

2026

Frontier Scouting

Klondike Derby Leaders Guide

Hosted By:

Order of the Arrow

Chy-kola Chapter

Frontier District

**February
20th-22nd**

Troops have the option to camp the night of the 20th and 21st but events are only taking place on Feb 21st

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Contacts

Coordinator: Mikel Trott (OA Member)
Email: mikeltrottroop107@gmail.com
Phone number: (307) 275-5797 or
(307) 256-3575 (Craig Trott, Father)

Joshua Brown, Asst. Dir. of Field Service
Email: Joshua.Brown@scouting.org
Phone number: (970) 584-2211

WELCOME!

The OA Chy-kola chapter & the Adventure West Council, Frontier District, are excited to host the 2026 Klondike Derby. We are excited this year to bring you a 'Super' program of events for the Scouts and Webelos to test their skills and knowledge, but also to have fun. The theme for this year is **Frontier Scouting**.

A little history about the Klondike. Back in the 1960's the Klondike Derby had Scout patrols acting like huskies who pulled specially designed homemade sleds around a field course marked by stations named for towns or cities. Each of these towns, Scouts had to use their knowledge to problem solve, do activities and complete tasks. Patrols earned spendable "gold nuggets". This idea came about from the gold prospectors who traveled in Alaska by means of dogs and sleds. They camped out in all kinds of winter weather and needed survival skills, which they learned from the native Eskimos. Through the years, Scouting has incorporated this theme into the Klondike derby.

A couple of years ago, we started bringing back the wooden sleds. There has been talk of Scouts wanting the cardboard sleds to race with, but how can a Scout be thrifty when those cardboard sleds use a lot of duct tape that costs money that can only be used once and then gets thrown in the garbage? Wooden sleds are sturdier and can be used more than once, and can be redecorated each year according to theme. If your troop already has a wooden sled, you may want to be sure it is in good working order. Webelos groups that are attending, please get with your local troop to see if they have an extra wooden sled already or build one from plans you can find online, so that Webelos in the future will have one to use.

Please carefully read through this Guide to be sure that we have covered all of the details for this year's event, and if there are any questions, please contact Mikel Trot (OA member). We also ask that you be sure to cover as much of the Derby with your scouts and adult leaders **before the event.**

(I.e., basic scouting skills, shelter building, fire building, map and compass, proper items to pack for a campout, including a separate day pack with essentials).

Finally, please be sure to sign up on Black Pug via the council website before January 26th for the final count. Do not delay, as we need as accurate a count as possible of units and patrols so that we can prepare in advance for your arrival.

2026 KLONDIKE Details

COST & WHAT IS INCLUDED: \$15 per Scout and adult. Includes insurance, patch, lunch for everyone included. Remember, troops are free to camp Friday and Saturday night. Most of all

FUN!! NOT INCLUDED: Troop meals and camping equipment. **NO REFUNDS AFTER FEB 15th** UNLESS the camp is canceled. If you turn in registration and need to change it, do so BEFORE Feb 15th, because the number you register for will be the amount you are responsible for, since we must purchase supplies. Any questions, please ask. If there are any adults who would like to volunteer as staff, please contact us to get on the volunteer list. The 2026 Klondike Derby will entail a series of challenges/quests for each Patrol or Den of Scouts to complete. Each station will be judged & awarded points based on how well each team performs the assigned task, which will also include aspects of leadership, teamwork, and Scout Spirit. Each Patrol/Pack is given a starting location and an order in which to do each station.

Stations will not be timed, but judged on accuracy. There will be NO whistle for you to move on to the next station. Instead, when you are done with your station, you may move on to the next station. If there is another Patrol still working, you must wait in line (hint: this is where you may have time to brush up on skills you may need to use for the next station). This year, each station will be judged individually. In order for each team of Scouts to pass the station, they must rely on their leadership, teamwork, Scout Spirit, Scout skills, their sled, equipment, and water. Scout Patrols and Webelos Dens will pull/push their Klondike Sleds to each station. While Adult Leaders may accompany each team, Adults are NOT to assist (in any way) Scouts while at any station. **Points will be deducted for adult involvement and assistance with Scouts while completing various events. The only involvement of an adult with a sled is if a health or safety situation arises.**

Webelos Den Leaders (and other Parents) are considered part of the Den and *may* assist their Webelos Scouts without penalty. However, Leaders are encouraged to let the Webelos perform as much of the event as they are capable.

