

# BOY SCOUT TROOP 629 NEWSLETTER

**March 2008**

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

DOWNLOAD THIS NEWSLETTER AT THE [www.troop629.org](http://www.troop629.org)

## Scoutmaster Minute by Fran Gillis

Congratulations to our newest **Eagle Scouts, James C. and James P.**, who both passed their District Eagle Boards of Review on February 28<sup>th</sup>. They have added their names to a long list of Troop 629 Eagles and lead the way for a few more that are within striking distance this year to succeed as they have done.

Our “arm chair” scouts seem to have become more prevalent over the last few activities. The scouting program is about outing not just “Me, Myself and I”. While striving towards Eagle is a self-paced accomplishment, along the way the ideals of working as part of the team and group dynamics are part of the “active participation” portion of each rank achievement. So let’s ask ourselves some basic questions. What was the last overnight outing *you* where on with the troop? If your answer is more than a year ago, you’re not active. When was the last time you actually completed a Merit badge or had some requirements signed off? If it has been more than a year, you’re not active. How many meetings have you attended in the last year and actually helped someone else or really participated in something other than a game? If it is less than 25% of those meetings, you’re not active.

So where do *you* really stand in this team? Active or inactive? The dynamics and interactions as part of working with the group are a significant part of the growth agreement that is expected in the scouting program. We make allowances for other activities to help develop a balanced scout but scouting should not be neglected or always the second place activity on your list. So if the desire is to be a full fledge member, let’s get back on track and participate fully!

## \*\*\*\*\*ORGANIZE YOUR FAMILY CALENDAR\*\*\*\*\*

### March Reminders:

- Mar 1<sup>st</sup>:** Advance A Rama MB Clinic ~ Pinewood Derby service
- Mar 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Committee Meeting
- Mar 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Troop Meeting
- Mar 8<sup>th</sup>:** Scout CPR Saturday
- Mar 9<sup>th</sup>:** Daylight Saving Time
- Mar 10<sup>th</sup>:** Troop Meeting ~ Ossabaw Island registration/fee due ~ Paperwork due for State Capitol
- Mar 11<sup>th</sup>:** Merit Badge Help – NLE
- Mar 12<sup>th</sup>:** Scout Day at State Capitol
- Mar 13<sup>th</sup>:** RT & OA Meeting
- Mar 14<sup>th</sup>:** No School in Fulton Co.
- Mar 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>:** Ossabaw Island Camping
- Mar 16<sup>th</sup>:** ITOLS (I of II)
- Mar 17<sup>th</sup>:** Troop Meeting ~ Board of Review ~ St. Patrick’s Day
- Mar 19<sup>th</sup>:** SALT I of III
- Mar 20<sup>th</sup>:** Patrol Leader’s Council
- Mar 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Easter

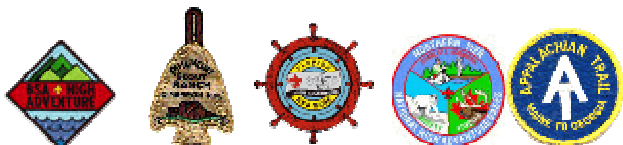
**Mar 24<sup>th</sup>:** Troop Meeting ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Summer Camp deposit and MB Class fees due ~ OA Elections  
**Mar 26<sup>th</sup>:** SALT II of III  
**Mar 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>:** *Garage Sale has been cancelled*  
**Mar 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>:** Green Bar Staff Development ~ ITOLS (II of II)  
**Mar 29<sup>th</sup>:** Good Turn at National Park Service Cleanup (see *Flyers*)  
**Mar 31<sup>st</sup>:** Troop Meeting ~ Flower Sales End (orders due) ~ Summer Camp MB sections due

#### April Reminders:

**Apr 4<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>:** Sea Base Bahamas  
**Apr 5<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>:** Fulton Co. Spring Break  
**Apr 6<sup>th</sup>:** Committee Meeting  
**Apr 7<sup>th</sup>:** Troop Meeting  
**Apr 8<sup>th</sup>:** Merit Badge Help Night  
**Apr 10<sup>th</sup>:** OA Meeting  
**Apr 14<sup>th</sup>:** Troop Meeting ~ Camporee fee & permission slip due  
**Apr 17<sup>th</sup>:** PLC Meeting  
**Apr 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>:** District Camporee @ Woodruff  
**Apr 21<sup>st</sup>:** Troop Meeting ~ Board of Review  
**Apr 25<sup>th</sup>:** Flower Pickup  
**Apr 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>:** Green Bar Staff Development (tentative)  
**Apr 28<sup>th</sup>:** Troop Meeting

