



BOY SCOUT TROOP 629 NEWSLETTER

February 2008

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

DOWNLOAD THIS NEWSLETTER AT THE www.troop629.org

Scoutmaster Minute by Fran Gillis

A good habit to for each scout to get into is to have a written plan on how they will be meeting the goals they have established for themselves. Be it for school or scouting, that plan should probably be based around a calendar with key dates of actions required and it should be clearly visible and/or reviewed on a daily basis – say like on the bedroom door so you get to see it each day as you come and go. Some short term goals and of course the long term goal of making eagle could be annotated on that calendar with notations of each new rank on that trail is desired, upcoming activities and key participation requirements. That long term goal should also have a target for obtaining eagle rank by the summer of your Junior year in high school to obtain the maximum benefit for senior year college and scholarship applications. So why not take a few moments now to put together that dynamic plan and have a pencil handy nearby to add and change those key dates as they become known to update each and every day as you go forward on your personal quest.

*******ORGANIZE YOUR FAMILY CALENDAR*******

February Reminders (Patrols collect canned food for NFCC):

Feb 1st-2nd: Lock-in

Feb 2nd: GB TG Training “A” ~ Gwinnett Gladiators Night (‘Be Prepared’ section)

Feb 3rd: *Committee Meeting has been moved to Feb. 4th*

Feb 4th: 6:30 Committee Meeting prior to 7:15 Troop Meeting ~ 1st Summer Camp deposit due ~ Pine Mntn. Backpacking Money/Slips due

Feb 7th: District Banquet

Feb 9th-10th: Pine Mountain (Ga.) Backpacking

Feb 10th: Mount Pisgah Scout Sunday ~ Will C. ECOH

Feb 11th: Troop Meeting ~ Board of Review (*new date*)

Feb 12th: Merit Badge Help

Feb 14th: RT & OA Meeting

Feb 16th: GB TG Training “B” ~ KSU Basketball night (‘Be Prepared’ section)

Feb 17th: Scout Night at Circus (‘Be Prepared’ section)

Feb 18th: Troop Meeting ~ Presidents Day (No School in Fulton Co.)

Feb 20th: Deadline to register for Advance A Rama MB Clinic

Feb 21st: Patrol Leader’s Council ~ Scout Night at Circus (‘Be Prepared’ section)

Feb 22nd: Scout Night at Circus (‘Be Prepared’ section)

Feb 22nd-24th: Green Bar Staff Development

Feb 25th: Troop Meeting ~ Flower Sales Kick-off

Feb 27th: Half Day of School

March Reminders:

- Mar 1st: Advance A Rama MB Clinic
- Mar 2nd: Committee Meeting
- Mar 3rd: Troop Meeting
- Mar 8th: Scout CPR Saturday
- Mar 9th: Daylight Saving Time
- Mar 10th: Troop Meeting ~ Ossabaw Island registration/fee due
- Mar 11th: Merit Badge Help – NLE
- Mar 13th: RT & OA Meeting
- Mar 14th: No School in Fulton Co.
- Mar 14th-16th: Ossabaw Island Camping
- Mar 16th: ITOLS
- Mar 17th: Troop Meeting ~ Board of Review ~ St. Patrick's Day
- Mar 19th: SALT I of III
- Mar 20th: Patrol Leader's Council
- Mar 23rd: Easter
- Mar 24th: Troop Meeting ~ 2nd Summer Camp deposit and MB Class fees due ~ OA Elections
- Mar 26th: SALT II of III
- Mar 28th-30th: Green Bar Staff Development ~ ITOLS
- Mar 29th: Good Turn at National Park Service Cleanup (see *Flyers*)
- Mar 31st: Troop Meeting ~ Flower Sales End (orders due) ~ Summer Camp MB sections due

*****DEADLINES AND DATES*****

Please frequently visit our [website](#). It is a dynamic, changing document that will keep you abreast of all troop activities and catch up on any of the latest changes. Click on Calendar for the most current information. You'll also find more meeting dates and service project opportunities. The troop annual calendar has been formulated by the Patrol Leaders Council, who has a special meeting once a year to plan next year's events and activities. Also look for flyers at meetings or postings on the bulletin board.



