



BOY SCOUT TROOP 629

NEWSLETTER

August 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

Another summer wrapping up and back to North Campus basement for meetings on Aug 12th. Summer memories will be long lasting and camp will never be thought of the same way. We start off the scouting year with our Dausset weekend where we work hard to get all the new scouts on their advancement trail and on board with patrol setup. Our calendar is on line through our web site and updated as events change. Fold in your school, sports and church activities with a balance of scouting and you too can be successful on your trail to Eagle. All your endeavors can be with your best effort and successful with a written out plan and careful sharing of your time.

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

- ❖ **High Adventure opportunities for summer 2014:** Will you be 14 by Aug of 2014? Do you want to participate in a high adventure sailing (Sea Base), backpacking (Philmont) or canoeing (Northern Tier) trip? Make sure the SM knows you are interested so as we work out details we can make sure you are part of any plan.
- ❖ **August 12th we return to Studio A North Campus location** and full Scout uniform is to be worn unless otherwise noted. We hope you have enjoyed summertime and look forward to more fun during the school year.
- ❖ **August Troop Committee Meeting:** Sunday, August 11 at 6pm in Room A006.
- ❖ We want to remind everyone that our **2014 Troop dues are due by September 15, 2013**. The amount is \$75.00 and checks should be made payable to "Troop 629". The dues for all adults registered with our troop are \$25.00. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our Troop Committee Chair, Mary Beth Bierbaum (marybeth@bierbaum.com/770442.5306).
- ❖ We will be sending home a **brief data form for each scout family to complete** – even if your information has not changed. This is so we may verify your family's contact information we currently have on file.
- ❖ Don't forget our **Troop Court of Honor on Monday, August 26 in Studio A** during our regular meeting time. We will be recognizing all of our scouts and their achievements and advancements since our May Court of Honor. **ALL PARENTS and families are strongly encouraged to** attend as parents will be recognized along with their son for any rank advancement. Please join us for this important evening in support of all our Troop 629 boys! A small reception will follow the Court of Honor.

- ❖ **Advancement News:** There is a new PowerPoint slide show on the Troop Website PLC page (the green bars) that explains Service, Leadership and Participation requirements for 1st Class and higher scout ranks. Check it out! <http://www.troop629.org/plc/index.htm>

- ❖ **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

Merit Badge Clinic

When: Sat. August 17th hosted by Crew 43.

Where: Johns Creek Presbyterian Church, 10950 Bell Road, Johns Creek

To register go to: <http://meritbadge.info/mbn/EventDetails.aspx?ID=F944B086-3F88-481B-BA63-961B2F764B37>

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.

Highlights, Deadlines and Dates

Upcoming Troop Board of Review: August 19

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 16-18th: Dauset Trail outing

August 31st: Helen Tubing Day

September 13-15th: National Whitewater Center, N.C.

ORGANIZE YOUR FAMILY CALENDAR

August

July 31-August 7th: Northern Tier High Adventure trip

August 5th: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45 p.m....Last summer meeting in Family Life Center/red t-shirt

August 8th: District Roundtable

August 11th: Troop Committee Meeting 6 p.m.

August 12th: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45 p.m. Studio A North Campus, Class A uniform attire

August 13th: Merit Badge Help Night 6 p.m.

August 15th: Patrol Leaders Council

August 16th – 18th: Dauset Trail Outing

August 19th: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45 ~ Board of Review

August 25th: Nate Bramel Eagle Court of Honor Ceremony 4 p.m. North Campus

August 26th: Troop Court of Honor: **All Parents please plan to attend**

August 31st: Helen Tubing Day trip

September

September 2nd: No Meeting

September 9th: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45 p.m.

September 10th: Merit Badge Help Night 6 p.m.

September 12th: District Roundtable

September 13-15th: National Whitewater Center, N.C.

September 16th: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45 ~Board of Review

September 19th: Patrol Leaders Council

September 23rd: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45 p.m.

September 30th: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45 p.m.

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

Each monthly outing for the next 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

SCOUTS IN ACTION



National Advanced Youth Leadership Participants:
Boyd S., Kevin H., Vijay N. and Eagle Scout, Bill R.



Northern Tier Crew in Minnesota before setting off!

VOLUNTEER NEWS

Our volunteers....what makes T629 Great!



Lending Closet - Thank you Laura Hemauer for offering to help with the lending closet. Laura joins Denise Healy and will be organizing our donations for scout shirts, class A & B, and scout pants, etc. The donations will be available at the next Court of Honor.

Court of Honor - Refreshments - Thank you Michelle Davis for volunteering in this area. This includes the purchase, setup and cleanup of refreshments for our three Court of Honors that we have during the year. ***We are still looking for another adult to join Michelle in this area.*** Our Court of Honors are usually held in August, January and May. The COH's are special events where your Scout is recognized for his achievements

Popcorn

We have another volunteer, Doug Myers who will be working with Rick Taylor on the upcoming Popcorn Fundraiser. Thank you John Herring and John Rausch for your many years of work in this area.

Relay for Life

We are looking for ***one more person*** to join Virginia Deavers for the Relay for Life for the upcoming year. This is an annual event which occurs in May. This involves a couple of meetings and an evening at the Relay for Life event where the troop has a booth, games and prizes.

Eagle Scout Neckerchief Seamstress

Thank you Lea Taylor for offering to be our Eagle Scout Neckerchief Seamstress. Thank you Ann Herring for your many years of service in this area..

Eagle Scout Court of Honor - Ceremony - Hostess Needed

We have an opening on our Eagle Scout COH Committee. This committee assists the Eagle Scout Family with the setup, cleanup and serving for the ECOH. This occurs about 6-8 times a year. If we have several folks on this committee, folks can fill in when others have commitments.

October Newtown Meeting

The Monday before Halloween we have our Troop meeting at Newtown Park with all kinds of treats available for all such as caramel apples, cookies, hot apple cider and hot cocoa. We have two volunteers who have offered to help with this event, Leslie Gibson and Jen Schoenl. We will need more volunteers to pull this together. Please look for sign-up sheets at the Court of Honor in August. If you can bring cookies, apples, or a Crockpot with hot caramel, please contact Wendy Kraemer.

If you are interested in any of the areas above, please see Wendy Kraemer at the next meeting or email wkraemer@bellsouth.net or reach out to our Committee Chair Mary Beth Bierbaum at marybeth@bierbaum.com.

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).

Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmaster Leadership Training (SALT)

From program items to the patrol method to being an effective resource for the boys – this course will teach you how to be an effective troop leader. This typically \$10 class is offered in three 3 hour evening sessions. THIS IS SCOUTING is a prerequisite. You must attend all 3 sessions to complete the class. To be considered a Trained Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster, you must complete BOTH SALT and ITOLS. The training is located at AAC VSC. For further information <http://www.atlantabsa.org/openrosters/Calendar.asp>

Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (ITOLS)

Learn the scout craft skills needed to advance to First Class by essentially being a Scout yourself. This class includes a 4 hour afternoon orientation session and a weekend camping outing. The class fee is typically \$25. Your patrol will incur additional costs for meals for the outing. THIS IS SCOUTING is a prerequisite. Prior completion of SALT is recommended. **To be considered a Trained Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster, you must complete BOTH SALT and ITOLS.** For further information <http://www.atlantabsa.org/openrosters/Calendar.asp>

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/Kathryn Cline at 629kroger@gmail.com** 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 her.



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

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>