

# BOY SCOUT TROOP 629

## NEWSLETTER

### August 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)*

Pretty 'n Pink Philmont Crew 2014



#### Scoutmaster Minute by Fran Gillis

Congratulations go out to Boyd Sutton, Troop 629's newest Eagle Scout! Boyd passed his District Board of Review and his recognition ceremony will come in the near future. Pass along your "atta-boy" the next time you see Boyd. Summer outings have been going just great with many new experiences for a lot of our scouts. From summer camp at Woodruff, Philmont backpacking and NAYLE staff, sailing around St Thomas and even a crew now up in Canadian wilderness canoeing; It has been a busy summer and the fall schedule can be just as enjoyable for all those who will just join us. You really do have to participate to enjoy! You cannot say a trip is no good if you have never been. Dauset Nature center outing in August will include some basic outdoor camping skills, swimming, mountain biking and visiting the animal exhibits all in one. Follow up with our annual tubing in Helen and the onto the Olympic white water training park in NC for some fun wet activities. The schedule is posted on our web site so there is no excuse for not knowing what is coming up.

#### Upcoming events- Something for everyone:

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

- Dauset Trail Outing August 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>
- Helen Tubing August 30<sup>th</sup>
- National Whitewater Center, Charlotte NC Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>

Flyers for all upcoming events are posted on the website and available at the table during Troop Meetings:

<http://www.troop629.org/events/index.htm>



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

- ❖ This month's Troop Committee meeting has been rescheduled to Sunday, August 10th at 6pm.
- ❖ **Note:** On **August 11<sup>th</sup> (first day of school)**, we will return to **Class A** uniform requirements for Troop Meetings.
- ❖ **Parents, please remember to put Monday night, August 25, on your family calendars.** This is our next Court of Honor where we will honor all of our scouts who have advanced in rank or have earned merit badges since our April Court of Honor. Please plan to attend and support your son and others in the troop for their great achievements. **If your son has advanced since April, he will be individually recognized during the ceremony as will you, his parents.** **The boys are making their famous cobbler for dessert! Don't miss out!**

- ❖ Any **adult interested in helping with a troop position**, please contact Mary Beth Bierbaum ([marybeth@bierbaum.com](mailto:marybeth@bierbaum.com)/770.442.5306). We have several positions we are trying to fill. Our plan is to have all new people shadow current committee heads so training time will be included in the position transfer.
- ❖ **Merit badge reminder from Scoutmaster Mr. Gillis:** Merit Badges are not complicated but the expectation is for each scout to work on the requirements completely. It's is not a memory test as worksheets are allowed during discussions with your counselor. However each requirement is what each scout must complete and a group session is normally not satisfying a scout's earnest completion of the stated item. Nothing more but nothing less is the expectation. For instance in cooking you must first plan and get approval of the menu, cook and serve for the number of others with the stated cooking elements on time with the approved meal menu and complete the clean-up. Not as a group but as an individual. It's your merit badge and your advancement for your recognition on the trail to Eagle scout.

## Reminders

- ❖ **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.
- ❖ The technical knowledge orientation program called STEM/NOVA is available for all scouts. Details on-line at ( <http://www.bsaseabase.org/Scouting/stem.aspx>). See the SM once you have reviewed the materials and need a counselor or mentor to start working on those special awards.

### The Merit Badge Process



- ❖ 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: August 18th

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

### August

**July 27<sup>th</sup>-August 5<sup>th</sup>:** Northern Tier Crew High Adventure Trip continues

**August 4<sup>th</sup>:** Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45

**August 10<sup>th</sup>:** Troop Committee Meeting 6 p.m.

**August 11<sup>th</sup>:** Fulton County back to school. Troop Meeting 7:15 **Back to Class A uniforms**

**August 12<sup>th</sup>:** Merit Badge Help Night 6 p.m.

**August 14<sup>th</sup>:** Patrol Leaders Council

**August 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>:** Duaset Trail outing

**August 18<sup>th</sup>:** Troop Meeting~Board of Review 7:15-8:45

August 21<sup>st</sup>: District Roundtable

**August 25<sup>th</sup>:** **Troop Court of Honor 7:15 p.m. Parents and families please attend!**

**August 30<sup>th</sup>:** Helen Tubing outing

**Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>:** **No meeting due to Labor Day**

**Sept 7<sup>th</sup>:** Troop Committee Meeting 7:15-8:45

**Sept 8<sup>th</sup>:** Parent Meeting and Dinner/Troop Meeting

**Sept 9<sup>th</sup>:** Merit Badge Help Night 6 p.m.

**Sept 11<sup>th</sup>:** Patrol Leaders Council

**Sept 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>:** National Whitewater Center, Charlotte NC

**Sept 13<sup>th</sup>:** Popcorn Sales Start

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

**Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>:** District Roundtable

**Sept 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>:** Cub-O-Ree

**Sept 21<sup>st</sup>:** Braves Scouts Day

**Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Troop Committee Meeting 7:15-8:45

**Sept 26-28<sup>th</sup>:** Duty to God encampment

**Sept 29<sup>th</sup>:** Troop Committee Meeting 7:15-8:45

Calendar and Web Site Information~  Check out [www.troop629.org](http://www.troop629.org)

**Each monthly outing for the upcoming 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:** Boyd S.
- 👤 **LIFE:** Damani P. and Nick P.
- 🌟 **STAR:** none
- 👤 **FIRST CLASS:** Wesley S.
- 👤 **SECOND CLASS:** none
- 👤 **TENDERFOOT:** Alec R. and Spencer T.
- 👤 **SCOUT:** none

*CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH OF YOU!*

## SCOUTS IN ACTION

Remember all troop pictures are posted on the troop website.



Northern Tier Crew flying out for Minnesota



summer camp -Woodruff

Philmont Crew-New Mexico

Seabase Crew -St. Thomas



# 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 next fundraising opportunity for Troop 629 Scouts will be the annual popcorn sale starting in Sept.**

## 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** ( <http://www.northernridgebsa.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 <https://myscouting.scouting.org>

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)

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

<http://www.northernridgebsa.org/> Training tab

SALT - Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Leadership Training <http://www.northernridgebsa.org/> Training tab

ITOLS - Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills <http://www.northernridgebsa.org/> training tab