



BOY SCOUT TROOP 629

NEWSLETTER

December 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

Great way to end the year with another two scouts earning their Eagle Scout recognitions; Kevin Hoang and Andrew Jaeger recently completed their District Boards of Review and now are officially added to our list of Troop 629 Eagle Scouts. Congratulations to both of them for a long journey well done. Pass along your personal "atta-boy" when you next see them. They will be scheduling their official recognition ceremonies in the near future.

End of year brings a barrage of scouting events all being squeezed in between exams and holiday events. Patrol outings and service projects, lock-in, tree recycling, WV ski and more such as the caving trip sign up for January. PLEASE let us know the soonest possible if you will be participating. Logistics to arrange activities are hard enough these days and last minute sign ups create confusion and bad decisions and even cancellations that could have been avoided.

Upcoming events, something for everyone:

(Details out on flyers and on the web site.)

- Patrol outings and service outings 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
- Pine Mountain Backpacking Feb 8-9
- Okefenokee Swamp March 14-16th
- High adventures are still available for Florida Keys sailing in Apr and Canada wilderness canoeing in July...hold your spot today! Age requirements must be met...contact Mr. Gillis



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

- ❖ **We are looking for some pretzels, cookies, brownies, rice krispie treats, etc.** for our scouts to enjoy during their **last Troop meeting of the year on December 16.** If you can send in something, please let Mary Beth Bierbaum know (marybeth@bierbaum.com). There will also be a sign up sheet at this Monday's Troop meeting. Thanks in advance for your support!

- ❖ **Scholarship Opportunity for High School Seniors:** An Employee Resource Group at AT&T called “Asian Professionals for Community Advancement” (APCA) is giving out 20 National Scholarships of \$2,000 to Senior HS students in the state of Georgia that demonstrated high leadership and volunteering in the local community. You do not need to be Asian to apply but should be a senior and have leadership experience. If you have questions or want assistance or guidance on the application, please contact Mr. Hoang at erichoang@yahoo.com. Details and a link to the application form can be found on the following link: <http://apca-att.org/scholarship.html>.

- ❖ **From Karen Korshak our re-enrollment/re-charter volunteer:** “The re-charter process is complete and I am happy to report that we have 77 Youth and 53 adults renewing with Troop 629. We have such a great group and I appreciate everyone’s help during the process. On December 2, 2013, we had over 30 Webelos visit our troop meeting and a strong parent turnout. Thank you to all that participated!” From everyone at T629....Thank you Karen for your hard work and volunteering efforts to get us re-chartered each year!

- ❖ **The Troop has 50 red T-shirts in different large sizes (L, XL, XXL) for adults.** The shirt is the dry-fit type which is great to wear during troop outings in the summer. Anyone who wants to purchase a red T-shirt for \$15 please contact Mr. Hoang at erichhoang@yahoo.com.

- ❖ **Tree recycling program** has started in earnest with scouts earning High Adventure credit for passing out flyers in their neighborhoods. Prepare to earn more HA credit on Jan 4th when we pick up trees and take them to the Home Depot recycling area. It’s hard work but always a lot of fun and rewarding!

- ❖ **Lending Closet:** 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. **We have a new addition to our troop website** which shows you not only the clothing and equipment that is available to borrow and/or to donate to the troop but also instructions on the process. Please view at: <http://www.troop629.org/about/lending.htm>.

- ❖ **Gold Rush Rendezvous:** **A huge thank you to all of the adults who participated with the Gold Rush.** There are several folks who worked behind the scenes and were not able to attend the weekend and others who spent the weekend away from their family. We appreciate all of the donations, time and energy spent on this event. With everyone coming together, the Gold Rush was successful and our scouts, along with the scouts from the district, were able to have an enjoyable weekend with camping, competitive patrol events and a fun-filled evening with all kinds of activities. Thank you!

- ❖ Our **caving trip in January includes time working on the Forestry and Geology Merit badges** as well as the evening cave excursions. Sign up now to hold your spot and help us run a great event Jan 11-12th.

- ❖ **Don’t forget to refer to our web site regularly.** As always, all of our events are listed with separate info sheets and we are making corrections and clarifications weekly. Look for updates on what constitutes participation requirements and leadership completion forms. The calendar is updated as soon as we know a change. Thanks Mr. Bodamer for keeping our website up to the minute!

- ❖ **Northern Ridge District Roundtable** All adults are welcome to attend the District Roundtable on Thursday, December 12th. This is a monthly event held at the Alpharetta Presbyterian Church, 180 Academy Street in Alpharetta from 7:30 - 9:00 pm. The roundtable has break-out sessions for Boy Scouts, Venture and Committee members. Please come hear the latest with the Northern Ridge District!

- ❖ **Kroger has discontinued the Kroger Gift Card program.** Please be aware that the Troop has phased out this fundraiser as it is no longer available through Kroger. Thank you to all the families that participated in this program to benefit our Troop and our boys.

- ❖ **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 Trip in 2014** we really need your deposit to hold a spot for you at **Sea Base or Northern Tier**. High adventure 2014 Sea Base and Northern Tier canoeing adventures still have openings. Make sure we know your intent now, so we hold your spot and keep you in the loop as communications are released for each trip. **Spots are limited so early commitment is a priority.** If you have signed up for a High Adventure Trip make sure you are keeping up with the payment plans as the Troop has costs that must be paid on time to keep the adventure on schedule.

- ❖ **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>
- ❖ **Northern Ridge District Roundtable** All adults are welcome to attend the District Roundtable on Thursday, December 12th. This is a monthly event held at the Alpharetta Presbyterian Church, 180 Academy Street in Alpharetta from 7:30 - 9:00 pm. The roundtable has break-out sessions for Boy Scouts, Venture and Committee members. Please come hear the latest with the Northern Ridge District!

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](#)

SCOUTS IN ACTION





- ❖ 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: December 16th

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.**

ORGANIZE YOUR FAMILY CALENDAR

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~ Patrol Leaders Council

December 13th-14th: Troop Lock In

December 16th: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45 ~ Board of Review~White Elephant Gift exchange

December 23rd: **NO MEETING**

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

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

January

January 2-5th: West Virginia Ski Trip

January 4th: Tree Recycle Day

January 5th: Eagle Court of Honor- Chris Woods

January 6th: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45

January 9th: Patrol Leaders Council

January 11-12th: Raccoon Caving Trip

January 12th: Troop Committee Meeting

January 13th: Troop Meeting~ Board of Review 7:15-8:45

January 14th: Merit Badge Help Night 6 p.m.

January 16th: District Roundtable

January 17th-20th: Venture Ski Trip

January 20th: No Meeting

January 27th: **Troop Court of Honor-All Parents Please Attend**~ 7:15-8:45

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:** Kevin Hoang and Andrew Jaeger

👤 **LIFE:** none

🌟 **STAR:** Reed C.

👶 **FIRST CLASS:** none

👦 **SECOND CLASS:** Jason H

👦 **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](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. **The ChristmasTree pick up and recycling program is our current High Adventure earning opportunity. Details on website and at Troop meetings.**

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>