

2026 National Pike Klondike Derby

Frequently Asked Questions

Rev January 05, 2026- Cancellation Policy

Cancellation Policy: The National Pike District Klondike Derby registration fee is non-refundable for registered participants unable to attend the event but is transferable to another National Pike District Klondike Derby participant. This event is subject to cancellation due to weather or other safety conditions, as determined by the NPD event staff or the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. If the Council or District cancels the event for both scheduled dates, partial refunds will be provided to the units courtesy of the Baltimore Area Council. Refunds will be determined based on the costs that the Council is able to cover without incurring a major loss on the event.

Pre-paid meal purchases will be 100% refundable if the event is cancelled.

Rev-2026Jan05

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RESPONSES

1. [What is different for 2026?](#)

The 2026 National Pike Klondike Derby will be similar to previous year events. The most significant change in recent years is the use of the Baltimore Area Council online registration system. **Please read the section below subtitled “How do I register my unit?” before starting your online registration.**

The requirement for 6-foot staves as part of the Scout Trail equipment has been removed; where used, these will be provided by the station. The wood staves were becoming increasingly expensive and hard to find.

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2. When is the Derby?

The 2026 Klondike Derby will be held on Saturday, January 24, 2026. In the event of postponement due to weather, the event will be rescheduled four weeks later to February 21, 2026.

- The Cub Trail will run from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.
- The Scout Trail will run from 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.
- Troops/Crews may camp on Friday night, Saturday night, or both (see details below)

3. Where will the Derby be held?

The Klondike Derby will again be held at the McKeldin area of Patapsco Valley State Park located at 11676 Marriottsville Road in Marriottsville, MD, 21104.

The Google Map link is: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/nWfaZqNM6nMsNVhy9>

4. Our Pack registered for the Klondike Derby the past two years and was forced to forfeit registration fees because the event was cancelled. We do not want to lose any more money because of the Cancellation Policy if the event is cancelled again. Our scouts want to experience the Derby, can you guarantee it will not be cancelled again?

The National Pike staff understands your unit's frustration and aversion to the Cancellation Policy and, unfortunately, we cannot guarantee that winter weather conditions will not force another cancellation. However, your unit might consider using the late registration provision if your unit is reluctant or unsure of attending. To do this, you can go into the online registration system before it closes and enter all the required Unit Registration Information (see page 2 of the Registration and Program Guide) until you get to the final payment page, but do not make final payment at that time. Alternatively, you may send all the required Unit Registration Information to the registrar at npdregistrar@gmail.com. Then, follow with an email to the registrar at npdregistrar@gmail.com stating that you plan to attend and pay in full at the registration pavilion of the day of the event. A unit (Pack or Troop) check made payable to Baltimore Area Council is the preferred method of payment. If the event is cancelled, you lose nothing. Unfortunately, we cannot assign and reserve a trail starting time for you until a day or two before the event, and it would not be possible to order Ulcer Gulch meals.

5. Our Pack can attend the first Klondike Derby date but, if the event is postponed to February, we cannot attend because of a conflict with another event. We do not want to risk losing our registration money again because of the Cancellation Policy if the Derby is postponed. Is there any other option for our cub scouts to attend?

Yes, the late registration provision described above would suit this situation.

6. Who is in charge of the event?

2026 Event Coordinator:	Don Campbell	doncampbell1966@comcast.net
Cub Trail Coordinators:	Ed Wollack	ejw3p1415@verizon.net
	Jerry Budai	jerry.budai@gmail.com
Scout Trail Coordinator:	John Barrett	cdrjandmsm@comcast.net
Camping Coordinator:	Christian Cao	christiancao@gmail.com
Registration Team:	Don Campbell	npdkdregistrar@gmail.com

Regularly check your spam or junk mail folders for correspondence from "npdkdregistrar" and other event contacts.

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7. How do I register my unit?

For online registration go to the Klondike Derby registration page at:

scoutingevent.com/220-2026npklondike

The link is also accessible from the National Pike District page of the Baltimore Area Council website. If you end up on a webpage for the Gunpowder Falls Klondike, please be sure to relocate to the National Pike District webpage.