WEATHER

Winter weather will be a challenge and concern for Scouts during the Klondike. As seen from past Klondike Derbies, temperatures can range from -10 to +55 degrees, with wind chills as low as minus 35 degrees. The weather can include snow, rain, sleet, or sunshine, sometimes all in the same day. **Scouts (and Scouters) must be appropriately dressed for the weather, so that we do not have to pull them for safety reasons.** This means long underwear, hats and gloves, wool or synthetic socks, boots (NOT sneakers), and layers of outerwear. Rain gear (raincoat, poncho, etc.) must be carried or be available for each Scout on the sled or in day packs. Scouts are encouraged to take time in between stations to change any wet clothes they may need to change.

SCHEDULE

The Klondike check-in will open Saturday at 8:00 AM, following an opening flag ceremony at 9:00 am. The Scout Patrols and Webelos will start the Klondike Derby events at 9:30 AM. Each Patrol will be given a specific station to start at. Break for lunch at 12:30 PM. Lunch will be provided. Sled races start at 2:30 PM. Scouts will then go and prepare a meal for dinner to share and be judged. All scouts meet at 6 PM for dinner and meal judging. Awards will be given out after dinner is complete.

KLONDIKE: Stations

The Klondike will consist of 5 stations that have been designed to test the skills, teamwork, and ingenuity of the Patrols and Webelos. Each station will be scored on a point basis, including participation, outcome, ingenuity, and teamwork. Before you begin each station, the person who is scoring will read a description of what you must do to complete the task. (Hint: When approaching the stations, be sure to SHOW Scout spirit.)

SCOUT SPIRIT CONTEST:

Last year, OA decided to start doing a costume contest, and many liked it. This will consist of sled decorations and Scout-made costumes that go with the Frontier Scouting theme of Klondike. (**within the rules of cold-weather clothing**).

KLONDIKE SLED:

There are many different plans for different sleds online. Find one that your Patrol likes. Patrols are encouraged to paint and decorate it however they see fit. (Hint: you can use this sled for the future, so decorate accordingly.)

Specifications for a sled:

Length: 4 - 7 feet

Width: 18-24 inches

Height: 36-48 inches

NO METAL RUNNERS.

NO WHEELS (but in case we have no snow to run sleds, have a quick modification available where you can add wheels to be able to use your sled, because no matter what, there will be a race, snow or no snow)

KLONDIKE: Sled Equipment List

Other than your personal gear or any other items that you want to carry on your Patrol's sled, the following items are **mandatory** and must be on your sled (or person) during the initial Sled Inspection at the start, throughout, and at the finish of the Klondike Derby:

EACH PATROL / WEBELOS NEED TO CARRY THE FOLLOWING ON THE SLED OR IN ESSENTIALS PACKS.

- Patrol Flag
- 10-20 lengths of paracord or rope, each 5-10' long
- Two 50' lengths of paracord
- Two staves, sturdy enough to fashion a stretcher using your tarp
- Each scout should bring a mug/cup (included in a mess kit)
- One tarp, 8' x 6' or larger
- Rain Gear per Scout (raincoat, poncho, etc.) (part of the essentials pack)
- Fire starting materials per Scout (part of the essentials pack)
- Compass per Scout (part of essentials pack)
- Personal first aid kit per Scout (Boy Scouts need a complete kit, and it should be part of the essentials pack.)
- Scout Handbook
- One Totin' chit (per group)
- One Fireman's chit (per group)
- Water - 3 gals per Patrol
- Proper footwear and clothing per Scout (extra in case of needing to be changed, and it may be part of the essentials pack)
- Blanket (per group)
- Pocketknife per Scout (part of essentials pack)
- Flashlight or headlamp per Scout (part of essentials pack)
- A garbage bag per group for trash and discarded items during the competition
- Water Bottle (per Scout)
- Writing utensils and paper (should be part of the essentials pack)

KLONDIKE: Station SCORING

Score cards will be given at check-in.

