

BOY SCOUT TROOP 629 NEWSLETTER

November 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*

Damani, Andrew and Joseph volunteering for electronics recycling day.



Scoutmaster Minute by Fran Gillis

Two more Eagle scouts! That's right! Walker Bowen and Chris Woods have joined the Troop 629 Eagle flock by recently completing their District Boards of Review. Please pass along your personal congratulations and seek out their words of wisdom to help others in our troop continue their climb to the top. The Gold Rush Rendezvous we are hosting for the district is upon us! Through the great effort of Wendy Kraemer and many of our families we are in the midst of hosting and planning another awesome event that we will all be proud to have contributed to. Many more upcoming activities are also listed on our web site. We need all scouts to let us know as soon as possible that they plan to attend. We missed out in October because we just did not have the minimum number of scouts to support a road trip and needed group rates. The Troop provides all the activities and programs to help each and every scout be the greatest they can be. However it does require an effort on each Scout's part and participation throughout the trail. A well thought out plan is needed to keep on a smooth path and to avoid a frantic rush at the end.

Upcoming events, something for everyone:

(details out on flyers and on the web site):

- Backpacking Trip Nov. 2-3rd
- Gold Rush Rendezvous Nov 8-10th
- SPL/PL elections Monday Nov 11th
- Webelos visit Dec 2
- Patrol outings and service throughout December
- Lock-in Dec 13-14
- Winter NYLT program Dec 26-31
- Winter Merit badge Camp Dec 27-31
- WV ski trip Jan 2-5th
- Christmas Tree recycling Jan 4
- Raccoon Mt Caving overnight Jan 11-12
- Older scout NH skiing Jan 17-20
- High adventures are still available for Florida Keys sailing in Apr, New Mexico backpacking in Jun and Canada wilderness canoeing in Jul



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



Gold Rush Rendezvous - November 8th - 10th

Gold Rush.....It's not too late to sign-up for the Gold Rush Rendezvous. Be sure to register by Monday, November 4th. We will be departing Mount Pisgah at 6:30 on Friday, November 8th for a fun-filled weekend of activities in the north Georgia Mountains.

National Forest and Northern Georgia Trail Hike - November 2nd - 3rd

This is a great opportunity to hike the north GA trails. We will depart as a group and split into two smaller groups with the first group being for the more experienced hikers with a longer more challenging trail while the second group will be for the not so experienced hikers. We all meet up at the same destination for the evening and camp as patrols. **Do you need to borrow a backpack, pad, and/or a tent for this?** Please let us know ahead of time so you can test the backpack prior to this event. We have several items in our trailer and/or storage closet that you can use and also know several folks who will be happy to lend you equipment.

Winter Camp is coming to Atlanta!

Merit badge winter camp session is being offered at Bert Adams Scout reservation **Dec 27-31**.

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, we need to know the headcount to make our reservation. The signup sheet and winter camp flyers are on the table during the Troop meeting. You may get more Winter Camp info from this link [Winter Camp](#).

- ❖ **Many thanks** to all who donated goodies and helped with our Newtown Troop meeting. Special thanks to Karen Tostenson and Jen Schoenl who helped coordinate the food/serving. It was a fun night!
- ❖ **Troop Committee Meeting this Sunday**, November 3 at 6pm in Room A006.
- ❖ Please submit all **annual Troop dues for 2014** membership renewal as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Korshak our Membership Chair – karcpa@accountant.com.
- ❖ On **November 16th**, 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. Drop off and pick up is at Autrey Mill between the hours of 9:30 and 2:30. **This is a great service hour opportunity.** For questions ask Boyd Sutton or email family@grubbyboys.com
- ❖ **Kroger has discontinued the Kroger Gift Card program.** Please be aware that the Troop will be phasing out this fundraiser as it is no longer available through Kroger. Thank you to all the families that have participated in this program to benefit our Troop and our boys.
- ❖ The troop has a **camping gear lending closet and uniform exchange**. Let us know if you need to look at the items and where we can help.
- ❖ **Grub Master Details-** If your scout is working on the requirements to purchase food for an outing, here is the plan that we follow: The Scout buys the items from the list provided with no substitutions or changes. The scout works from the budget provided and turns in his receipts at the next meeting for reimbursement. If a household needs the cash up front, please let us know so we can get you a check in advance.

- ❖ **Scout Master Reminder-** For weekend outings we normally meet in the parking lot of south campus. This helps us avoid church activities and traffic when we return from our trips.



If you are interested in a **high Adventure activity in 2014** we really need your deposit to hold that spot for you at Sea Base, Northern Tier and or Philmont. Make sure we know your intent and so we get you on the info update list for those events.

- ❖ **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>

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:

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 2-3rd: AT Backpacking Trip

November 8-10th: District Gold Rush Rendezvous- All T629 requested to attend and volunteer!

November 16th: Autrey Mill Service for Scout Day

ORGANIZE YOUR FAMILY CALENDAR

November

November 2-3rd: AT Backpacking Trip

November 3rd: Troop Committee Meeting 6 p.m.

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

November 8-10th: District Gold Rush Rendezvous- All T629 requested to attend and volunteer!

November 11th: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45 **SPL/PL Elections**

November 12th: Merit Badge help Night 6 p.m.

November 13th: ILST 5-9 p.m.

November 14th: District Roundtable

November 16th: Autry Mill Service Day

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

November 21st: Patrol Leaders Council

November 25th: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45 p.m.

December

December 1st: Troop Committee Meeting 6 p.m.

December 2nd: Troop Meeting & WEBELO visit night 7:15-8:45 p.m

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

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

December 12th: District roundtable

December 13th-14th: Troop Lock In

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

December 19th: Patrol Leaders Council

December 23rd: **NO MEETING**

December 26th-31st: NYLT Course 7 (BASR)

December 27th-31st: Winter Camp (BASR)


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


SCOUT HANDSHAKE

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


 **EAGLE:** Walker Bowen and Chris Woods

 **LIFE:** Tyler W.

 **STAR:** Alex D., Andrew G. and Sam W.

 **FIRST CLASS:** Curran M. and Lucas S.

 **SECOND CLASS:** John H. and Matthew L.

 **TENDERFOOT:** Connor S, Ryan T. and Thomas T.

 **SCOUT:** Alex R.

CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH OF YOU!

VOLUNTEER NEWS

Our volunteers....what makes T629 Great!



Thank you John Thompson for volunteering for the Webelos Liaison position for the troop. Both John and Dave Pendery will be working together over the next several months to transition this position.

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](http://www.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



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>