

Three Rivers District

Polar Bear Snow Play Day

At the Klondike Derby

Saturday, February 21, 2026

Alpine Meadows Campground

Martis Creek

Truckee, CA 95252

Leader Information Guide

Note: The information in this guide will provide tips for a successful participation in the Polar Bear Snow Play Day at the Klondike Derby. Leaders should prepare Cubs and family members for all possible weather and conditions. Knowledge about proper clothing and equipment are very important. Drivers should review safe driving techniques prior to attending the Snow Day. We hope all participants will have a positive and fun-filled day in the snow.



Polar Bear Snow Play Day General Information

What is Polar Bear Snow Play Day? An afternoon event for Cub Scouts and their families to play and enjoy the snow in the company of other Cub Scout Dens and Packs. This event is sponsored by the Three Rivers District, Golden Empire Council.

Who: Cub Scouts, parents, siblings, dens and packs are welcome to attend the Polar Bear Snow Play Day. We encourage families to attend by participating as registered individuals. Payment is required by all.

All participants must follow Scouting America's Youth Protection Guidelines. Two-deep leadership policies must be adhered to by all. Two registered adult leaders 21 years of age or over are required at all Scouting activities. There must be a registered female adult leader 21 years of age or over in every unit serving females. A registered female adult leader 21 years of age or over must be present for any activity involving female youth or female adult program participants.

Notwithstanding the minimum leader requirements, age and program-appropriate supervision must always be provided by the den or pack.

Dates/Times: Saturday, February 21, 2026

10:30 AM	Registration
11:00 AM	Opening Gathering
11:00-3:45 PM	Snow Play Activities
12:30 PM	Polar Bear Lunch with Eskimo Dogs!
4:00 PM	Closing Ceremonies
4:30 PM	Return Home

Cost: Units or individuals may register at the gec-bsa.org website <https://scoutingevent.com/047-110300>
\$12.00 per person if registration is paid by January 30, 2026. The late registration fee will be \$15.00 accepted until February 13, 2026. No on-site registration will be available.

Registration: All Cub Scouts, Parents and Siblings must register for this event. Please go to the gec-bsa website at <https://scoutingevent.com/047-110300> to register your scouts, dens, packs and participants. Each person under the age of 18 must have a Parent Permission Slip (see forms at the end of this document). The Den or Pack leader should have the Parent Permission Slips in their possession at registration. We also ask that each Cub Scout and Adult Leader have a BSA Annual Health and Medical Record Parts A and B filled out and the adult leader of the group have these forms in their possession. This form is also available online in a PDF fillable format available at <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/ahmr/>

- Location:** Alpine Meadows Campground (an Army Corp of Engineers Facility)
Martis Creek
Truckee, CA 95252
- Directions:** Travel Interstate – 80 East toward Lake Tahoe / Reno
Take Exit 188B right to CA-237 / CA-89 Sierraville / Lake Tahoe
You will be headed toward Lake Tahoe, just past the Truckee Airport
Turn Right on CA-237 / Glen Carlson Memorial Bypass – travel 2.8 miles
Turn left on Martis Dam Road (gated) travel 1.4 miles
Turn right onto Alpine Meadows Camp Private Road
- Driving in Snow:** Please be cautious driving to and from the Polar Bear Snow Play Day. Here are some tips for driving in snowy or icy conditions:

Essential Preparations for Snow Driving

- **Equip with Winter Tires:** Obviously the weather will make a difference on how you handle your tires. We highly encourage you to carry snow chains that properly fit your vehicles tires. The best option would be to have the correct tire equipment, but we know this may not be practical for a one-time trip to the snow. Winter tires, identifiable by a snowflake symbol, offer significantly better grip than all-season tires in cold temperatures and snow. ["Winter tires make a night and day difference."](#)
- **Prepare Your Vehicle:** Beyond tires, ensure your car is generally ready for winter. This includes checking essential fluids, having fresh windshield wipers, and ensuring your lights are working properly. ["Make sure your car, and especially tires, are in good condition and made for snow/ice."](#)
- **Carry Emergency Supplies:** Redditors advise keeping an emergency kit in your car, especially for longer drives. This could include items like a tow strap, hand warmers, an ice scraper, extra clothing, and water. ["Have some emergency supplies in your trunk or back seat."](#)

