

TROOP 629

Newsletter **SEPTEMBER 2005**

**This newsletter is intended for scouts and their families.
Please assist us in sharing this information with other parents
and scouts.**

Hot Topics in this Edition

September 1: Bring your appetite – POPCORN SALES BEGIN

September 4: (6:00) Troop Committee Meeting

September 5: LABOR DAY

September 8: RSVP DUE for Adult BBQ due

September 8: (7:30 to 9:00) OA and RT Meeting

September 9, 10, 11: Order of the Arrow Fellowship

September 9, 10, 11: Wood badge Course One

(<http://www.atlantabsa.org/training.htm#WB>)

September 10: Chattahoochee District Junior Leader Orientation Workshop

September 10, 11: Equipment clean up day

September 11: (6:00 to 7:00) ADULT SCOUT KICKOFF BBQ and MEETING

September 12: (7:15 to 9:00) Troop Meeting – Permission slip due for Canoe Trip

September 12: Church Dinner Father / Son

September 13: (6:00 to 7:00) Merritt Badge HELP night

September 13: (7:30) New Leaders Essentials

September 14: SALT

September 15: (7:00 to 9:00) Patrol Leaders Council

September 16, 17: Friday Show-n-sell POPCORN SALE distribution

September 17 to 18: Canoeing / Kayaking on the Broad River (Athens, GA)

September 18: ITOLS Orientation

September 19: (7:15 to 9:00) Troop Meeting

September 19: BOARD OF REVIEW

September 21: SALT

September 22: Life to Eagle Clinic and Board of Review

September 23,24,25: Wood badge Course Two

September 26: (7:15 to 9:00) Troop Meeting

September 28: SALT

September 30: Wood badge Course One, Part Two

October 1, 2: Wood badge Course One, Part Two

October 1: Order of the Arrow Adventure Camp Bert Adams, SR

October 1: Fall Family Fun Fest

October 2: (6:00) Troop Committee Meeting

October 3: (7:15 to 9:00) Troop Meeting

Busy Month!

Special Announcements:

URGENT:

All Troop 629 adults are invited to attend a get-together on Sunday, September 11th to kick-off the new scout year. The event takes place in the dining room of Mount Pisgah (main floor of Building A).

6:00 - 6:30 PM: BBQ Dinner - 6:30 - 7:00 PM: Meeting

The BBQ Dinner is pulled pork sandwiches and side dishes, drinks and dessert. (Another meat choice is available upon request for those who cannot have pork). **Cost of the dinner is \$5 per person** and is payable in cash or check during the dinner. If you plan to attend the dinner, please RSVP to Wendy Kraemer by Thursday, September 8th at WLKraemer@bellsouth.net

Canoeing or Kayaking on the Broad River (Athens GA)

When: Troop 629 September 17-18, 2005

Cost: \$30 (includes rentals, fees and food)

Depart : Saturday Sep 17th at 7:15 AM from Mt Pisgah

Return: Sunday Sep 18th at Noon to Mt Pisgah.

Packing list: Obtain from the website

Permission slip and check: *Due by Sep 12th meeting*

Please indicate if Kayak or canoeing with a buddy.

Wear your bathing suit, troop red t-shirt and have closed toe shoes to get wet as we will be heading straight to the outfitter for launching on Saturday. Glasses need head strap and wide brim hat is suggested.

(Dress for canoeing when you show up as we will start on arrival)

Chattahoochee District Junior Leader Orientation Workshop

When: Saturday September 10, 2005 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Where: Mt Pisgah United Methodist Church, (Building A-basement room 21/22)

Due: Registration/Permission Slip received by September 8th, 2005

(No late registrations & must attend entire day!).

Cost: Including snack and lunch, is \$5.00 (\$13.50 if elect to receive the PL or SPL handbook). If your unit needs help putting together a Troop Junior Leader Workshop here is a course on one way to do it using the National course syllabus. This will be a youth run course utilizing staff that are all graduates of the Council advanced Junior Leader Training Course (Green Bar), have served on Green Bar staff. For each unit's "train the trainer" troop Junior Leaders who are approved by their home unit SM, current SPL/ASPL or future course instructors.

