

BOY SCOUT TROOP 629

NEWSLETTER

January 2014

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

Image of Philmont Scout Reservation



Scoutmaster Minute by Fran Gillis

A new year and a resolution for all in the scouting..... **Please register early for all activities as we go into 2014.** Many activities are fast approaching and we need the input from scouts to make proper logistical arrangements for the outings planned. Go on-line and get your Event flyers so you can enjoy the best part of the outing in scouting.

Summer camp registration information is posted on the Troop Website (details below). Look for the details and register now so we can get those merit badge classes you need.

Scouts thinking about a Sea Base, Philmont or Northern Tier in 2015, yes 2015 need to let ScoutMaster Gillis know of their interest to attend as we now start the crew registration process. Adults who will meet all the training requirements are needed to lead these activities so let us know your intentions as well. These are life remembering experiences.

Upcoming events- Something for everyone:

(Flyers are available for each outing on the Events tab on the web site.)

- 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 adventure spots are still available for Florida Keys sailing in Apr/May 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

- ❖ **Special thanks to Mr. Brown, Mr. Sevy and Mr. Bodamer for another successful Christmas Tree Pick up!** Our scouts collected almost 300 trees for recycling. Also thanks to the Hoang, Cline, Rhodes, Minchew, Tostenson, and Semones families for donating food to our hard working Christmas Tree Pick up crews on Saturday. Our scouts really appreciated the waters, warm hot chocolate, and snacks throughout the day to keep them going.
- ❖ **Special thanks to Mr. Bierbaum, Mrs. Korshak, and Mr. Reynolds for taking some of our scouts to West Virginia on our annual ski trip.** They had great snow and bitterly cold temperatures but a good time was had by all.
- ❖ **Next Committee Meeting is Sunday, January 12 at 6pm.**

- ❖ Please note our next **Troop Court of Honor is the last troop meeting this month-Monday, January 27.** **Please make every effort to attend to support not only your son's rank advancement but all of our hard working scouts.** There will be a small reception following the ceremony.

The Jewish Scouting Religious Emblem Program is designed to give recognition to youth who have demonstrated religious growth. The program originated in 1945 and is as strong as it has ever been. The program is a combination of classroom discussion and individual achievement. The more advanced programs may require service hours or additional homework and may not be completed within the month. Future scheduling will be available. Recognition will still be offered at a Scout Shabbat either at your unit or at the District.

Class Dates: Sunday December 15 4:00-6:00pm – Orientation

Sundays-January 5,12,19,26 & February 2– 4:00-6:00pm

All classes will be held at the Scout Hut at Roswell United Methodist Church
814 Mimosa Boulevard, Roswell GA 30075

(note: students not attending all of the classes will have a little more homework to do)

Questions? Contact trosenberg860@gmail.com

SUMMER CAMP

It's time to register for Summer Camp! Our troop will attend Summer Camp at Woodruff Scout Reservation June 15th – 21st and registration has already started! All information regarding summer camp can be found on the website under the camping tab. Once on the Summer Camp 2014 page, check out the links on right hand side of the page. The "Informational Packet & Registration Forms" link contains all of the detail and logistics. Make sure we know that you want to attend and your desired classes so we can make that happen. **Sign up early to help ensure you get the classes you want as classes do fill up!** **Registration forms must be turned in by Monday, March 24th!** Annual Health & Medicals and additional Summer Camp forms are due Monday, May 5th. For any questions regarding Summer Camp please contact Jason Sutton at the following email address: Jason@GrubbyBoys.com.

