



BOY SCOUT TROOP 629 NEWSLETTER April 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*

TBT Woodruff Scout Camp Summer 2013.....Are you ready for 2014?



Scoutmaster Minute by Fran Gillis

Welcome to all our new scouts and their families! As you begin the trail to Eagle, an individual accomplishment with many troop resources to use along the way, remember it is only one gauge of being a successful boy scout. While some may not make the final recognition it is more important that the ideals and purpose of the program are instilled in each Scout's daily life, thus contributing to the development of great future citizens we are all proud to be associated with. Use all the troop resources available for you to become the best you can be in everything you do - not just in scouting. Our new parent orientation on April 14th is a great place to start the trail with all the best resources possible to help plan out that path,,,,, as it does take a plan not just a "I wish to".

Upcoming events- Something for everyone:

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



- Northernridge District Camporee April 25 thru 27 (*permission slip due April 21st*)
- Georgia Aquarium Overnight May 2nd- 3rd (*Spots are limited: Sign up due April 14th*)
- Troop Summer Camp at Woodruff June 15th-21st (*registration is underway for all current Scouts!*)
- 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

TWO IMPORTANT PARENT MEETINGS

Monday, April 14th is New Parent Orientation during the regular troop meeting 7:15-8:45 upstairs in room S305.

Monday, May 12th is our Summer Camp orientation meeting for new parents or parents who have a scout attending summer camp for the first time. Time 7:15-8:45 upstairs in room S305.

One of the best ways to help your son transition to Boy Scouts successfully is to be involved and to be "in the know", please attend these meetings so you may connect with other new families and help your son transition to being a Boy Scout and having a good summer camp experience.

Troop 629 Eagle Courts of Honor

Mark your calendar to celebrate the Eagle Courts of Honor for these five young men: **Kevin Hoang, Andrew Jaeger, Nolan Rausch, Paden Herring and Stuart Way** on **Saturday, April 19th at 2 p.m.** at the Autrey Mill Nature Preserve-Old Warsaw Church, 9770 Autrey Mill Road in Johns Creek.



CAMP CARDS FUNDRAISER

Attention: All unsold camp cards are to be returned to Mr. Loedding at the April 21st Troop meeting, along with payment for the sold camp cards. Please make every effort to attend this meeting and complete your business for this fundraiser. Questions? Contact Mr. Loedding at loedding@gmail.com

SUMMER CAMP

Our troop will attend Summer Camp at Woodruff Scout Reservation June 15th – 21st.

Parents please help your son be prepared for summer camp!

Please make sure the following are completed:

- ✓ Registration form and course selection turned in?
- ✓ Medical Form up to date and turned in?
- ✓ Payments made and up to date?

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/scoutsource/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.

Troop 629 News

- ❖ Thanks to John Thompson, Karen Korshak and Dave Pendery for all of their continued efforts with Webelos Crossovers and new membership. **Also thank you to all the ASMs and scouts who assisted with the crossovers to welcome our new scouts to Troop 629!**
- ❖ We have welcomed many new crossover scouts this past month. **Welcome to Troop 629 - we're glad you're here!**
- ❖ The Troop Committee Meeting for April will be Sunday, April 13 at 6pm in Room A006 on South Campus.
- ❖ All registered adults please email Kelley Gibson at kgibson@bellsouth.net this month to check the status of your Youth Protection Training so we will all be current.
- ❖ If you would like some more **Boy Scout popcorn**, the Troop has some items still available. Please contact Rick Taylor at rick4t@me.com
- ❖ **The Troop has several 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.
- ❖ **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 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: April 21st

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

April

April 3rd: Patrol Leaders Council

April 5th-April 8th: 25 Mile Backpack (Philmont Training)

April 6th-12th: Sea Base High Adventure

April 6th: Troop Committee Meeting 6 p.m.

April 7th-11th: Fulton County School spring break week

April 10th: Patrol Leaders Council

April 14th: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45~**New Parent Orientation Meeting**

April 17th: District Roundtable

April 19th: Court of Honor for T629 Eagles: Hoang, Jaeger, Rausch, Herring and Way

April 21st: Troop Meeting~Board of Review 7:15-8:45

April 25th-27th: District Camporee

April 25th-27th: NYLT staff

April 28th: Special Troop Meeting **Held on South Campus FAMILY LIFE CENTER**

May

May 2nd-4th: Order of the Arrow Ordeal

May 2nd-3rd: Georgia Aquarium Sleepover

May 4th: Troop Committee Meeting

May 5th: Troop Court of Honor

May 8th: Patrol Leaders Council Annual Planning Meeting

May 12th: Troop Meeting/Summer Camp Meeting/Patrol Elections

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

May 14th: ILST Leadership Training 5-9p.m. room 21

May 15th: District Roundtable

May 16th-18th: Order of the Arrow Ordeal at BASR

May 17th: NYLT set up

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

May 24th–May 30th: SeaBase St. Thomas

May 25th – May 30th: NYLT week #1

May 26th: Memorial Day No Meeting!

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:** none
- 🏹 **LIFE:** Shane S.
- 🏹 **STAR:** none
- 🏹 **FIRST CLASS:** Nathan J. and Alex J.
- 🏹 **SECOND CLASS:** Connor S.
- 🏹 **TENDERFOOT:** Matthew G., Adam K., and Will P.
- 🏹 **SCOUT:** none

CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ALL!

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 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 *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** *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

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.

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

"This is Scouting" formerly called New Leader Essentials for Boy Scout Leaders www.cdbsa.org Training tab

SALT - Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Leadership Training www.cdbsa.org Training tab

ITOLS - Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills www.cdbsa.org Training tab