
BOY SCOUT TROOP 629 NEWSLETTER

March 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

Valentine's may have passed, but it's never too late to honor those we love...



We would like to recognize and thank Mr. & Mrs. Sutton for all they do for our Troop. They are the Godsend Award recipients for Troop 629 this year, pictured above at the recent Northern Ridge District Banquet.

And how about 103 Eagle Scouts! Pictured below, Mr. Gillis with a handful of the Eagles of Troop 629.

(Photo courtesy of Bill Creech, MPUMC)



Scoutmaster Minute by Fran Gillis

A Scout is more than the sum of his advancement record. Many of our members truly find the spirit of scouting through their daily actions, following the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Becoming a great citizen with the qualities of servant leadership is one of the most memorable components of our youth growing into manhood. We are all proud of helping on that individual journey. Growing stronger using the qualities of the scouting program has been the path to success for many well-established leaders and is a great guide for all to use. The path is not just the book learning, but the *participation* in all the *program elements* available.

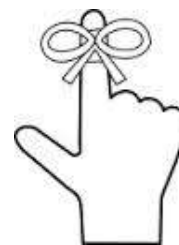
Speaking of participation in program elements...

- **Ossabaw Island Outing** sign-up is closing tonight, March 2nd, with our updated policy to commit to outings two weeks prior. Be sure to bring your completed form(s) and payment to tonight's meeting to be a part of this unique adventure taking place March 13-15th.
- **Summer Camp** sign-up is ongoing, and *Merit Badge Class requests* are needed now to confirm class schedules. Don't miss a great summer adventure by not planning properly. (\$100 deposit was due 2/9 and registration forms are due by Monday 3/23-see Mr. Sutton ASAP with questions-plan ahead!)

- **Spring Camporee** is the weekend of April 17-19th at Bert Adams Scout Reservation. Flyers are on the web site and on the back table at our weekly Troop meetings.
- **High Adventure Trips** are in full swing, with Sea Base-sailing in the Bahamas this April, and Philmont-backpacking in New Mexico in June 2016. Scouts and parents should read the Troop High Adventure Policy on our web site to help the Scout decide which adventure he wants to attend. A key to many a successful Scout's journey is attending these great Crew adventures. A non-refundable deposit is due now to hold your spot. Prior adventures to these sites are available for review on our Troop web site...pictures and helpful hints for planning! Ask someone who has been to tell you all about it.
- Scouts who are at least 13 years old **and** who have achieved First Class should consider attending the week-long **National Youth Leadership Training** (NYLT), a proven course for great servant leader development by many of our Scouts. Going online to register at the Atlanta Area Council web site (aacnylt.org) gets you a spot and definitely helps prepare you for one of the key leadership positions in the troop. See your Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader or Scoutmaster for questions.
- Parents not sure of the **Advancement Process** in our Troop should review the advancement note page on our Troop web site. A Scout is responsible for their own advancement at their own pace, and a parent knowing the guidelines will support the Scout's positive progress towards Eagle rank.



We are always planning for the next activity and need feedback ASAP. Remember that we are asking for CONFIRMATION TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE now. This allows EVERYONE to plan ahead. 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. www.troop629.org

Upcoming events:

(These are just a few highlights - the Calendar on our Troop web site is updated regularly, so check it often! Flyers typically available for each outing under the "Events" tab on our Troop web site and at every meeting.)

- Ossabaw Island trip, Mar. 13-15th (sign-ups due tonight 3/2)
- *Eagle Court of Honor*. Tyler Wilson, Chase Clark, Conner Clark, March 29th
- District Camporee, April 16-19th (sign-ups due 4/6)
- **New Parent Meeting**, April 20, 7:30pm, Studio A (across from Troop meeting area)
- **** Please plan to attend if your Scout has recently joined Troop 629**
- *Eagle Court of Honor*. Miles Morgan, April 26th

**we may still add an outing in April, so pay attention at the Troop meetings, and check the Troop web site Calendar regularly for updates and additional information. www.troop629.org

Keep reading for more news...



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

Have you seen the Rank Board - it has been refreshed and restained by the Narayanan family . . . THANK YOU!!!



Speaking of volunteers –

Many thanks to everyone who came to Mount Pisgah for Scout Sunday and helped sort the food donations that our Scouts collected for Scouting for Food.

We collected over 2000 items which were donated to North Fulton Community Charities. Special thanks to Assistant Scout Master Rick Taylor and to Mrs. Herring for their help and leadership on this project.



WOW! That is going to help a lot of people!

PHOTOS COURTESY OF Bill Creech, MPUMC

See more on the Troop web site

www.troop629.org





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! ★Deposit of \$100 was DUE Monday 2/9, FORMS DUE 3/23!!

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.

- **DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO TURN IN YOUR FORMS!**
- **EVERYONE NEEDS THE NEW 2015 HEALTH FORM THIS YEAR!**

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: March 16th (MB Help 3/10)

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



MARCH 2015

- Mar 1:** Troop Committee Meeting
Mar 2: Troop Meeting
Mar 9: Troop Meeting, Order of the Arrow Elections, MPCS Spring Break (9th-13th)
Mar 10: Merit Badge Help Night, 6pm – South Campus Front Steps
Mar 12: PLC Meeting, 7pm – South Campus, A011
Mar 13: Ossabaw Island Survival (13th-15th), OA Pow Wow (13th-15th), Teacher Workday
Mar 16: Troop Meeting, **Board of Review**
Mar 19: District Roundtable
Mar 20: NYLT Staff Development (20th-22nd)
Mar 23: Troop Meeting, Camp forms due
Mar 29: *Eagle Court of Honor*, Chase Clark, Conner Clark, Tyler Wilson; Troop Committee Meeting
Mar 30: Troop Meeting

APRIL 2015








- Apr 4:** Fulton County Spring Break begins (4th-12th)
Apr 6: **NO MEETING**
Apr 9: PLC Meeting, A011, 7-8pm
Apr 12: Troop Committee Meeting
Apr 13: Troop Meeting
Apr 14: Merit Badge Help Night, 6pm – South Campus Front Steps
Apr 16: District Roundtable
Apr 17-19: District Camporee, NYLT Staff Development
Apr 20: Troop Meeting, **Board of Review** (Remember your Class A & book), Camp Card Finish
****New Parent Meeting, 7:30, Studio A** (across from Troop meeting area)
Apr 24: OA Conclave, (24-26th)
Apr 25: Council Program Meeting
Apr 26: *Eagle Court of Honor*, Miles Morgan
Apr 27: Troop Meeting

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:** none
 **LIFE:** Connor Caddell
 **STAR:** Colin Calvert
 **FIRST CLASS:** Alex Ratchford, Alec Reynolds
 **SECOND CLASS:** Coggan Banerian, Sam Beagle, Alex Ratchford, Alec Reynolds, Alan Tao
 **TENDERFOOT:** Connor O'Sullivan, Kregg O'Sullivan, Alex Ratchford
 **SCOUT:** none

CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH OF YOU!

SCOUTS IN ACTION

Remember all troop pictures are posted on the troop website.



Click below to watch the Pine Mountain Backpacking Trip slide show and video if you haven't already...looks like fun!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uICZnUpEF9I>

*****Like Adventure? Support Friends of Scouting.
Click below or check your U.S. Mail for info.**

<http://www.atlantabsa.org/1455>

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...Camp cards are here!

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 – Arrived on February 9th! Keep selling through April 20th...great way to earn a High Adventure!**

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