

GOLD RUSH AND OREGON TRAIL



KLONDIKE DERBY LEADER'S GUIDE

JANUARY 16 – 18, 2026

CAMP GEIGER

SAINT JOSPEH, MO

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WELCOME TO KLONDIKE 2026

Greetings Scouts and Scouters,

I am very excited for this year's Klondike. The rush is on. Please join us on our journey across the Oregon Trail in the quest for gold. This year, we have decided to take the traditional Klondike Derby that Scouts have known for years and put some new twists to the event. This event is sure to be one that no Scout or Scouter will want to miss. I personally guarantee a weekend full of fun and excitement for all to have.

Scouts will begin their day at our Klondike Headquarters/Oregon Trail Outpost, where they will be able to browse our wide offering of prizes that they will be able to capture by redeeming the gold they collect through the day's events. From the Oregon Trail Outpost, is where challenge will start as each troop/patrol will be handed a set of several GPS units to be used to locate the activities they will need to complete. Each troop/patrol will have a different set of coordinates, and all troops/patrols will complete all the activities (if the coordinates are found successfully). Each troop/patrol will also complete a similar quest in the afternoon for another set of activities. Each troop/patrol will receive an egg at the beginning of the day that they must keep safe through the entirety of the Klondike Derby.

After our closing ceremony and all the results for the day have been tabulated, each troop/ patrol will have the opportunity to return to our Oregon Trail Outpost and redeem their gold for prizes based on how troops/patrols place in the overall competition. Also, at each activity, each troop/patrol will have the opportunity to either purchases supplies or advantages but remember everything has a cost and nothing is free.

We are working on a borrow a sled program, so if your unit has an extra sled that they would be willing to let another unit use, please reach out to me. Also, if your unit needs to borrow a sled, please reach out to me and will see what I can do to get you a sled.

Lastly, this is an event for Scout troops only and not for Cub Packs. However, it is up to the discretion of individual troops as to if they would like to invite Weblos Scouts and Arrow of Light Scouts from respective packs to attend this event with their troops.

Yours in Scouting,

Eugene Lickenbrock
Klondike Advisor

POINTS OF CONTACT

Role	Name	Phone	Email
Klondike Chair	Chris Crofoot	N/A	Chris.crofoot514@gmail.com
Klondike Advisor/Operation	Eugene Lickenbrock	816-213-3981	kocchemist@yahoo.com
Acorn Chair			
Lewis & Clark District Commissioner	Tom Jones	N/A	Grht313@gmail.com
Lewis & Clark District Executive	Erik McGuire	816-233-1351	Erik.mcguire@scouting.org

OPERATION ACORN

Operation Acorn is a committee of youth, who are Life or Eagle Scouts, and adults throughout the Pony Express Council who meet monthly throughout the calendar year with the focus on helping the districts of the Pony Express Council with the planning and execution of high quality and exciting programs at the council fall camporee, the council klondike derby and the council spring camporee. If you are interested, please scan the QR code and complete the interest form, then someone from the committee will reach out to you with additional information.



REGISTRATION AND FEES

The registration for this event can be found at the following link: <https://scoutingevent.com/311-klondike26> or the below QR code. The cost for the event will \$15 for this event until January 9. After January 9, the cost to attend this event will increase to \$20. The fee will cover a patch for the event, program supplies, a cracker barrel on Friday and Saturday night and prizes.



GENERAL INFORMATION

Disclaimer

The information in this participant guide may change before the actual event happens. Final instructions for completing the Klondike Derby will be provided at the Friday Night Leader Orientation Meeting.

Pre-Klondike Meeting

A new concept for the klondike derby, will be the Klondike staff offering a Zoom meeting on Sunday December 7 at 4pm to review the program for the klondike derby and address any potential questions/concerns that units might have about the klondike derby.

We would love to see an adult leader for troop attend along with a Scout from each troop attend this meeting. Attendance will be reward.

The link for the Zoom meeting is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81094256724?pwd=lgmdYw9t8NWV1UWMNbuhbuJ5gJG4Lo.1> or can be found at the below QR Code



During the Klondike Derby, we will offer Safeguarding Youth Training and Merit Badge Counselor training in the morning. In the afternoon, we will offer Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat Training.

Meals

All meals, except for the cracker barrel on Friday evening and the cracker barrel on Saturday Evening are the responsibility of the units.

Camp Code

This is a Scouting event! As such, proper Scout-like behavior is expected of all Scouts and all Scouters. The Scout Oath and Law will always be the camp code during the Klondike Derby. Violations to following the Scout Oath and Law may result in the individual or entire unit being asked to leave the event.

