

“Scouting through the Decades”

KLONDIKE DERBY

February 21, 2026

Participant Guide

Lakes District - French Creek Council



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Welcome

In August 1896, prospectors discovered gold in the remote Klondike region of Canada's Yukon Territory. In July 1897, the S.S. Portland arrived in Seattle, Washington, with more than a ton of Klondike gold on board. This event touched off the great Klondike Gold Rush as thousands of people who dreamed of becoming wealthy began booking passage on steamers heading north from Seattle and other West Coast ports to the Yukon. Upon arriving at the northern end of the Inside Passage, however, these adventure-bound stampedeers found no easy route leading to the still distant Klondike region. Their progress was slow as each prospector made repeated trips over the rugged trail through the bitter cold. Imagine pulling a sled loaded with three to six hundred pounds of supplies over a stretch of ice up a steep grade, strewn with boulders and logs, then crossing over a riverbed on a couple of trees laid side by side and you get a picture of their labors. Facing 60-mile-an-hour winds in 65-degree-below-zero weather, the prospectors had to ascend the Chilkoot Pass -- 1,000 feet straight up. With a steady stream of stampedeers lining the path each day, it took forty trips to get a ton of supplies up the mountain. Those who survived the mountain then faced a treacherous passage by boat to the town of Dawson near the gold fields.

Since 1949, Boy Scout units have been participating in Klondike Derbies to honor this historic time. Scouts pull a sled loaded with supplies from station to station and compete in various Scout skill-based events. Custaloga Town Scout Reservation is carrying on the tradition! Webelos patrols may attend with a Scouts BSA unit.

Registration information can be found at <https://scoutingevent.com/532-LakesKlondike26>.

Interested in camping? There are cabins and sites available to rent. Visit the Catalog Town Scout Reservation system at <https://campreservation.com/532/Camps/429>

Please do not delay! We need as accurate a count as possible of units and patrols so that we can prepare in advance for your arrival. Please be sure to fill out the registration form completely as it has some important information we need for the final planning.

Details

Who: All Scouts BSA, Venturers, and Arrow of Light Scouts
What: 2026 Lakes District Klondike Derby
When: Saturday, February 21, 2026
Where: Custaloga Town Scout Reservation, Carlton, PA
Bring: Klondike Sled, all required gear, equipment and forms as outlined in this guide
Registration: On-line via the following link:
https://scoutingevent.com/532-OP_Klondike2025
Deadline: Friday, February 1, 2025
Fees: \$13 per Scout / \$5 per Adult
Camping: visit <https://campreservation.com/532/Camps/429> additional fees
Hosted By: applicable Lakes District

Scout Executive- Steven Dunn

Event Chair – Ryan Adams

Awards Ceremony Troop Host (winner from 2025) – TBD

Schedule

8:00 AM – 8:45 AM	Check In	Lower Field
8:45 AM – 9:00 AM	Opening/Announcements	Lower Field
9:00 AM - Noon	Stations	Lower Field
Noon – 1:00 PM	Lunch*	Lower Field Roadway Dining Hall for Volunteers
1:15 PM – 1:30 PM	Sled Race	Lower Field
1:30 PM – 4:30 PM	Stations	Lower Field
5:00 PM	Awards / Closing	Dining Hall

**Entries for the Golden Skillet Award must be submitted before 1:00 PM at the OA Pavilion*

Particulars

Volunteers:

The Klondike Derby is a traditional camporee format. Each Troop, Pack or Crew is requested to provide two adults to assist with the event. Names and phone numbers should be listed on the registration form. Volunteers should report to Headquarters by 7:30am on Saturday and should be available to serve until 4:00 pm. Volunteers should dress appropriately, as they will be outdoors all day. **All volunteers are very much appreciated!**

Check-In:

All sled teams should check-in Saturday morning between 8:00-8:45 AM. Sled rosters must be turned-in at check in. Only the Sled Team Leader will check-in at the OA Pavilion. At check-in, each Team Leader will be given a set of instructions, and a map of the course and events.

Bonus for Camping:

Bonus points will be awarded for any sled team the tent camps the night before the Klondike. All crew members must camp outside for the team to earn the bonus points.

Dress:

Winter weather will be a challenge and concern for Scouts during the Klondike. As seen from past Klondikes, temperatures can range from 10 to +55 degrees, with wind chills as low as minus 10 degrees. The weather can include snow, rain, sleet, or sunshine, sometimes all in the same day. **All Scouts must be appropriately dressed for the weather, or they will not be allowed to participate.** Suggested attire includes long underwear, hats, and gloves (2 pairs), wool or synthetic socks, boots (NOT sneakers), and layers of outerwear. Rain gear (raincoat, poncho, etc.) should be carried or be available for each Scout on the sled or in daypacks.

Leaders are required to complete a visual inspection of their scouts to make sure that they have the appropriate attire prior to arriving at camp. Our priority is to keep the Scouts safe!

