



Scouting America

Patriots' Path Council



Skylands District Cub Scout Camporee

Winnebago Gold Rush

May 16 - 18, 2025

Winnebago Scout Reservation

Gold Seekers Handbook

A Guide for Parents and Unit Leaders

The **Gold Seekers Handbook** (Unit Leaders Guide) is a comprehensive resource for unit leaders, providing them with all the information and tools to lead Cub Scouts and Families for the Winnebago Gold Rush.

Important Information

Winnebago Scout Reservation
102 Timberbrook Rd
Rockaway, NJ 07866

Camporee Organizing Committee
Carol Gonzalez - Co-Chair 973-229-4172
James Connors - Co-Chair 207-712-1674
TBD - Medical Officer XXX-XXX-XXX
Rob Behan - Skylands District Director 973-714-3281

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- **Event Overview:** Details about the gold rush theme, objectives, and how it ties into the activities.
- **Schedule and Logistics:** A timeline for the event.
- **Safety Guidelines:** Protocols for ensuring a safe and secure environment during activities, including YPT, Baloo, Vehicles and incident reporting
- **Program Stations**
- **Gold Rush Wagon Contest:** Scoring rubric and tips for success
- **Leadership Tips:** Advice for engaging with scouts, fostering teamwork, and maintaining a fun and educational atmosphere.
- **Check/Check Out:** practical details and check-in protocols.
- **Fine Print:** information on handicap accessibility, photo release, rules for acceptance and cancellation policy.
- **Other:** Parking Permits, Camp Map, Glossary of Terms

EVENT OVERVIEW

Get ready to strike gold at the Winnebago Gold Rush, an exciting event that transports Scouts back to the rugged frontier days! With a lineup of immersive, hands-on stations, participants can pan for gold while learning about minerals and rock formations, test their aim at the BB Gun Range and Archery Challenge, and navigate the Horse & Wagon Race obstacle course. Scouts will develop practical skills like fire safety, knot-tying, and orienteering, while embracing the pioneer spirit through activities like Dutch oven cooking, lasso practice, and shelter building with natural materials. Team challenges include escaping a Mine Shaft maze, racing to transport golden nuggets, and identifying animal tracks and plants. Plus, there's a Wagon Decoration contest to celebrate creativity, alongside survival and first aid skill-building.

Please note, activity stations may vary depending on event staffing availability, ensuring a dynamic and exciting experience for everyone. Additionally, many of the stations are designed to align with rank advancements and adventure requirements, offering Scouts the opportunity to fulfill achievements as they immerse themselves in the Gold Rush-themed activities. Scouts can practice essential skills, develop teamwork, and gain valuable knowledge that supports their progression.

Join us for a day of adventure, discovery, and rank-worthy accomplishments as we uncover the treasures of the Gold Rush era!

"Strike gold by giving back! As part of the Winnebago Gold Rush Camporee, bring canned goods to help those in need and make a real difference. Every Scout's contribution turns kindness into treasure!"

SCHEDULE

Time Start	Description	Duration (Minutes)	Time End
Friday			
5:30:00 PM	Participant Check-in Open	150	8:00:00 PM
5:30:00 PM	Units Setup Campsite	240	9:30:00 PM
9:00:00 PM	Participant Leader Meeting	45	9:45:00 PM
10:00:00 PM	Lights Out / Quiet Time		
Saturday			
7:30:00 AM	Participant Check-in Open	180	10:30:00 AM
8:30:00 AM	Units Assemble for Flag Ceremony	15	8:45:00 AM
8:45:00 AM	Opening Flag Ceremony	15	9:00:00 AM
9:00:00 AM	Morning Activity Stations	180	12:00:00 PM
12:00:00 PM	Participant Lunch - Unit Responsible	60	1:00:00 PM
1:00:00 PM	Afternoon Activity Stations	180	4:00:00 PM
4:00:00 PM	Unit Free Time & Dinner	180	7:00:00 PM
6:00:00 PM	Participant Dinner (Optional)	60	7:00:00 PM
7:00:00 PM	Campfire Preparation	30	7:30:00 PM
7:30:00 PM	Gather for Campfire	15	7:45:00 PM
7:45:00 PM	Campfire Program	75	9:00:00 PM
9:00:00 PM	Unit Quiet Time	45	9:45:00 PM
10:00:00 PM	Lights Out / Quiet Time		
Sunday			
7:30:00 AM	Participant Check-out Open	210	11:00:00 AM
8:00:00 AM	Site Checks	180	11:00:00 AM
9:00:00 AM	Scouts Own Service	35	9:35:00 AM
11:00:00 AM	All Units Checked Out		