Klondike General Rules

- The Scout Oath and Law will govern the behavior of all participants.
- The Buddy System must be followed by all Scouts at all times.
- Leave No Trace applies as always.
- No one may leave the Klondike Derby early unless approved by the Unit Leadership.
- Please have everyone check out at Headquarters before leaving the Klondike area.
- As with any Scout event, there will be no illegal drugs, alcohol, fireworks, firearms or other weapons.
- Sheath knives and fixed blade scabbard knives are prohibited.
- Campfires must be in a raised above ground pit and must be properly extinguished when the campsite is unattended.
- Report all accidents, injuries or other emergencies to a member of the Klondike Staff. Medical personnel will always be on site during the Klondike.
- Lost and found items should be turned into Headquarters.

Parking

Parking is allowed only in parking areas designated by the staff.

Fires

Campfires must be in a raised above ground pit and must be properly extinguished when the campsite is unattended. We will also have 10 burn barrels available for units to use if needed.

Leader's Meeting

There will be an important Leader's meeting on Friday evening.

These meetings will cover any last-minute changes to information pertaining to the Klondike Derby, as well as any questions you may have about the Klondike Derby.

Health Forms

Be sure to have health forms (Parts A & B) for all participants (adults and Scouts) attending the Klondike Derby. These forms should be shown to Headquarters during Check-In and then should be readily accessible at your campsite. All leaders in camp, in case of emergency, should know where these forms are located.

First Aid

First Aid will be available at the Training Center throughout the event. A volunteer will be on staff during the event for any needs.

If a Scout gets injured during the race for whatever reason, they will need to go with a buddy to the Training Center immediately and the team WILL NOT be deducted points.

If anyone feels that they need to warm up due to hypothermia, they are welcome to stop at the Training Center. Event staff and Scoutmasters are expected to send Scouts with their buddies to the Training Center if they suspect the Scout is beginning to suffer from hypothermia or any other cold related injuries. (See Scout Handbook for Cold Weather Injuries.)

Cracker Barrels**Training Center**

The restrooms inside the Training Center will open and available to all participants of the Klondike Derby throughout the entire event. The Training Center will also be heated and is available if anyone needs to warm up during the event.

Check-In Procedures

- All units must have two registered adult leaders 21 years of age or over.
- Units with female youth or female program participants must have at least one registered female adult leader 21 years of age or over. All adults (age 18 or over) staying overnight must be registered members of the Scouting America.
- Please make every attempt to have your Unit arrive together.
- Check-in registration will be on Friday evening between the hours of 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
- At check-in, all units must submit the following:
 - Updated Unit Roster with names of all attendees
 - Copy of Scouting America medical forms Parts A & B for all attendees (Note: Units will keep these in their campsites after Check-In is completed)
 - Payment of any additional fees owed to council
 - Copy of Youth Protection/Safeguarding Youth Certificates for all adults staying at the Klondike Derby (Note: Units will keep these in their campsites after Check-In is completed)
- Campsite assignments will be provided at Check-In.

SCHEDULE

Friday

Time	Event	Location
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Check In and Registration	Training Center
7:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Leader Orientation Meeting	Training Center
8:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.	Movie and Cracker Barrel	Training Center
11:00 p.m.	Lights Out	Camp Sites

Saturday

Time	Events	Location
8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	Check In and Registration	Training Center
8:45 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.	Sled Inspections	Outside Training Center
9:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Opening Ceremony	Training Center
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Oregon Trail Activities	Throughout Camp Geiger
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Safeguarding Youth Training	Basement of Herzog
11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Merit Badge Counselor Training	Basement of Herzog
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch	Camp Sites
1:30 p.m.	Best Bean Dish Cooking Competition	Training Center
2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Gold Rush Activities	Throughout Camp Geiger
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Safe Swim Defense Training	Basement of Herzog
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Safety Afloat Training	Basement of Herzog
4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Sled Race	Throughout Camp Geiger
5:00 p.m. – 5:30. p.m.	Closing Ceremony and Awards	Council Ring
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Oregon Trail Outpost	Training Center
6:30 p.m.	Pot Luck Dinner	Training Center
8:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.	Movie and Cracker Barrel	Training Center
11:00 p.m.	Lights Out	Camp Sites

OREGON TRAIL ACTIVITIES

1. Independence, Missouri

Welcome to the first stop along the Oregon Trail. Everyone knows that the key to starting any long journey successfully is a good breakfast. Troops/patrols will be required to build fire and then cook a pancake, flip that pancake in the air, catch that pancake and have one of their adult leaders eat that pancake.

2. Fort Kearney, Nebraska

Welcome to Fort Kearney. Your wagon train is being attacked by vigilantes, use our slingshots and ammo to warn off the robbers before they damage your wagon train and steal your precious supplies.