MAIL to: T629 SM Fran Gillis (770-649-7825), 2012 Falcon Glen CT, Alpharetta, GA 30022 or e-mail (gillisfx@aol.com) for questions.

Equipment Clean up HELP WANTED! (Be an American!)

Adult volunteers are needed for Saturday, 9/10, and/or Sunday, 9/11, to help clean and repair troop camping equipment. Work will be done in the vicinity of our storage shed at Mt. Pisgah UMC. Saturday's work will be from 3:00 to 6:00 PM (after the JLOW course ends).

Sunday's work will be from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. Mike Deaton is coordinating this work effort.

Please e-mail Mike at mdeaton@mindspring.com to advise if you will be able to help on either day. We mainly want adults for this project, but we could also use a few boys who are willing to work hard on this project. Mike will reply to volunteers with more details by Friday evening, 9/9. Call Mike at 770-552-7888 with any questions.

POPCORN SALES KICK OFF!

Hopefully by now your son has told you about the popcorn kickoff that took place at the Aug 15 troop meeting. If he didn't, don't fret, Mr. Rocchio is here to save the day!

Monday Troop Meetings – See me (Mr. Rocchio) to get your popcorn packet and begin selling immediately. As of last meeting (8/22), 34 scouts have received their packages, but that leaves many more that haven't. If you are selling, make sure to pick up a packet from Mr Rocchio.

Friday September 16/ Saturday September 17 – show-n-sell distribution. Pick up pre-orders (show-n-sell). I will be picking up the orders on this day. Depending on what is pre-ordered, I may need some help with multiple vehicles.

Friday September 23 – show-n-sell at Blockbuster video (Holcomb Bridge @ Old Alabama) 4-7 PM

Saturday September 24 – show -n-sell at Blockbuster video “ “
4-7PM

Saturday September 24 – show-n-sell at Lowes (Windward Pky and Ga 9 @) 9AM-12PM

Sunday September 25 - show-n-sell at Kroger (Haynes @ Old Alabama) 1PM-4PM

Monday October 24 – Take Orders are due to me at Troop meeting

Saturday November 12 – Take Order distribution

Monday November 28 – Take Order Money due

NEW! - First time this year is online ordering. This is perfect for out of town family & friends. Popcorn can be ordered all year long. Scout will get order credit for what is ordered; however they will **not** get Prize credit. This is meant to be used for out of town family & friends only and not as a replacement for local family & friends & neighbors.

The method to do this is as follows: Scout sends emails to out of town family & friends with two pieces of information:

- a. web site orderpopcorn.com
 - b. Order key code
 - i. I will need a list of scouts that are planning to take advantage of this.
Send an email to me (frocchio@bellsouth.net) with the scout name and “popcorn key code” in subject line. I will reply back with this information within a few days of message.
- 2) Family & Friends become customers ordering at orderpopcorn.com using scout's order key code which they get in step 1b above.
 - 3) Order is filled and shipped directly to Family & Friends
 - 4) Shipping is included in price
 - 5) Scout and Council receive order credit (Remember, no prize credit for this transaction)

Prizes! Top Seller in the council will get a laptop! Top Seller in the district gets a PSP! Top Seller in the troop gets an IPOD! To be eligible, a scout has to sell a minimum of \$1000 worth of popcorn. Should be a piece of cake for budding salesman! Any Scout who sells \$1500 gets a bonus of \$50 gift certificate and two tickets to Six Flags. Any scout who sells \$2000 will be eligible for scholarship money when that time comes around.

Selling popcorn can be used towards Salesmanship Merit badge. Go to <http://www.meritbadge.com/mb/099.htm> for details on merit badge requirements.