SAFETY INFORMATION

GENERAL CAMPOREE POLICIES

- Alcohol of any kind, smoking, and vaping are prohibited while at camp
- All participants must sign-in and sign-out of camp - leaving for any reason during the event, you must sign-out with a staff member to avoid triggering a “lost person” search. See staff at the camp office - if no one is available, follow the directions posted on the door or contact Carol Gonzalez (973-229-4172), James Connors (207-712-1674) or Rob Behan (973-714-3281). Check back in upon your return.
- Leave No Trace - Please practice Leave No Trace principles while in Camp and model these behaviors for your scouts and families.

YPT & CAMPING OVERNIGHT

- All YPT rules, barriers to abuse, and Guide to Safe Scouting rules apply to this event.
- Youth Protection training is required for all Scouting America registered volunteers
- Two registered adult leaders 21 years of age or over are required at all Scouting activities. There must be a registered female adult leader 21 years of age or over in every unit serving females. A registered female adult leader 21 years of age or over must be present for any activity involving female youth or female adult program participants
- One-on-one contact between adult leaders and youth members is prohibited both inside and outside of Scouting.
- Overnight rules for camping:
 - All adults staying overnight in connection with a Scouting activity must be currently registered as an adult volunteer or an adult program participant in that unit.
 - Adult volunteers must register in the position(s) they are serving in.
 - Registration as a merit badge counselor position does not meet this requirement. Limited exception below for Cub Scout overnight Programs.
- Cub Scout Programs – Overnight Exception:
 - Cub Scout parents or legal guardians taking part in an overnight Cub Scout program with their own child or legal ward are not required to register as leaders.
 - All adults must review the “[How to Protect your Children from Child Abuse: A Parent’s Guide](#)” that can be found in the front of each Cub Scout Handbook.
 - In addition, the parent or legal guardian must be accompanied by a registered leader at any time they are with youth members other than their own child/ward.
 - All other overnight adults must be currently registered in an adult fee required position.



- Accommodations:
 - Separate accommodations for adult males and females and youth males and females are required.
- Tenting:
 - Separate tenting arrangements must be provided for male and female adults as well as for male and female youth.
 - Youth sharing tents must be no more than two years apart in age.
 - In Cub Scouting, parents and guardians may share a tent with their family.
 - Spouses may share tents.
- Example Scenarios
 - Cub Scout and their parent or legal guardian camp overnight and share a tent - OK
 - Cub Scout and their parent or legal guardian camp overnight with siblings in the same tent - OK
 - Cub Scout, parent or legal guardian, and grandparent camp overnight in the same tent - NO GO
 - In this case, the grandparent would need to register as a leader in the Scouting Unit AND must camp in their own tent since they are not a parent or legal guardian of the Cub Scout.
 - Cub Scout camps overnight and shares a tent with a Cub Scout of a different gender - NO GO
 - Scouts may only share a tent with other Scouts of the same gender and within 2 years of age

HAZARDOUS WEATHER TRAINING

- Direct Contact Leaders are encouraged to complete Hazardous Weather Training. Click on the link and from there log into my.scouting.org.
- Who are Direct Contact Leaders?
 - Cubmaster Scoutmaster Exploring Advisor
 - Asst. Cubmaster Asst. Scoutmaster Associate Exp Advisor
 - Den Leader Crew Advisor Sea Scout Adult Leader
 - Asst. Den Leader Associate Crew Advisor
- Click the [FAQ for more information](#) on Scouting America Health and Safety Page (Haz Weather Training)



- Link to Training

BALOO TRAINING

- Every unit is recommended to have a BALOO trained leader camping for the duration of the event.
- If the unit will not have a BALOO trained leader present, please make this known to staff upon check-in. A camporee staff member will act as the required coverage for Cub Scout camping requirements.