3. Fort Laramie, Wyoming

Welcome to Fort Laramie. The winters on the trail are long and extremely cold with wind and heavy snow. Unfortunately, your wagon train has become trapped in a snowstorm and must build a shelter to survive the storm.

4. Fort Boise, Idaho

Welcome to Fort Boise. The Oregon Trail is long, and the conditions are hard on not only one the travelers but also on the animals and wagons. Your team will be given a series of knots and lashings needed to be executed to repair the wagons.

5. Fort Nez Perces, Washington

Welcome to Fort Nez Perces, you are almost to Oregon. The Oregon Trail is long and extremely trying on the travelers. Hopefully, the conditions have not affected your team, and you can complete our team building challenge.

6. Oregon City, Oregon

Congratulations, you have made it to Oregon City and successfully completed the Oregon Trail. Now your team must test their knowledge of Scout History and Scouting in general to complete this final challenge.

GOLD RUSH ACTIVITIES

1. Saint Joseph, Missouri

Welcome to Saint Joseph, the start of the California Trail and your journey to the land of gold and riches in California. To start the journey, you must ensure that your orienteering skills are sharp. You will need to know how to utilize a map and compass to find your way through our course.

2. Omaha, Nebraska

Welcome to Omaha. You are on your way to gold. However, the trail is tough and one of your crew has gotten hurt. Can you use your first aid skills to treat your team member and hopefully save their life?

3. Casper, Wyoming

Welcome to Casper. By now, you should realize the trail is not flat nor is it straightforward. Unfortunately, your team has come across a creek and must figure out the best way to get your sled across the creek without exposing your team to the dangerously cold waters.

4. Salt Lake City, Utah

Welcome to Salt Lake City. The California Trail is long and extremely trying on the travelers. Hopefully, the conditions have not affected your team, and you can complete our blind-fold sled obstacle course.

5. Carson City, Nevada

Welcome to Carson City, you are almost to California and hopefully gold. Hopefully the long journey has not affected your team's ability to recall things they might see during our Kim's game activity.

6. Sacramento, California

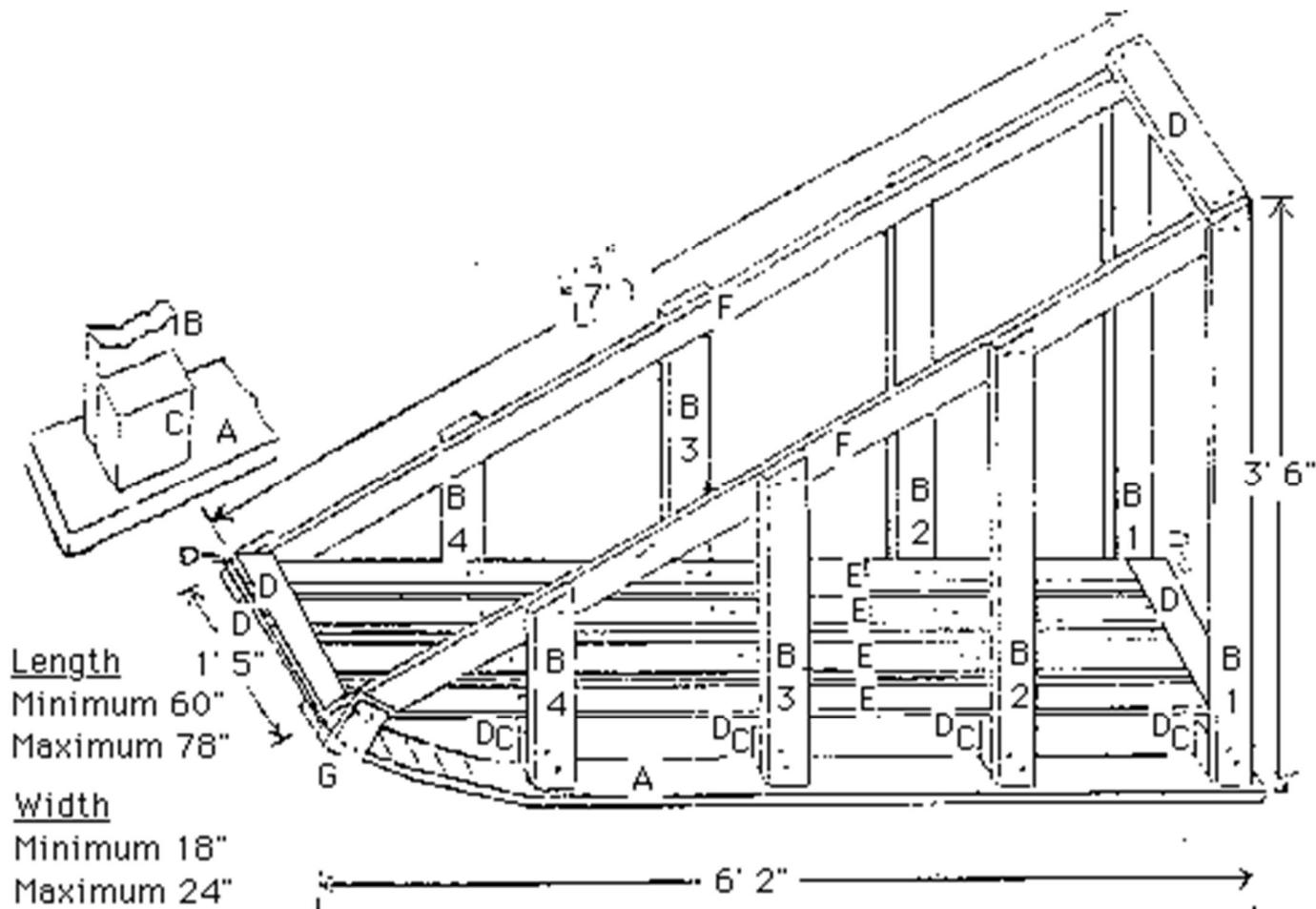
Congratulations, you have successfully made it to California and hopefully you can strike gold. Here your team will be challenges with completing our snowshoes relay race.

