

2026 KLONDIKE

WHEN

Saturday February 7, 2026 9:00-4:00

WHERE

Vega State Park. The park is about 1 and a half hour drive from Grand Junction. If you have a state park pass on your car registration, there is no entrance fee. Otherwise, you will need to buy a day parks pass.

GOALS AND PURPOSE

Klondike is a unique, fun and challenging event held in the snow throughout the Scouting Program. Klondike is set up as a series competitions testing skills learned in the packs or troops as part of their regular requirements. The competitions are generally called stations. It has been two years since the last Klondike. Each Scout should have several opportunities to attend Klondike in their Scouting careers. In addition to the skills, the snow and cold adds another factor that needs to be taught at regular trainings and planned for.

SAFETY

Some safety reminders. Drink plenty of water. Do not wear cotton socks, pants, shirts, sweatshirts, gloves ETC. Watch each other for signs of dehydration, hypothermia or just being cold and miserable. Always be kind, this is a fun day. Unit leaders should have a copy of everyone's Med Form.

CAMPING THE NIGHT BEFORE

For those who want a snow camping experience, Troops can arrive on Friday night and camp. There are also 6-man cabins for rent for \$80.00. The cabins have lights and heat. I have rented a cabin and will be available to help direct troops with camp setup. There is a restroom.

I would encourage troops to camp the night before. If you haven't camped in the winter this is a perfect introduction. There are restrooms and my cabin can be a warm place in the event of an emergency. You can tent it, dig snow caves, build snow trenches. A winter camping checklist and winter strategies is available from Tom Foote.

We will have a Cub Scout program. It will start at 10:00 after the Scouts BSA have been organized and sent out to stations. Then we can give our full attention to the cub scouts. We need volunteers from the Packs to help with the cub stations. The Cub Scout's ability to tolerate the cold is less and many leave before the award ceremony. By lessening their time, I hope that they can see the awards ceremony. The cub scouts will register at 10:00 and be ready to begin at 10:30. Each station should take about 30 minutes.

ANNIVERSARY MOMENT

I have asked a few Veterans to put together a short salute to our nation and it's 250th birthday.

KLONDIKE PARADE

The teams will begin the day with a parade to judge sleds and spirit. By making it a group event, teams can see a winning effort and make improvements for the next year. The district leadership will be the judges.

SCOUTS BSA STATIONS

- 1) First Aid
- 2) Fire Building with flint and steel
- 3) Lashing and hut building
- 4) Snow building if snow, Compass bearings if no snow
- 5) Blind man's sled race
- 6) Ice fishing

CUB SCOUT STATIONS

1. Flint and steel challenge
2. Knot untangle
3. Stomp Rocket rescue
4. Word scramble
5. Chimney Lashing

SCORING

Each station will have a specific scoring sheet prepared ahead to make the station master job easier and the scoring as fair as possible. The scoring will include ability to do the skill, patrol teamwork and leadership. Cub Scouts will not be scored.

LUNCH

A hot lunch will be provided with your registration fee. The menu is hamburgers, hobo stew, chips, fruit pouches, hot chocolate, Gatorade and cake. If you have allergies, please let us know at registration.

SLED JUDGING

Sleds should be homemade. Sleds should have working traces.

SLED GEAR LIST

Each sled should contain the following gear. Saw, blanket or rectangular sleeping bag, tarp, pocketknife, hand saw, first aid kit (including gauze pads and gauze roll), a way to split wood, a fire steel, natural material fire starter, compass, flat blade shovel (left out if no snow),

OTHER GEAR

Snowshoes, chair, warm clothes, water bottle, sunscreen, brimmed hat, gloves, sunglasses.

FIRST AID

Purpose and Goals

Scouts learn about how to take care of many first aid situations. Some are to prepare them to take care of themselves, and some are so they can be prepared for an emergency involving someone else. They have all removed ticks, cleaned cuts and put on a bandage. Many of the more serious situations are not practiced enough.

Scenario

Troop 000 is on a backpacking trip. Last night they hiked into a base camp and set up camp at the base of Mount Highandsteep. They plan to hike to the top of the mountain the next day. The hike is four hours and they want to be off the top by the time afternoon thunderstorms start. On the way down Troop 000 gets caught in a lightning storm in a large open field. They run for a safe place. They are about 50 feet from safety when Matt is knocked down by lightning. The lightning continues for another 30 minutes. What do you do?

On the internet see if you can find “NOLS Lightning” by John Gookin, Curriculum and Research Manager, The National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS). This is a very good article. Also, I recommend watching the video called NOLS Mythcrushers Episode 3 Lightning if you haven’t already. The national weather service has a good graphic on safe places.

Leadership

The leadership and teamwork ability of the patrol is just as important as the skills being tested.

Lashing/Hut Building Score Sheet

More than one group can do lashing at a time. This skill is based on the result and is not timed. To give this station a purpose they are going to build a small hut out of branches. Each group will build a wall or roof using square lashings for the frame and floor lashings for the ends of the wall and a simple spiral tie for the middle of the wall. Each wall is 4 feet height and six feet long. If the lashings are firm, diagonal bracing should not be necessary. Between groups the station master will use knots to tie the walls together and create a roof. At the end we will cut a door into the hut. Cub scouts will create a chimney on a pre-made frame to put on top. Try to maximize the use of poles and save the cut ends for the cub scouts to use.

