

BOY SCOUT TROOP 629 NEWSLETTER

January 2015

*This newsletter is intended for
Troop 629 scouts and their families.*

All newsletters, pictures and up-to-date information are at www.troop629.org



While some Scouts began the year collecting Christmas Trees...others headed off to ski at Winterplace, WV...

What adventures in Scouting will the New Year bring you?



Scoutmaster Minute by Fran Gillis

We ended the year with two new Eagle scouts! Next time you see Miles Morgan and Tyler Wilson, pass along your congratulations on a job well done. They are part of the eleven scouts making Eagle Scout this year with Troop 629...a banner year! More are on the horizon, which emphasizes the ability of all dedicated scouts to achieve this honor. It's not meant to be easy, but can be accomplished by making a plan, sticking to it, and finding the inner drive to be one of the few.

Looking ahead to important **dates and deadlines** for some of the great activities we have planned this year :

****Our next outing is our caving trip (including the Tennessee Aquarium), January 11-12. Permission slips and payment are due at the January 5th Troop meeting (that's today!). Details can be found on the troop web site under the "Events" tab on the left. www.troop629.org**

****Troop 629 has a slot still available for a week-long Bahamas Sailing Adventure May 25-31, 2015. These High Adventure trips are important development programs and are selected for our older Scouts (14 by event) to help keep up their enthusiasm and put to use the many valuable skills they learn as Scouts...and they're fun!**

****Summer Camp 2015 registration information is posted on the Troop web site. Register now so we can get those Merit Badge classes you need. Summer Camp is an important event in a Scout's road map to Eagle...and a great way to make new friends. More information in this newsletter, so keep reading...**

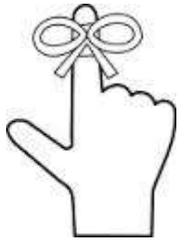
****National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) is one of the best leadership development opportunities a Scout can have. Registration is now open for Scouts who have achieved First Class and are 13 years old.**

****Philmont backpacking in the Rocky Mountains of New Mexico is on tap for June 2016 for the Scouts of Troop 629. Make your deposit reservation to hold a spot. This adventure is tough, but so rewarding for all who attend, fondly remembered as a highlight in a Scout's career.**

Questions? Ask your Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader or the Scoutmaster!



We are always planning for the next activity and need feedback ASAP. 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 miss out on adventure due to cost, as we have a scholarship service hour program for them to all earn their way... just work with the Scoutmaster.



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 event flyers are posted with all the details. Go to the "Events" tab, then click on the event or activity for the flyer/form.

Upcoming events - Lots to choose from for service & adventure:

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

- Tennessee Aquarium and *CAVING*, Jan. 10-11th (forms and payment due Monday 1/5)
- New England Ski Trip – cancelled
- Scout Sunday & Scouting for Food, Feb. 1st (bag handout Jan. 25th)
- Pine Mountain Backpacking, Feb. 7-8th
- Camp Cards are coming! Be at the February 9th meeting to pick yours up!
- Scout Day at the State Capitol, Feb. 25th
- Ossabaw Island trip, Mar. 13-15th



...and the list goes on! All event dates for the year can be found under the "Calendar" tab on our Troop web site, a great place to begin planning for your next adventure! www.troop629.org



Adult Volunteers We Need You!

If you can spare some time to support our Troop 629 Scouts in *any way*, please contact Troop Committee Chair, Mary Beth Bierbaum at marybeth@bierbaum.com

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

A very **BIG** *thank you* to all parents and Scouts who

contributed wonderful treats for our end of the year Troop meeting...YUM! A great time was had by all.

Troop 629 News...Hot off the Press!

- ❖ Our next Court of Honor will be held January 26th during the regular Troop Meeting time...all parents should plan to attend.
- ❖ Autry Mill Nature Center is hosting a Reptile and Amphibian Merit Badge Workshop January 31st from 10am-2pm (\$25/Scout). Most requirements will be completed there, with some follow-up needed. Details and registration at <http://www.autrymill.org/scouts.htm#MeritBadge> Don't delay, space is limited!

SPECIAL REPORT:



Summer Camp

It's time to register for Summer Camp! Our troop will attend Summer Camp at Woodruff Scout Reservation June 14th – 20th and registration has already started!