Preparation for Next Troop Outings ... a.k.a ... Cures for Boredom and Laziness ...

~~~~~ **Scouting for Food** is being run by the Patrols. See "Making History" section of this newsletter for information. ~~~~~ **Troop 629 Lock-in** is always anticipated and well attended. It begins **Friday night, Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>** and ends **Saturday morning the 2<sup>nd</sup>**. ~~~~~ **Pine Mountain Trail in Georgia** is a fun annual 12-15 mile backpacking trip and this year will be on **Feb 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>**. The **fee and permission slip is due Feb 4<sup>th</sup>**. ~~~~~ **Summer Camp 2008 at Woodruff (June 15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>)** packets on-line and at troop meetings along with sign-up start this month with **initial deposits due by Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>**. Web link is included in the *Flyers* section below. ~~~~~ **Ossabaw Island** (Georgia barrier "invitation only" island) trip planned for **March 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>**. **Fee and registration due March 10<sup>th</sup>**.

## Flyers

Tons of Troop Pictures - fantastic new format! <http://tinyurl.com/2yetln>

Advance A Rama <http://www.meritbadge.info/mbn/EventDetails.aspx?ID=240>

Spring Flower Sales <http://www.troop629.org/flowers/index.htm>

Ossabaw Island camping <http://tinyurl.com/2lrmel>

Scout CPR Saturday <http://www.goodturn.net/>

Lock-in <http://tinyurl.com/2zdja5>

Pine Mountain Backpacking <http://tinyurl.com/2eq4vx>

Summer Camp 2008 <http://www.troop629.org:80/camping/summercamp2008.htm>

Friends of Scouting (FOS) <http://www.cdbsa.org/Events/FOS/FOS.htm>

National Park Service Cleanup <http://www.goodturn.net/events>

Adult Spring Training (NLE, SALT, ITOLS) <http://www.cdbsa.org/Training/TrainingCal.htm>

NLE <http://www.cdbsa.org/training/Training.htm#NLE>

SALT <http://www.cdbsa.org/training/CD-SALT-Flyer.pdf>

ITOLS <http://www.cdbsa.org/training/CD-ITOLS-Flyer.pdf>

Wood Badge 2008 <http://tinyurl.com/34hize>

Sea Base 2008 (Tall Ship Sailing) <http://tinyurl.com/2ibzh3>

Northern Tier <http://tinyurl.com/2zm7fm>

## Next Troop Board of Review – February 11<sup>th</sup>

*Please read carefully:* After a scout completes his **Scoutmaster Conference**, he must notify **Mrs. Narayanan**, Troop Advancement Chair, that he is ready for the next **B.O.R.** Reminder: **Full Class “A” uniform** and **Scout handbook** are **required** for participation in a **Board of Review**.

## Troop Committee Meeting – re-scheduled to Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>

Our February committee meeting has been re-scheduled to **6:30 pm-7:15 pm Monday, Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>**, just prior to the Troop Meeting. The Committee will meet in the sanctuary on South Campus (usual Monday night meeting area).

## Pine Mountain Backpacking



This is a fun two-day trip to cover a 12-15 miles trek along the **Pine Mountain Trail in Georgia**. Hikers depart **morning of Sat., Feb 9<sup>th</sup>** and **return afternoon of Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup>**. **Permission slip and \$20** (cost of meals and trail fees) are **due Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>**. Backpackers need to coordinate with a buddy to pack in all the gear they need for the overnight trek. See the link in the **Flyer** section for more details or contact your PL (Patrol Leader), SPL (Senior Patrol Leader) or SM (Scoutmaster).

## Spring Flower Sales begin

Packets will be distributed at **Monday's meeting on Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>**. The scouts have 5 weekends to sell.



Do not fret over the drought ruining our fundraiser. We will still have our water-friendly planters and hanging baskets on the menu. A single order of one of these items can earn as much (if not more) to a boy's High Adventure account as if he were to sell one flat. **Orders are due** to be turned in on Monday night **March 31<sup>st</sup>**. Upon your return from spring break the flower orders will be delivered for **pickup after noon on Friday April 18<sup>th</sup>** at the back lot of the Mount Pisgah South Chapel. Orders can also be handily placed on the troop's website <http://www.troop629.org/flowers/index.htm> -spread the word to your neighbors.

This fundraiser is designed especially to boost the individual scouts' High Adventure accounts. It has one of the highest profit margins of the troop's various fundraising events, and there are scouts who earn hundreds of dollars every year from it. **Chad Colopy** has agreed to partner with **Chris Cotney** to run the troop's spring flower sales this year. Thank you Chris and Chad for sharing your Green Thumbs!

## Camp on your own Private Georgia Barrier Island!

Your PLC (Patrol Leader Council) has outdone itself in planning a fun outing for you! Leave early Fri. morning (Fulton Co. teacher workday) **March 14<sup>th</sup>** to **Ossabaw Island** – an “invitation only” Georgia barrier island. A charter boat will ferry you there for a two-night camping adventure (our troop will be only group there) and then ferry you back to the Georgia coast on **March 16<sup>th</sup>** to arrive back at Mount Pisgah late afternoon. Service hours can be earned on this trip. See link in **Flyer** section above for more details. To realize what a rare treat this is, just ask anyone you see if they’ve visited *any* barrier island – if they have then ask if it was restricted and by invitation only! Cost for camping fee, food and charter boat service is **\$65 and is due along with registration on March 10<sup>th</sup>**. “**Limited Space**”

## 2008 Summer Camp at Woodruff

Summer Camp 2008 flyers are out and registration has begun. Make sure you get your copy and have you submitted your **merit badge selections by March 31<sup>st</sup>**

so you have the best possible chance at getting your first choice options. The sooner you review the material and make your decisions, the more you’ll love summer camp. Important details are on the troop web site under the *Camping* tab (across the top of page) or see the link in the **Flyers** section above. **The first deposit is due Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>; second deposit is due March 24<sup>th</sup>; and final deposit is due May 5<sup>th</sup> along with your troop permission slip and medical form (Class II or III, depending on activities).** Plan ahead as these medical forms involve a doctor’s visit and signature ~ appointments aren’t always easy to get at the last minute. See your SM with any summer camp questions.