### \*\*\*\*\*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* ...

~~~~~ **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 at Monday night meetings **initial deposit was due Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>. Merit badge class selections are due to Mr. Gillis ASAP.** 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>.** ~~~~~ The **April** outing will be the **District Camporee at Woodruff, April 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>.** Watch for more details at the troop meetings. Register through Mr. Gillis (**do not** register on-line). Fee and permission slip is **due April 14<sup>th</sup>.**

#### Flyers

Tons of Troop Pictures - fantastic new format! <http://tinyurl.com/2yetln>  
 Spring Flower Sales <http://www.troop629.org/flowers/index.htm>  
 Ossabaw Island Camping <http://tinyurl.com/2lrmel>  
 Scout CPR Saturday <http://www.goodturn.net/>

Scout State Legislature Day <http://www.troop629.org/forms/2008/GA%20State%20Legislature%20Day%2008.pdf>

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>

Spring Camporee <http://www.troop629.org/forms/2008/District%20camporee%2004%2008.pdf>

Greenbar <http://www.troop629.org/training/greenbar.htm>

Adult Spring Training (NLE, SALT, ITOLS):

- NLE <http://www.cdbsa.org/Events/CalendarDetail/tabid/102/ID/4/Default.aspx>
- SALT <http://www.cdbsa.org/training/CD-SALT-Flyer.pdf>
- ITOLS <http://www.cdbsa.org/Events/CalendarDetail/tabid/102/ID/2/Default.aspx>

Relay for Life [www.roswellrelayforlife.org](http://www.roswellrelayforlife.org)

Wood Badge 2008 <http://www.doubleknot.com/openrosters/DocDownload.asp?orgkey=1456&id=29147>

Sea Base 2008 (Tall Ship Sailing) <http://tinyurl.com/2jzbh3>

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

### Next Troop Board of Review – March 17<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**.

### CALLING ALL SAILORS!



Are you sure you do not have the time to go to the Bahamas to do some tall-ship sailing? Our troop has some slots still open for those who are 14 and older by Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>. The trip is set for next month on **April 4<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>** (spring vacation). Contact the SM **NOW** for the final details and sign up! <http://tinyurl.com/2jzbh3>

### Spring Flower Sales begin

Information will be distributed at an **upcoming March meeting**. Do not fret over the drought ruining our fundraiser. Our troop is actively working with Hanson Nurseries to work through these difficulties. 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!

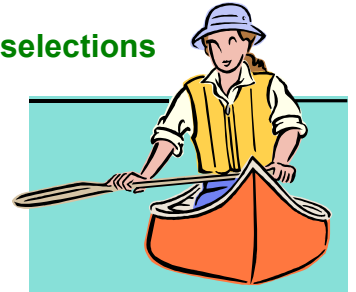


### Camp on your own Private Georgia Barrier Island!

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. 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! See link in **Flyer** section above for more details. **Adults** (even those who don't want to camp): If you are able to drive scouts for the weekend, please see Scoutmaster Gillis - we are in need of drivers. If you are not interested in camping, but willing to drive, that's ok too. You can drop-off scouts, visit nearby Savannah for the weekend, then return for pick-up for the trip home. 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. **Merit badge selections are due by March 31<sup>st</sup>. It is important to turn in your selections to Mr. Gillis ASAP.** 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 was 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.



## Green Bar National Youth Leadership Training (GBNYLT)

The Council week-long National Youth Leadership Training course is ready for this year's participants to **sign up online** (<http://www.aacnylt.org/Home.html>). The course is held 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>.** If you are First Class, 13 years old or older and are looking for a proven opportunity to hone your lifelong leadership skills this is the course to attend. We have a large number of graduates of this course and many who have gone back to volunteer their service to serve on the staff. It's the path to leadership opportunities in our troop as well.

## Georgia Legislature Day

This is a special event for scouts on **March 12<sup>th</sup>**. Details are on web site and on the link in the above *Flyer* section. It is a day of learning about your state policy makers and is an excused absence from school. Attendance fulfills some of the requirements for Citizenship in the Community merit badge. **Paperwork must be turned in by the March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.** As of 'print time' there are only **three scout slots left**. The troop is looking for **adult to go along as a chaperon**.

## Just because it is not the Fall Popcorn season...

it does not mean you and your customers have to do without your Scouting popcorn. To order popcorn online throughout the year go to [www.orderpopcorn.com](http://www.orderpopcorn.com). Then put our **Troop's code** in the blank which is **TE3HMC** and the unit will receive credit for the sale. The council will then send the profit to our unit each month and this money will be applied to each scout's High Adventure account.

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

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

