



T629 Life Scouts working on Cooking Merit Badge

# BOY SCOUT TROOP 629 NEWSLETTER

March 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](http://www.troop629.org)*



## Scoutmaster Minute by Fran Gillis

Adult volunteers are the heart of the robust high adventure opportunities we are able to offer our Scouts each year. This High Adventure trip process takes some long range planning and some volunteers early on to put a plan in motion. The 2015 activities are already well underway in locking in dates and competition for available slots across America is high. Please let us know early your desire to participate in these activities and ability to take on the training responsibilities to properly prepare for the 13 yr old and older scouts having some really great outing memories. It takes parent involvement to make this happen each year.

The March outing to Okefenokee swamp trip was cancelled because of snow make up day on the teacher day we were using to travel. **A substitute activity for that Sat and Sun, Mar 15-16 with a bike outing or tree top activity at Callaway Gardens has been substituted.** Flyers and web site updates will be available soon!

Summer camp flyers are out and class sign up on going for all older scouts. **New cross over scouts have extra time** and will have a blanket schedule for first year activities.

## Upcoming events- Something for everyone:

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

- **Cancelled due to Snow make up days-** Okefenokee Swamp March 14-16<sup>th</sup>  
*Substitute activity details forthcoming on the Troop Website under EVENTS.*
- Northernridge District Camporee April 25 thru 27 (permission slip due April 21<sup>st</sup>)
- Georgia Aquarium Overnight May 2nd- 3<sup>rd</sup> (Spots are limited: Sign up due April 14<sup>th</sup>)
- Troop Summer Camp at Woodruff June 15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> (registration is underway for all current Scouts. Deadline is March 24<sup>th</sup>!)
- 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



## CAMP CARDS FUNDRAISER

Earn money toward your High Adventure trip by selling Camp Cards! The Camp Card Fundraiser is currently underway. If you have questions contact Mr. Loedding at [loedding@gmail.com](mailto:loedding@gmail.com)

**What's on the cards?:** Look at the cards and see! There's a \$5 discount at Publix, a \$10 discount at Dick's Sporting Goods, free drinks at Waffle House and Quiznos, plus discounts at Bojangles, Great Clips, Midas, and Shane's Rib Shack. Several of the discounts can be used over and over again, too!

**How much do the cards cost?:** \$5.00

**What's in it for me?:** For every card you sell, you get \$2.50, deposited to your High Adventure account. If you sell enough cards, you can also earn Best Buy gift cards, or maybe even an Xbox One if you can sell 1000 cards.

How do I get cards? :Sign out cards, in packs of 20, from Mr. Loedding. You can get 20 at a time.

What if I sell all the cards I got? Can I get more?:Absolutely! At the next troop meeting, just turn in the money from the cards you sold, and you can get more cards!

What if I need more cards before the next troop meeting?: Email Mr. Loedding at [loedding@gmail.com](mailto:loedding@gmail.com) , and arrangements can be made to get you more cards.

How should people pay for the cards?: Cash, or a check made out to Troop 629

What if I don't sell all the cards I took?: Return any unsold, undamaged cards, along with money for the ones you sold, to Mr. Loedding. Returned cards must have both tabs still attached, and must be in good condition. You're responsible for any damaged cards, or cards with removed tabs. You're also responsible for any cards you take. Each card should be treated as a \$5 bill.

When can I sell the cards?: As soon as you get them, until April 21<sup>st</sup>

Where can I sell the cards?: Anywhere it's allowed. We do ask that you not sell the cards in front of our sponsors' business locations. You can sell them in your neighborhood, too but remember the buddy system!

When do I turn in the money?: The deadline is the Troop Meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup> . **This is a FIRM deadline!** Please be sure to turn in all money and unsold cards at that time.

## Troop 1134

### 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Merit Badge University

Saturday, March 15, 2014

7:15 Open-8:00 am first class begins

DeVry University  
2555 Northwinds Pkwy, Alpharetta, GA 30009

Register your scouts at:  
<http://www.meritbadge.info/>

\$10/day/scout  
Scouts can take one or two merit badges  
AM Session 8-12:00 noon  
PM Session 12:30-4:30 pm

Breakfast items, snacks and drinks provided all day at modest cost. \$5 Popeyes box lunch + drink available for pre-order and during the day.

Courses available include: Architecture, Camping, Cooking, Communications, CPR, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Environmental Science, Family Life, First Aid, Law, Personal Management, Personal Fitness, Plumbing, Railroad, Salesmanship & more

Adult sessions available for New Leader Essentials, CPR, Youth Protection, NOVA/STEM Coaching

We're also collecting any old Scout uniforms pieces and camping gear for sharing with the less fortunate and we're collecting any of the green Coleman propane gas canisters for recycling.

#### Questions?

Please contact Scoutmaster Patrick Thompson  
770 329 2746

[johnpatrickthompson@yahoo.com](mailto:johnpatrickthompson@yahoo.com) or you may contact Mrs. Narayanan [kathleen@narayanan.us](mailto:kathleen@narayanan.us)

## Community Event

Learn Football Techniques from the NFL Pros. Join Ellis Hobbs III, former football cornerback in the NFL and his NFL friends for a football camp being held at Autry Mill Middle School on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. Camp #1 9a.m.-noon for elementary students. Camp #2 2p.m.-5p.m. for Middle and High students. Cost is \$85 and sign up is at <http://barnwellfootballcamp.eventzilla.net> Proceeds benefit Barnwell Elementary Foundation. Registration is limited.