## \*\*\*\*\*SCOUT HANDSHAKE\*\*\*\*\*

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

## Eagle Congratulations

Troop 629’s newest Eagle Scout, **Will C.** has planned his special ceremony to celebrate and receive his Eagle award on **Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup>**. The ceremony will take place at Mount Pisgah, **North Campus Sanctuary, upper level in Room S305 at 5:00pm**. Eagle Courts of Honor are very special recognition evenings and we hope that all scouts will attend with their families. Moms, don’t forget to wear your Mother’s Ribbons to these ceremonies.

## Advancement Congratulations for the month of January go to:

- 🦅 **EAGLE:** (none this month)
- 👤 **LIFE:** (none this month)
- 🌟 **STAR:** Aroon N.
- 👤 **FIRST CLASS:** (none this month)
- 👤 **SECOND CLASS:** Walker B., Nate B. and Conner P.
- 👤 **TENDERFOOT:** Chris W.
- 👤 **SCOUT:** Sam Q.

## Godsend Award for Troop 629 goes to.....

Congratulations **Leslie & Chris Cotney!** Once a year, troop adults vote on a person or couple who significantly impact our troop in a positive way. Leslie and Chris were recognized by the District at the Annual Banquet this year for Troop 629’s choice for the Godsend Award. They have given a great deal of their time which has impacted our troop in very positive ways over several years. Thank you for “Team Cotney” for making Troop 629 a better troop.

### **Troop Receives Generous Donation**

Again this year we have been extremely fortunate to be able to continue our special leadership scholarship fund for all of our developing youth leaders through the generous donation of **David Lu, MEHA Engineering, Inc.** This fund goes directly into our scouts High Adventure account to reimburse them for any expenses associated with improving their leadership skills and training which comes back to our unit in better trained youth. The annual Green Bar National Youth Leadership Training and trips out to Philmont for National Advanced reimbursed by the Troop scholarship is directly supported by this generous donation for our scouts. Pass along your thanks to David when you see him next time.

### **Annual Re-Charter/Membership**

A big “thank you” goes to **Mount Pisgah United Methodist Church** for their continued support of the Scouting program. In early December we finalized membership for the upcoming year. Currently we have 80 Scouts with approximately 50 registered adults which include several Eagle Scouts who are now adult members. We usually have about twenty new scouts on an annual basis that crossover from the local packs to our troop in the spring. Thank you **Erica Fica** for handling the Annual Re-Charter for Troop 629 which included the update of scout membership records along with fees for each scout.

### **Troop 629 loves its volunteers**

A double scout salute is in order for two troop volunteers. Thank you, **Mike Deaton** for tending to our scouts’ needs over the past year while pursuing religious awards in the troop’s BSA Religious Emblems Program. As Mike steps down from organizing our program, **Frank Rocchio** has agreed to take over the title of organizer. Thank you both for recognizing and acting upon the needs of our troop and its scouts.

### **January’s Court of Honor**

On Monday, Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> the Troop held a Court of Honor to recognize *many* scouts and adult leaders for their accomplishments since the last COH in September. If you’ve not attended a COH in a while, you are missing out on a very impressive ceremony that speaks highly of our youth who run Troop 629 and adult volunteers who aide them. In summary: 34 Rank Advancements were awarded to 28 scouts and pinned to Mother’s Ribbons; 22 scouts received a total of 39 Merit Badges; and 17 Special Awards and Training Recognitions (Troop Leader Training, CPR and Den Chief Service Award) were dispersed among 15 scouts. The spotlight also shone on the troop adults: Awards and Recognitions were given to 14 leaders spanning 8 various programs or events; and 4 adults were acknowledged for pursuing 9 courses in Adult Training. Troop 629 received high recognition in 3 areas: National Quality Unit Award; North Fulton District Honor Unit Award and 100% Boys Life. The evening of recognitions was completed with the Troop’s annual Godsend Award being presented to Leslie and Chris Cotney for the positive impact they’ve made in our troop. Hope you didn’t miss this hour-packed, inspiring ceremony which only occurs approximately three times a year. Mark your calendar for **May 5<sup>th</sup> for the troop’s next COH.** Chances are pretty good that your scout will be standing to receive recognition for his accomplishments and an adult friend will deserve your applause.

### **It Stands Repeating**

At the January COH, 15 scouts were acknowledged in three areas of Special Awards and Training. These scouts were: **Den Chief Service Award** to Derrick G. and Aron N. ~~ **CPR Training** to Bill R. ~~ **TLT (Troop Leader Training)** to Jonathan A., Christopher B., Blake C., Grayson C., James D., Chap F., Derrick G., Will H., Philip K., Alex K., Dylan L., Aron N., Bryan R., and Logan W. Troop 629 is proud of its scouts.

## **No stitches, no casts, no lines!!!**

Thank you, **Fran Gillis** and **Gregg Brasher** for undertaking the detailed organization that went into our two annual ski trips this year to Winterplace and Venture's New Hampshire trip. The careful planning was apparent because the good timing avoided crowds on the slopes and at check-in. We know the scouts and parents are grateful to you both for all your efforts made on behalf of the troop.

## **\*\*\*\*\*MAKING HISTORY\*\*\*\*\***

(A section dedicated to articles submitted by our Scouts)

### **“Scouting for Food” by Hairy Pig Patrol Leader, James D.**

Yes it is that time again. Patrols will be collecting food for the North Fulton Community Charities all through January and February. They will be doing it differently this year though. Each patrol will collect as many cans as possible. At the end of the two months which ever patrol gets the most cans they **will win a trip to Q-zar for laser tag and all you can eat at Cici's pizza. If the troop gets 10,000 cans or more Mr. Gillis will dress up ridiculously. So talk to your Patrol Leader and collect, collect, collect!!!!**