Recognition:

All registered Scouts will receive a 2026 Klondike Derby Patch.

Prizes will be awarded for Best Sled, Sled Team Spirit, The Golden Skillet for the best lunch, 3rd, 2nd, and 1st place for the Klondike Derby. The highest placed team has the honor of hosting the 2027 Lakes District Klondike Derby Awards Ceremony.

Lunch:

Sled teams will compete for the coveted "Golden Skillet". At lunch time all Sled Teams will be assigned a spot along the road between the lower fields. There, teams will prepare a fire and cook a hot lunch. A lunch portion should be presented to the Golden Skillet judges, located in the OA

pavilion. Dishes will be judged on creativity, presentation, and taste. The Golden Skillet Challenge is optional.

Warming Station

The plan is to have some hot chocolate, coffee and water at OA Pavillion.

Klondike Derby Rules

The weekend will be filled with FUN and competition. Scouts will compete as a Patrol (4 to 8 Scouts). Several activity stations will be set up throughout Custaloga Town. Scouts will compete by participating in a variety of activities which will require Scouts to demonstrate basic Scouting skills, teamwork, problem solving and most of all, show Scout Spirit! Scoring will be done with a normalized system as teams may not complete all stations on the Klondike Trail. Station themes are Cooking, Wilderness Survival, Outdoor Ethics, and Shooting Sports.

Read the challenges. Each team is responsible to have everything they will need on this trek, listed on the equipment list.

- Sleds are to be constructed by youth.
 - Sleds should be of the traditional Klondike derby style.
 - Sleds may have wheels attached if there is less than one inch of snow.
 - All sleds must be propelled only by Scouts or Wind (If you are that crafty).
 - No electrically powered devices are allowed.
 - Teams should be prepared to have sleds travel over rough terrain.
 - All Sleds will be inspected prior to the start of the race for safety.
 - Teams consist of a minimum 4 Scouts or maximum of 8 Scouts. Teams should finish with the same number of participants you start out with.
 - Teams must be at the starting line on time.
 - Teams must have everything secured on their sled or carried on their person.
 - Leadership rotates at each station.
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- **Important** - NO adult is to coach, help, or otherwise assist any Scout or Patrol while that Scout or Patrol is involved with Derby competition. (This rule may be waived by the Marshall for special needs Scouts only). Points will be deducted from any team receiving such help.

Stations:

There will be several stations that the teams will travel to throughout the day. Teams will rotate through stations.

Planned stations are as follows (subject to change at the whims of the organizer)

- **Musket Training** – Scouts will be able to shoot air rifles at this event.
- **Atomic Fire** – Build and maintain a fire for 2 minutes.
- **Rocketing up the Hill** – Tackle the climb to the heights as you get your team and sled to the top.
- **Two Man Saw** – dividing and conquer a log as a team. Scouts competing in this event must have Totin Chip. Cub scouts cannot compete in this event.
- **Flight of the Navigator** – Scouts move through a “danger zone” undetected (quietly maneuver through a course avoiding verbal communication using only hand signals.)
- **Building Bridges** – Scouts lash a bridge to cross a crevasse.
- **Great Depression Survival** – Teams must assess and treat an “injured ally” using proper first aid techniques. Transportation of injured scout following treatment.
- **Orienteering**– Scouts follow a set of coordinates along with using their pace to complete the course.
- **Night Camping** - Construct your tent blindfolded. Not able to use pop up tents!
- **Teamwork Makes the Dreamwork** - Teams will compete in an obstacle course with a “disability”.
- **Forging the Great Divide** - Need to get your sled and scouts across an obstacle.

Stations may be added/modified depending on registration and volunteer levels

Required Sled Cargo List

- Boy Scout or Scouts BSA Handbook
- Notepad, Pencils
- Sled Team Roster
- Drinking Water
- First Aid Kit
- Axe and/or Hatchet with Sheath
- Empty 5 Gallon Bucket
- Two Team Members must have a Toting' Chip (with cards)
- Ropes: for hill climb (50-100 feet), shelter building, lashings, ice rescue
 - Including four ropes of equal diameter, three six-foot long, one twelve feet long
- 2 poles for stretcher building
- Blanket
- Tarp
- 3 dowel rods or sticks
- Lighter, flint & steel, hot spark, or matches
- Wood for fire building including tinder and kindling to start a fire
- Lunch for all team members and samples for judges
- Small bag for lunch trash
- Backpacking stove for cooking
- Pan and basic utensils for cooking
- Compass or two
- Tent

Scouts are welcome to include anything else on their sled they think they may need based on the stations described above.

Sled Team Roster

Sled Team _____

Troop _____

Leader _____

Cell _____

Sled Team Member	Age	Rank

All members should be dressed appropriately for the weather

**Each Sled team should turn in 1 copy of this Sled Team Roster at Check In
and carry at least 1 copy with them during the competition.**