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# TROOP 629 NEWSLETTER

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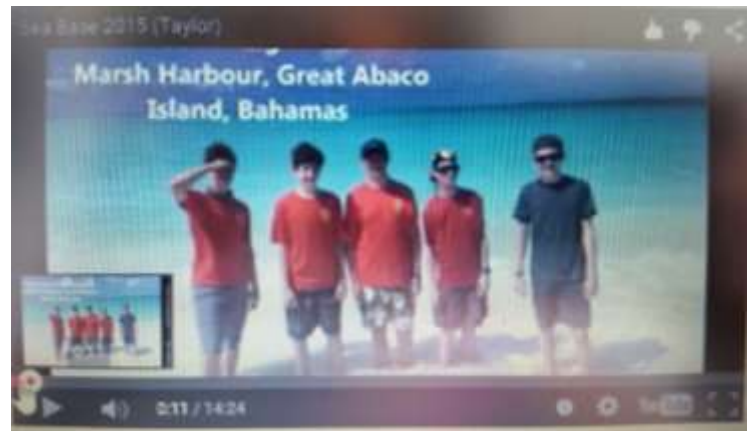
## July 2015

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



*Have you ever sailed around the Bahamas?*

*Check out the Troop web site for these  
pictures in action in their High Adventure videos!*



*These Scouts have!*

*All newsletters, pictures and up-to-date information are at [www.troop629.org](http://www.troop629.org)*

**\*\*IF YOU ARE NOT RECEIVING THE TROOP NEWSLETTER OR OTHER TROOP COMMUNICATIONS, PLEASE EMAIL:  
Kathryn Cline, Troop Communications at [k.cline@earthlink.net](mailto:k.cline@earthlink.net)**



## Scoutmaster Minute by Fran Gillis

A select few of our unit provided fantastic support as staff for the Council National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) camp. In this leadership role, they supported many participants, including a few of our own for a start to a wonderful scouting summer.

A crew back from sailing in the Bahamas and 65 Scouts back from a hot and active week of Summer Camp at Woodruff are hopefully prepared to finish off the advancement requirements they have been exposed to. Heading into July, we have a few activities scheduled and our back-to-school basics outing scheduled for Victoria Bryant State Park in mid-August...with details, of course, on our Troop web site. A key to being successful with the advancement process is to make a "written" plan and clearly post it so you can see it daily and remain on track. While technological devices are wonderful, they still require you to bring it up...a written posted plan in always there reminding you to keep after your personal promises of improvement.

## Good to know (from the Scoutmaster)...

- Six Flags-White Water Adventure is July 22<sup>nd</sup>...as long as we have at least 15 Scouts sign up (to qualify for the group discount). Drivers are needed.
- Kayak trip for all swimmers July 25th...great day to try it out on the Broad River near Athens.
- Our Annual Calendar is posted on the Troop website. \*\*Some dates have changed, so please check!
- Adults need to verify that they are up-to-date in all training needed to properly participate.
- Next year we have a High Adventure Trip sailing in the Bahamas over Spring Break and backpacking at Philmont in late June. Slots are held with a \$100 deposit check and are available for all qualified Scouts and Scouters.
- Summer Meetings will continue to be held on the South Campus in the Family Life Center, with Scouts needing only their red Troop t-shirts.

## ...more good to know info

- Planning ahead: 2016 Troop Dues of \$75 will begin to be collected August 3<sup>rd</sup> and must be submitted no later than September 28<sup>th</sup>. Checks should be made payable to Troop 629. For any questions, please contact Troop Committee Chair Mary Beth Bierbaum at [marybeth@bierbaum.com](mailto:marybeth@bierbaum.com)
- Please continue to keep us informed of any changes to phone numbers, addresses and other details so we can have an accurate roster and contact information.

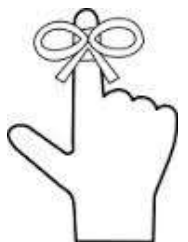
## Summer is a great time for advancement !

- 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.)

- Six Flags/White Water Outing 7/22 \*\*new date
- Broad Creek Kayaking 7/25 \*\*new date
- World Jamboree in Japan 7/28-8/8
- Victoria Bryant Outing 8/14-16
- Eagle Court of Honor, Jacob Korshak 8/16

\*\*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 to the following men who spent the week with our Scouts at Woodruff...*

Mr. Bryan Berryman	Mr. Dirk Loedding	Mr. Barton Rice
Mr. Fran Gillis	Mr. Venkat Poliseti	Mr. Jason Sutton
Mr. Louis Guttierrez	Mr. Chris Reynolds	Mr. Bob Warren

*...Couldn't have done it without you!*

## 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: July 20th** (MB Help is available at *all weekly summer Troop Meetings*)

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**

\*\*please check the Troop web site for changes (link below)



### July 2015

**July 5:** Color Guard for Services; Troop Committee Meeting - *Cancelled*

**July 6:** Troop Meeting @ FLC

**July 11:** CAAB MB's (Camp Allatoona Aquatics Base)

**July 13:** Troop Meeting @ FLC

**July 16:** District Roundtable

**July 20:** Troop Meeting @ FLC; *Board of Review (bring your Class A Uniform)*

**July 22:** *Six Flags White Water Outing*

**July 25:** *Broad Creek Kayaking Outing; CAAB MB's*

**July 27:** Troop Meeting @ FLC (last summer meeting on South Campus with Class B red t-shirts)

**July 28-August 8:** *World Jamboree in Japan*

### August 2015

**August 1:** CAAB MB's

**August 2:** Troop Committee Meeting

**August 3:** Troop Meeting, North Campus, Class A uniform; Popcorn Handouts (Orders Due 8/24)

**August 8:** CAAB MB's

**August 10:** Troop Meeting, North Campus; School Starts (Fulton County)

**August 13:** PLC Meeting, A011, 7-8pm

**August 14-16:** Victoria Bryant Outing

**August 16:** **Eagle Court of Honor, Jacob Korshak**

**August 17:** Troop Meeting, North Campus; Board of Review

**August 20:** District Roundtable

**August 24:** Troop Meeting; Popcorn Orders Due

**August 25:** Troop 25<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary








**August 31:** Troop Meeting; *Court of Honor (Dutch Oven)*

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:** Nolan Siegel
-  **STAR:** none
-  **FIRST CLASS:** Alan Tao
-  **SECOND CLASS:** Connor O'Sullivan
-  **TENDERFOOT:** none
-  **SCOUT:** A.J. Berryman, David Gutierrez, Ben Hayes, Aiden Maltby, Cole Spence

**CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH OF YOU!**

## SCOUTS IN ACTION

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



Visit the Troop web site to hear the sounds a conch shell makes  
And to see your fellow Scouts learning to Captain a sailboat!



**Loads more fun in video 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.

Could you earn enough to pay your way to sail around the islands of the Bahamas, hike through the mountains of Philmont, or canoe through the rivers of the Northern Tier?

**Popcorn Sales begin in August!**

# 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