RANGES

- Both the BB and Archery ranges are OFF LIMITS to all participants and staff except during their scheduled session to participate in either activity. This is for your safety.
- The Ranges are under the supervision of a designated Range Master and their staff. Please follow all of their directions, commands, and instructions at all times during the event.
- Failure to follow Range Master directions will result in expulsion of the entire unit from the range and possibly from camp.

BUDDY SYSTEM

- The buddy system is critical to keeping all participants safe while in camp. This means that under no circumstances should a youth be alone or walking around camp by themselves. They must have a buddy (parent or youth) with them at all times.
- Adults acting as buddies to youth shall be the youth's parent or legal guardian OR a registered leader with at least one other adult present at all times. At no time should an adult be alone with any youth of whom they are not the parent or legal guardian.

VEHICLES

- Only one vehicle/trailer per unit is allowed to park at each campsite. The vehicle should park upon check-in and leave only once the unit has checked out and cleared the campsite.
- Units camping only Saturday night must have their vehicle parked at their site by 8am Saturday morning. No vehicles will be allowed driving on the camp road after 8pm on Friday night or after 8am on Saturday for Saturday arrivals.

INCIDENTS & GETTING HELP

- Any accident, injury, near-miss, YPT issue, missing youth or adult, or any other emergency must be reported to Camporee staff. Staff will have radios and cell phones to coordinate emergency responders. Incident reports will be required for each occurrence.
 - Incident Reporting Portal: <https://riskconnectbsa.my.salesforce-sites.com/>



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- In the event of a medical emergency, notify the medical officer on duty or camporee staff. Stay where you are and follow instructions from staff. If police or EMS is required, the Medical Officer, Camporee Staff, or Camp Ranger must call 911.
- The camp is equipped with an emergency siren that will be sounded in the event of an emergency. When heard, follow this procedure:
 - Check-out of all program areas and everyone reports to the camp office by the parking lot.
 - Assemble as a unit. Unit leaders, take attendance / headcount.
 - Unit leader, report your headcount to camporee staff.
 - Additional instructions will be given.
- In the event of a weather emergency (severe lightning, dangerous winds) the shelter-in-place location will be the dining hall or the closest cabin.
- Nearby Medical Facilities
 - Saint Clare's Denville Hospital (20 minutes) 25 Pocono Rd, Denville, NJ 07834
 - Chilton Pediatric Clinic (23 minutes) 242 Boulevard, Pompton Plains, NJ 07444

PROGRAM STATIONS*

Panning for Gold

BB Gun Range**

Archery Challenge**

Horse & Wagon Race

Frontier Cooking

Lasso Practice

Mine Shaft Escape

Gold Rush Relay Race

Knots & Lashings

Map & Compass

Campfire Cooking Fire Safety

Pioneer Shelter

Animal Tracks & Nature ID

Scouting History & Gold Rush Trivia

First Aid and Survival Skills

Backyard Bass**

**Stations are subject to change based on registration and Event Staff.*

*** Stations will be scheduled in advance. Final schedule will be available after registration is closed.*

Be sure to join the Roundtable on May 6 and/or Registered Unit Leader's Zoom on May 12th for the most up to date information.

SCORING / POINTS

Gold Rush Best Wagon Contest

Category	Points	Description
Gold Rush Theme	25	Wagon reflects the Gold Rush era with creative and authentic design elements.
Craftsmanship	25	Quality and attention to detail in construction and decoration.
Functionality	25	Wagon is practical and sturdy for the event challenges, reflecting pioneer spirit.
Incorporation of Scouting Values	25	Design embodies Scouting principles like teamwork, resourcefulness, and creativity.