## Eagle Congratulations

Congratulations to our newest **Eagle Scouts, James C. and James P.**, who both passed their District Eagle Boards of Review last month. Special ceremonies are being planned to celebrate and receive their awards so please watch for announcements of time, dates and locations at troop meetings, on the bulletin board, website and/or email. Eagle Courts of Honor are very special recognition evenings and we hope that all scouts will attend with their families.

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

- 🦅 **EAGLE:** James C. and James P.
- 🌱 **LIFE:** (none this month)
- 🌟 **STAR:** Jake B.
- 👤 **FIRST CLASS:** Stuart W.
- 👤 **SECOND CLASS:** Aaron S.
- 👤 **TENDERFOOT:** Isaac S. and Aaron S.
- 👤 **SCOUT:** (none this month)

## Group Hug!

Thank you Troop 629 for providing a very nice attendance at **Mount Pisgah Scout Sunday** last month. Our sponsor acknowledged our presence and the work we do with our youth and the community in the most visible way we have ever seen. They even produced a video highlighting some of our adults and scouts! I believe all scouts and scout adults who showed up were personally thanked by someone for the positive effort we are making in the world. We truly felt welcome. A big thank you goes out to **Gregg Brasher and his team of assistants** who put a lot of time into coordinating Scout Sunday with Mount Pisgah.

## \*\*\*\*\*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-going now**). 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 \(678-297-7766\)](mailto:Susan.Cook@troop629.org) 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.

### **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 March 20<sup>th</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**.

### **Troop Garage Sale**

**The Troop's annual Garage Sale has been cancelled.** Unfortunately we did not have the adult volunteers this year to support operation of this troop fundraiser. If you have items you were saving for the sale, please hold on to them. The troop is working on details to make donations to a worthy local need.

### **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. If you have any questions, please contact **Nat Padget** [nat.padget@earthlink.net](mailto:nat.padget@earthlink.net).

### **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.

### **American Cancer Society Relay for Life**

Troop 629 will continue its tradition of supporting the **American Cancer Society Relay for Life on May 9th from 5pm to 11 pm at Centennial High School**. Scouts and parents may register to participate online at [www.roswellrelayforlife.org](http://www.roswellrelayforlife.org). From this website, you may also send e-mails to family and friends requesting donations in support of your walk. Scouts will assist with luminaria lighting as well as other Relay activities, so be sure to sign up today! Contact **Nan Brown at 770-642-6859 or [nantbrown@hotmail.com](mailto:nantbrown@hotmail.com)** for further information or details on registration.

### **Order of the Arrow meeting on March 13<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 for March 11<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 <http://www.atlantabsa.org/>:

#### **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/35zpuq>

### **\*\*\*\*\* 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](mailto:wlkraemer@bellsouth.net), ([wlkraemer@bellsouth.net](mailto:wlkraemer@bellsouth.net)) to learn about the available open positions.*

#### **~~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 Kraemer** [wlkraemer@bellsouth.net](mailto:wlkraemer@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, \(Kathleen@avalonintl.com\)](mailto:Kathleen@avalonintl.com) 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 \(www.meritbadge.com\)](http://www.meritbadge.com). 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

### **Troop Committee Meeting**

Our March committee meeting was **March 2<sup>nd</sup> 6:00pm – 7:30pm** at the Mount Pisgah Dining Room on South Campus. The meeting scheduled for next month for **April 6<sup>th</sup>, same time, same place**.

### **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>.

### **Attention All Adults (Reasons to Be Prepared)**

Are you planning on getting 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 in:

~1~ Complete **Adult Registration Form** (check with Wendy K. if you can't remember if you've already done this). (Found under *Forms* on Troop website, [www.troop629.org](http://www.troop629.org), *Registration Form-Adult*)

~2~ Complete **Youth Protection Training** (found under *Training* on Troop website)

~3~ Complete **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@avalonintl.com](mailto:kathleen@avalonintl.com) 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>** (see link in *Flyer* section above)

~SALT (Scoutmaster & Asst. Scoutmaster Leader Training) is being offered as a 3-night course on **Mar 19<sup>th</sup>, Mar 26<sup>th</sup> & Apr 2<sup>nd</sup>** (see link in *Flyer* section above)

~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>** (see link in *Flyer* section above)

