

16th ANNUAL WINTER RENDEZVOUS PARTICIPANT GUIDE

2026 Winter Camporee

 **SNOWED IN** 



**Scouting
America**™

Hoosier Trails Council

JANUARY 16-18, 2026

Maumee Scout Reservation

Norman, Indiana

If you have any questions about the event, you can email the
Committee Chair, Terri Lee – terri.lee@scouting.org

Welcome to the 2026 Winter Rendezvous!

This year our theme is “**Snowed In**” (so of course we are hoping for snow!). Let’s set the scene. Think of a beautiful snowy day outside. The snowfall is getting deeper and deeper while you sit warm and cozy inside. Soon you decide to venture outside into this winter wonderland to join your Scout friends and Scout leaders for some outdoor fun. You play, you laugh, and you try your hand at some outdoor skills and games with your friends. Your building fires, cooking outdoors, practicing your navigation skills, pulling a sled, participating in team competitions, and so much more.

When you start to feel too cold you stop to warm up (at either a campfire or a warming station) and drink a nice warm beverage. Whether it’s hot cocoa or hot apple cider you are grateful for the warmth it provides. You head toward the “cabin” to get warm and rest for a while. You listen to a few stories from a skilled storyteller who resides there. You’ve stayed warm under the blankets and enjoyed the time inside but you soon head back out to take part in more activities which are waiting for you.

The day goes by fast and there has been a lot to do. By dinner time you have worked up quite an appetite so the **FEAST** before you has your mouth watering in anticipation. The menu has so many options you can’t wait to try them. You’re excited to see so many desserts are there and you struggle to decide which one to try!

With a full belly and a warm heart you reflect upon everything which took place that day. The evening winds down with a gathering at the fire ring where the day’s competition winners are recognized. You and your Scout friends and Scout leaders celebrate your day’s worth of fun and then quietly everyone heads off to bed. After all, you’ve grown very tired from everything you’ve done this beautiful winter day. You’re happy and content and you wonder what tomorrow will bring. For now you just settle into bed, beneath the warm bedding, and let sleep come to carry you through until the dawn of a new day.

What is a Rendezvous?

In North American history, a rendezvous was a wilderness gathering that took place at established camps or river and lake junctions used by those involved in the fur trade. All of these rendezvous ultimately included a major transfer of furs and goods to be traded for furs. In North America during the fur trade era, from the 16th century to the mid-19th century, this included the Voyageur Rendezvous and the Mountain Man or Buckskinner Rendezvous. Rendezvous were known to be lively, joyous places, where all were allowed- free trappers, Indians, native trappers, wives and children, travelers and later on, even tourists who would venture from even as far as Europe to observe the festivities.

Camporee Details

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. A Cold Weather Camping Checklist is included in this packet.

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 4th at 7p (Thursday)

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/87332335161?pwd=eLCPhuid85IISKQxJOpT9Q7gwMkIX0.1>

December 17th 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/84572416217?pwd=u3QSa6KbP5RE7B5cCUqKmNOy3dNbla.1>

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: An additional \$5 fee will be charged for all registrations after January 5th

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 @ Maumee Scout Reservation

- DO NOT drop off any trailers at campsites until your unit has checked in.
- 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 must 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. (If there is snow and ice it will be VERY difficult for most vehicles to get back up the hill on Center Ridge.)
- DO NOT drop off any trailers at campsites until your unit has checked in. Ground conditions need to be considered before vehicles will be authorized in camp.
- Only emergency and authorized camp staff vehicles are allowed to be moving through camp during the camporee.

