

BOY SCOUT TROOP 629 NEWSLETTER

December 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

As the cold winter weather rolls in, who could forget the
fun in the sun...tubing in Helen, GA!

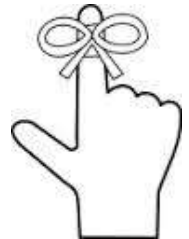


Scoutmaster Minute by Fran Gillis

Happy holiday season to all! It's a great time for all scouts to knuckle down and finish those summer camp merit badges and other goals for advancement. Perfect opportunity to schedule some time each day to get out those scout books and wrap up what you have already started. Your new year will start off with a bang, this will help you stay motivated and keep on rolling along at a steady pace.

We have a lot of activities coming up and we need feedback as soon as possible. Reservations are getting harder to confirm and require earlier confirmation too. Please at least send in the permission slip as soon as possible, we can catch up with cost later. No scout should be declining participation due to cost as we have a scholarship service hour program for them to all earn their way... just work with the SM.

Don't forget to use the troop website to keep up to date on all activities – it's refreshed each time we have a change and normally event flyers are posted with all the details.



Upcoming events - Lots to choose from:

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

- Mistletoe Service Project – **THIS FRIDAY** 4-7pm and **SATURDAY** 12-1pm
- Troop Lock-in Dec.12-13th (Register by Dec. 8)
- Annual Troop Holiday White Elephant Gift Exchange Dec. 15th
- Winter Camp Dec. 27-31st at Bert Adams
- Tree Pick-up Service Day January 3rd
- Winterplace (WV) Ski Trip Jan. 1-4 (Register by Dec. 8)
- Tennessee Aquarium and *CAVING* Jan. 10-11th
- 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.





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!

- ❖ Many Patrol Service Projects are underway...see your Patrol Leader and the Troop website for details.
- ❖ This month's Troop Committee Meeting is set for Sunday, December 7th at 6pm.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ 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: December 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

December

Dec 1: Troop Meeting-**Webelos Visit** 7:15-8:45pm

Dec 5: Mistletoe Service Project 4-7pm

Dec 6: OA Winter Banquet, Mistletoe Service Project 12-1pm

Dec 7: NYLT Staff Interviews, Troop Committee Meeting 6pm,
Dec 8: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45pm
Dec 9: Merit Badge Help Night 6pm, South Campus steps
Dec 11: Patrol Leaders Council, A011
Dec 12-13th: Troop Overnight Lock-in, South Campus
Dec 13: CPR Training
Dec 15: Troop Meeting 7:15-8:45pm Board of Review, End of Year Celebration (White Elephant Gift Exchange)
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








JANUARY 2015

Jan 1-4: Winterplace, VA Ski Trip
Jan 3: Christmas Tree Pick-up
Jan 4: Troop Committee Meeting
Jan 5: Troop Meeting
Jan 6: 1st Day of School
Jan 8: PLC Meeting
Jan 10-11: Tennessee Aquarium and Caving Trip
Jan 12: Troop Meeting
Jan 13: Merit Badge Help Night
Jan 15: District Roundtable
Jan 16-19: Venture NH Ski Trip
Jan 17: NR District Banquet
Jan 19: Troop Meeting, Board of Review
Jan 25: Bag Ho for SFF, Eagle Court of Honor-Morgan
Jan 26: Troop Meeting, Court of Honor
Jan 31: District Banquet, NYLT Staff Orientation

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:** Henry Harden, Sam Warren
 **STAR:** none
 **FIRST CLASS:** none
 **SECOND CLASS:** Patrick Rice
 **TENDERFOOT:** Sam Beagle, T.J. Miller
 **SCOUT:** Ian Griffith

CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH OF YOU!

SCOUTS IN ACTION

Remember all troop pictures are posted on the troop website.



Fun in spite of the cold, hiking the AT!

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