



Troop 629 National Whitewater Center

BOY SCOUT TROOP 629 NEWSLETTER October 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



Scoutmaster Minute by Fran Gillis

Wow! Last week Connor Clark, Michael Morgan and Vijay Narayanan sat for their District Eagle Board of Reviews and have now been added to Troop 629's Eagle flock. In the future they will schedule individual courts of honor but for now pass long your congratulations when you next see them. **This brings our total Eagles up to 100 since we were first organized over 24 years ago.**

Troop 629 is going strong with many more boys in striking distance of the Eagle rank. The total scouting program immersion makes for a well rounded young man ready to go out and be a great citizen. Participating in outings is just as important as the book check lists so let's all make sure we afford ourselves of the many opportunities that are coming up.

Upcoming events- Something for everyone:

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

- Beach Camp & USS Alabama Trip Oct. 11th-13th
- Newtown Park Troop Meeting/Game Night Oct.27th
- Backing Packing Trip Nov.1st-2nd
- Troop Lock in Dec.12-13th
- New England Ski Trip (Scouts age 14+) Jan.16th-19th



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



Adult Volunteers We Need You!

We are looking for volunteers to help in the following areas:

- Coordinator for Scouting for Food
- Help serve treats and hot cocoa/apple cider to our boys at our Oct. 27th Troop meeting at Newtown Park
- Send in snacks/treats to our Oct. 27th Troop meeting at Newtown Park (please send an email to Mary Beth Bierbaum - marybeth@bierbaum.com to let her know what you are sending in that night.
- Volunteer to take over the Eagle Scout memory book our troop assembles for each of our Eagle Scouts

If you can spare some time to support our Troop 629 boys in any of these areas, please contact Troop Committee Chair, MaryBeth Bierbaum at marybeth@bierbaum.com

Troop 629 News...Hot off the Press!

- ❖ The Troop's next outing- **USS Alabama** is fast approaching with **registrations slips due at the Monday Oct 6, 2014** meeting. We will need driver support especially for a large turnout.
- ❖ We are pleased to announce that our troop is celebrating having 100 Eagle Scouts! We celebrate our three latest Eagle Scouts who mark this achievement: Conner Clark, Michael Morgan, and Vijay Narayanan!
- ❖ Adult leader training is the key for our scouts to have the high adventure trips they all deserve and enjoy. **Please take the extra effort to sign up and get the necessary courses** under your belt early so we can keep scheduling future High Adventure programs which require long lead times and much advanced planning.
- ❖ Please review the troop calendar on line regularly to keep abreast of all our activities and read the event section to get the details and flyers on the upcoming events.
- ❖ Our annual **Newtown Park outdoor evening meeting is October 27** from 7:15-8:45. This is a much anticipated event for the scouts each year with wide open fields for games followed by snacks and drinks.
- ❖ **Sea Base high adventure to the Bahamas May 25-31, 2015 has been organized** and few spaces are left for scouts who be at least First class and 13 years old and out of the 8th grade. If you are interested, make your intentions known now.
- ❖ NYLT participant sign up for Nov and Dec courses is ongoing. This is a week long, proven leadership development course open for First Class scouts who are at least 13 by the course dates. NYLT staff interviews are in December. Graduates of NYLT should sign up now for their interview to be a staff member for NYLT.
- ❖ **Winter camp at Bert Adams** is great place to start working on some merit badges over the holidays. Please see the flier with details on the Troop meeting table. .
- ❖ 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 will close at the end of the month.** 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, October 5th at 6pm.
- ❖ Before forwarding pictures of scouts and events to our webmaster for posting, **please remove duplicate pictures and non scout like photos.** This will help tremendously.
- ❖ Remember - **for the upcoming hike the troop does have gear that you can use.** Please see display at the next meeting and note name and items needed on the list.

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: October 20th

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

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: **No Troop Meeting~School Holiday**

- Oct 14th: Merit Badge Help Night
- Oct 16th: District Roundtable
- Oct 20th: Troop Meeting~Board of Review & Popcorn Sales End
- Oct 24th-26th: Adult ITOLS training opportunity
- Oct 27th: Newtown Park meeting with games and treats

November

- Nov 1-2nd: Backpacking Trip
- Nov 2nd: Troop Committee Meeting 6 p.m.
- Nov 3rd: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45
- Nov 7-9th: OA Ordeal Bert Adams
- Nov 10th: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45~ Senior Patrol Leader/Patrol Leader Elections
- Nov 11th: Merit Badge Help Night 6 p.m.
- Nov 13th: Patrol Leaders Council
- Nov 15th: Autry Mill Service Day
- Nov 17th: Troop Meeting~ Board of Review 7:15-8:45
- Nov 20th: District Roundtable
- Nov 22nd-Nov 26th: NYLT Course

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: Connor Clark, Michael Morgan and Vijay Narayanan
- 👤 LIFE: Colin O.
- 🌟 STAR: none
- 👤 FIRST CLASS: Thomas T.
- 👤 SECOND CLASS: Vumsee P. and Thomas T
- 👤 TENDERFOOT: Blake M.
- 👤 SCOUT: Harrison B. and Mehul D.

CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH OF YOU!

SCOUTS IN ACTION

Remember all troop pictures are posted on the troop website.



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/>)and **Atlanta Area Council** (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).



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