- You will register each of your trail groups separately. For Packs, all your Cubs on the Cub Trail participate as one trail group, whether you have 5 Cubs or thirty-five. For Packs and Troops, each sled on the Scout Trail is a separate trail group. Hence a Pack with Cubs on the Cub Trail and two sleds of Webelos/AOLs on the Scout Trail will have three trail groups.
- You will be required to provide contact information for the registration person and the carpool coordinator for each trail group. This does not have to be a different person for each trail group – you can have one person identified as the registration person for all your trail groups.
- You will be asked for the desired start time, number of extra patches, and number of meals for each trail group. The start time field is free text – please provide a start time between 8:30 and 1:30 for the Cub Trail and between 8:00 and 12:30 on the Scout Trail. Each youth registration includes one patch, so you generally only need extra patches for adults who collect them. Your extra patches and meals are fungible – you can distribute them between your trail groups however you need to, so focus on getting that right for the whole unit vice each trail group.
- Before you register, determine whether or not your unit has a Maryland Park Service Youth Group Pass (YGP) (Youth Camp (maryland.gov)). We offer a small discount to units that do because the fees we pay for using the park are reduced for participants covered by YGPs. A valid YGP number is a five-digit number (NNNNN) greater than 18000 and probably less than 19000 (they issue about 500 each year, and they are valid for two years). Please provide both the YGP number and its expiration date. All of your registrants (youth and adult) should be registered either with the YGP discount or without it – the YGP covers everyone in your unit (but remember that registered leaders register for free).
- You are not registering Scouts or adults by name – there is no way through the registration page to enter that information, and no requirement to do so. If one scout backs out, you can use his/her registration to cover a scout who is added later.
- There is a 4% convenience fee for using the online system; you will not see this applied until check-out.

Once you have registered, you may add to your registration (increase your numbers) by going into the online system and adding to your registration.

The online system is closed down about a week before the event to allow us to consolidate and publish the final trail schedules. After that, if you have net increases to your numbers, you can settle any increases in fees at the Registration desk at any time on the day of the event. Registration never closes -- we do not turn away late deciders unless we saturate our trail capacity (500 participants on the Cub trail, 50 sleds on the Scout trail).

Once you have registered and paid for a specific number of participants, there is no mechanism available to provide refunds.

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If your whole unit is late to register (that is, your unit does not register in time to use the online system) then you should communicate directly with the Registrar (npdkdregistrar@gmail.com) in order to be added to the trail schedules.

All that said, please understand how this works:

- On the Cub Trail, we have starting times available in five-minute increments (8:30, 8:35, etc.). Based on the size of the Cub Trail group that you register, we reserve one or more sequential starting timeslots -- roughly one starting slot for every eight scouts participating on the trail. This rate is what we have used successfully in the past and helps to smooth the scouts out over the full day. Your unit will be told one starting time on the Cub Trail (the earliest of the sequential timeslots). We maintain the Cub Trail schedule as units register so that we can give units their approximate starting times as soon as they register. However, if you increase your trail numbers by more than a handful after you initially register, you may grow into another timeslot and cause a cascading change in the starting times of all the units that registered after you. To avoid major disruptions to other units, we reserve the right to move your unit to another starting time. While we understand that most units want an early starting time, **please do not register for the Cub Trail until you have a fair estimate of your eventual numbers.**
- On the Scout/Sled trail, things are more binary -- we reserve a timeslot for each sled you register, and only one sled per timeslot. The number of scouts you put on each sled does not impact the sled schedule, but if you need to add or subtract a whole sled, that can also cause cascading changes to other units -- so we would ask that you be as accurate as possible in registering the number of Scout Sleds, and inform us immediately if your plans change. If you have multiple sleds, you may request sequential starting times for them, or unrelated starting times – whatever works for your schedule.

8. What is a Scouting America (SA) or Scouts BSA registered adult?

A Scouting America registered adult is someone who has completed the SA application, paid the fee, cleared the background check, and been accepted by Scouting America as an adult leader. There is no differentiation here as to role (adult leaders do not have to have a specified role within the unit such as Den Leader) or the level of participation (Pack, Troop, Crew, Ship, District, or Council).

9. How long does the event take?

Normally trail groups on the Cub Trail averaged three hours and thirteen minutes (3:13) from the time they signed in at the registration desk to the time they signed off the trail. 67% of the units fell within 26 minutes (+/-) of this 3:13 average. Note that most trail groups sign in at registration about 15 minutes before their official start time.

Sleds on the Scout (sled) trail took longer. Sleds took an average of five hours and 1 minute (5:01) from the time they signed in at the registration desk to the time they signed off the trail, with two thirds of these units finishing within 40 minutes (+/-) of five hours. Note that most sleds sign in at registration about 15 minutes before their official start time.

