

# HOOSIER TRAILS COUNCIL

# WINTER RENDEZVOUS

## 2025 Participation Guide



**FRIDAY – SUNDAY, JANUARY 17-19, 2025**  
**Maumee Scout Reservation**

### **Welcome to another year of the Winter Rendezvous!**

The Winter Rendezvous Committee has once again put together another weekend of FUN, FOOD, and FELLOWSHIP at Maumee Scout Reservation. This packet will provide units with the necessary information needed to prepare for participation in this highly anticipated yearly event. Additional information will be available at online leader meetings and the Friday night leader meeting the weekend of the event. If you have any questions outside of these opportunities, you can email the committee chair, Terri Lee – [terri.lee@scouting.org](mailto:terri.lee@scouting.org)

The Winter Rendezvous will be held at Maumee Scout Reservation in Hoosier National Forest (See Map at end of document). Please note the instructions in this packet carefully, and make sure that all your Scouts are well prepared, well equipped to participate in the Klondike, and most importantly of all to have a FUN and SAFE experience.

*Plan to review the events in this packet with your Scouts to let them get a feel for what to expect, what equipment and clothing they might need, to prepare for the Klondike race, and review their scout skills. This campout may be difficult for young new Scouts or any Scouts who have not been winter camping before. Winter camping is a wonderful experience when Nature is properly respected, but it can also be dangerous for the unprepared. Special precautions will need to be taken to prepare for cold temperatures which may occur. Please be sure to screen and properly prepare those Scouts attending to make sure that everyone will have an enjoyable time.*

## **ONLINE LEADER MEETINGS:**

The online leader meetings are designed to take this leader packet a step further highlighting important details and to have the opportunity to ask questions of the committee. **We encourage at least 1 adult leader as well as the Senior Patrol Leader to attend.** The two meetings will offer different formats tailored to specific needs. We cannot record these meetings due to youth protection standards in regard to youth attending online meetings.

### **December 3rd at 7p (Tuesday)**

A very comprehensive overview treating everyone as if they have never attended Winter Rendezvous or Maumee Scout Reservation. Highly recommended for new units, new adult leaders and Senior Patrol Leaders.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84089569320?pwd=IRhw7MVHBLHoRp81SYwai9Q7T8b82l.1>

Meeting ID: 840 8956 9320

Passcode: 314726

### **December 11th at 7p (Wednesday)**

A more general overview of Winter Rendezvous highlighting the changes from previous years and what to expect to be prepared for the event.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86426192718?pwd=JbxWoMvN8ZGLXTJcclHNCAU3vKA46S.1>

Meeting ID: 864 2619 2718

Passcode: 787653

Again, **we highly encourage all units to attend either of the online events** for any updated news or changes to the event. This will also make the leader meeting that Friday night run very efficiently getting you back to your campsite to prepare for the next day.

## **REGISTRATION:**

The registration process has been streamlined and incentivized. **Once the unit has registered their unit, an email will be sent to the register about how to sign up for the following things online, prior to arrival.**

The earlier your unit registers the faster your unit can

- Save time slots for the Klondike Derby
- Sign up to shoot shotguns
- Sign up for your choice of adult volunteer slots and times
- Entering your campsite preferences (units who have sponsored a campsite will automatically be assigned to their identified campsite.)
- Enter your preference for Feast session 1 or 2

Regular Pricing: \$26 per person till January 5th

Late Pricing: \$30 per person till January 12<sup>th</sup>

Remember to adjust your unit's food budget for this event since Saturday night's feast and cracker barrel is included in the registration fee.

### **Registration Fees Include:**

- Event patch
- Saturday night feast
- Campsite
- Program activities: Klondike Derby , Range & Target events, Challenge Course, and all other competition and program stations offered at the event.