Health & Safety

- Each participant – youth and adult – must have a current (i.e., dated within the past year) BSA Health & Medical Form Parts A & B. All areas of the form must be **complete** and **all signatures** present. A **copy of an insurance card** (or a note indicating there is no applicable insurance) should be attached. All health forms will be held by the Camporee Health Officer in a secure location throughout the event and returned to the unit leader at check-out. **Any health forms not claimed by the unit at check-out will be shredded promptly after the event.**

- 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.
- For their safety, Scouts must be in proper clothing to participate in the events. Dress to stay warm and comfortable.
- Multiple "Comfort Stations" will be available around the camp should the weather warrant them. 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 and in the Health Lodge. Each event area will have a staff member with a walkie who can radio the need for assistance in case of emergency.
- Use the buddy system while in camp, regardless of destination
- Procedures for inclement weather or other potential hazards will be discussed during the Friday night Leaders Meeting
- Maumee Scout Reservation is deep within Hoosier National Forest. Plan your travel time accordingly, taking into consideration the weather and possible road conditions in periods of heavy snow and/or ice prior to or during the event. Exercise extreme caution if traveling at night in cold, snowy weather.

Campsites & Cleanliness

- Campsite assignments will be provided at the time of check-in.
- Latrines and bathrooms are nearby. Showers will NOT be in use as they have been winterized, but the restrooms will remain available.
- Units are reminded to adhere to the Leave No Trace and the Outdoor Ethics principles. Maintain your campsite in a clean and orderly manner. Trash receptacles are located throughout camp and dumpsters are located near the Dining Hall.

Lost & Found

During the camporee, Lost & Found will be located in the Admin building.

Trading Post

The camp Trading Post will be open to purchase snacks, drinks, and camping items which may have been forgotten, etc.

Polar Patch

A Polar Patch is available from Hoosier Trails Council after an event where temperatures are below freezing for camping. 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 you will need to speak to a Council employee about purchasing them. Pricing is \$1.50 for the round patch and \$0.75 for a rocker. **These will also be available to purchase in the Admin Building at Maumee on Sunday morning if temperatures get below freezing either Friday or Saturday night.**

Schedule & Map of Program Areas

A detachable schedule is included as [Appendix 1](#) at the end of this packet for your convenience. A Program Map is included as [Appendix 2](#) at the end of this packet. Additional copies of the schedule and map will be available in the Admin building for anyone who would like to take one.

Arrival & Check-In

Upon arrival only the Scoutmaster and Senior Patrol Leader stop to check-in at the Administration building located at the end of the parking lot. 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.*)

Senior Patrol Leader and Scoutmaster Meeting

This meeting will take place in the dining hall. The SPL and at least one adult leader from each unit must attend. It is here you will get information about any last minute details, safety, logistics, scorecards and explanations of the scoring, expectations for participants, and complete any signups not done at preregistration. An evening cracker barrel will be available for all who attend.

Overall Event Winner Matrix

The overall winning troop will have participated and 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. There will be several smaller awards per select event and programming. A special reward will be given to patrols that complete **ALL** of the activities offered. 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. 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 have completed all stations. 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 all troops have a chance of registering 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 earlier 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. Adults accompanying their patrols **MAY NOT** participate, give advice or clues to the patrol members. The Scouts must complete the tasks entirely on their own.

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. Each patrol will race to complete an activity at each challenge station around the perimeter of the **field above the dam**. 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. **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. Sleds should be equipped with **wheels and axles** that can be attached to the **sled runners** if there is insufficient snow (under 1"). Wheels should be no larger than 10 inches outside diameter. The sled can be adapted to weather and course conditions, but every sled **MUST** have traditional "runners" as an option. It is suggested that each sled be equipped with a pull line of sufficient length to allow several feet between pullers. All sleds must be able to safely transport any scout over the entire course.

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". **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.

Station 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. Once a unit registers for the event they will have the option to sign up their volunteers, thereby getting first choice of the options. The earlier 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. **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS** to make this event happen. Each station needs two volunteers per time slot and we rely on unit volunteers to fill in these needs for our area directors. Service is a part of scouting and we appreciate all of our volunteers. **All volunteers must be at their station at least 10 minutes before the programming time starts to allow for preparations and instructions. Please be on time.**

Cooking Competition

THIS YEAR'S COOKING CHALLENGE: Old-time cabin cooking

With this year's theme of "snowed in," we ask you to think of old-fashioned ingredients that people stored over the winter in cured or smoked form, or in home-canned form, or in root cellars, or which grew even in the snow. Whether you prepare a sweet or savory dish for the Cooking Challenge, the judges would like to see in your dish ingredients like the following.