Total: 100 points

Tips for Success

- **Gold Rush Details:** Add era-specific elements like gold nuggets, lanterns, pickaxes, or barrels. Consider using burlap, rope, or other natural textures.
- **Highlight Scouting Values:** Incorporate symbols, phrases, or designs that reflect teamwork, resourcefulness, and the adventure of Scouting.
- **Polish the Presentation:** Clean lines, neat decorations, and thoughtful finishing touches can give your wagon that winning edge.
- **Create a Story:** Write a short explanation about your wagon's theme or inspiration to share with the judges. This can add depth and context to your design.

LEADERSHIP TIPS

Preparing for Camping Overnight and Meal Prep

- **Plan Ahead:** Review the [Patriots' Path Council camping resources](#) for guidance on packing, meal planning, and campsite setup.
- **Practice Packing:** Hold a meeting to demonstrate how to pack efficiently for camping, including essentials like sleeping bags, weather-appropriate clothing, and first aid kits.
- **Meal Prep:** Plan simple, hearty meals that can be cooked over a campfire or with portable stoves. Practice recipes like foil packet meals or Dutch oven dishes during a den or pack meeting. Suggestion: Families bring their own lunch, unit prepares other meals.
- **Gear Check:** Ensure all Families/Scouts have the necessary gear, including tents, flashlights, and rain gear.

Preparing for Activity Stations in Den and Pack Meetings

- **Skill Practice:** Incorporate station-related skills into meetings, such as knot-tying, fire-building, or map reading. Use resources like the [Outdoor Adventurer Den Meeting Plan](#) for ideas.
- **Teamwork Activities:** Organize team-based challenges to build camaraderie and prepare Scouts for group activities like the Mine Shaft Escape or Gold Rush Relay Race.
- **Station Previews:** Discuss the purpose and fun aspects of each station to build excitement and familiarity.

Strumming Up Excitement Around the Gold Rush Theme

- **Themed Meetings:** Host Gold Rush-themed pack meetings with costumes, decorations, and activities like "panning for gold" using small prizes or tokens.
- **Storytelling:** Share tales of the Gold Rush era to spark curiosity and enthusiasm.
- **Countdown:** Create a countdown calendar with fun facts or trivia about the Gold Rush to build anticipation.

Incorporating the Gold Rush Theme in the Campsite

- **Decorations:** Use props like gold-painted rocks, mining tools, or "Wanted" posters to transform your campsite into a frontier mining camp.
- **Themed Signage:** Create a custom sign for your campsite with a Gold Rush-inspired name, like "Prospector's Paradise."
- **Costumes:** Encourage Scouts and leaders to dress as miners, sheriffs, or pioneers to enhance the theme.

Suggestions for New Parents Camping for the First Time

- **Orientation:** Host a pre-camporee meeting to explain what to expect, including schedules, gear requirements, and safety protocols.
- **Buddy System:** Pair new parents with experienced ones to provide guidance and support.
- **Comfort Tips:** Share tips for staying comfortable, such as bringing extra layers, a good sleeping pad, and easy-to-prepare snacks.
- **Involvement:** Encourage new parents to participate in activities and help with simple tasks to feel included and engaged.

CHECK-IN / CHECK-OUT PROCEDURES

FRIDAY NIGHT - MAY 16

Participant check-in will be open from 5:30pm - 8:00pm at the registration table adjacent to the parking lot. Please park your vehicle in the lot first if you are not the unit's designated campsite vehicle.

SATURDAY MORNING - MAY 17

Participant check-in will open from 7:30am - 8:30am at the registration table adjacent to the parking lot. If you are camping Saturday night, please check-in before 8am because vehicles must be off the camp road at 8am. Day visitors and those camping but not the unit designated vehicle may register anytime between 7:30 and 8:30am. If you arrive after 8:30am and no one is at the registration table, please call Camporee Staff and follow their instructions.

SUNDAY MORNING - MAY 18

Check-out will be available starting at 8am. Your campsite must be checked by a member of Camporee Staff prior to your unit checking out (campsite is clean and orderly, firepit is cold and safe). Please send someone to the registration desk to request a site check - someone will be dispatched via radio.

