# Miami Valley Council
# Scouts BSA
# 2027 Klondike Challenge

# Leaders Guide

January 23, 2027
Cricket Holler Scout Camp

**MEDICAL FORMS (A and B) WILL BE COLLECTED AT CHECK-IN**

**Updated 11/17/2026**

## Welcome!

Dear Scouts and Scout Leaders,

**Weather Reschedule Policy -** The event will not be changed to another day unless there is a snow/road emergency declared. If the start of the day is extremely cold the start of the event may be delayed for the same day. Any changes to the schedule will be evaluated before the event.

The Miami Valley Council challenges your unit to compete in this year's Klondike Challenge. The program is designed to give Scout Patrols the chance to compete and work together as a team to solve problems. Patrols will be challenged with leadership, teamwork, and scout skills for points in the event competition. **Patrols should include 5 - 8 scouts per sled.** If you have fewer than 5 scouts, they can join a patrol with members from another troop. We have an exciting array of stations for this year and we need your support.

Please take time to read this information guide, become familiar with its content, and share it with your youth leaders. If Patrols follow the guidelines that are contained in this booklet, they will have a great experience at this event. This Guide includes a list of items to be included on each sled, a schedule for the day, and a description of each of the stations. More detailed instructions will be given at each station.

**Scoutmasters, be aware of the limited role that you and the other adults have once the Klondike begins**. This is a Scout ONLY event that is conducted using the patrol method. We need to keep it this way. Any assistance from adults or leaders will result in point penalties for the Patrol. This includes checking out various stations and providing information to a patrol before they attempt the activity or assisting in the activity in any other way. If you would like to help with the event, we could use extra judges and staff members - please let us know if you can help.

Finally, don't be afraid to ask questions prior to the event. The main purpose of this event is to have fun and test the scouts on their knowledge of Scout Skills. Our aim is to help you, as a leader, to find out where your scouts excel, and where they could use some help.

Patrol leaders will receive a map of Cricket Holler, and their starting points at check-in/registration. The station requirements are included in this information guide so that Scouts can work on their skills in advance. All stations will make use of either skills found in the Handbook or the sled team functioning together as a unit.

Lunch will be provided. If anyone in your group has any special needs, please let us know ASAP and be sure to list dietary restrictions and allergies in the online registration.

Please make sure any of your adults in attendance have their YPT up to date.

Thank you and I hope you have a great time. Best wishes for a fun and educational day!

The 2027 Klondike Challenge Committee

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| Charlotte Wuebker | John Barrett | Bruce Ordway | Melissa Schindler | John MIller |
| Amanda Schaedig | Larry Taranto | Jim Wuebker | Keith Vossler | |

# MEDICAL FORMS (A and B) WILL BE COLLECTED AT CHECK-IN

Just before the turn of the last century, gold prospectors traveled the sub-zero reaches of Alaska by means of dogs and sleds. They camped out in all kinds of winter weather, and therefore needed adequate survival skills, which they learned from the native Eskimos. Scouting has incorporated this theme in the Klondike Derby. The point of a Klondike Derby is to make Scouts use their heads, to put their Scouting skills to work in the field, to demonstrate teamwork and Scout spirit, and to have fun outdoors on winter days.

In a Klondike Derby, Scout patrols acting as huskies pull specially designed homemade sleds around a field course marked by stations named for towns or cities, such as Dawson or Fairbanks. At each town the Scouts tackle exercises in problem-solving, as well as contests and other activities in which the patrols or teams earn points toward determining the Klondike champion for this year.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

Each patrol or "dog team" (so-called because Scouts act as huskies) follows a course as indicated by the map and schedule sheet given to the team leader at registration. The map will guide the teams around a circuit of the simulated towns. As they arrive at each town, the patrols should demonstrate their Scout spirit by giving their patrol yell. It will cost the youth points if they don't yell. They'll encounter a practical problem involving basic Scouting skills. Depending on how well the team works out this problem, it is awarded a score. The team then sets off for the next town. Each stop also may offer additional challenges for additional points.

CLAIM JUMPERS:

A Klondike once featured "claim jumpers" who would "hold up" patrols as they passed. (The patrols are forewarned of the possibility.) The claim jumpers asked Scout-related questions, such as "What are three points of Scout Law?" Or, "What do stars on a badge stand for?" For each question the Scouts missed, the claim jumpers "stole" a specified amount of gold (points). Sleds were then marked with a ribbon so they wouldn't be jumped again. Every team gets jumped.

**Team Specification:**

1. Each patrol must submit a roster of patrol members when checking in at camp.
2. Maximum size of each patrol should be eight (8) scouts and a minimum of five (5) scouts.
3. All Scouts must be clothed for extreme winter conditions; this event will not be canceled due to cold temperatures.

**Sled Specifications:**

1. Your sled must display your patrol flag.
2. All sleds must be able to transport all required equipment (prefer at least 6 feet long and 18 inches wide).
3. Your sled may have wheels to move around the Yukon Territory but may not have wheels to participate in the Sled Race. (Wheels may be removed for the sled race at the end of the day.)