- Root vegetables like potatoes, sweet potatoes, turnips, carrots, parsnips, rutabaga, and winter squash.
- Hung vegetables like onions; Fresh or dried fruits like apples and apricots.
- Winter garden vegetables like cabbage.
- Staples like pickled items, dry beans, home-canned items, flour, sugar, lard.
- Dry-cured/smoked meats like jerky, sausages, country ham, bacon, salt pork.

Bring your finished dish to the **Dining Hall between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM.** for the Kitchen Staff to judge it. Tell us about your dish and what makes it an old-time cabin favorite. Best Dish Awards for both youth and adult, plus honorable mentions, will be presented at the Campfire.

Other Program Areas & Activities

Challenge Course @ Mountain Man Area

- Obstacle course for teams up to 3 scouts. The score will be based on time.

Fire Height Challenge @ Cheyenne Meadows

- * Patrols will be given a limited amount of resources to build a fire with the goal of burning strings at different height levels. The higher up you burn the more points! The resources will be 5 matches, tinder, kindling, and three small pieces of fuel.

Trivia Tomahawk Throwing @ Fort Erie

- Throw Tomahawks to get points! Answer a Scout related question to get a bonus point! Scouts will throw tomahawks at the board. Depending on what section the tomahawk lands they will get a related question, if they can answer it then they get an additional point. These questions will be program area based questions. The four areas are Nature, Skill Trades, Handcraft, and Eagle Quest.

Compass to Cache @ Cheyenne Meadows

- Patrols will use environmental and orienteering skills to locate a Cache for a cool reward! Scouts will be given an orienteering and visual based course leading to a cache that has a token to prove they were able to find the cache. Points will be based on participation.

Animal Tracks @ Eagle Quest

- Patrols will match pictures of animal tracks with pictures of the animal that made each track. Points will be based on participation.

Historical Station @ Scoutcraft Shelter

- Mr. Tom Brown will be outfitted in historical attire. Come see him in uniform and his display of period arms and supplies as he shares information about each piece.

Cooking Competition: @ Dining Hall

- Rules and Info above

Range & Target Activities

- .22 Rifle interactive targets
- Shotgun shooting: 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.**
- Archery is back this year!

NEW PROGRAM FEATURE THIS YEAR: "Cozy Cabin" Storytelling @ OA Shelter

During the Leaders Cracker Barrel Friday night, there will be hot apple cider available at the OA Shelter for those not attending and interested in some good, old-fashioned storytelling.

During the day Saturday, from **9:00 AM - 11:00 AM** and **2:00 PM - 4:00 PM**, the Storytelling fire will be lit once more, and you are invited to gather at the OA Shelter for more tales and hot cider.

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 once again 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.

We have heard your feedback, which expressed a desire for more desserts at the Feast. So this year, we will offer you **FIVE** desserts, along with the **FIVE** entrees. At the same time, we have seen the need to add more detail to our menus for those who are navigating various food sensitivities. Herewith, then, this year's **FEAST MENU**.

Entrees:

- PULLED PORK, roasted low and slow with a special spice rub; served with Art's Scotch Barbecue Sauce on the side.
- STEAK TIPS with onions and mushrooms; kosher-friendly (sautéed in oil, not butter).
- GENERAL TSO'S CHICKEN, chicken thighs in sauce; gluten-free (chicken coated with cornstarch, not flour).
- LO DOWN MEIN, spicy noodle stir fry; Vegan/Vegetarian.
- CRAWFISH ETOUFFE, Cajun classic; contains shellfish.

Sides:

- POTATO SALAD, mustard-based dressing; Vegan/Vegetarian (no eggs).
- DECONSTRUCTED BLT, salad of lettuce, cherry tomatoes, bacon crumbles, and croutons (contains gluten); dressed with Ranch dressing.
- COLLARD GREENS, Southern classic; contains bacon.
- SODA BREAD, traditional Irish bread; contains gluten.