GENERAL NOTES

- **ROSTER** - Each unit must have a copy of their registered participant roster on them throughout the weekend. Registration table staff will have the roster provided during online registration.
NOTE - you must list everyone attending in your registration.
- **MEDICAL FORMS** - Each participant must have their medical form fully filled out prior to arriving at camp via CampDocs. Anyone arriving at camp without a fully filled out CampDocs profile will not be able to participate.
- **WRISTBANDS** - PPC Camps utilize wristbands to identify valid participants throughout the weekend. Upon check-in, participants present will be given their wristbands by their unit leaders. Participants arriving after unit check-in will receive their wristbands from Camporee Staff. Unit Leaders should collect wristbands from participants upon their departure and turn all wristbands back into Camporee Staff upon Check-out.
- **RANGE TIMES** - Units will be scheduled for their Archery & BB range time - Units should receive this schedule before arrival, sent to the unit's registration contact in Scoutingevent.com. Additional schedules will be available at check-in.
- **MAPS** - Units should plan to print maps for their participants in advance of arrival. A limited number of maps will be available at check-in on a first-come, first-served basis.

- **PARKING PASS** - All vehicles on Camp Property need to have a parking pass on their dash. Parking pass templates are included in this guide. Please ensure your families have this on their vehicles and in the vehicle parked at the campsite.
- **LEAVING DURING THE EVENT** - Families leaving for any reason during the event must first check-out with their unit leader to note on their roster AND check-out with Camporee Staff before departing the property. If they return during the event, they must Check-IN with Camporee Staff and their Unit Leader upon their return to the event.
- **UNIT CHECK-OUT** - Before the unit departs the event, please ensure your campsite is in a clean, tidy, and safe condition. All trash should be policed and packed out, fire pits should be cold and safe prior to calling for a check-out.

FINE PRINT FROM COUNCIL

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Patriots' Path Council, Scouting America will make all reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities at its meetings and events. Please call Rob Behan at 973-765-9322 Ext. 257 with your request.

PHOTO RELEASE

I understand that by attending this program, sponsored by the Patriots' Path Council Scouting America, I consent to the use of photographs, film, videotapes, electronic representations and/or sound recordings made of me during that time by Scouting America, at their discretion and I hereby release Scouting America from any and all liability from such use and publication.

RULES FOR ACCEPTANCE AND PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAMS

Rules for acceptance and participation in the programs are the same for everyone without regard to race, color, national origin or handicap.

CANCELLATION POLICY

In all programs offered by the Patriots' Path Council, a great deal of planning and purchasing takes place well in advance. These plans include, but are not limited to staff, food, program materials, patches and awards, rental, and purchase of equipment. Patriots' Path Council does not issue refunds on cancellations made less than 30 days from the day of the event.

PARKING PERMIT

Please place it in the front windshield of every car in the parking lot.