Stations' scoring cards will not be given to the patrols as they will be turned in at the end of the race. Only the final score will be written on the Patrol's score card. Points can be lost for poor scout spirit and adult help. Bonus points can be awarded as well, but only judges will know what and where bonus points can be earned.

Webelos Dens should exhibit lots of Scout Spirit and complete assigned tasks to the best of their ability to receive high scores. Den scoring will be somewhat more flexible than Patrol scoring since it is based on doing their best and not completing everything accordingly. Dens will have a maximum time limit and should not feel bad if they do not complete any task in their entirety, since it is DOING YOUR BEST!

Remember that the appropriate Scout Spirit is courteous, kind, friendly, and includes sportsmanship and positive team support.

KLONDIKE: Special Instructions

1. All Units must **pre-register** to receive a 2026 Klondike Derby Patch and reserve your spot.
2. All Patrols and Dens should arrive at least 30 minutes before the start time on Saturday morning. Only the Senior Patrol Leader or Den Leader will check in at the lodge. At the check-in, each sled team and Crew will be given a set of instructions and a score sheet.
3. Units should register ASAP. For Scouts and Webelos registering AND paying prior to February 1, 2026, the fee will be \$15 per scout or adult. Late registration will be \$20. No registrations will be accepted after February 15th.
4. All trash must be packed out, including trash generated on the trail. Each Patrol or Den must bring at least one heavy-duty garbage bag and use it.
5. Prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place (as measured by total points) will be awarded for Scout Patrols. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes will be awarded to the top Webelos Dens. Prizes will be awarded for each station as well as the sled race.
6. No drugs or alcohol permitted at a BSA event. No exceptions.
7. The First aid station will be at Hynds Lodge. Report ALL injuries to Hynds Lodge
8. In the event of severe weather on Saturday, requiring the postponement or cancellation of the Klondike, Unit Leaders will be contacted by email. If necessary, a Go/No-Go notice will be sent via e-mail by 12:00 PM on Friday.
9. Proper Footwear and Clothing: Scouts who are not appropriately dressed for the weather will not be permitted to participate. That means warm boots, long pants, a heavy jacket, gloves, a hat, and rain gear. Troop Leaders are responsible for policing their patrols before they are sent out to participate in the Klondike. We suggest communicating with parents early to make sure the scouts are properly prepared. Most importantly, please make sure that all scouts have two pairs of gloves in the event of snow.
10. Leave-No-Trace: All trash must be carried out by each unit.
11. A completed Annual Health and Medical Record, Parts A and B, and activity consent form for every attendee. TROOPS AND PACKS WILL KEEP A AND B FORMS WITH THEM.

2026 KLONDIKE DERBY: Program Schedule

Friday, February 20th

Troops and Dens may set up campsites on a first-come basis.

Saturday, February 21st

7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Check in
8:30 AM – 9:00 AM	Opening Flag Ceremony and instructions
9:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Stations
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Lunch at Hynds Lodge - provided
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Finish Stations
2:30 PM until finished	RACE TIME!
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM	Dinner at Hynds Lodge. Bring your dinner to share and be judged.
7:00 PM	Awards

Sunday, February 22nd

7:00 AM - 9:00 AM Check out

KLONDIKE Safety: Hypothermia

One of the greatest dangers that Scouts and Scouters will face is hypothermia, due to the combination of low temperatures, high exertion, and moderate food and liquid intake.

Scouts (and Scouters) must be appropriately dressed for the weather, or they will not be allowed to participate. That means long underwear, caps and gloves, wool or synthetic socks, boots (NOT sneakers), and layers of outerwear. Rain gear should be available for each Scout on the sled (in daypacks).