Important Information about Health Forms

As we are gearing up for Summer Camp, we will be collecting and updating health forms for both our scouts and registered adults. Forms for all those attending summer camp are due May 5th. A few important pieces of information to keep in mind when you update your forms:

1. It is against BSA policy to accept or store health information via electronic means. You must bring in a hard COPY of forms for us to file.
2. There are times when the C form is needed outside of troop activities, BE SURE to keep a copy of the form with the Doctor signature, DO NOT hand in your only form. We store the forms in a secure locked area, and cannot always get them quickly with only a few days' notice and make a copy. PLEASE help us to make this big job MUCH easier by keeping a copy of your forms at home, both for outside events or in case we need to replace a misfiled copy.
3. Before sending in forms please look them over and make sure all parts of the form have the appropriate signatures and are dated where indicated. Every year we have to track down dozens of parents for unsigned or undated forms.
4. If you need to get a copy completed of your form and your personal physician is not an option, check around for nearby places such as Walgreens, Wellstreet, or other family practices doing specials for inexpensive "sports physicals".

The health form and information can be found via this link

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsorce/healthandsafety/ahmr.aspx>

If you have any questions about Health Forms you can email Pam Sutton at pam@grubbyboys.com



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 (April and May) and Northern Tier (July) 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.

- ❖ **Northern Ridge District:** Recently it was recommended and approved to have the current Chattahoochee District merge with both the current Phoenix and Milton Districts, forming the Northern Ridge District. Therefore we are now part of the Northern Ridge District within the Atlanta Area Council. All District Information (Training/Roundtable/Support) may still be found at <http://www.cdbsa.org/>

SCOUT SUNDAY and SCOUTING FOR FOOD FEBRUARY 2, 2014



If you can, please plan on attending the Mount Pisgah Church on Sunday, Feb 2, 2014. **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 9:00 am service or the 10:30 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!**



MORE NEWS.....

- ❖ **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>.
- ❖ **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 erichoang@yahoo.com.

- ❖ **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>.
- ❖ 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!
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **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: January 13th

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

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

February

February 2nd: Scout Sunday/Scouting for Food Mount Pisgah UMC

February 2nd: Troop Committee Meeting 6 p.m.

February 3rd: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45

February 8th: Scout Sabbath

February 8th-9th: Backpacking Pine Mt/Safari


February 10th: Troop Meeting~ Board of Review 7:15-8:45

February 11th: Merit Badge Help Night 6 p.m.

February 13th: Patrol Leaders Council

February 17th: **School Holiday – No Meeting**

February 24th: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45


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

Each monthly outing for this 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 on 12-5-13

 **LIFE:** none

 **STAR:** John Michael B., Connor C., and Clay V.

 **FIRST CLASS:** J.D. B, Luke L., and Connor N.

 **SECOND CLASS:** Connor N. and Wesley S.

 **TENDERFOOT:** Vumsee P.

 **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 Northern Ridge 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

Training Opportunity for Youth and Leaders - University of Scouting
Saturday January 25, 2014 8am-3.30pm

REGISTRATION CLOSSES JANUARY 10th

Hello Scouting Super Heroes! The University of Scouting (formerly Scouter's Academy) is a Scout leader's learning adventure! It is an action-packed, fun-filled single day of supplemental training where you choose the sessions that you wish to take. Sessions are led by experienced volunteers who will help you enhance your ability to deliver a fun and exciting program to the scouts. Over 50 1-hour classes are offered in many aspects of Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting and Venturing Scouting. Attendance counts toward the Cub Scout Den Leader Award, Scouter Key Award and the Scout Leader's Training Award.

Examples of classes being offered include:

- For Youth: Den Leader Training and ILST
- Creative Outdoor Cooking
- Faith in Scouting
- First Aid Games
- Motivating Boys
- Walking Sticks
- What's in Your Box

- Cub Leader Position Specific Training
- Boys and Blades
- Games with a Purpose
- Cub Science
- Model Den Meeting
- Pack: Can We Do That?
- Webelos Projects
- Webelos to Scout Transition
- Harsh Weather Camping
- High Adventure
- Patrol Method
- Commissioner Training

For more information, including a detailed list of training sessions offered see the University of Scouting brochure.

Location: Mason Creek Middle School, 7777 Mason Creek Rd., Winston, GA 30187

Cost: \$20 or \$22 depending on T shirt size (includes classes, patch, t-shirt and lunch)

Registration closes January 10th: [Register Now for University of Scouting.](#)

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.

GOOD TO KNOW

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 [Northern Ridge 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

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>