Finally, if there are any questions please do not hesitate to call or email. Frank Rocchio, Troop 629 popcorn “kernel”, frocchio@bellsouth.net, home: 770 664 9314

Fall Flower Sale

Begins in the first part of September- Get ready for ACTION! Here are some preliminary dates:

Fall Flower Sale pick date will be 10/21 (5:30 - 7:30 pm)

Spring Flower Sale pick date will be 4/14 (5:30 - 7:30 pm)

For more information please contact Kathleen Narayanan Tel: (770) 740-2211 ext. 302

Cell: (404) 735-2731, kathleen@avalonintl.com

Dembowski's Update:

A hearty THANK YOU and congratulations goes out to Wendy Kraemer!!! Wendy has agreed to be our new Troop Committee Chairman and will be working with Linda Dembowski together during this school season to transition into this position. Beginning in January Wendy will be listed as the new Troop Committee Chair when we officially re-charter the troop with the BSA Atlanta Area Council. **THANK YOU Wendy!**

Upcoming Service Projects: Troop 629 will be assisting with Mount Pisgah's Fall Family Fun Fest on Saturday October 1st. Please look for upcoming flyers and information on this important event or see Assistant Scout Master Mr. Cliff Brown for more information as to how to participate and help out on this important event.

Linda Dembowski, lindahd@ofsoptics.com



Scoutmaster Minute, by Scoutmaster Fran Gillis

I have recently talked about active participation but want to move onto another reason why Eagle scouts are recognized for having something special and needed in our future leaders. The patrol method ingredient is a strong part of the program that teaches teamwork, provides early leadership opportunities and special peer group dynamics over a steady longer period of time which are so vital in everything that will come to our scouts in their futures. A strong troop has active participating members who are truly part of a patrol or crew. Many of our scouts are failing here because they are not there regularly supporting and participating in their patrol activities designed to enhance their learning and developmental experience. Eagle scout and being a successful scout is not just about passing off requirements. It's the path getting there and the experiences and activities along the way and interactions between the youth and adults exposed to during those 4-7 years that is the developmental aspects so important for the well rounded individual that has become the hallmark throughout the country far exceeding any few months of sports or infrequent school activity. Too many times our scouts are selecting the alternatives rather than putting their effort and time into the time tested patrol method program that has real value in the long run. Scouting allows every member to be the best they can be not just a very select few. So where should the time be used more wisely? Is scouting your number one choice or what to do each weekend or always in the back seat?

EMAIL REQUEST-

Please send all new or revised scout email addresses to Mr. Ruggles, communication director for Troop 629 at joe@realtyexecutivesUSA.com -

SEA BASE 2006

We still need one additional Trained Leader for our Sea Base trip in April of 2006 (Fulton County School Spring Break). Those who have signed on for a week of sailing, sun and fun, please make sure you \$100.00 deposit is in ASAP. If you would like to attend Sea Base but are not yet trained, there are ITOLS and SALT training in September 2005. Please step up and assist us so we can send 2 crews to Sea Base in 2006. For further information, please contact John DiPietro at jddipietro@dir-law.com or call at 404-644-6539 (cell) or 770-667-3414 (home).

Northern Tier 2006

Troop is looking into a Canadian bound backwoods canoeing adventure with Northern Tier High adventure program next summer. Will you be First Class and at least 13 – if so, are you interested in going. We need to know interest soon to lock in a trip so go to the web site or get a form at the meeting and let us know your intentions.

Short on Cash, but love to travel?

For all scouting activities the Troop has set up a scholarship fund to help any individual who may just not capable to participate at any particular time or event through a service hour trade off agreement with Committee Chair know you if you have any individual needs. Our goal is not to deny any scout an opportunity they truly want to participate in. The high adventure bases and camps also normally run scholarship applications for those various events, just ask us for the forms if help is needed for a particular event. **The High Adventure** bases and camps also normally have scholarship applications available for those individual events. Just ask the Scoutmaster for the form if help is needed for a particular event.

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS BE SOMEBODY!

Rank Advancement - Congratulations to all!

Rank Advancements (August)

2nd Class - Chris Brown

1st Class - Daniel Bodamer

Life - Zack Brasher

Next Board of Review (BOR) - Monday, SEPTEMBER 19

All Scouts must have their Scoutmaster Conference before signing up for their BOR with Mrs. Smith. Remember: Wear your Class A uniform and bring your Scout handbook to your BOR.

Summer Camp/Whitewater Rafting Patches

If you attended Summer Camp 2005 and did not receive a patch at the August 29 Court of Honor, please see Mrs. Smith at the next Troop meeting.

