
TROOP 629 NEWSLETTER

May 2016

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

The news has undergone an *mini*-design change! We have had intentional redundancies built in, but have decided to try to streamline...

So pay attention, or you might miss something!

****Coming Soon: Insider's Guide to Troop 629****

NO PICS THIS TIME...

DON'T MISS THE SLIDE SHOW TONIGHT-SEA BASE!

****All newsletters, pictures and up-to-date information are at 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**



Scoutmaster Minute by Fran Gillis

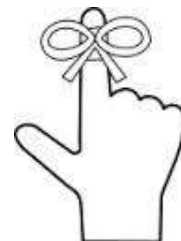
Congratulations to our first ever Silver Palm awardee. Eagle Scout Boyd Sutton passed his Board of Review for his third palm, a continuation of his advancement beyond Eagle Scout to be the first ever Eagle Scout in our Troop to reach this level. Servant leadership has really taken hold in this young man's life and is a model for others to follow.

- Our High Adventure Outings depend on parents or guardians to stand up and be the fully trained adult for a successful trip. We need to identify those adults sometimes a year out, so please let us know as soon as possible if you can be the one to support your Scout's super trip which brings lasting memories for all.
- Take special note that our summer meetings are held on South Campus of Mount Pisgah in the Family Life Center (FLC) and Scouts only need their red shirts for uniform wear.
- Join us at the May 2nd Court of Honor to celebrate your Scout's accomplishments over the past 5 months and get the latest news items to stay on track for a fun and adventurous Scouting program.
- Attention Scouts: Earn Service hours and have fun doing it! Contact Mr. Gillis to sign up to help at the BARNIVAL, Barnwell Elementary School's annual fundraiser. They need volunteers at the school on Friday, May 13th, 5-9pm.



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 check with the Scoutmaster. **Can you help DRIVE the Scouts? Let us know! We would certainly appreciate your help!**

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





Adult Volunteers We **APPRECIATE** 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 We are specifically looking for the following help:

Troop Court of Honor:

- Hosts
- Refreshments Coordinators
- Mother's Ribbons Assistant

-Advancement Assistant

-Lending Closet Coordinator

Eagle Court of Honor:

- Hosts
- Refreshments Coordinators
- Proclamation pick-up
(great for someone who works downtown!)

- Troop Meeting Special Events
Snack Donation Coordinator

Something spark your interest? See Mary Beth Bierbaum!

Need Gear? Outgrown your uniforms?

- ❖ **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. Our Troop website 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. Don't forget we have Merit Badge Books too! Court of Honor is a great night to get uniforms or bring donations! Please view at: <http://www.troop629.org/about/lending.htm>.

Advancement News...

UPDATED RANK REQUIREMENTS**

The BSA periodically updates the handbook and other details of Scout Advancement. The Troop will keep you posted on how these changes affect you, so be on the lookout. Please see Mrs. Narayanan or Mr. Gillis if you have any questions. And keep forging ahead!

Upcoming Troop Board of Review: May 16th (MB Help 5/10...*plan ahead for the next BOR!*)

Be sure to read the Troop **Advancement Guidelines on the Troop web site. This will help you succeed!

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.

SCOUT HANDSHAKE

🦅 EAGLE~👤 LIFE~🌟 STAR~👤 FIRST CLASS~👤 SECOND CLASS~👤 TENDERFOOT~👤 SCOUT

Advancement congratulations for this month go to:



SILVER PALM: Boyd Sutton



EAGLE: none



LIFE: none



STAR: none



FIRST CLASS: Harrison Boyd, Justin Jung, Adam Ketchum, Connor O'Sullivan, Kregg O'Sullivan



SECOND CLASS: none



TENDERFOOT: Patrick Cho



SCOUT: Blake Campbell, Ethan Campbell, Carter Dessommes, Harrison Kemp, Jack Phillips, Mason Ray

CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH OF YOU!

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 whom. To complete the summer camp merit badges or any other please follow these simple rules.

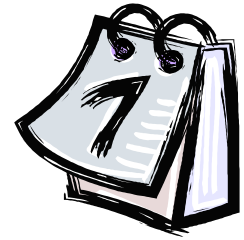
1. **Read the book from cover to cover.**
2. Bring any completed paperwork to a meeting or Merit Badge Help Night (generally Tuesday before BOR-check the Troop calendar) and coordinate with the Scoutmaster to meet with an approved Merit Badge Counselor.
3. Sit down with the Counselor and explain, show or complete the requirements as detailed.
4. It's not about a memory test – it is about comprehension and covering the material as stated.
5. Did we mention you need to read the book ***first***? The *WHOLE* book...



Be sure to note all the additional Merit Badge opportunities OUTSIDE of Troop activities to help you advance. There are offerings all over the place!!

ORGANIZE YOUR FAMILY CALENDAR

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



May 2016

May 1: Troop Committee Meeting

May 2: Troop Meeting, Court of Honor **Camp Cards Due!

May 9: Troop Meeting, Parent Summer Camp Meeting **Health Forms Due!

May 10: Merit Badge Help Night, South Campus, 6pm

May 14-15: Renaissance Festival Outing

May 16: Troop Meeting, Board of Review **AND** SPL/PL Elections

May 23: Troop Meeting

May 26: Fulton County-Last Day of School, SPL/PLC Annual Planning

May 27: MPCS-Last Day of School

May 30: NO MEETING

June 2016

June 5: Troop Committee Meeting

June 6: Troop Meeting **SUMMER LOCATION, South Campus FLC

June 9: PLC Meeting, A-011, 7-8pm

June 12-17 NYLT Course 5 & 6

June 13: Troop Meeting, Board of Review

June 16: District Roundtable

June 19-25: Summer Camp @ Woodruff Scout Reservation (*no meeting June 20)

June 22-July 5: Philmont High Adventure Backpacking Trip

June 27: Troop Meeting

Don't wait for the newsletter...find all you need to know online!

Calendar and Web Site Information ~  Check out the Troop web site at www.troop629.org

***Each monthly outing for the ENTIRE 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

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 and opportunities.

**Sometimes, we just need adults for supervision,
But some outings require a little more training...
See Mr. Gillis to find out what you need to do to join the fun!**

***Be on the lookout for an email from Mr. Gibson to remind you of expiration/training deadlines.

SPECIAL REPORT:



Summer Camp

Our troop will attend Summer Camp at Woodruff Scout Reservation June 19th-25th!

****ALL FORMS, PAYMENT, AND BSA HEALTH & MEDICAL FORMS DUE MONDAY 5/9**

All information regarding summer camp can be found on the website under the “Camping” tab at the top. Once on the Summer Camp 2016 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. Annual Health & Medicals and additional Summer Camp forms are due Monday, May 9th. 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 9th. 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.

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.

CAMP CARDS ARE FINISHED!!! WHAT DID YOU EARN?

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.

- ❖ **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. Thank you!

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 out!** 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).