### **Wills Park Service Project by Cory F.**

For the month of December, the Venture patrol went to Wills Park and picked up trash around the park from 1:30 to 3:30. Afterwards, we had some refreshments and played some football in the park. Will H., Alex K. and Cory F. attended.

### **Norwegian Deer Meat Patrol Service Outing by Blake C.**

During December the Norwegian Deer Meat Patrol had a wonderful service outing that benefited the community very much. During this Patrol outing Logan W., Walker B., and Blake C. picked up trash and fished junk out of the pond near the playgrounds at Newtown Park for 3 hours. But 2/3rds of the way through we were forced to go underneath the pavilion due to heavy rain and wind and **Xtreme** temperature. The rain cleared up and we kept picking up junk. Later we messed around with the Frisbee and soccer. It was a pretty good outing, I guess.

## **\*\*\*\*\*EARNING POWER\*\*\*\*\***

### **Missed the opportunity to earn H.A. \$\$\$? Don't despair ...**

Fundraisers have provided many of our scouts with additional funds to use for skiing, summer camp and any High Adventure outing. Look for the next (think **spring flower sales on Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>**). 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. Keep an eye on the newsletter, website and troop bulletin board for future to *sign up* and earn.

### **Troop 629 Scout Activity Scholarships**

Through a community service work effort, opportunities are available to all our scouts who may have a temporary cash flow problem. Troop 629 believes that no scout should be denied participation in a troop outing or event because of this very solvable problem. We can help each scout earn his own way easily enough by working off his payments with approved service hours. *Just ask* Scoutmaster Gillis to work out your scholarship plan, then sign up for that outing you want to go on.

## **Fabulous Troop Fundraising Activity: KROGER GIFT CARDS - \$\$ Turn your grocery shopping into funds for our Scouts in Troop 629 at no cost to you! Why not participate?**

Join Troop 629 families in this fabulous, painless and easy monthly fundraiser. By just participating in this generous Kroger program at no cost to you and in conjunction with your normal routine of family grocery shopping, our **troop receives 5%** of our total gift card orders each month. These funds go directly to keep the costs down on each of our monthly activities and to help pay for various troop operational costs and scholarships. The gift cards can be used at any Kroger store or Kroger fuel center [during each use your purchase is deducted and when the amount of the card is depleted, it is kept by the cashier – new cards are issued each month and mailed to you]. There is **no service charge** – (if you order a \$50 Kroger gift card, you will receive a \$50 Kroger gift card)! To get started, call or e-mail [Susan Cook](mailto:Susan.Cook@scout629.org) (678-297-7766) with this information:

- Name; Address; Phone #; E-mail address; Amount for Monthly Kroger gift card (i.e. \$25; \$40; \$50; \$75; \$100, \$200...etc.)

Orders are placed at the end of the month for the following month. Susan will mail your Kroger gift card to you at the beginning of each month (with enclosed reminder of amount owed and her address to send payment). Return payment in the mail to Susan (she should receive this by the 22<sup>nd</sup> of the month) or you can bring payment on a Monday night troop meeting and give to her.

## **\*\*\*\*\*SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES\*\*\*\*\***

**Service project opportunities** are available almost every weekend and are open to all. Ask yourself when you say you're bored: Am I really *bored* or am I just being *lazy* and not really looking to get involved? Active participation for each rank is simple but many are making it difficult to meet this requirement. Active quite literally means showing up and the participation part is just as simple ... you've got to get out and do something. Why not sign up for a few exciting service opportunities with one of your scout friends today? Flyers and handouts with details are available at the meetings and on the troop calendar on the website. Express your interest to the SPL and SM as to how you can get involved - it's easy - just ask.

### **Mount Pisgah Scout Sunday**

**Feb 10<sup>th</sup>** will be the day the scouts are honored during church service at our sponsor, **Mount Pisgah United Methodist Church**. This will be an opportunity for scouts and leaders to wear your uniform and attend a service with your family. It is important that Troop 629 have a good showing to demonstrate our appreciation for Mount Pisgah being our charter organization. Please know you are not required to be there, nor is this a suggestion that you need to convert to being Methodist or in any way suggestive of anything other than continuing your current faith life. It would simply be as a show of support to our chartering organization. We have worked with the Church and they are planning to recognize the scouts during the service. ~~ We need greeters, scouts to stand with the honor/rank board and scouts that will attend the 9:30 am service and/or the 11:00 am service. Please email **Gregg Brasher** at [g.brasher@comcast.net](mailto:g.brasher@comcast.net) and let him know if you can attend and which service your son can attend. If you would like to be a part of this, please plan on arriving 30 minutes early for the given service. The Church service is conducted in the main sanctuary on the Old Alabama Road.

### **Service Hours for Park Cleanup**

**BSA Good Turn for America** is participating with the **National Park Service** in planning a park cleanup day on March 29<sup>th</sup> by ridding the **Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area at Power Island** of alien plants. Specially-designed patches will be given to all volunteers  
<http://www.goodturn.net/events>.

**\*\*\*\*\*BE PREPARED\*\*\*\*\***

**Patrol Leaders Council – Next PLC is February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008**

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. Meet at **7pm in Room A008**.