Merit Badge University

The Merit Badge Calendar offers many merit badge opportunities. Scouts follow the links to download Registration Forms and Merit Badge fliers. The Merit Badge Calendar is updated as new merit badge opportunities become available. Check out Merit Badge University at: <http://www.meritbadge.info/>.

Life Scouts from Scout Master Gillis

All you need to know about moving up and completing your Eagle is on our web site and the Atlanta Area Council site as well. It's never too early to start but it is too late to finish if you wait to put together the necessary documents at the last minute. Plan ahead, space your time (better yet do it now so you will not feel under pressure when you begin running out of time). We have over 20 Life scouts now and so few working to knock out a little at a time. We certainly have procrastination running rapid throughout these scouts so whoever is bottling it and passing along please pass it to someone else besides our scouts.

Merit Badge Reminder from Scout Master Gillis

PLEASE UNDERSTAND 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 TIMES. THE ONLY EXCEPTION ON MONDAY'S IS THAT SCOUTS CAN OPT TO WORK ON MERIT BADGES DURING "GAME TIME".

Reading the whole MB book from cover to cover is required. This is not a negotiable and it doesn't matter where the MB was started or with who. To complete the summer camp merit badges or any other follow the simple rules. Read the book from cover to cover. Bring any completed paperwork to a meeting or merit badge help night and coordinate an approved counselor from the scoutmaster. Sit down with the counselor and explain, show or complete the requirements as detailed. Its not about a memory test – it is about comprehension and covering the material as stated.

The second Tuesday of every month the SM will be available at the Mount Pisgah Rm C006 from 6-7 PM for those who need extra help with merit badge requirements or advancement. The next one is scheduled for Sep 13th.

Order of the Arrow

Every month on the second Thursday there is a district OA gathering OA members can attend. See your OA rep for details.: <http://www.cdbsa.org/Pages/OA.htm>

Scout Merit Badge Opportunities

SERVICE PROJECTS and Special Events:

The Troop frequently has last minute service project opportunities and their scouting activities for scouts to participate in. Keep an eye out for them weekly, look on the bulletin board and pick up the flyers that are usually at the meeting.

Upcoming Troop Board of Reviews: Monday September 19

After a scout completes his Scoutmaster conference, he must notify Mrs. Smith, Troop Advancement Chairperson, that he is ready for the next BOR. *Reminder:* Full Class "A" uniform and Scout handbook are required for participation in a Board of Review.



ADULTS – PARENTS TROOP 629 NEEDS YOU!

All adults are required by this troop to be properly trained for the event they are participating in. From being properly prepared just for a weekend outing to getting all the specialized training for high adventure now is the time to get yourself into those classes so you can help be ready on time.

Our adults are encouraged to participate in one of the many training opportunities available for scouting. A great way to get started is by completing the online Boy Scout Fast Start or Youth Protection Training located at the Chattahoochee web site via a link from our troop's web site: www.troop629.org. To participate as an adult leader in the troop on overnight camping, you must complete Youth Protection Training, Fast Start and review the Troop 629 Adult Guide.

Assistant Scoutmasters and Committee Members must complete the above training and New Leaders Essentials, SALT, ITOLS and/or Committee Training. Information on these training opportunities are available on the [Chattahoochee District web site](#). To participate in [High Adventure](#), leaders must complete all the above along with special classes such as CPR, FA, safety afloat, and safe swim.

- ♦ NOTE: For Youth Protection and Fast Start, print from web site your completion form page and pass to the unit's training chairperson. When you have completed any of the BSA training, please contact Linda Dembowski at lindahd@ofsoptics.com or call her at 770-552-1472 or/ and to volunteer

Adult volunteers

A lot of behind the scene necessary support in running an active Troop comes from many adults giving special efforts in their own way. If you are one of the adults that just isn't able to lock in a routine support directly with the program other support needs are there waiting. Contact our committee chair for a list of those opportunities to help the evolving dynamic program.

On all trips we request adults clearly state their intentions if providing transportation support with the number of passengers that you can handle in the vehicle being used.

