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# BOY SCOUT TROOP 629 NEWSLETTER

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**April 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](http://www.troop629.org)*

**Welcome to all of our new Scouts and their families! We're so glad you have chosen Troop 629 for your Boy Scout adventure... Let the fun begin!**



**Ossabaw Wilderness Adventure: Cleaning up the beaches at the secluded private island reserve.**



**Does this qualify as building your own shelter...???**

***Be sure to visit the Troop web site to see more pics of the awesome Ossabaw trip! [www.troop629.org](http://www.troop629.org)***



## **Scoutmaster Minute** by Fran Gillis

It's a busy time for all, and there are many Scouting activities to squeeze in as summer approaches. Keep up with the calendar, as sometimes changes are made...like the Renaissance Festival. It has been moved to early in May with an overnight included. Summer Camp registration is now ongoing with class schedules being locked-in. Time for all Scouts to dust off their advancement plan and update with revised goals to wisely use their time for all events. Review the Troop web site regularly to stay abreast of all our activities so you get the most out of your Scouting participation.

*Speaking of participation...keep reading for lots of opportunities to stay active in your Troop!*

## Good to know...

- **Spring Camporee** is the weekend of April 17-19<sup>th</sup> 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 summer, and Philmont-backpacking in New Mexico in June 2016. Northern Tier canoeing anyone? Ask someone who has been to tell you all about it...most will say it was an adventure of a lifetime!
- 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](http://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.
- Don't forget **NAYLE** (National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience)...the next level of leadership training. It is held at all four of the national High Adventure bases and there are still a few spots left for this summer! Participants must be 14 years old, hold a leadership position, and have completed NYLT.
- 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. Be sure to check out the expectations for participation in meetings and outings.



We are always planning for the next activity and need feedback ASAP. Remember that we are asking for CONFIRMATION TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE. 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](http://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.)

- NO MEETING 4/6 due to Fulton County Spring Break
- District Camporee, April 16-19<sup>th</sup> (no meeting 4/6, so sign-ups due asap!)
- **New Parent Meeting**, April 20, 7:30pm, Studio A (across the hall from regular Troop meeting area)
- **\*\* Please plan to attend if your Scout has recently joined Troop 629**
- *Eagle Court of Honor*. Miles Morgan, April 26<sup>th</sup>
- MERIT BADGE WORKSHOP-Insect Study, Autry Mill Nature Preserve, 10am-2pm
- Renaissance Festival and Campout, May2-3 (sign-ups due 4/20)



## 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](mailto:marybeth@bierbaum.com)



# MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!

## Speaking of volunteers –

Many thanks to everyone who helped out with the Webelos Crossover Ceremonies. We are pleased to have so many new Scouts joining Troop 629. We want to be sure you know what to do, so don't ever hesitate to ask! Check out our web site and remind your parents to attend the NEW PARENT MEETING on April 20<sup>th</sup>.



For those who did not come through Cub Scouts, DON'T WORRY! We're here to guide you along the way as you begin your incredible adventure in Scouting!



Adult volunteers, please be sure to update your training if needed. You will receive a reminder e-mail from Kelley Gibson with plenty of notice to complete your Youth Protection Training...be sure to follow the directions to let us know your training is complete!



# Summer Camp

**It's time to register for Summer Camp!** Our troop will attend Summer Camp at Woodruff Scout Reservation June 14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> and registration has already started! ★Class registration has begun...there is special Mountain Man program for new Scouts. \*\*Health and permission forms due May 4.

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 were due by **Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>**! Annual Health & Medicals and additional Summer Camp forms are due Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. For any questions regarding Summer Camp please contact Jason Sutton at the following email address: [jason@grubbyboys.com](mailto: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 4<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto:pam@grubbyboys.com).

**\*\*DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO TURN IN YOUR FORMS!**  
**\*\*EVERYONE NEEDS THE NEW 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: April 27th** (MB Help 4/21)

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](mailto:Kathleen@narayanan.us) **\*\*Reminder: Full Class "A" uniform and Scout handbook are required for participation in a Board of Review.**

# ORGANIZE YOUR FAMILY CALENDAR



## APRIL 2015

Apr 4: Fulton County Spring Break begins (4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)

Apr 6: **NO MEETING**

Apr 9: *Date Change*-PLC moved to 4/23

Apr 12: Troop Committee Meeting

Apr 13: Troop Meeting

Apr 14: *Date Change*-MB Help moved to 4/21

Apr 16: District Roundtable

Apr 17-19: District Camporee, NYLT Staff Development

Apr 18: Council Program Meeting

Apr 20: Troop Meeting, Camp Card Finish

**\*\*New Parent Meeting, 7:30, Studio A** (across from Troop meeting area)

*Date Change:* BOR moved to 4/27

Apr 21: Merit Badge Help Night, South Campus Steps, 6pm

Apr 23: PLC Meeting, South Campus-A011, 7-8pm

Apr 24: OA Conclave, (24-26<sup>th</sup>)

Apr 25: Council Program Meeting

Apr 26: *Eagle Court of Honor*, Miles Morgan, Autry Mill

Apr 27: Troop Meeting

## MAY 2015

May 1-3: OA Ordeal-Woodruff

May 2: CPR Training

May 2-3: Renaissance Festival & Camping at Cochran Mill

May 4: Court of Honor-Parents and Scouts plan to attend

May 11: Troop Meeting, Troop Elections

May 12: Merit Badge Help Night, South Campus, 6pm

May 14: PLC Meeting, South Campus, A011-Annual Planning

May 15-17: OA Ordeal-Bert Adams

May 18: Troop Meeting, Board of Review

May 21: District Roundtable

May 22: Last Day of SCHOOL!

May 25: **NO MEETING**

### Looking ahead to summer:

NYLT-multiple weeks beginning May 24th

Bahamas Sailing-setting sail May 25th

ILST-leadership training May 27<sup>th</sup>



Calendar and Web Site Information ~  Check out the Troop web site at [www.troop629.org](http://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](mailto:k.cline@earthlink.net)

\*\*We hope that the addition of the Troop dry erase board will serve as a reminder of the most important info each week. Please be sure to take a look when arriving at the weekly Troop Meetings!

# SCOUT HANDSHAKE

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

🏅 **EAGLE:** none  
🏅 **LIFE:** none  
🏅 **STAR:** Jermaine Leon  
🏅 **FIRST CLASS:** none  
🏅 **SECOND CLASS:** Jackson Orth, Nick Rice  
🏅 **TENDERFOOT:** Mehul Dhoot  
🏅 **SCOUT:** none

**CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH OF YOU!**

## SCOUTS IN ACTION

Remember all troop pictures are posted on the troop website.



**The rain at Ossabaw didn't stop the Scouts from heading out for adventure...including their fill of wildlife observation, like the armadillo and snake pictured here.**



## 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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.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 9<sup>th</sup>! Keep selling through April 20<sup>th</sup>...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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.mountpisgah.org) ).



## Flyers & Links

Our Troop Web Site is a terrific resource for all you need [www.troop629.org](http://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](http://www.troop629.org/Adventure/philmont_gear.htm)

Council-Sponsored Events <http://www.atlantabsa.org>

Scout Shop News [www.scoutstuff.org](http://www.scoutstuff.org)

Merit Badge [www.meritbadge.com](http://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