**Spring Cleaning?**

Save those sellable items for the **Troop Annual Garage Sale on Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 8am to 3pm, Mount Pisgah Church**. Hold onto your unwanted items for the troop as you clean out a closet or clear out a space and tell your neighbors to save theirs too. The troop benefits greatly from these sales. Donations of Garage Sale items are gladly accepted **Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup> from 6 pm to 9 pm** in the parking lot by the **Old Chapel (South Hall)**. Desired items are: Baby items, toys, clothes, small appliances, tools, hardware, sporting goods, bikes, household items, furniture, collectibles, working computers, books and other items. If you live within a few miles of Mount Pisgah and have a large donation you are unable to deliver, we may be help you out by picking up your donation. Please contact Wendy Kraemer [wkraemer@bellsouth.net](mailto:wkraemer@bellsouth.net). Both scouts and adults should look for the sign-up sheet at the Monday's troop meeting to volunteer. Volunteers are greatly needed and much appreciated. See *Adult Involvement* section for details on Garage Sale volunteer openings.

**Friends of Scouting:** Scouting families can look for a letter to arrive in the mail from Friends of Scouting (a council fundraising program). The money collected pays for crucial services that support our excellent scouting programs in the Atlanta Area Council. See **Flyers** section for the FOS link for more information. Please consider answering the plea with your generous support. Thank you very much for whatever you choose to contribute.

**Green Bar National Youth Leadership Training**

For those scouts who are 13 and First Class by the end of May, **registration is now on-line** for you to begin the sign-up process. This is **week-long course** takes place at Bert Adams Scout Reservation (**BASR**) and is offered three different times: **May 25<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>; June 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>; and June 9<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>**. Go to the Atlanta Area Council web site [www.atlantabsa.org/](http://www.atlantabsa.org/) (click on *Program/Services... Training ... Greenbar NYLT*) or use the Troop 629 web site (*Training ... Greenbar NYLT*)

**Advance A Rama Merit Badge Clinic**

Mark your calendars for **March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008 (Sat.)** for the Cherokee District Spring 2008 Advance A Rama Merit Badge Clinic to be held at Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources @ **Univ. of GA, Athens**. They plan to offer 20 different classes to 300 Boy Scouts as well as Adult Leader Training on several topics. The **last date to register is Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>**. Look for sign up at troop meetings this month with **Mrs. Narayanan**.

**A Scout's Responsibility**

A scout's advancement record is only as accurate as the information he has provided to the record-keeper. It is the individual scout's responsibility when working with his youth leaders and assigned adults on his advancement to make sure all updates are given to our **Advancement Chairperson, Mrs. Narayanan**.

**Scouts – Available openings for Den Chief Training**

We have Cub Scout Dens looking for Den Chiefs. If you are trained and need the leadership position for rank advancement, see **Scoutmaster Gillis** and **Nat Padget**. He still has slots available and waiting for you. Remember ... Mr. Gillis must approve you for a spot after you have received training.

## 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 Chattahoochee District? Contact [Mr. Gillis](#). [Judi Dammann](#) is organizing the troops past Eagle project packages to create a useful binder for future reference material for our Life to Eagle candidates.

## Court of Honor – May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008

All scouts and their families are **invited, encouraged (and expected) to attend** this special ceremony to recognize scouts' accomplishments over the past few months. Court of Honor is a great place to re-confirm the year's activities (more details on **Summer Camp 2008** will be covered) and how they all fit together for each scout. It is also a convenient time to ask about and sign up for open volunteer troop positions. It is also an opportunity for moms to get out their Mother's Ribbon and proudly wear them whether their scout gets to pin on a rank advancement or not. C.O.H. is held in lieu of a regular troop meeting, same time, same place. Hope to see all scouts and their families in attendance.

## Order of the Arrow meeting on February 14<sup>th</sup>



Every month on the second Thursday there is a district O.A. gathering open to O.A. members. See your O.A. Representative for details: <http://www.cdbsa.org/Pages/OA.htm>

## Scoutmaster's Notes on High Adventures for 2008

For those scouts 14 and older adventures include Bahamas tall ship sailing in April and Rocky Mountain backpacking in Philmont, NM in June and if interest is given, a backwoods Canadian canoe trip in July with Northern Tier. If you haven't made your interest known and signed up for your High Adventure – what are you waiting for? See the Scoutmaster at the weekly meeting or check out the **Sea Base 2008 flyer** <http://tinyurl.com/2jbzh3> or **Northern Tier flyer** <http://tinyurl.com/2zm7fm>.

## Trip Paperwork – It is important

Prior to each trip we ask for a permission slip for a scout's participation to ensure we have the parents' concurrence and have the latest info on that scout. This permission slip is important for each activity and should be carefully completed. Include details if you can help with the driving to and from any activity. Please fill them out completely and have them in by their deadlines so we can gather the proper resources to carry out each and every activity. Please make your intentions known early so we can properly make reservations for everyone and have the food and travel arrangements ironed out. Adults wishing to participate are *always welcome and appreciated*. However, we do require each to be registered, complete the minimum training and have an updated physical. Details and troop website links can be found in the **ADULT INVOLVEMENT** section in this newsletter.

## Troop meetings start at 7:15 PM and end by 8:45 PM each Monday.

Full uniform is expected unless otherwise noted. Time spent on Merit badge work is limited to the designated "game time" only at each meeting. If it is a patrol competition night, there is no merit badge time at those meetings. Scouts are expected to be active members of their patrols and cannot be constantly away working on their own advancement. Scouting is not just about the individual scout – **Scouting is Outing**, using the patrol method and working with the group. *Please dress appropriately for the weather as some activities are outside at night. (Be Prepared)*