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE

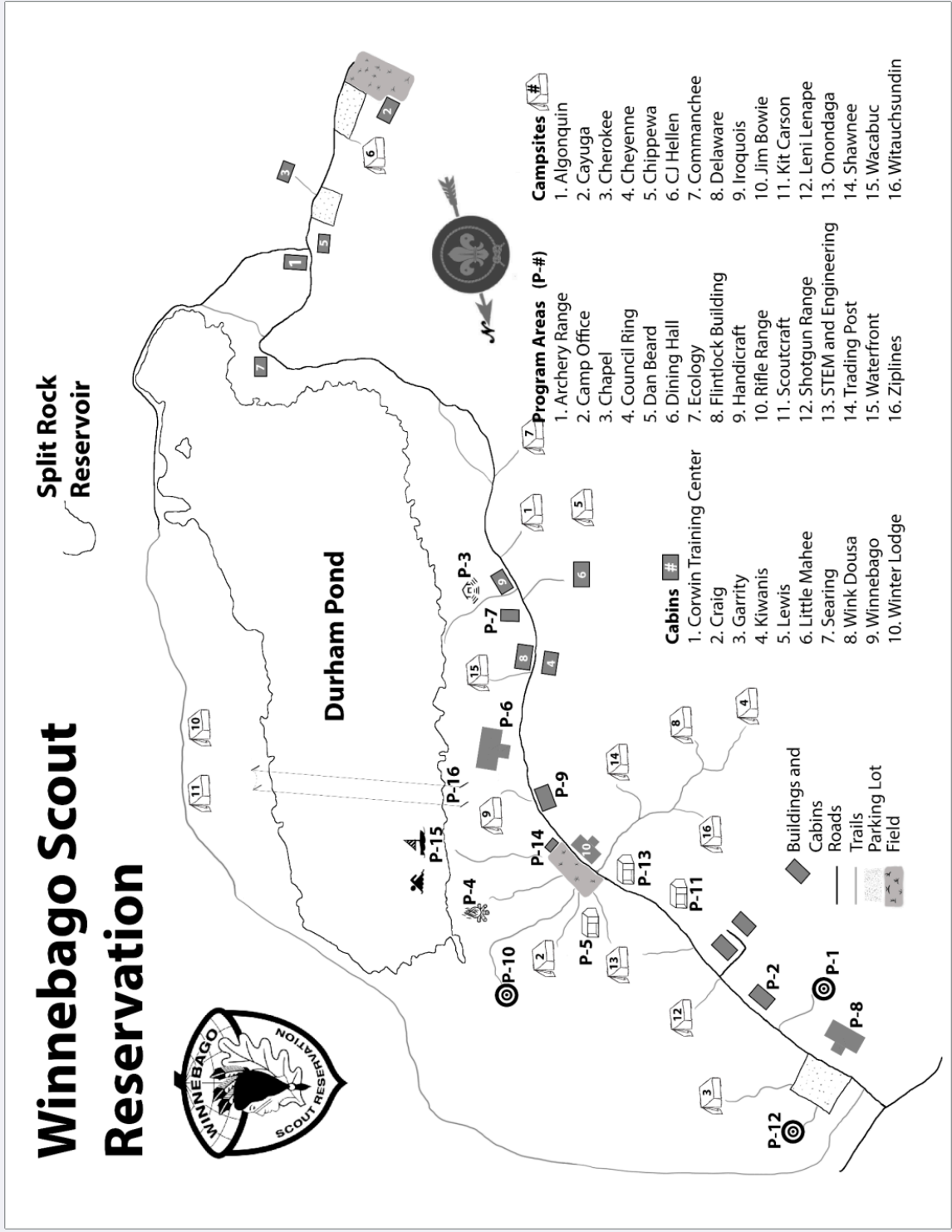
CAMPING OVERNIGHT

DAY PASS

NAME _____

CELL PHONE # _____

PACK # _____



WINNEBAGO SCOUT RESERVATION MAP

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Gold Rush team: everyone - troops, packs, unit leaders and event staff. It reflects a unified, inclusive, and dynamic group effort. It embodies the spirit of collaboration and shared purpose, drawing from the teamwork and determination seen during the Gold Rush era. Just as prospectors, miners, and settlers worked together to achieve their goals, this name symbolizes everyone involved—troops, packs, unit leaders, and event staff—coming together to create a successful and exciting event.

Gold Seeker's handbook: Unit Leader's Guide. A comprehensive resource for unit leaders, providing all the information and tools to lead their Cub Scouts and families effectively for the Winnebago Gold Rush.

Gold Seeker/Deputy: Unit Leader. It reflects an active and aspirational role. Just as gold seekers during the Gold Rush set out to discover precious treasures, Pack leaders are embarking on a journey to guide their Cub Scouts (or Trailblazers) toward growth, achievement, and valuable life lessons. The name symbolizes dedication to uncovering the potential in each scout, nurturing skills, and fostering a sense of adventure.

Prospector Crew/Sheriff: Event Staff. It reflects an essential and hands-on role, much like prospectors during the Gold Rush who scouted for gold and worked tirelessly to uncover valuable resources. Dedicated contributors, actively seeking to ensure a successful and enriching day for all participants. The crew evokes exploration, teamwork, and the excitement of discovery.

Trailblazer: Cub Scout. It reflects the adventurous spirit of young scouts, exploring and blazing new trails during the Gold Rush era.

Rush Ranger: Park Ranger

Gold Guardians: Scout Parents. It highlights their supportive role as protectors and guides in their children's journey, much like guardians ensuring success during the Gold Rush.