# 2027 Klondike Challenge Schedule

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| 7:00 am - 8:30 am | Registration @ K-Lodge. **Bring roster and medical forms**. |
| | Check sleds, review schedule, prepare for the day! |
| 8:00 am - 8:30 am | Meeting for all adults and event staff (except medical) @ K-Lodge |
| 8:40 am | Opening Ceremony @ K-Lodge Lawn |
| | Flags (Pledge, Oath, Promise) and Prayer |
| 9:00 am | Events begin at various locations around camp |
| 11:40 am -1:40 pm | Lunch @ K-Lodge during assigned session |
| | Sled inspection during lunch |
| 3:50 pm | All sleds meet in front of K-Lodge |
| | Complete Sled Inspections |
| | Turn in Nuggets |
| 4:10 pm | Unpack Sleds in Parking Lot |
| 4:20 pm | The Great Klondike Sled Race |
| 4:45 pm | Awards @ K-Lodge |
| 5:00 pm | Klondike ends |

# 2027 Klondike Challenge Patrol Gear List

**Each Scout Patrol Should Bring the Following:**

- Sturdy Sled Capable of Carrying One Scout (commercial sled may be used except for race)
- Patrol Flag and Roster
- Clipboard With Paper and Pencil
- Scout Ten Essentials
- Watch
- Whistle
- (4) Six Foot Poles (minimum)*
- Blanket
- Splints for Broken Limbs (2 Long and 2 Short - minimum)
- Enough Bandages/Neckerchiefs for Splints and Dressings
- First Aid Kit
- Scout Handbook
- Trash Bag
- Ropes for Lashings (8-15 Feet long - 6 minimum)
- Tarps to build a shelter large enough for at least one scout
- Matches or alternate methods of lighting a fire. Traditional scout fire starters (wax-based) may be used.
- Adequate amount of dimensional lumber (non pressure treated) prepared to construct a fire, max 12" long
- A blindfold for each member of the patrol
- An electronic device capable of running Google maps
- At least 4 tent stakes *
- Any other equipment deemed necessary
- *AOL Scouts! (optional)*

** Changes from last year*

# 2027 Klondike Challenge Scoring and Awards

**Sled Races:** First, Second, and Third Place awards for “homemade” sleds and also “commercial” sleds

**Stations:** First, Second, and Third Place awards per station

**Overall:** **First through Fifth Place** based on points from all stations (not including the sled races)

**Additional Awards:**

- Mayor’s Award - Best Scout Spirit
- Best Patrol Flag
- Gold Nugget and Sled Inspection

## Sled Race

**Description:** All patrol members with their sleds will follow the **defined** course. This is a separate event from the Klondike events and will have recognition for first and second place. (All members of the patrol and the sled must cross the finish line together to be counted as completed.) No wheels will be permitted on the sleds for the race only. All equipment except for the patrol flag may be removed for the race. For safety purposes, the race will be run in heats.

# 2027 Klondike Challenge Stations

1. **Snow Shelter!**
   **Description:** Your patrol has been out in the cold for some time. All but one scout has frostbite and can not use one of their hands. The one scout that can use both hands can only advise and drive in the stakes. It is getting late and your patrol needs a place to shelter for the night. Patrols will be required to build a shelter using a tarp, ropes and stakes.

2. **Build a Fire!**
   **Description:** Patrols will be required to make a sustainable fire while following the outdoor code. Matches and fire starters (wax based) may be used to start the fire. No other flammables allowed. Wood (dimensional lumber/non pressure treated, max 12" long) should be prepared in advance by the patrol and brought to the event.

3. **Don't Break the Ice!**
   **Description:** Scouts will rescue victims (half of the patrol) who have been trapped on an icy lake.

4. **First Aid Accidents and Action!**
   **Description:** Your patrols will come across an accident in one of the towns in the Yukon. You will need to triage and treat multiple victims.

5. **Lumberjack Knot Landing!**
   **Description:** Patrols will encounter areas where the patrol will need to tie knots. Using rope and designated knots, the patrol will tie knots so they can continue on their journey.

6. **Gold Fever - Oh No!**
   **Description:** Your patrol was exposed to the dreaded Alaskan Gold Fever. The cure is in a bucket on the other side of a ravine. Use your poles, ropes, and lashing skills to retrieve the bucket and the cure for all members of your patrol.

7. **All For One Challenge Race!**
   **Description:** Patrols will perform a variety of challenges requiring them to communicate and work together to accomplish the tasks.

8. **Staying on Course!**
   **Description:** Navigating across the Yukon Territory requires good navigation skills. At least one member of the patrol must have an electronic device capable of running Google maps to complete this challenge.

9. **Walking A-Frame Challenge!**
   **Description:** The objective of this activity is for each Patrol to construct an A-Frame using lashing poles and rope and then to use that A-Frame, with four guy lines, to walk a member of the patrol through a course. The lashing poles & guy lines will be provided.

   **Sled Inspection!**
   **Description:** Having everything that is necessary is extremely important in the Yukon Territory. Patrol sleds will be inspected for required equipment and safe storage of their equipment.

## Camp Rules and Policies

Scouts BSA registration and event registration is required for all participants.
Medical forms are required for all participants (Parts A and B) and will be required at check-in.
Vehicles will remain in the parking lot.
Visitors must check-in at the K-Lodge.
Early or temporary release of participants will be handled by unit leaders.
Prohibited Items:

- Alcohol
- Smoking, vaping, dipping, or other nicotine usage
- Illegal Drugs, Narcotics, or unregistered prescription medicines
- Fireworks
- Sheath knives
- Personal firearms, bows, arrows, ammunition
- Pets or other animals (except service animals)

## Klondike Contacts

2027 Klondike Event Chair
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