## “YOU'VE GOT TO READ THE BOOK”

Scouts in our troop earn merit badges **only** after they have read the entire merit badge book and have met with a designated approved adult who will verify the completeness of all the requirements. Clinics and camp-earned badges are to be verified with this process as well to ensure quality control over the process being used to help a scout actually learn the expected materials. When a scout is ready to get checked out by a counselor, he needs to ask Mr. Gillis to direct him to an approved

counselor for that particular merit badge. Troop meetings **are not** the normal place to accomplish merit badge verifications, but rather with adult counselors at separate settings. Advancements to achieve Scout through First Class are conducted during troop meetings and that is where new scouts need to be concentrating their time. Merit Badge Help Nights are on the **second Tuesday of each month from 6-7pm. The next MB Help Night is scheduled February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008.**

### **Council-Sponsored Events**

Check our website for more opportunities for activities and training through the Council. Individuals from our troop are welcome to participate in any of these special events. You will see some on our troop calendar, i.e. Gladiator Scout Day, Kennesaw State University Basketball, Scout Night at the Circus, CPR Saturday, Philmont 2008 slot and Summer Camp 2008 staff openings to name a few. <http://www.atlantabsa.org/>. Some are listed below:

#### **AAC has Philmont 2008 slots available – must act fast though**

Troops are not allowed to apply for a Philmont trip for two consecutive years, so Troop 629 will not be organizing a Philmont 2008 crew because we sent a crew this past summer. The Atlanta Area Council Philmont 2008 expedition is accepting applications for Provisional Crew 1. This crew will be filled with scouts from council troops who have no crews going to Philmont and who otherwise would not have an opportunity to experience Philmont. A few openings for scouts are available. **Philmont 2008 is June 17 - June 29, 2008.** Estimated cost is \$1100, pending final transportation costs. Questions may be directed to **Mr. John Pelick, 404-630-5595.**

#### **SCOUT NIGHT WITH THE GWINNETT GLADIATORS (Council Activity)**

**Saturday, February 2, 2008 at 7:35 PM.** Tickets are \$14 which includes parking.

#### **SCOUT DAY WITH KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL (Council Activity)**

**Saturday, February 16th at 6:30 PM.** All seats include a hotdog, soda, and a special Scout patch for only \$12. Reserve your tickets **by February 14th.**

#### **SCOUT NIGHT AT THE CIRCUS (Council Activity)**

Sunday, **February 17, 2008** at 7:00 PM – Tickets are \$18; Thursday, **February 21, 2008** at 7:30 PM – Tickets are \$13; Friday, **February 22, 2008** at 7:30 PM – Tickets are \$18. Regularly prices are \$28 & \$22 a seat. Price Includes Patch!

#### **Scout CPR SATURDAY - March 8, 2008 (Council Activity)**

"Be Prepared" is more than just the Boy Scout Motto. Atlanta Area Council Boy and Girl Scouts in coordination with the American Red Cross have **already begun sign-up** if you would like to be one of the 750 participants in **Scout CPR Saturday, March 8, 2008** or one of the 100 volunteers needed to run it... sign-up at [www.goodturn.net](http://www.goodturn.net). **Training** for Atlanta Area Council Scouts and Adult leadership will be **Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 6pm – 10pm** and will include First Aid skills that can save a life and at the same time support the program by serving as volunteers running the event. We need to train six Audio/Visual technician volunteers to run the A/V systems and have them familiar with our system. Please have them contact me [wayne@donate.net](mailto:wayne@donate.net) for more information. **Cost** to take the course is \$25.00 for Adult CPR/AED skills or \$35.00 for training for both Adult and Child skills which (each course includes manuals, skill cards and supplies).

#### **2008 Summer Camp Staff (Council Activity)**

**Applications** for youth and adult positions at both Robert W. Woodruff and Bert Adams Scout Reservations are being accepted. The application form is available at the Program Service Center and on the two camp websites. <http://tinyurl.com/35zpug>

\*\*\*\*\*A SCOUT IS THRIFTY\*\*\*\*\*

### Lending Closet

A lending (and donating) closet of items from gear to uniforms is available to Troop 629 scouts. Our closet holds recycled items that any scout can seek to use or have just for the asking. Those who have items to pass along are also encouraged to do so for the next thrifty scout. Check frequently as scouts are always outgrowing their clothes or going to college after earning Eagle.

### Grubby Details

During some troop outings, patrol food is purchased by scouts working on advancement requirements (Grubmasters). A scout buying food will get a menu to use with a budget to follow. It's important to follow the list of items/quantities specified as the menu has been planned for patrol guest and other program considerations. Families are asked to purchase designated food from the list and then they are reimbursed by the Troop Treasurer. Families can ask for an advance and handle reconciliation after the trip. Non-perishable (leftover) food from camping trips that can be re-used needs to be turned in with the patrol gear at the end of each trip and is stored by the troop in special patrol containers. This will help cut back on costs for future trips and eliminate waste now on-going.

### Why Pay Full Price When You Can Get It At A Discount?

We have some outdoor equipment stores in the area that want your scout's business and will offer a discount on some or all of their products *just because he is a scout*. Here are a few that our adult leaders have found (email Sue [spluspcubed@mindspring.com](mailto:spluspcubed@mindspring.com) with your own discoveries of stores that support scouts by giving a scout discount). Most stores want to see your scout membership card and it is always a good idea to verify with an employee prior to purchase that the discount is still offered:

~REI: 10% off at Customer Service; 3 local locations; 770-901-9200, 404-633-6508, 770-831-0670