All information regarding summer camp can be found on the website under the “Camping” tab at the top. Once on the Summer Camp 2015 page, check out the links on right hand side of the page. The “Informational Packet & Registration Forms” link contains all of the detail and logistics. Make sure we know that you want to attend and your desired classes so we can make that happen. **Sign up early to help ensure you get the classes you want as classes do fill up!** Registration forms must be turned in by Monday, March 23rd! Annual Health & Medicals and additional Summer Camp forms are due Monday, May 4th. For any questions regarding Summer Camp please contact Jason Sutton at the following email address: jason@grubbyboys.com.

Important Information about Health Forms

As we are gearing up for Summer Camp, we will be collecting and updating health forms for both our scouts and registered adults. Forms for all of those attending Summer Camp (scouts and adults) are due May 4th. A few important pieces of information to keep in mind when you update your forms:

1. It is against BSA policy to accept or store health information via electronic means. You must bring in a hard COPY of your health form for us to file.
2. There are times when part C of the health form is needed outside of Troop activities, BE SURE to keep a copy of the form with the Doctor signature, DO NOT hand in your only copy. We store the forms in a secure locked area, and cannot always get them quickly with only a few days' notice and make a copy. PLEASE help us to make this big job MUCH easier by keeping a copy of your forms at home, both for outside events or in case we need to replace a misfiled copy.
3. Before sending in forms please look them over and make sure all parts of the form have the appropriate signatures and are dated where indicated. Every year we have to track down dozens of parents for unsigned or undated forms.
4. If your personal physician is not an option to complete the part C of the health form, check around for nearby places such as Walgreens, WellStreet, or other family practices doing specials for inexpensive “sports physicals”.

The health form and information can be found via this link <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/healthandsafety/ahmr.aspx>. Please choose the “Are You Going to Camp?” download link that includes part A, B, and C. If you have any questions about Health Forms you can email Pam Sutton at pam@grubbyboys.com.

Helpful 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. Thank you 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.
- ❖ **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 and 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.

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: January 12th (MB Help 1/13, COH 1/26)

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



JANUARY 2015

- Jan 5: Troop Meeting (bring your Caving/Aquarium permission form & fee)
- Jan 6: Back to School!
- Jan 8: PLC Meeting
- Jan 10-11: Tennessee Aquarium and Caving Trip
- Jan 12: Troop Meeting, Board of Review
- Jan 13: Merit Badge Help Night, 6pm - South Campus
- Jan 15: District Roundtable
- Jan 19: **NO MEETING** - Martin Luther King Day
- Jan 25: Bag Handout for Scouting for Food, Eagle Court of Honor-Morgan (2-4pm)
- Jan 26: Troop Meeting, **Court of Honor**
- Jan 31: District Banquet, NYLT Staff Orientation

FEBRUARY 2015

- Feb 1: Scout Sunday, Scouting for Food, Troop Committee Meeting
- Feb 2: Troop Meeting
- Feb 4: Camp Card Kick-off
- Feb 7: Scout Sabbath, Pine Mountain Backpacking (7th & 8th)
- Feb 9: Troop Meeting
- Feb 10: Merit Badge Help Night, 6pm - South Campus
- Feb 12: PLC Meeting
- Feb 16: **NO MEETING** - President's Day
- Feb 19: District Roundtable
- Feb 21: NYLT Staff Development
- Feb 23: Troop Meeting, Board of Review, Order of the Arrow Elections
- Feb 25: Scout Day at the Capitol

Calendar and Web Site Information ~  Check out the Troop web site at 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 Kathryn Cline, Troop Communications at k.cline@earthlink.net

SCOUT HANDSHAKE

 EAGLE~  LIFE~  STAR~  FIRST CLASS~  SECOND CLASS~  TENDERFOOT~  SCOUT
Advancement congratulations for this month go to:

-  **EAGLE:** Tyler Wilson & Miles Morgan, 12-29-2014
-  **LIFE:** none
-  **STAR:** none
-  **FIRST CLASS:** none
-  **SECOND CLASS:** none
-  **TENDERFOOT:** Harrison Boyd
-  **SCOUT:** none

CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH OF YOU!

SCOUTS IN ACTION

Remember all troop pictures are posted on the troop website.



Neither cold, nor rain would stop the Scouts from skiing!

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 February 9th...be on the lookout for details 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 Scoutmaster 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 Northern Ridge 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