Laws of Layering

First rule of fabrics

A layering system is key. But effective layering isn't just a matter of piling one item of clothing over another. What you put on is important, too.

The new fabrics—as well as new and improved old favorites—give you dozens of choices. Take time to experiment: Everyone's body retains heat and produces sweat a little differently. It may take some fine-tuning to come up with the perfect system.

Under layers

Your base layer is the starting point for moisture and temperature management.

These garments come in several different weights, ranging from lightweight to expedition-weight. Don't overdo it: Even if you plan to hike in subfreezing temperatures, expedition-weight under layers will make you overheat, unless you're headed for places with names like Denali or Everest.

Polypropylene is a common base layer fabric because it wicks sweat away from your body and helps keep you warm. It's inexpensive but has two major drawbacks: It retains body odor in a big way, and it can't be washed in hot water or put in a clothes dryer because it will melt.

Polartec, a versatile fabric used in everything from base layers to insulation and weather protection, is a big step up: It doesn't retain as many odors, and it often has a brushed, comfortable inner surface. Many manufacturers also offer proprietary blends. All have good moisture transfer properties and don't retain odors.

For those who love wool, SmartWool is both a base layer and a shirt for aerobic activities. Unlike synthetics, SmartWool fibers capture perspiration in the vapor state, which minimizes odors. The wool itself is soft New Zealand merino wool that is virtually itch-less. And it can be safely put in clothes dryers (unlike older wool clothing).

Another entry into the base layer field is the concept of a base layer that sandwiches three layers into one: a durable outer layer, a wind-blocking mid-layer, and an inner wicking layer.

Insulating layers

When it comes to insulation, most hikers have at least one synthetic pile or fleece article of clothing.

Fleece pullovers, vests, zip-up jackets, and pants are available in a variety of weights, usually measured between 100 and 300. The higher the number, the heavier—and warmer—the jacket.

The lightest is 100-weight, useful in pullovers and middle layers as vests, or as an outer layer in warm temperatures. A good all-around choice is 200-weight fleece, because it can be used as either a heavier pullover or a jacket. A 300-weight fleece jacket is so warm that you would use it more often in camp or during rest breaks than while working up a sweat on the trail.

Microfleece jackets have a tighter weave and block wind better, and the pile has a rougher texture and tends to be warmer and bulkier.

Some manufacturers have added other features to their fabrics, like stretchy, form-fitting microfiber or water-repellent treatments. For example, a new 300-weight fleece that features a durable, water-repellent finish making it useful as an outer layer in light rain conditions. Two-way pit zippers allow excess heat to escape.

And don't forget about your legs: While most hikers don't hike in fleece during the day, fleece pants can be cozy on cold evenings. You'll also use fleece for hats, mittens, and even socks for camp wear.

Insulating fills

Another way to stay warm is with a jacket filled with down or some other insulating fill. Following the layering principle, you don't want one of those heavy-duty jackets that could practically double as a sleeping bag. Instead, have a lightweight jacket that can be part of a layering system.

While down is highly compressible and extremely warm, it does not insulate when wet. Down works better in snow, which can be brushed off. If you're unsure of whether to expect rain or snow, you might opt for synthetic fill instead.

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KLONDIKE DERBY REGISTRATION

Please fill this out and bring it with you to check-in.

Unit # Pack _____ Troop _____

Contact Name _____ Phone number _____

E-mail _____

Please attach copy of Unit checklist.

Patches Total _____

Unit Leader _____

Assistant Leader _____

Youth Leadership (SPL) _____

Patrol/Team/Crew Name _____

Patrol Leader _____

Assistant Patrol Leader _____

Attach additional copies, if necessary.

KLONDIKE STAFF USE

Copies of BSA Health forms Y _____ N _____

Copies of BSA Activity Consent Form Y _____ N _____

Unit Leaders will maintain these in their possession after Medical Personnel inspects them.