Fire Building Score Sheet

Two groups may work on this station at a time. The purpose is to start a fire with a spark and build a fire large enough to burn a string. Time is a factor. Rules: They must use a spark to light the fire. They can use fire starters made of natural materials to start the fire, but not to build it. (Cotton, wax, char cloth, petroleum jelly, fat wood, paper, cardboard, jute twine, potato chips etc. but no liquid firestarter). The leader must be a patrol leader. No one else can take over. Preparation is key. Dry wood that needs to be processed will be provided. The entire process is timed.

Blindman Sled Race Score Sheet

Only one group can do this station at a time. All the dogs that pull the sled will be blindfolded and must listen to the mushers commands. The lead dog is the primary leader and traces should be constructed to allow other dogs to not get tangled up. The musher will direct his dogs through a series of gates. If there is snow, each dog will wear snowshoes. Time will be recorded.

Snow Building Score Sheet

More than one group can complete this station at a time. Although I only have one snow saw. One of the unique features of snow camping is that furniture can be created out of snow. If

there is snow, each group will pile and pack snow from 9:00 AM to 9:45 AM which will then consolidate. Groups that camp can do this the night before so we can start building earlier.

Each group will then build a picnic table and benches using flat bladed shovels and snow saw. This is more a process of careful removal rather than building. Trial of the build, should wait until after scoring is complete. Total success is if all the scouts can sit at the table. A larger group should make a larger table and a smaller group a smaller table.

Compass Challenge (This is an alternate station in case we can't do snow building due to lack of snow.

Only one group can do this station at a time. This station will test the group as they perform two ways to square out around an obstacle. The first way is done when you cannot see across the obstacle. The second way is if you can see across and around the obstacle.

Each group will start by measuring their steps for 100 feet. Each participant will walk 100 feet and count their steps and then walk back counting their steps. They will take an average of the two numbers. They will then select two scouts to do the pacing. They will be given a bearing and a distance with an obstacle in the middle.

Ice Fishing

Ice fishing is a novel way to fish and requires various skills. The station master will instruct to a greater degree than at the other stations. He will test knowledge and skills and create a score. If the ice is not safe the station will be carried out on shore.

WE NEED A COUPLE OF VOLUNTEERS FOR EACH BOY SCOUT STATION. STATION MASTER INFORMATION WILL BE SENT AS SOON AS YOU VOLUNTEER.

Volunteering should be easy. We have taken all the guesswork out of each station. Grab a buddy and give us a call.

Please contact Tom Foote at 970-270-7315

CUB SCOUT STATIONS

Cub Scouts will move to various stations as a group. The pack/den will work together at each activity.

FLINT AND STEEL INSTRUCTION AND CHALLENGE

Cub scouts will be instructed in how to use flint and steel to make a spark to light a Vaseline covered cotton ball. There will be pre-prepared tinder and kindling. Each scout will be given a chance to use flint and steel and his firestarter and build a small fire.

Supplies and Volunteer instructions

The station master will provide the Vaseline cotton balls, flint and steel, prepared tinder and kindling, clean up station and a platform.

KNOT UNTANGLE

The station master will tie a large knot in the middle of ropes and then the cub scouts will untangle the knot without letting go of the end.

Supplies and Volunteer instructions

Station master will be supplied with ropes. One rope for each scout will be zip tied together. Wire cutters.

STOMP ROCKETS

Stomp rockets are made of paper and are propelled by stomping on a 2 liter bottle attached by a flexible tube to the launcher. Rockets are made by the scouts, by rolling a 1/2 sheet of paper around the tube. The paper is cut in half along the long axis and taped in a tube. The end is folded over and taped shut. Cub scouts will use the stomp rockets to defend a camping troop invaded by aliens.

Supplies and Volunteer instructions

Paper, launchers, tables, bottles. Each bottle can be used a number of times by blowing it up. Use fingers to make a seal to blow up bottles to avoid germs. This will need to be done on a firm surface.

WORD SCRAMBLE

Cubs will throw snowballs or bean bags at pieces of wood which will twirl when they are hit exposing a letter on the bottom. The cubs will take the letters and unscramble them to make a 5 letter word.

Supplies and Volunteer instructions

Bean bags, horizontal pole, 2 tripod supports, wood blocks, spacers. Selection of 5 letter words, index cards, sharpie, stapler or tape, pen and cards to keep track of letters. pen and notepad.

CHIMNEY LASHING

Cub scouts will be give an opportunity to participate in build the lash hut by making a chimney.

Supplies and Volunteer instructions

Prepared frameworks, pre cut sticks, twine,

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2026 KLONDIKE SCHEDULE

TIME	Activity	Who
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8:00	Set up cooking areas and stations	Station masters and cooks
9:00	Participants arrive, unload gear, shuttle cars and trailers to parking. Pile snow to consolidate for snow building.	Shuttle drivers
9:15	Sled check in and gear check (only need patrol rep)	Staff
9:45	Welcome and sled parade	Tom Foote
10:00	Cub scout program starts	
10:00	250 th Birthday celebration	Veterans
10:15	Begin Stations, 30 minutes at station, 15 min to travel	Station masters
11:00	New station	Station masters
11:45	New station	Station masters
12:30	Lunch	Cooks
12:30	Turn in morning score sheets	Comptroller
1:00	Begin afternoon stations	Station masters
1:45	New station	Station masters
2:30	New station	Station masters
2:45	Turn in score sheets for first two sessions	Comptroller
3:15	Turn in final score sheets and calculate places	Comptroller
3:30	Present awards, thank volunteers, closing, clean up.	Tom Foote
4:00	Shuttle drivers to trailers and load troop gear	Shuttle drivers