There are currently several KEY positions which are in need of new volunteers!!! If you are interested in helping out, please contact Linda Dembowski at lindahd@ofsoptics.com or call her at 770-552-1472 to volunteer.

Monthly reminders



Patrol Leaders Council

Once a month our SPL leads his PLC to formulate the plans for meetings and activities. Changes and or improvements are discussed at that time and all scouts should be making sure their representative is up to date on issues, concerns and program request. Next PLC is set for **September 15, 2005**. Another reason to check the Troop bulletin board or web site to keep the ever dynamic and fluid scouting calendar up to date.

LET'S GO KROGERING – TURN YOUR GROCERY SHOPPING INTO CASH FOR TROOP 629!

DID YOU KNOW? The Kroger Gift Card program is the largest fundraiser for Troop 629. Just by grocery shopping at Kroger you can support the Scouts of Troop 629. This fundraiser does not cost anything above your donation – the amount you donate to the Troop is the amount you receive in the Kroger Gift Card. (Example: Donate \$100 monthly to Troop 629 and you receive a monthly Kroger Gift Card in the amount of \$100).

[In May, our Troop received \$294.25; in June - \$298.00; in July - \$285.50, and in August - \$271.00.] We have lost several participants due to family moves, graduates, etc. We need more participants!

Thanks to all of the families currently participating (35 families)! If you would like to increase your monthly amount, please contact Susan Cook at (678) 297-7766.

If you are not currently participating, please consider this painless and easy fundraising opportunity – for additional information/questions and to sign up, please contact Susan Cook at (678) 297-7766.

Lending Closet

The Troop maintains a scout uniform exchange or drop off point for all to use. With growth spurts for young scouts it's hard at times to keep them outfitted for activities. Bring in your used or any pieces you come across and add to closet and feel free to pick up an item at any meeting. Ask for other items that may be store at another of our locations.

Uniforms

At all troop activities a designated uniform is specified. Also during Troop meetings the proper wear of the uniform shirt during the school year is expected and all great scouts are not without their handbook to make a complete uniform. Proper uniform includes your shirt tucked in and closed toe shoes! Please dress for the weather as some activities are outside.

REMINDER: It is the BSA insurance policy that no open toe shoes to be worn on any activity. This includes meetings, camping and water activities. The only exception is flip flops for showers but sandals are a no go for any activity we do including weekly meetings. **Scouts will not be allowed to participate if they show up with open toe shoes.** Once school is out we will conduct meetings with our Troop Red Field T-shirt as the primary uniform throughout the summer.

Patrol food items

Non Perishable (left over) from camping trips that can be reused need to be turned in with the patrol gear at the end of each trip and are stored by the troop in special patrol containers. This will help cut back on some cost for future trips and eliminate some waste now ongoing. A scout buying food will get a menu to use with a budget to follow. It's important to follow the list and items/quantities specified as the menu has been planned for patrol guest and other program considerations. Purchase slips are turned into the Troop Treasurer for reimbursement after each trip by the patrol scout grubmaster for that trip.

CALENDAR AND WEB SITE INFORMATION

The Troop has its annual calendar published and it's available for all on the web site

www.troop629.org

Our Chattahoochee District (www.cdbsa.org) and Atlanta Area Council (www.atlantabsa.org) have web sites as well where additional information is also available concerning upcoming events.

Please note that Troop meeting start time at 7:15 and closing at 8:45 PM on Mondays.

Please show up on time so we can start the program on time.

Keep an eye out for new opportunities that crop up for special events and classes being offered. Details can be found on the bulletin board for emergency disaster exercises looking for scouts to participate in, special merit badge sessions for railroad MB and nature events. Those kind of events are open to all scouts but generally are not organized for attendance as a Troop activity. Normally an individual parent takes on the lead to help arrange rides and details.

Keep us updated on changes to phone numbers, address and e-mail accounts.

***Communication channels works best when everyone
is getting and giving timely information.***

“View the bulletin board and troop web site for latest details.”

Questions concerning this publication?

Joe and Neal Ruggles

Receive this by email, just send your email address to joe@RealtyExecutivesUSA.com

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