**Refunds/Cancellations:** Please refer to the council cancellation policy which you are given as a link at checkout.

## **RULES FOR WINTER CAMPING @ MSR:**

- You will need to bring your own water containers filled with initial water as the water @ campsites are turned off. Water can be found at the OA shelter wall or near the maintenance shop adjacent to the Ranger's house.
- Bring firewood for your campsite campfires. Limited supplies of wood will be available.
- All trash and garbage must be removed when you leave. **Police your campsite carefully.** Leave it in better shape than you found it.
- Ensure fire pans are emptied after fire is confirmed to be cold. Place fire pans leaning against the tables in campsites.
- You may bring in straw to distribute in the campsite as needed. Camp does not supply the straw. Before leaving the straw can be evenly distributed neatly in an area next to the campsite.

## **Parking, Unloading & Loading Equipment:**

- Troops will be allowed to bring **one vehicle** and their troop trailers into their site.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY:

- During past events, a number of Scouts have been observed with inadequate or improper clothing for weather conditions that could have or did result in cases of Frostbite and Hypothermia. Be sure to review symptoms of Hypothermia and Frostbite and know how to recognize them.
- Multiple “Comfort Stations” will be available around the camp. These stations will include heat (either propane warmers or campfires) and warm drinks. **Please bring beverage containers** to get coffee or hot cocoa at these stations. No drinking cups will be provided.
- The Dining Hall will be open at all times, day and night, for any Scout or Scouter who needs to get out of the cold.
- Be prepared for sun exposure even in winter. Use sunscreen and sunglasses.
- First Aid assistance will be located at each of the Comfort Stations.

## POLAR PATCH:

A Polar Patch is available from the Council after an event where temperatures are below freezing for camping. **These will also be available to purchase at the Trading Post at Maumee on Sunday morning if temperatures get below freezing either Friday or Saturday night.** This is a separate patch offered by the Council for cold weather camping. The patch consists of a polar bear on a circular patch (corresponding to 32 degrees) with optional rockers for various temperatures corresponding to additional levels of cold temperature camping. Rockers are available for 20, 10, 5 and 0 degrees. These are not sold by the Scout Shop but rather in the Council office so speak to a Council employee about purchasing them. Pricing is \$1.50 for the round patch and \$0.75 for a rocker.

## SCHEDULE:

### Friday:

- 5p – 9p: Check-in @ Admin Building – Units must first check in to confirm pre-registration information and receive your campsite assignments.
- 9p – 10p: Leader Meeting (SM and SPL) @ Dining Hall.  
Klondike signup and time confirmation for each patrol.  
Volunteer signup for stations (bring names of who can work)  
Cracker Barrel for meeting participants afterwards.
- 11p: Lights out – camp quiet

### Saturday:

- 7a Reveille
- 8a Morning check-in @ Admin for units which come for the day – Units must first check in to confirm pre-registration information and receive your campsite assignments.
- 8:45a Round 1 Klondike sleds report to check-in at Lower Huron. Phase1
- 9a – 12p Programming
- 10:00am Round 2 Klondike sleds report to check-in at Lower Huron. Phase2
- 11:15am Round 3 Klondike sleds report to check-in at Lower Huron. Phase3
- 11:30 – 1:30 Cooking competition entries submitted @ DiSing Hall
- 12 – 1p Lunch Break (except Klondike).
- 1:15p Round 4 Klondike sleds report to check-in at Lower Huron. Phase4
- 2:45p Round 5 Klondike sleds report to check-in at Lower Huron. Phase5
- 1p – 4p Programming ends
- 4:30p First seating for Feast @ Dining Hall  
**BYOM (bring your own mess kit – cup – cutlery)**  
Interfaith Service @ OA Shelter

- 5:45p Second seating for Feast @ Dining Hall  
**BYOM (bring your own mess kit – cup – cutlery)**  
Interfaith Service @ OA Shelter
- 7p – 7:30p Closing Campfire – Awards presented
- 8:30ish Cracker-Barrel (AKA leftovers) @ Dining Hall
- 11p: Lights out – camp quiet

Sunday:

- 7a: Reveille, campsite cleanup, clean fire pans and leave in the campsite. Spread straw (if used). Take trash to dumpster @ Dining Hall.
- 10a All campers have left campsites.

**NOTE:** The camp Trading Post will be open. You may purchase snacks, drinks, camping items which may have been forgotten, etc.