POTLUCK DINNER

We are asking all troops to prepare a dish that would feed their unit and bring that dish to our potluck dinner on Saturday evening. We also want troops to bring the recipe and directions for that dish, so that we can publish and share a Klondike Cookbook with all the units after the Klondike Derby.

KLONDIKE SLEDS

Most troops may already have sleds on hand, however, if applicable, please make changes to your sled to fit the designs recommended by the Klondike Committee.



- Runners will be allowed as long as there are no sharp metal edges.
- TWO to FOUR wheels will be allowed per sled (NO EXCEPTIONS)
- Wheels must be less than 10 inches in diameter.
- No toboggans, bobsleds, etc. Sleds must look like above!

TROOP PACKING LIST

Participant

Check	Item	Quantity
	Annual Health and Medical Record (Part A and B)	1 per participant
	Long Underwear	1 per participant
	Fleece or Wool Pants	1 per participant
	Waterproof Rain Pants or Snow Pants	1 per participant
	Wool or Synthetic Socks	1 per participant
	Insulated & Waterproof Boots	1 per participant
	Long Sleeve Shirt	1 per participant
	Wool or Fleece Sweater	1 per participant
	Winter Coat	1 per participant
	Winter Gloves	1 per participant
	Stocking Cap	1 per participant
	Extra Pair of Gloves	1 per participant
	Extra Clothes	As desired
	Water Bottle	1 per participant
	Coffee Mug/Soup Cup/ Drinking Vessel	1 per participant
	Pen and Paper	1 per participant
	6 feet of Rope	1 per participant
	Pen and paper	1 per participant
	Pouch to collect your gold	1 per participant

Check	Item	Quantity
	Boy Scout Handbook	1 per Troop/Patrol
	Patrol Flag and Yell	1 per Troop/Patrol
	Tinder/Kindling	Sufficient for one fire
	Matches or other fire-starting source	Sufficient for one fire
	Skillet	1 per Troop/Patrol
	Pancake Batter	1 per Troop/Patrol
	Pot or Bowl	1 per Troop/Patrol
	Warm Blankets	2 per Troop/Patrol
	50 feet of Rope	2 per Troop/Patrol
	Dry Towel	2 per Troop/Patrol
	Hatchet (with Axe Guard)	1 per Troop/Patrol
	Compass	3 per Troop/Patrol
	poles at least 6 feet long	6 per sled
	Gallon of drinking water	2 per sled
	Plastic Tarp (at least 8' x 10')	2 per sled
	First Aid Kit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adhesive Bandages • Neckerchief • Gauze • Tape • Moleskin • Ace Bandages • Scissors • Paper • Pen • Pencil • Hot Hands • Emergency Blanket • Emergency Poncho • Mirror 	1 per sled

KLONDIKE ROSTER

Unit Number: _____

Youth

	Scout Name	Age	Rank
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
12.			
13.			
14.			
15.			

Adult

	Scout Name	Phone	Youth Protection Expiration Date
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

KLONDIKE DERBY 2026 SURVEY

Unit Number: _____

1) On a scale of 1 to 10, how would your unit rate your experience at the Klondike Derby.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

2) Which activities were your unit's favorites and your unit would like to see again? Please pick up to three activities.

3) If you could have changed two things about the Klondike Derby (weather does not count, what would those two things be?)

4) The Klondike Derby would have been easier for our unit if the Staff.....

5) Any additional comments/ suggestions?

Thank you for your feedback. We hoped you enjoyed the Klondike Derby and hope to see you again soon.