

BOY SCOUT TROOP 629 NEWSLETTER



From the windy beaches at the USS Alabama to the snowy North Georgia mountains, Troop 629 scouts (and leaders!) are having lots of fun and adventure!

November 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

One-hundred Eagles and counting...CONGRATULATIONS to Chase Clark for achieving his Eagle Rank. The boys work very hard to achieve this honor, so please be sure to celebrate each of our Eagles when you see them. And let's not forget all the fun along the way...while advancement toward any rank requires planning, organization, hard work and follow-through, the requirements also include experiencing all the great adventure scouting has to offer. There is a lot of fun involved, not to mention the valuable life skills learned along the way. Please remember to keep the "outing" in scouting... keep reading to find out what fun and adventure is just around the bend for you!

Speaking of fun, organization and like skills, NYLT (National Youth Leadership Training) is a terrific opportunity to combine the best of scout leadership training in a camp setting this winter and summer. Participant registration for Winter Session is still open (Dec. 26-31, 2014). Participant registration for the Summer Sessions opens January 2, 2015. Youth staff applications opened September 1, and interviews are December 7, 2014. More info under the "Training" tab on our Troop web site.



Upcoming events- Something for everyone:

(Flyers are available for each outing under the "Events" tab on our Troop web site and at every meeting.)

- Scout Day at Autry Mill Nov. 15th (see Mr. Sutton to help with this event)
- Troop Lock-in Dec.12-13th (Register by Dec. 8)
- Winter Camp Dec. 27-31st at Bert Adams
- Winterplace (WV) Ski Trip Jan. 1-4 (Register by Dec. 8)
- New England Ski Trip (Scouts age 14+) Jan.16th-19th (see Scoutmaster to reserve space)

...and the list goes on! All events can be found under the "Calendar" tab on our Troop web site.



Flyers for all upcoming events are posted on our web site and available at the info table during Troop Meetings.

Many thanks to all of the families who sent food donations for our Newtown meeting, with special thanks to Wendy Kraemer, Michelle Davis, and Judy Semones who helped serve. We had a table full of goodies that the boys *really* enjoyed, as well as caramel apples, hot chocolate, and apple cider! The few leftovers we had were taken to the Fire Station for our local firemen to enjoy. They were very appreciative of the treats!

We are still looking for adult volunteers for a couple areas...please keep reading to see where you might help!



Adult Volunteers We Need You!

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

- Coordinator for Scouting for Food (February Event)
- Volunteer to take over the Eagle Scout memory book our troop assembles for each of our Eagle Scouts...this can be a group effort and we will show you what to do!
- We will have our Annual End of Year Celebration Monday, December 15th during the regular Monday Troop Meeting. We would love to have some volunteers bring in treats for the boys to enjoy. Please sign up (if you haven't already!) to contribute to the celebration. Sign-up sheets for specific items will be on the info table at our weekly Monday Troop meetings. Thank you in advance for your help with this!

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

Please check our web site often to see all that our Troop has planned – www.troop629.org

Troop 629 News...Hot off the Press!

- ❖ On **November 15th, Autrey Mill Nature Preserve** will be the site of an organized scouting event for younger boy and girl scouts. Troop 629 scouts and adults are being asked to help during the day with the various activities. Volunteers are needed from 9:30 – 2:30. Drop off is at the Nature Preserve and there will be lunch for the helpers.
****See your PL or Mr. Sutton for details and set up some volunteer service hour times.**
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ **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 December 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. This will help prepare you for Troop leadership positions!
- ❖ **Winter camp at Bert Adams** is great place to start working on some merit badges over the holidays...and there are some unique winter MBs you can only earn here! Please see the flier with details on the Troop meeting table.
- ❖ The **Annual registration for 2015 was due by the Oct. 27th Troop Meeting. Annual Dues are \$75 per scout and \$25 per registered leader.** Please contact membership coordinator Karen Korshak at karcpa@comcast.net if you missed the deadline or have questions.
- ❖ **We would like to keep our contact information up-to-date for parents and scouts.** Please provide us with the e-mail your family prefers for Troop Communications AND if desired, please provide your Scout's e-mail so he may receive the Newsletter and other reminders directly as well. Likewise, please let us know if we need to remove any...none of us want an overfilled inbox.

- ❖ **Popcorn Sales closed at the end of the month.** Remember monies earned fund each participating scout's OWN High Adventure Account! We look forward to updates from Mr. Taylor. Thank you for heading up this important Troop fundraiser!
- ❖ Next month's Troop Committee meeting is set for Sunday, December 7th 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.

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: November 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 **Reminder: Full Class "A" uniform and Scout handbook are required for participation in a Board of Review.**

ORGANIZE YOUR FAMILY CALENDAR

November

Nov 1-2nd: Backpacking Trip
Nov 2nd: Troop Committee Meeting 6 pm
Nov 3rd: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45 pm
Nov 7-9th: OA Ordeal Bert Adams
Nov 10th: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45pm~ Senior Patrol Leader/Patrol Leader Elections
Nov 11th: Merit Badge Help Night 6 p.m.
Nov 13th: Patrol Leaders Council & **ILST** (Troop Youth Leader Training) 5pm
Nov 15th: Autry Mill Service Day 9:30am-2:30pm
Nov 17th: Troop Meeting~ Board of Review 7:15-8:45pm
Nov 20th: District Roundtable
Nov 22nd-Nov 26th: NYLT Course
Nov 22nd-Nov 30th: **School Break**
Nov 24th: **Troop Meeting** 7:15-8:45pm Game Night

December

Dec 1: Troop Meeting-**Webelos Visit** 7:15-8:45pm
Dec 6: OA Winter Banquet
Dec 7: **NYLT Staff Interviews**, Troop Committee Meeting 6pm,
Dec 8: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45pm
Dec 9: Merit Badge Help Night 6pm
Dec 11: Patrol Leaders Council
Dec 12-13th: Troop Overnight Lock-in
Dec 13: CPR Training
Dec 15: **Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45pm Board of Review, End of Year Celebration**
Dec 18: District Roundtable
Dec 19: **Last Day of School**
Dec 22: NO Troop Meeting-School Holiday
Dec 26-31st: NYLT Winter Course
Dec 27-31st: Winter Camp at Bert Adams
Dec 29: NO Troop Meeting-School Holiday

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:** Chase Clark
 **LIFE:** Briggs Cline
 **STAR:** none
 **FIRST CLASS:** Matthew Gutierrez
 **SECOND CLASS:** Ryan Thompson
 **TENDERFOOT:** Garrett Hundt, Jackson Orth, Nicholas Rice, Alan Tao
 **SCOUT:** none

CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH OF YOU!

SCOUTS IN ACTION

Remember all troop pictures are posted on the troop website.



An exciting tour of the USS Alabama

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.

****Camp Cards will be coming soon...be on the lookout for more information on this great fundraising opportunity!**

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

Our Troop Web Site is a terrific resource for all you need www.troop629.org ...here are a few links to help you out:

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