### **CHECK-IN AND CAMPsite ASSIGNMENT:**

Upon arrival only the Scoutmaster and Senior Patrol Leader must check-in at the administration building. Please be prepared as follows:

- Check-in to confirm pre-registration information or provide any last minute changes.
- Receive your campsite location assignment.
- Receive your event patches.
- Receive your Klondike Derby time, feast seating time, and adult volunteer sign up list. Volunteers may be added or changed at the Friday night's meeting.

### **OVERALL EVENT WINNER MATRIX:**

The overall winning troop will have participated, scored in the Klondike Derby, participated in at least 3 other program areas, and volunteered service at the event. The matrix scorecard will be handed out and explained at the Friday night leader meeting. Volunteered service scoring will be based on the number of adults registered with the unit. Service can be given by both adults and youth. There will be several smaller awards per select events and programming. Those details will be discussed at our leader meetings.

### **SCOUT KLONDIKE DERBY:**

**REGISTRATION AND SCHEDULING:** There are a total of 40 slots available for sleds. There are a total of 5 waves. Each station will be able to take 2 sleds at a time. The **sleds MUST arrive 15 minutes prior to their start time to the check in location** to get maps of the course and which station order they must go in. There, they will be told which station they must start at. Everyone starts their first station of that wave at the same time. Teams will rotate stations on regular 15-minute intervals until they are completed. They will check out of the course at the “check-in station”.

**Teams MUST register their patrol in advance to guarantee a start time.**

There are **two ways to register for sled times:** Online and at the Friday night leader meeting. Online registrations are available to units AFTER they register for the event via Black Pug. An email will be sent with a link to register their patrol sleds. Up to 2 patrol sleds can be registered per unit via this way. This is to ensure troops have a chance of at least fielding a patrol sled team. Those who wait to register till the

Friday night leader's meeting will take the available slots that are left. We only have 40 patrol sled registration slots broken up into 5 phases. The sooner your unit registers, the more choice slots of Klondike sleds there are.

Once started, the **challenge stations must be completed without interruption**. This means you cannot leave the course [for any reason] and then return. Teams absent when their start time arrives will not be permitted on the course at that time. They will be automatically added to the next available slot in the next phase. If there are no other open times they will not be able to compete.

**PLEASE NOTE:** This event will run continuously from 9am - 4pm, i.e. through the normal lunch break, to ensure maximum participation. Please plan accordingly. **A sled pack list will be addressed at both online leader meetings but be prepared for each patrol member participating in the Klondike Derby to need a Totin' Chip card.** There will be a 30 min break in the action (between phases 3 and 4) for judges to eat their lunch.

**BASIC GUIDELINES:** Assemble a patrol of 4-8 members. **Select a Team Representative or SPL to attend the Friday 9 pm Unit Leader/SPL Meeting.** Each team is required to have a Klondike-style sled. NO MORE than 2 teams should plan to share a sled. A list of equipment/gear needed for each sled or by each scout, will be handed out at the Friday 9pm Leader meeting and discussed at the online zoom meetings. Remember - "Be Prepared". The sled can be adapted to weather and course conditions, but every sled MUST have traditional "runners" as an option. Other permissible sled options will be announced at the Friday night Youth Leaders Meeting by the Derby Chairman, based on course and weather conditions. All sleds must be able to safely transport any scout over the entire course. All derby stations will include mandatory scoring or timed elements. The overall team score will be based entirely on the combined score for all derby events completed. **Each Patrol must have 1 piece of dry firewood (at least 3 inches thick) for each patrol member and for every station they visit.** Please plan accordingly.

**ADULT VOLUNTEERS:** There will be an incentive with competition points for units with adult volunteers. Volunteer recruitment will be via email. See info at the Leader/SPL meeting as well as the zoom meetings. We will be asking for volunteers at our zoom meetings too. There will be an option to sign up volunteers getting their choice of options as they are available, once the unit registers for the Winter Rendezvous. The sooner your unit registers, the more choice slots of volunteering there are. The list of volunteering opportunities include station judges, help to cleanup stations, help on the shooting ranges, etc.

## **OTHER COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS:**

### **Challenge Course @ Mountain Man Area:**

- Team of up to 3-person obstacle course. Score will be based on time.

