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# BOY SCOUT TROOP 629 NEWSLETTER

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**May 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)*

The newsletter is generally published and posted the first Sunday of  
the month



**Above: What Camporee would be  
complete without a bonfire on the lake?**

**Welcome to our new Scout families who have joined us since March...  
We're glad you're part of the Troop 629 family!**



**Above: Teamwork at the  
District Camporee**

**Below: Look closely...  
those aren't bows and arrows!**



**Be sure to visit the Troop web site to see more pics of the awesome weekend helping out at the  
District Camporee! [www.troop629.org](http://www.troop629.org)**



## Scoutmaster Minute by Fran Gillis

It's a busy month with school activities and scouting changes. Youth leadership will change with elections. With Scouts working on their leadership skills and summer activities, we're gearing up for lots of advancement potential. Keep an eye on the calendar, as changes happen and they get noted on our web site. This month is also the annual planning time. Next year's calendar will be posted after the Patrol Leader's Council annual planning meeting. All Scouts need to carve out some special weekly time over the summer to continue their personal advancement. Goals are achieved more easily using written plans to gauge your progress.

**\*\*Speaking of advancement...**

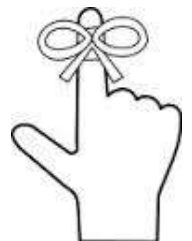
*The next Court of Honor is Monday, May 4th!  
Parents please attend.*

### Good to know...

- **High Adventure Trips** are in full swing, with Sea Base-sailing in the Bahamas this week, 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 MIGHT still be 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.)

- Troop Elections – May 11
- ILST (Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops) & Annual Planning – May 14
- NYLT camps begin – May 24
- Set sail for the Bahamas High Adventure – May 25

\*\*Be sure to pay attention to announcements at the Troop meetings, and check the Troop web site Calendar regularly for updates and additional information. [www.troop629.org](http://www.troop629.org)

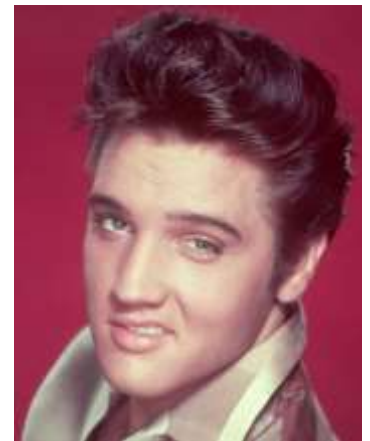


## **Adult Volunteers We Need You!**

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](mailto:marybeth@bierbaum.com)

*Thank you,*

*thank you very much!!*



## **Special Thanks this month to:**

- Traci O'Sullivan, John Thompson, and Karen Korshak for their help in welcoming our new Scouts into our Troop
- Mr. Dirk Loedding for heading the Camp Card Council Fundraiser on behalf of our Troop
- Mr. Chris Reynolds for leading the Council's Friends of Scouting Campaign on behalf of our Troop
- Mr. and Mrs. Sutton for scheduling and registering our Scouts for Summer Camp and for leading our Troop's Summer Camp Trip
- Our entire Eagle Court of Honor Reception Team...it's been a busy Spring for Eagle Scouts –thank you for helping make it special



# 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! **\*\*Health and permission forms due May 4 with any outstanding payments.**

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: May 18th** (MB Help 5/12)

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



## May 2015

**May 4:** Troop Court of Honor – all Scouts and Parents please attend

**May 11: Troop Elections** (regular Troop Meeting time and place)

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

**May 14:** *ILST & Annual Planning, 5-9pm*

**May 15-17:** BASR Ordeal

**May 18:** Board of Review, Troop Meeting

**May 21:** District Roundtable

**May 22:** LAST DAY OF SCHOOL! (Fulton County)

**May 24-29:** NYLT Course 1 & 2

**May 25:** **NO MEETING** (Memorial Day)

**May 25-31:** Bahamas High Adventure Sailing

**May 27:** ILST

**May 31-June 5:** NYLT Course 3 & 4

## June 2015 (stay tuned for additions and changes!)

**June 1:** Troop Meeting

**June 7:** Troop Committee Meeting

**June 7-12:** NYLT Course 5 & 6

**June 8:** Troop Meeting

**June 11:** PLC, South Campus, A011, 7-8pm

**June 14-20:** **SUMMER CAMP** – Woodruff Scout Reservation

**June 18:** District Roundtable

**June 19:** NYLT Staff Party

**June 20:** NYLT Tear Down

**June 22:** Troop Meeting

**June 29:** Troop Meeting

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)

## SCOUT HANDSHAKE

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

🦅 **EAGLE:** none

🌱 **LIFE:** Conner Spence

🌟 **STAR:** Will Sunderland

👦 **FIRST CLASS:** Spencer Taylor

👦 **SECOND CLASS:** Hunter Siegel, Spencer Taylor

👦 **TENDERFOOT:** Hunter Siegel, Jack Southard

🌟 **SCOUT:** Connor Siddall, Taylor Warren

# CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH OF YOU!

## SCOUTS IN ACTION

Remember all troop pictures are posted on the troop website. <http://www.troop629.org/>



Neither rain, nor sleet, nor dark of...*MORNING?*

Nothing stops our Scouts, pictured here setting up for the District Camporee.

Below,  
Grub Masters cookin' up  
some good grub!



You, too, could become a Trained Adult Leader...working hard to support our Scouts in every Adventure!



**Loads more fun in picture at our Troop web site**

**<http://www.troop629.org/>**

# 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...what's your earning potential?



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 – Fundraiser ended April 20<sup>th</sup>...can't wait to see how you did!**

Stay tuned for the stats!



# Just in case you didn't 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