### **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 31<sup>st</sup>-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 in the *Flyer* section

above 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**, ([www.cdbsa.org](http://www.cdbsa.org)) and **Atlanta Area Council**, ([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**, ([www.mountpisgah.org](http://www.mountpisgah.org)).

Please send all email address changes, deletions and additions to the **Troop Newsletter**, ([spluspcubed@mindspring.com](mailto:spluspcubed@mindspring.com)). 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.

## March 2008

| Sun                                                 | Mon                                                                                         | Tues                                 | Wed                        | Thurs                                                   | Fri                                           | Sat                                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>24</u> Feb                                       | <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 Troop Meeting<br>Flower Sales Start                                            |                                      | Half Day of School         |                                                         |                                               | Advance A Rama MB clinic<br>Pinewood Derby service                       |
| <u>2</u>                                            | <u>3</u>                                                                                    | <u>4</u>                             | <u>5</u>                   | <u>6</u>                                                | <u>7</u>                                      | <u>8</u>                                                                 |
| 6:00p -7:30p Committee Meeting                      | 7:15p -8:45p Troop Meeting                                                                  |                                      |                            |                                                         |                                               | Scout CPR Saturday                                                       |
| <u>9</u>                                            | <u>10</u>                                                                                   | <u>11</u>                            | <u>12</u>                  | <u>13</u>                                               | <u>14</u>                                     | <u>15</u>                                                                |
| Start Daylight Saving Time                          | 7:15p -8:45p Troop Meeting<br>Regis/Fee due for Ossabaw Isl.<br>State Capitol paperwork due | 6:00p -7:00p Merit Badge Help<br>NLE | Scout Day at State Capitol | 7:30p RT & OA Meeting                                   | Ossabaw Island Camping<br>No School           | Ossabaw Island Camping                                                   |
| <u>16</u>                                           | <u>17</u>                                                                                   | <u>18</u>                            | <u>19</u>                  | <u>20</u>                                               | <u>21</u>                                     | <u>22</u>                                                                |
| Ossabaw Island Camping<br>Palm Sunday ITOLS I of II | St. Patrick's Day<br>7:15p -8:45p Troop Meeting<br>Board of Review                          |                                      | SALT I-III                 | Maundy Thursday<br>7:00p -8:00p Patrol Leader's Council | Good Friday                                   |                                                                          |
| <u>23</u>                                           | <u>24</u>                                                                                   | <u>25</u>                            | <u>26</u>                  | <u>27</u>                                               | <u>28</u>                                     | <u>29</u>                                                                |
| Easter Sunday                                       | 7:15p -8:45p Troop Meeting<br>Summer Camp fee & MB class due<br>OA Elections                |                                      | SALT II-III                |                                                         | Green Bar Staff Development<br>ITOLS II of II | Green Bar Staff Development<br>ITOLS II of II<br>Good Turn National Park |
| <u>30</u>                                           | <u>31</u>                                                                                   | <u>1</u> Apr                         | <u>2</u>                   | <u>3</u>                                                | <u>4</u>                                      | <u>5</u>                                                                 |
| Green Bar Staff Development<br>ITOLS II of II       | 7:15p -8:45p Troop Meeting<br>Flower Sales End                                              | April Fool's Day                     |                            |                                                         | Sea Base                                      | Sea Base<br>Spring Break                                                 |