~Dick's: 10%-off-coupons on specific items (posted on troop bulletin board); Northpoint Pkwy; 770-521-1195

~Brigade Quartermaster, Marietta: 10% off by showing your BSA card; 770-428-6870

\*\*\*\*\*ADULT INVOLVEMENT\*\*\*\*\*

*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, [Wendy Kraemer](#), to learn about the available open positions.*

### ~~3 Coordinators needed *immediately* to help with Garage Sale

Baby steps may be the best way to get involved in this fundraiser. Three areas of the Garage Sale need adults to coordinate the volunteers: **1)** Someone in charge of sorting and organizing donations Friday night between 6pm – 9pm; **2)** someone in charge of concessions Saturday; **3)** someone in charge of picking up larger donations (within a few miles from Mount Pisgah) that donors are unable to deliver themselves.

### ~~Troop Garage Sale Organizer

This annual fundraiser has been very successful each year, bringing in anywhere from \$600 to \$1,000 annually. This also generates money for High Adventure accounts for those scouts who wish to participate. Usually work begins in February (flyers and announcements) with the garage sale taking place in March or April. ASAP please email **Wendy Kraemer** at [wkraemer@bellsouth.net](mailto:wkraemer@bellsouth.net) to tell her that you are perfect for this job, or find her or **Fran Gillis** at the next troop meeting.

### **~~Christmas Tree Pickup Elf – please apply!**

Chris and Leslie Cotney have been long-time volunteers with our troop and have organized the Christmas Tree Fundraiser during several past winter holidays. Thanks to them the troop has just completed another successful year of tree pickup and they are willing to share their secrets. Please contact **Wendy Kramer** [wkraemer@bellsouth.net](mailto:wkraemer@bellsouth.net) to let her know you would like to step into these well-documented pointed shoes. ONE SIZE FITS ALL!

### **~~Eagle Court of Honor Ceremony Coordinator Needed**

Lu Ann DiPietro has been organizing the position of coordinating all of the details for celebration ceremonies for new Eagle Scouts for the last three years. Once a scout has achieved the rank of Eagle, she requests letters of congratulations from government officials and companies around the United States. She also coordinates the Eagle Court of Honor ceremony with the families and attends the Court of Honor to serve refreshments. We really need a couple of parents to do what Lu Ann has been doing for the troop. Please let **Wendy Kraemer** [wkraemer@bellsouth.net](mailto:wkraemer@bellsouth.net) know that you would like to help the troop by taking over this position.

### **~~Troop Secretary Needed**

We need a volunteer to take notes during Adult Leader Committee Meetings, which usually fall on the first **Sunday of the month at 6pm at Mount Pisgah UMC in the dining room**. After meeting notes have been recorded, they are then edited by a few committee members via email, and then final notes are emailed to all committee members.

### **~~Parents Needed for Troop Boards of Review**

A troop Board of Review (BOR) provides a great opportunity for parents to better understand rank advancement and to get to know the Scouts. Each Board consists of three troop parent volunteers. Boards of Review are typically held each month for those Scouts who have completed all requirements and Scoutmaster Conference for rank advancement. If you are interested in participating as a Troop BOR member please email [Kathleen Narayanan](mailto:Kathleen Narayanan) or call her at **770-740-8496** so she can add your information to her list to draw from when we have an upcoming BOR. No experience required. (Unfortunately, unit leaders and assistant unit leaders may not serve as a BOR member.)

### **~~ Troop Merit Badge Counselors Needed**

Being a Merit Badge Counselor is an easy and fun way to be involved in the Troop. All Merit Badge Counselors must complete a Merit Badge Counselor application and Adult Leader Registration form (both can be found on our Troop website Forms page). To learn more about your role as a Merit Badge Counselor visit [the merit badge website](#). Please give completed forms to **Kathleen Narayanan**. We are seeking counselors for all BSA merit badges; however, we currently have no one registered for the following merit badges:

Archaeology  
Bugling  
Climbing

Dentistry  
Medicine  
Model Design

Plant Science  
Railroading  
Reptile/Amphibian

Skating  
Textile  
Waterskiing

Whitewater

### **NESA Eagle Scout Search is Underway!**

National Eagle Scout Association has launched a national **Eagle Scout search program**. NESA has partnered with Harris Connect Inc., the nation's membership publication experts, to help locate all Eagle Scouts and to produce *Roll Call: The National Eagle Scout Registry*--a publication that will capture the tradition, history, and honor of our nation's Eagle Scouts and will be available only to bona fide Eagles. If you know an Eagle Scout, please alert him about this important project and pass on this link. <http://www.nesa.org/misc/essearch.html>.

## **Adult Training (Reasons to Be Prepared)**

All adults wanting to participate in any of our activities have a number of pre-training requirements we like to and need to have accomplished depending on the activity. 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 in. Many of the courses are held on limited basis. Check our website under *Training* for the minimum needs and look for notices of when the classes are coming up.

## **Adult Leaders - Tell Us You've Been Trained**

*Want more insight on what scouting is all about? We need trained leaders! Your first step is to click [here](#) then print and complete the **Adult Application** (found under *Forms* on Troop website) and give to **Kathleen Narayanan** at the next troop meeting. Your next step begins your training - go [here](#) and click on **Youth Protection Training** (found under *Training* on Troop website) and follow it through to the end. After you've completed this simple on-line course, you are on your way to being trained. Upon completion of any BSA training program, please email a copy of your course "completion" card to [Kathleen Narayanan](#) or bring a copy to her at the Troop meeting.*

## **Spring Training for Adult Leaders ~ NLE, SALT, ITOLS**

These courses are typically only offered twice a year, so if the timing is right for you, sign up now.

