

BOY SCOUT TROOP 629 NEWSLETTER September 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



T629 Northern Tier Crew 2014



Scoutmaster Minute by Fran Gillis

Yes, it has been a busy scouting summer and new adventures added to fond memories for many of our scouts. Kicking off the fall schedule, we accomplished our "Back to Basics" outing at Dauset Trail and in September we are heading to the National White Water center in NC for an exciting set of activities. Upcoming, we also have our October trip to camp on the Florida beach and sleep overnight on the USS Alabama battleship.

Scouts have many opportunities to complete their advancement and merit badges but they do need to know the material and follow the process for completion and recognition. Our next year's calendar is on our web site with many sections explaining our program and future events and activities. Our website also has an archive of photographs throughout several past years that you may reference for an idea of what an outing may entail. In addition, our website outlines the process and procedures that T629 follows for advancement, outing registration, training and more. In other words, our website has it all!

Remember, to really be involved in having fun in scouting you **do** have to make the decision to participate and yes, sometimes we hope you join us rather than maybe an hour or two participating in a team sport. Scouting fun and special memories contribute to long term development and normally requires only a weekend a month not just a seasonal effort. So use the website and calendar to plan your next Scouting Adventure!

Upcoming events- Something for everyone:

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

- National Whitewater Center, Charlotte NC Sept. 12th-14th
- Beach Camp & USS Alabama Trip Oct. 11th-13th



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!

- ❖ Just in, **Sea Base high adventure to the Bahamas May 25-31, 2015 has been organized** and just four spaces are left for scouts who be at least First class and 13 years old and out of the 8th grade.
- ❖ The **Annual registration for 2015 will be due by the Oct. 27th Troop Meeting. Dues are \$75 per scout and \$25 per registered leader.** Please make your check payable to Troop 629 and bring it an upcoming Monday night Troop Meeting.

- ❖ In conjunction with re-registration **we would ask for families to update their e-mail information for parents and scouts.** We have a large volume of e-mails and to keep them up to date, we need your help. Please provide us with the e-mail your family prefers for Troop Communications (preferably 1 or 2 emails only please) AND if desired, please provide your Scout's e-mail so he may receive the Newsletter and other reminders directly as well.
- ❖ **Popcorn Sales have begun!** Remember monies earned fund each participating scout's OWN High Adventure Account! Show your business acumen and sell enough popcorn to fund your next High Adventure trip! If you need information or need a packet please see Mr. Taylor at the next Troop Meeting. Or you may contact him at rick4t@icloud.com
- ❖ This month's Troop Committee meeting is set for Sunday September 7th at 6pm.
- ❖ Any **adult interested in helping with a troop position**, please contact Mary Beth Bierbaum (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.

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: September 15th

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

September

Sept. 1st: No meeting due to Labor Day

Sept 7th: Troop Committee Meeting 7:15-8:45

Sept 8th: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45

Sept 9th: Merit Badge Help Night 6 p.m.

Sept 11th: Patrol Leaders Council

Sept 12th-14th: National Whitewater Center, Charlotte NC

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

Sept. 18th: District Roundtable

Sept 21st: Braves Scouts Day

Sept 22nd: Troop Committee Meeting 7:15-8:45

Sept 26-28th: Duty to God encampment

Sept 29th: Troop Committee Meeting 7:15-8:45

October

Oct 4th: Fright Fest

Oct 5th: Eagle Court of Honor for Boyd Sutton @ 2 p.m.~Troop Committee Meeting @ 6 p.m.

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

Oct 9th: Patrol Leaders Council

Oct 11th-13th: Beach Camp and USS Alabama

Oct 13th: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45

Oct 14th: Merit Badge Help Night

Oct 16th: District Roundtable

Oct 20th: Troop Meeting~Board of Review & Popcorn Sales End

Oct 24th-26th: Adult ITOS training opportunity

Oct 27th: Newtown Park meeting with games and treats

Calendar and Web Site Information~  Check out 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 Penderly 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:** Jordan M.

 **STAR:** Duncan H. and Nolan S.

 **FIRST CLASS:** Connor S.

 **SECOND CLASS:** none

 **TENDERFOOT:** Liam B., Aryan J., and Patrick R.

 **SCOUT:** James M. and Jack S.

CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH OF YOU!

SCOUTS IN ACTION

Remember all troop pictures are posted on the troop website.



Vijay portaging at Northern Tier



Being a trained leader pays off in many ways- Northern Tier

Dauset Trail Back to Basics



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 <http://www.northernridgebsa.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 current fundraising**

opportunity for Troop 629 Scouts is the annual popcorn sale!

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](http://www.northernridgebsa.org/) (<http://www.northernridgebsa.org/>) and [Atlanta Area Council](http://www.atlantabsa.org) (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](http://www.mountpisgah.org) (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

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

<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