Driving Techniques for Snow and Ice

- **Slow and Smooth Movements:** The most frequently given advice is to drastically reduce your speed and avoid any sudden actions. This applies to accelerating, braking, and steering. ["Drive in slow motion. Don't jerk the wheel, don't slam on the brakes."](#)
- **Increased Following Distance:** Maintain a much larger distance between your vehicle and others to allow for significantly longer stopping distances. ["Leave a lot of extra space."](#)
- **Practice in a Safe Environment:** Many Redditors recommend finding an empty, snow-covered parking lot to practice how your car responds to skidding and to regain control. ["For your first snowstorm, you should take the car to an empty, snow-covered parking lot and deliberately make it skid, then try to regain control."](#)

Handling Skids and Loss of Traction

- **Avoid Braking During a Skid:** If your car starts to skid, resist the urge to slam on the brakes, as this can worsen the situation and cause you to lose more traction. ["Leave brakes."](#)
- **Steer into the Skid:** While counter-intuitive, many advise steering gently in the direction the rear of your car is sliding to help regain control. ["If your back wheels go right, turn your wheels right so they are facing the direction you need to go."](#)
- **Gentle Acceleration:** For front-wheel-drive cars, applying a slight amount of gas can sometimes help straighten the vehicle during a skid. ["For front wheel drive cars, apply more power to straighten the car."](#)

Activities:

Snowman Building Contest – *bring tools and supplies* to build an award winning snowman. Each den or pack may enter as many snowmen as their hearts desire. Judging will be based on originality and use of natural materials. Prizes awarded at the Closing Ceremonies.

Snow Sled Hill – Cubs and families can slide down the local hill. Please observe boundaries. *Participants must provide their own sledding devices.*

Snowball Toss – Cubs will toss snowballs at targets for points. The most accurate will be rewarded.

Marshmallow Roast – Stop by this station to cook a marshmallow over an open fire. Maybe taste some wonderful Eskimo Juice.

Uncle Charlie's Snow Fort – Help build a snow fort out of ice blocks created by Cubs.

Discover the Klondike Trail – Follow the trail to see what the Big Scouts do at the Klondike Derby. You'll have to wait until you become a member of Scouts BSA to try some of these activities, but you can observe from a distance.

What to Wear/Bring: The weather is always unpredictable, so BE PREPARED for any kind of conditions. Obviously be ready for cold and even freezing conditions. Here are some tips on how to dress for this activity.

1. **Footwear** – Wear shoes that repel water and moisture. Avoid fabrics that do not protect against water. Socks are important. Wool, or wool synthetics are best. Cotton is not a good material for snowy conditions. Be sure to bring an extra set of shoes and socks for after you play in the snow.
2. **Pants** – Protecting your lower body is essential. Remember you will be sitting in the snow from time to time. Waterproof or repellent pants are best. Again, avoid cotton, such as jeans. Ski pants, or rain pants will do the trick. If the weather is extremely cold, consider long underwear or thermals.
3. **Tops** – Dress in layers. Thermals are great. Wool or wool type synthetics are great. Take off layers if you are too warm, add layers if you are chilly. A waterproof or water-resistant jacket is essential to a comfortable experience. Bright colors will help parents identify scouts in the snow.
4. **Hands and Head** – Secure a pair of gloves. Again, make sure they are waterproof or resistant. Heat loss through your head is important to understand. A ski cap, knit cap, or ear covering headgear will help you to stay warm. Extra headgear and gloves are important for a great time.
5. **Sunglasses, sunscreen and masks** – These items will guarantee you are protected from the elements. Even in cloudy conditions, snow country can damage your eyes and skin. Snow masks are a great item to have if the conditions get extreme and/or windy. Sunscreen is a must to protect from sunburn and skin burn.
6. **Bring snacks and WATER!** - Your body will be working extra hard at altitude and in the cold. Snacks will supplement the simple lunch provided. Drink lots of water. A WATER BOTTLE full of water is essential. We are providing a simple lunch for registered participants.