### **Biscuit Cutting Challenge @ Fort Erie**

- Using a two man crosscut saw Scouts will cut a cut through a log to create a biscuit. Points will be based on speed.

### **Tomahawk Throw @ Fort Erie**

- Scouts will throw tomahawks at playing cards on target. Points will be based on hitting the cards.

### **Fire Building @ Cheyenne Meadows**

- Pick from a selection of fire starting and building tools with the target of burning a string that sits above the fire pan. Points will be based on tools chosen to start and

build the fire.

### **Knots and Hitches @ Cheyenne Meadows**

- Scouts will tie a handful of knots, ranging from basic to moderate in difficulty. Points will be based on speed

### **Historical Station @ OA basement and shelter**

- Period specific uniforms and armament
- Trading post with period items displayed (and for purchase) in the OA basement by Earth Images

### **Cooking Competition: @ Dining Hall**

- Rules and Info below

### **Range & Target Activities:**

- .22 Rifle Dueling Tree and other interactive targets.
- A chance for some shooting muzzleloaders and shotguns at the shotgun range. Limited opportunities for each of these for this year. **Shotguns in the morning and Muzzleloaders in the afternoon.**
- A Shotgun token can be reserved online and then purchased at the Trading Post to be used at the shotgun range. There will only be a certain number of tokens to purchase to make sure everyone who buys them has a chance to shoot. Once the slots are filled, that's it. Signing up for these tokens will be available to the unit once the unit has registered.

## **RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE RENDEZVOUS, A PIE FIGHT BREAKS OUT!**

*Pie* is one of the most diverse culinary items. Pies can be baked, fried, or prepared on the stovetop and poured into a crust. There are sweet pies and savory pies. They can be desserts or main dishes. Crusts come on the bottom, or top, or both: pastry crusts, biscuit crusts, mashed potato crusts, bread crusts, graham cracker crusts . . . For this year's cooking contest, we challenge you to make your very best *pie*. There will be an award for Best Youth-made Pie, another for Best Adult-made Pie, and Honorable Mentions. Bring your pie to the dining hall between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. for critique by our judges. The only limitation is that entries must be assembled and cooked at the Rendezvous, not brought from home.

The annual Cooking Contest will be judged on three criteria: taste; presentation; creativity. You present your food and receive immediate feedback. The judges confer after all entries have been sampled to score the contest. Winners will be announced at the awards ceremony.

### **FEAST DETAILS:**

(subject to change at the whim of the cook):

### **FRIDAY NIGHT CRACKER BARREL for Leaders Meeting**

Cheese,crackers

Pickles, olives

Cowboy Candy

Onion rings

## THE FEAST:

The Winter Rendezvous Feast is a program element in its own right. Our goal is to put sufficient calories into you in the most agreeable way. We anticipate two seatings. Units can reserve first or second seating ahead of time by answering an e-mail sent to all registered units asking for numbers and seating preference. We will do our best to accommodate everyone's preference but the priority will go to the registration date of the unit as a priority.

Each participant is responsible for bringing one's own mess kit (plate, cup, cutlery); the kitchen staff is too busy to furnish (not to mention, clean) everybody's eatin' irons.

(All menu items are subject to last-minute change.)

### *The Entrees*

Chicken Pot Pie (traditional comfort food)

Vegan Chili (non-traditional comfort food)

Taquecitos carne asade al ciervo (assuming we can get enough venison)

Meatballs in mushroom gravy on poppy seed noodles

Saarlaender Eintopf mit Raibrot (German pork and kraut one-pot dish with rye bread on the side)

### *Sides*

St. Davy's Trifecta (award-winning dish of bacon, leeks, and asparagus)

Pasta and Potato (starch on starch with cheese – top quality Scout kibble)

Veggie bars (chopped salad meets pizza)

### *Desserts*

Clafoutis (pronounced klah-FOO-tee; it's got cherries in it)

Glop (by popular demand, the ultimate jello dessert salad is back!)

Mandazi (little fritters from Tanzania)

***Please note:*** *Attend the Zoom meetings for the most up to date info on the Winter Rendezvous!*