Desserts:

- CHEESECAKE TWO WAYS
 - Turtle cheesecake (fudge, caramel, pecan topping); contains dairy, nuts (in topping), gluten (in crust).
 - White chocolate raspberry cheesecake (white chocolate, raspberry topping); contains dairy, gluten (in crust).
- BAKLAVA, flaky pastry drenched in honey; contains nuts, gluten.
- TIRAMISU, classic Italian creamcake flavored with a hint of coffee; dairy-free is available; contains gluten
- ALMOND COOKIES, gluten-free; contains nuts.

Drinks:

- COFFEE, HOT CHOCOLATE, HOT TEA, WATER; **bring your own mug or bottle** (bring your own eatin' irons for the Feast, come to think of it).

Scout's Own Interfaith Service

A brief Scout's Own worship service will be offered Saturday during both Feast seating times to accommodate all attendees. All units are encouraged to attend.

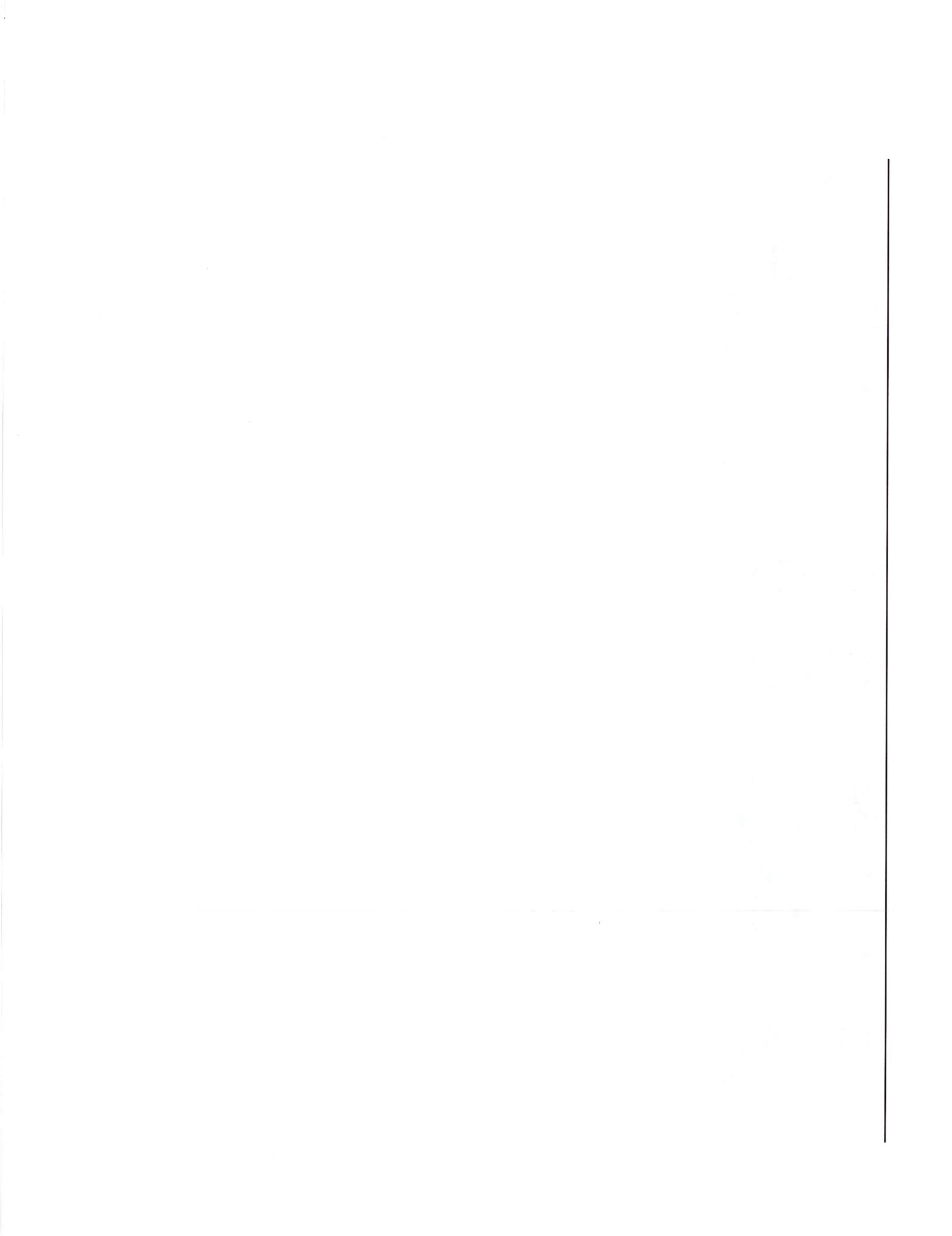
Check-out & Departure

Scouting units may depart any time on the morning of Sunday, January 18th, but all units are expected to have departed by 10:00 AM. All units are expected to clean their campsites as instructed (fire pans, straw, trash, etc. taken care of). Units must check out at the Admin building. Any unit intending to leave prior to 8:00 AM Saturday morning should notify Camp Staff in the Admin building upon check-in or by cracker barrel time on Saturday evening.

Appendix 1 -- SCHEDULE

Friday, January 16th	
5:00 PM	Event Check-in Opens @ Admin
9:00 PM	Event Check-in Closes; Unit Leaders, see Camp Staff in Dining Hall
9:00 PM	Leader Meeting & Cracker Barrell for SPL and Scoutmaster @ Dining Hall
	Klondike signup and time confirmation for each patrol
	Volunteer signup for stations (bring names for those who can work)
11:00 PM	Lights out - camp quiet!
Saturday, January 17th	
8:00 AM	Check-in opens @ Admin for units coming just for the day (Units MUST check in first to confirm pre-registration information and receive campsite assignments.)
