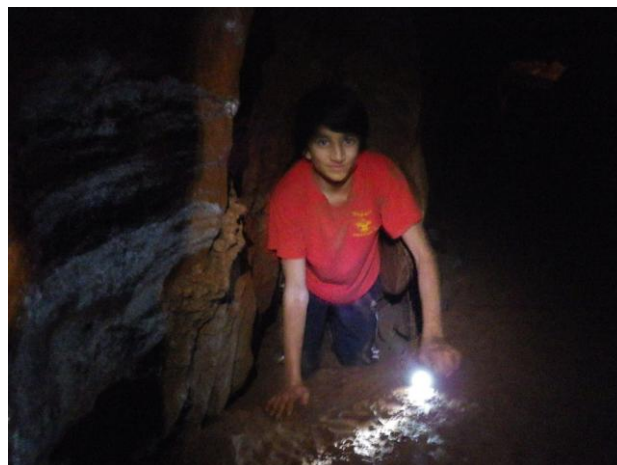
- ❖ Scouts occasionally come forward to work on a merit badge without reading the whole MB book from cover to cover. This is not negotiable and it doesn't matter where the MB was started or with who. To complete the summer camp merit badges or any other please follow these simple rules.
 - 1. Read the 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

Scouts in Action



Check out all the
Troop Pictures at
www.troop629.org

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. **Camp Cards will be the next money earning opportunity for our boys.**

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>