7. **First Aid Kit:** We will have a first aider on staff, but you should be prepared to deal with simple medical issues. Don't be afraid to ask the staff for assistance.

Lunch: We will serve a simple lunch made up of an Eskimo Dog (hot dog), chips, fruit and drink. Additional snacks should be furnished by family members, dens or packs. Please indicate on the registration if alternate menu items need to be furnished.

Other Notes: Please take out any **trash** you have created. Waste Services are not available in snow country.
Bring extra **water**. Water is not available on site due to the frozen weather conditions.
Restroom facilities are available at the activity site. Please make sure everyone be respectful of the fact everyone is using these facilities.
Pets are not allowed, unless they are designated service animals.
Weather – please be aware of weather forecast for the Polar Bear Weekend.

Klondike Derby: The Three Rivers District will be hosting the annual Klondike Derby simultaneously with the Polar Bear Snow Play Day. Klondike Derby is a weekend activity for Scout BSA units. Cub Scouts will participate in their own activities, but will be able to observe the older Scouts in action at the Klondike. No overnight camping is allowed for Cub Scouts.

More Information:	Dave Ishikawa	Jose Zavala
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Three Rivers District
PARENT / GUARDIAN PERMISSION
-Polar Bear Snow Play Day –
At the Klondike Derby

Start Date/Time: **Saturday, February 21, 2026 at 11:00 AM**

End Date/Time: **Saturday, February 21, 2026 at 4:00 PM**

Location: **Alpine Meadows Campground, Truckee, California**

This form must be signed and carried by the den or pack leader at the Polar Bear Snow Play Day.

This reservation obligates you for the cost of the trip whether or not your scout participates.

In case you must contact your scout during this trip, **EMERGENCY ONLY**, contact your unit leader. The cost of this trip is: **\$12 for all participants**

- PERMISSION SLIP -

(I) (We) hereby give my permission for _____ to go on a field trip to: **Polar Bear Snow Play Day at Alpine Meadows Campground in Truckee, CA on Saturday, February 21, 2026.**

Hours of the event: **11:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

- MEDICAL CONSENT -

(I) (We), the undersigned, parent/guardian of _____, a minor, do hereby authorize the Den or Pack ADULT LEADERSHIP as agent(s) for the undersigned to consent to any x-ray, examination, anesthetic, medical or surgical diagnosis or treatment and hospital care which is deemed advisable by and is to be rendered under the general or special supervision of any physician and surgeon licensed under the provisions of the Medical Practice Act on the medical staff of any hospital, whether such diagnosis or treatment is rendered at the office of said physician or at said hospital.

It is understood that this authorization is given in advance of any specific diagnosis or treatment or hospital care being required but is given to provide authority and power on the part of our aforesaid agent(s) to give specific consent to any and all such diagnosis treatment or hospital care which aforementioned physician in the exercise of his/her best judgment may deem advisable.

This authorization is given in pursuant to the provisions of Section 25.8 of the Civil Code of California. Authorization shall remain effective until **Sunday, February 22, 2026** unless sooner revoked.

(I) (We) hereby authorize any hospital which has provided treatment to the above named minor pursuant to the provisions of Section 25.8 of the Civil Code of California to surrender physical custody of such minor to (my) (our) above named agent(s) upon the completion of treatment. This authorization is given pursuant to Section 1283 of the Health and Safety Code of California.

The above named minor has an allergic reaction to: _____

The above named minor is taking medication for: _____

February 21, 2026 _____

Return Deadline

Signature of Parent/Guardian and Date

Insurance Policy No. or Military ID Card No.

Emergency Telephone Number