8:45 AM	Round 1 Klondike sleds report to check-in table at Lower Huron (Phase 1)
9:00 AM -12:00 PM	Program Areas are open
10:00 AM	Round 2 Klondike sleds report to check-in table at Lower Huron (Phase 2)
11:15 AM	Round 3 Klondike sleds report to check-in table at Lower Huron (Phase 3)
11:30 AM - 1:30PM	Cooking Competition entries submitted @ Dining Hall
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Lunch break (except Klondike)
1:15 PM	Round 4 Klondike sleds report to check-in table at Lower Huron (Phase 4)
2:45 PM	Round 5 Klondike sleds report to check-in table at Lower Huron (Phase 5)
4:00 PM	All Program Areas, including Klondike, end
4:30 PM	First Seating for FEAST @ Dining Hall BYOM - Bring Your Own Mess Kit-cup-cutlery
4:30 PM	Interfaith Worship Service @ OA Shelter
5:45 PM	Second Seating for FEAST @ Dining Hall BYOM - Bring Your Own Mess Kit-cup-cutlery
5:45 PM	Interfaith Worship Service @ OA Shelter
7:00 PM - 7:30 PM	Closing Campfire - Awards Presented @ Campfire Ring
8:00 PM	Cracker Barrell @Dining Hall
11:00 PM	Lights Out - Camp Quiet!
Sunday, January 18th	
8:00 AM	Camp Cleanup & Check out begins Clean fire pans and leave in the campsite. If you used straw spread it out. Take all trash to the dumpster @ Dining Hall.
10:00 AM	All Units Have Departed

*All Times and Locations Subject to Change



MAUMEE SCOUT RESERVATION



LEGEND

- Building/Cabin, Restroom/latrine
- Shower/Restroom
- Road
- Shooting Range
- Trail/Walkway/Sidewalk
- First Aid
- Shelter
- Maintenance

SCALE: 1"=400'

- A Check In
- B Flushable Toilets
- C Klondike Derby
- D Tomahawks
- E Fire Challenge
- F Compass Activity
- G Challenge Course
- H Rifles
- I Shotguns
- J Archery
- K Storyteller
- L Interfaith Service
- M Saturday Campfire
- N Leaders Meeting
- O Feast
- P Historical Stop
- Q Animal Tracks