## SUMMER CAMP

**It's time to register for Summer Camp!** Our troop will attend Summer Camp at Woodruff Scout Reservation June 15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup>! Annual Health & Medicals and additional Summer Camp forms are due Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. For any questions regarding Summer Camp please contact Jason Sutton at the following email address: [Jason@GrubbyBoys.com](mailto: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 5<sup>th</sup>. 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/scoutsource/healthandsafety/ahmr.aspx>

If you have any questions about Health Forms you can email Pam Sutton at [pam@grubbyboys.com](mailto: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.

## Troop 629 News

- ❖ **Next Committee Meeting is Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm.** in Room A006 South Campus
- ❖ **The Okefenokee trip was cancelled** due to snow make up days for Fulton County Schools.
- ❖ Thanks to Dave Pendery, John Thompson, and Karen Korshak for all of their continued efforts with Webelos Crossovers and new membership.
- ❖ We have welcomed many new crossover scouts this past month and look forward to having many more join our Troop in March. **Welcome to Troop 629 - we're glad you're here!**

- ❖ **Special thanks to Ann Herring** for her help with Scouting for Food and Scout Sunday. We had many Troop 629 adults, scouts, and their parents at Mount Pisgah on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and appreciate everyone's help and support. Through the efforts of our Troop and the generosity of the members of Mount Pisgah, we collected 4,627 items benefiting North Fulton Community Charities.
- ❖ You should have received a mailing from our Troop and ASM Chris Reynolds pertaining to the Atlanta Area Council's annual **Friends of Scouting campaign**. Please don't forget to mail in your donation to Chris in the envelope enclosed in the mailing. If you would like to turn in your donation at a Troop meeting, please give it to Mary Beth Bierbaum. We must have all donations collected no later than March 17. Thank you in advance for your consideration.
- ❖ If you would like some more **Boy Scout popcorn**, the Troop has some items still available. Please contact Rick Taylor at [rick4t@me.com](mailto:rick4t@me.com) if you would like any of the following items below:
  - White Chocolate Pretzel Bag
  - 18 pack Kettle Corn (microwave)
  - 18 pack Butter Light (microwave)
  - Caramel Corn with AP Bag
  - Butter Toffee Caramel Corn
  - Dark & White Chocolate Drizzle
  - Caramel Corn Bag
- ❖ **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/>
- ❖ **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](mailto:erichhoang@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>.
- ❖ **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 1<sup>st</sup> 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: March 17th

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](mailto:Kathleen@narayanan.us) **Reminder: Full Class "A" uniform and Scout handbook are required for participation in a Board of Review.**

## ORGANIZE YOUR FAMILY CALENDAR

### March

**March 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Troop Committee Meeting 6 p.m.

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45

**March 10<sup>th</sup>:** Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45

**March 11<sup>th</sup>:** Merit Badge Help Night 6 p.m.

**March 12<sup>th</sup>:** Patrol Leaders Council

**March 17<sup>th</sup>:** Troop Meeting~Board of Review 7:15-8:45

**March 20<sup>th</sup>:** District Roundtable

**March 21<sup>st-23rd</sup>:** NYLT staff training

**March 24<sup>th</sup>:** Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45

**March 31<sup>st</sup>:** Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45

### April

**April 5<sup>th</sup>-April 8<sup>th</sup>:** 25 Mile Backpack (Philmont Training)

**April 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>:** Sea Base High Adventure

**April 6<sup>th</sup>** Troop Committee Meeting 6 p.m.

**April 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>:** Fulton County School spring break week

**April 10<sup>th</sup>:** Patrol Leaders Council

**April 14<sup>th</sup>:** Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45

**April 17<sup>th</sup>:** District Roundtable

**April 21<sup>st</sup>:** Troop Meeting~Board of Review 7:15-8:45

**April 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>:** District Camporee

**April 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>:** NYLT staff

**April 28<sup>th</sup>:** Special Troop Meeting **Held on South Campus FAMILY LIFE CENTER**

**Calendar and Web Site Information~**  **Check out [www.troop629.org](http://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](mailto:penderyclan@comcast.net)

# SCOUT HANDSHAKE

🦅 EAGLE~👤 LIFE~🌟 STAR~🏆 FIRST CLASS~👤 SECOND CLASS~👤 TENDERFOOT~👤 SCOUT  
Advancement congratulations for this month go to:

🦅 **EAGLE:** Stuart Way  
👤 **LIFE:** none  
🌟 **STAR:** none  
🏆 **FIRST CLASS:** none  
👤 **SECOND CLASS:** none  
👤 **TENDERFOOT:** none  
👤 **SCOUT:** none

**CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU, STUART!**

## 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](mailto: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 qualified.

**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](http://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](mailto: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** *This is Scouting* (Formerly called New Leader Essentials), SALT, ITOLS and/or Committee Training. Information on these training opportunities is available on the Northern Ridge District Website at [www.cdbsa.org](http://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.**

# 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 Camp Card Fundraiser is currently in progress! It's not too late to earn money toward your High Adventure trip with Camp Cards!**

# 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](mailto: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](http://www.troop629.org/Adventure/philmont_gear.htm)

BSA on the Radio [www.radiosandysprings.com](http://www.radiosandysprings.com)

Council-Sponsored Events <http://www.atlantabsa.org>

Scout Shop News [www.scoutstuff.org](http://www.scoutstuff.org)

Merit Badge [www.meritbadge.com](http://www.meritbadge.com)

“ This is Scouting” formerly called New Leader Essentials for Boy Scout Leaders [www.cdbsa.org](http://www.cdbsa.org) Training tab

SALT - Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Leadership Training [www.cdbsa.org](http://www.cdbsa.org) Training tab

ITOLS - Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills [www.cdbsa.org](http://www.cdbsa.org) Training tab