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Please think about the implied impact on your Pack's planning. Most Packs request identical start times on the Cub and Scout Trails, and we do our best to provide them, though that becomes harder as the trails fill unevenly. But if your Cub and Scout Trail groups start at the same time, they almost certainly will not finish at the same time – on average, they will finish 1.5 to 2.0 hours apart. Having separate transportation plans for the groups on the two trails is advisable.

10. Are siblings welcome?

Siblings are welcome to participate in the event. If the sibling is not an active participant, we ask that you register the sibling as an adult and pay the adult fee (\$5); this helps cover the per-person park visitation fees that we pay to the park service. We will provide an event patch for these siblings.

If the sibling is an active participant (i.e. will receive a patch and participate at each station) then please register them as if they were scouts (\$15).

We caution parents that non-participating siblings – usually younger children – may grow cold quickly and may not last the three hours typical of the Cub Trail. Having a back-up plan to get younger siblings off the trail (perhaps at Ulcer Gulch, with food and a fire) is advisable.

11. Are food and drinks available at the park?

Food: Pre-ordered and pre-paid Scout Meals consisting of an all-beef hot dog, chips, and drink (only \$5.00!) can be pre-ordered, prepaid and picked up from or eaten at the Ulcer Gulch Warming Station between 10:30 AM and 2:30 PM. It is recommended to bring an insulated bag to keep the hot dogs warm during the event as well as high-energy trail snacks and plenty of water for your group. ***Due to changes in the enforcement of park policies, all Ulcer Gulch meals must be pre-ordered and pre-paid via the registration system.*** There will be no meal sales within the Park.

12. What if we want to camp at the park?

Scout Troops and Venturing Crews are welcome to camp in the Youth Group Camping area of the park. Most units camp on Friday night and usually 2-4 units camp on Saturday night.

Items to note:

- Water is available but units should come prepared to support their water needs for at least their initial meal. We will provide an update later.
- Port-a-pots will be available (limited indoor facilities).
- **Due to the ash borer quarantine, no firewood may be transported into the campground.** We have contracted with DNR to provide a supply of cut firewood from within the park, and you may scavenge additional firewood from within the park.
- The camping fee is \$2 per person per night; the fee is waived if you have a valid Youth Group Pass.
- The Camping Coordinator is Christian Cao, christiancao@gmail.com.

If you have AOLs who are interested in camping with a troop, please contact the troop Scoutmaster (if you have a point of contact), the camping coordinator, or the registration team to make arrangements.

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13. How large should a sled group be?

Stations on the Scout trail are generally designed to accommodate a den or patrol – ideally six to eight scouts. However, we do not restrict the sizes of groups on the trail. If you have a den of a dozen scouts that want to run a single sled, you are free to do so; just be aware that there will likely be stations where not all the scouts can fully participate.

If your sled group is four scouts or fewer, they may have difficulty executing some of the stations. If you have a group of three or fewer, Klondike Registration may combine your group with another small group to make a more natural sled group – please contact registration.

14. What are the sled requirements?

Webelos and AOL dens are expected to bring a sled with the equipment called out in the event flyer. A Webelos/AOL sled can be essentially anything, subject to the constraints expressed in the flyer (no metal runners). You may build a sled, borrow a sled (contact registration if you are interested in borrowing an existing Klondike sled), or use a commercially produced toboggan, sled, or wagon. Scout patrols are expected to use a sled built by scouts.

15. Does my troop/crew/ship need to register online?

Troops/ships/crews should register through the online registration system if they will end up owing fees:

- If your troop/crew/ship will be running one or more sleds on the trail (as participants), you must register and pay for those participants.
- If your troop/crew/ship is camping overnight (either or both nights) and you do not have a Youth Group Pass (YGP) valid on the day of the event, then you must register and pay to camp.
- If your troop/crew/ship is camping overnight (either or both nights) and you do have a Youth Group Pass (YGP) valid on the day of the event, then you must register the number of campers expected to attend. There is no fee for units that camp under a valid YGP pass.
- ***In either case:***
 - **If you are camping:** Send an email to the Camping Coordinator (christiancao@gmail.com).
 - **If you are running a station:** Verify your station topic(s) and location(s) with the trail boss John (Scout trail) or Ed and/or Jerry (Cub Trail)
- **For inclement weather notification:** Email the registration team (npdkdregistrar@gmail.com) with the name, email, and cell number for your primary POC and provide the permit number and expiration date of your YGP (If you have one)

16. Is my pet welcome?

ABSOLUTELY NOT. The “Guide to Safe Scouting” states that pets are not part of tours or activities in Scouting. We expect to have over 900 people in McKeldin for our event.