~**NLE** (New Leaders Essential) is being offered on **Mar 11<sup>th</sup>** <http://www.cdbsa.org/training/Training.htm#NLE>

~**SALT** (Scoutmaster & Asst. Scoutmaster Leader Training) is being offered as a 3-night course on

**Mar 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> & Apr 2<sup>nd</sup>** <http://www.cdbsa.org/training/CD-SALT-Flyer.pdf>

~**ITOLS** (Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Training) in 2-parts on **Mar 16<sup>th</sup> and Mar 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>**

<http://www.cdbsa.org/training/CD-ITOLS-Flyer.pdf>

## **2008 Wood Badge Training**

Are you an ASM who has attended ITOLS and would like to receive further scout leader training?

Wood Badge Training is the next step and will be available three times this year: A week-long course

**March 31st-April 5<sup>th</sup>**; a two-weekend course **Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> & Aug. 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>**; a two-weekend course

**Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> & Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>**. To learn more, please check out the flyer <http://tinyurl.com/34hjze>

and contact **Janet Horton, District Senior Patrol Leader for Summer 2008 Wood Badge Course**

[janet@vanepps.com](mailto:janet@vanepps.com).

## **BSA and Sponsor Websites**

We are [Chattahoochee District](#) and [Atlanta Area Council](#). These websites have additional information regarding upcoming events, training, contacts and library.

Troop 629 is sponsored by [Mount Pisgah United Methodist Church](#).

Please send all email address changes, deletions and additions to the [Troop Newsletter](#). Do you know of a troop adult or scout who is not receiving their newsletter by email and would like to be included? Forward this copy to them and have them send me their name and email address.

Why not print out the troop calendar and post it near your family calendar? Remember to verify dates often on the website and bulletin board.

# February 2008

| Sun                                                    | Mon                                                                                           | Tues                                                   | Wed                                               | Thurs                                    | Fri                                           | Sat                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <u>27</u> Jan                                          | <b>28</b>                                                                                     | <u>29</u>                                              | <u>30</u>                                         | <u>31</u>                                | <u>1</u> Feb                                  | <u>2</u>                                          |
|                                                        | 7:15p -8:45p<br>Troop Meeting<br>Court of Honor                                               |                                                        |                                                   |                                          | Lock-in                                       | Groundhog Day<br>Lock in<br>GB TG Training<br>"A" |
| <u>3</u>                                               | <u>4</u>                                                                                      | <u>5</u>                                               | <u>6</u>                                          | <u>7</u>                                 | <u>8</u>                                      | <u>9</u>                                          |
| Committee Meeting moved to Feb. 4 <sup>th</sup>        | 6:30p -7:15p<br>Committee Meeting<br>7:15p -8:45p<br>Troop Meeting<br>Summer Camp Deposit Due |                                                        | Ash Wednesday                                     | District Banquet                         |                                               | Pine Mountain Backpacking                         |
| <u>10</u>                                              | <u>11</u>                                                                                     | <u>12</u>                                              | <u>13</u>                                         | <u>14</u>                                | <u>15</u>                                     | <u>16</u>                                         |
| Pine Mountain Backpacking<br>Mount Pisgah Scout Sunday | 7:15p -8:45p<br>Troop Meeting<br>Board of Review (new date)                                   | Lincoln's Birthday<br>6:00p -7:00p<br>Merit Badge Help |                                                   | Valentine's Day<br>7:30p RT & OA Meeting |                                               | GB TG Training "B"                                |
| <u>17</u>                                              | <u>18</u>                                                                                     | <u>19</u>                                              | <u>20</u>                                         | <u>21</u>                                | <u>22</u>                                     | <u>23</u>                                         |
|                                                        | Presidents Day (Fed)<br>7:15p -8:45p<br>Troop Meeting<br>No School                            |                                                        | Deadline to register for Advance A Rama MB Clinic | 7:00p -8:00p<br>Patrol Leader's Council  | Washington's Birthday<br>GB Staff development | GB Staff Development                              |
| <u>24</u>                                              | <u>25</u>                                                                                     | <u>26</u>                                              | <u>27</u>                                         | <u>28</u>                                | <u>29</u>                                     | <u>1</u> Mar                                      |
| Green Bar Staff Development                            | 7:15p -8:45p<br>Troop Meeting<br>Flower Sales Start                                           |                                                        | Half Day of School                                |                                          |                                               | Advance A Rama MB Clinic                          |