

Grand Columbia Territory Polar Bear Camporee

February 27 - March 1, 2026

Scout-a-Vista

Elevation 3,373'



The focus this year is on Winter Campsites!

Snow and/or debris shelter, cooking on the fire, and a desert challenge. Troops will arrive Friday night and make camp. There will be a pot or two of soup on the stove so that troops can eat at the lodge once their camp sites are chosen. Troops can set up camp then eat or eat and then set up camp. Whichever way their Scout Master says. The scouts will have all of Saturday to work on their site and cook on their **fire**. In the afternoon camp tours will start and campsites will be judged. That evening there will be an indoor campfire, awards and dessert. Sunday morning there will be an Interfaith worship service followed by a grab and go breakfast. Be sure to check out when you grab breakfast! From the looks of things there should be plenty of SNOW! Bring a shovel!!!

*Welcome to the Scout-a-Vista Grand Columbia Territory Polar Bear Camporee!
We hope you have come well prepared for winter camping and will have a great snowy time this year!*

Overview:

Location:

Approx. 47.3123483°N, -120.3847928°W

Address: 3275 Mission Ridge Road, Wenatchee, WA 98801

Directions: 16 minutes from Central Wenatchee; 2 hours and 2 minutes from Electric City; 2 hrs and 37 min from Oroville; 1 hour and 3 minutes from Chelan; 1 hour 24 minutes from Moses Lake; 2 hours 7 minutes from Yakima; 1 hour 40 minutes from Ellensburg.

Directions from Hwy 97/US2: Cross the Columbia River and exit on 285/North Wenatchee Ave. Stay right to be on South Chelan Ave; continue straight onto South Mission Street, After 0.9mi continue onto Squilchuck Rd for 7 miles then it changes its name to Mission Ridge Rd and 1.4 miles from there the camp is on your left.

In Brief

- * Bring shovels! Scoop shovels work the best. But all sorts of sizes will help!
- * Each unit brings and prepares their own food over a fire for Saturday
- * Each unit/patrol should make a dessert for the dessert challenge
- * Yak tracks or a similar traction device is highly recommended to be on your feet **BEFORE** getting out of your vehicle
- * Adults and Scouts need a completed A and B Med form
- * SPL meeting is Friday at 8:30 in the Dining Hall
- * Sleds are a great idea to haul gear to your campsite but are not required.
- * A shovel for each scout is a great plan.



Details:

You will need your completed medical forms Parts A and B in hand for check in.

BSA Medical form parts A and B are here:

https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001_AB.pdf?gl=1*39xdi1*ga*MTAwNDE1Mjg3Mi4xNjMxOTA2NTY5*ga_20G0JHESG4*MTYzNDUyODkxOS4zMzQwLjE2MzQ1Mjg5MTkuNjA

Upon Arrival, the SPL and the Scoutmaster should proceed to the lodge and check in with the following:

- The total number of scouts, and adults camping.
- A check for any balance owed
- Medical forms A and B for every person staying
- The number and names of patrols that will be competing.

Please leave a card on the dashboard with the driver's name and unit # so we know whose vehicle is whose

Park facing out, so you can drive away without backing up.

You must carry all your gear from the parking area to your site. There will be snow so pack/sled/boot up accordingly.

All units need to be represented at the SPL meeting on Friday Night at 8:30pm. A great deal of information will be shared during the meeting including a more detailed explanation of what's expected! This is a competition! SPL, ASPLs, and Scoutmaster/s from each unit are welcome.

Safety Reminders:

- BSA policy prohibits passengers in beds of pickup trucks
- Drivers, please maintain safe speed and drive cautiously on camp property, watching out for adults and youth. It will be dark when you arrive, so take extra care.
- Drivers-may want to bring chains that fit your vehicle and a snow shovel.
- Follow manufacturer's safe storage instructions when using liquid or propane fuel for cooking or illumination.

- Keep an appropriate fire extinguisher rated for flammable liquids accessible in your campsite.
- “NO FLAMES IN TENTS!” That includes tent heaters that have a flame!!
- Units should take care of minor injuries. We have a medic on site for anything larger than a bandaid.
- Wet gear may be brought into the lodge to dry out

Site Rules:

- Do not cut live trees.
- Do not dig any holes or trenches in the ground; in the snow is fine!
- Follow BSA “Leave No Trace” camping guidelines (chapter 7, Boy Scout Handbook, 12th Edition).
- Store food properly in patrol boxes and ice chests using a bungee cord or other method to secure the lid. Items that should NOT be frozen should be placed in a cooler or can be placed in the main lodge. (Trash Pandas are around ie. raccoons)
- Use three pot method for dishwashing.
- Polar Bear Camp is a GREEN camp, therefore bring a mess kit and utensils.
- Trash that your troop generates must be secure at night and brought home with you when you leave.
- The Scout Oath and Law is the guideline for conduct.
- Please read over and follow the Guide to Safe Scouting <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/toc/>
- Note-There is spotty cell service in camp. The camp’s phone number for incoming emergency calls only is (509) 663-7416. The phone will be used for outgoing emergency calls only.

Meals:

Friday Night there will be Stew and Chili hot and ready starting around 5:00PM

Saturday, your unit is responsible for all their meals.

Please plan warm nutritious meals and snacks.

NOTE: Scouts will be cooking over fire NOT propane. (It is recommended to either not bring propane or leave it in the vehicle as a backup.)

Sunday Morning, a grab and go breakfast will be provided.

Be Prepared- in advance

Well before your troop comes please spend a meeting or two preparing for winter camping both gear and cold weather and frost /hypothermia prevention and first aid. Here are some links to resources for you so you can be prepared:

<https://scoutingmagazine.org/2015/12/winter-camping-tips/>

<https://scoutingmagazine.org/tag/winter-camping/>

Hypothermia Safety Moment is a great one to cover with all scouts and adults attending:

<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safety-moments/hypothermia/>



What to Bring:

- Roster of participants
- Parts A+B medical forms and copy of medical insurance card for each camper
- **A sled to transport gear is optional but encouraged.**
- **Snow shovels**
- Splitting maul or ax and a hatchet for cutting wood (it is quartered only)
- Troop and patrol flags
- Troop first aid kit
- Duty roster, Menu, and Fireguard sheets to post (Page protectors are great!)
- Lanterns, matches, flashlights NOTE: NO FLAMES IN TENTS!
- Standard troop camping equipment (tents, food, cooking equipment, etc.) but with an eye towards winter stable tents. Extra ground cloth so that one is under the tent and another inside the tent. (There are no tent platforms)
- Pay particular attention to insulation underneath. NO thick air mattresses (too much air is hard to heat from your body on top and cold under). 2 closed foam cell pads or a closed cell foam pad/therm-a-rest type pad and a double reflective insulation pad (looks like reflective bubble wrap) works well.
- Super warm sleeping bag or 2 sleeping bags. A rectangular bag and a mummy one inside work well in combination. Or one bag and extra blankets or a liner
- A knit cap (or 2)
- Warm gloves (2 pair in case 1 gets wet) with scout's name
- Wool socks or other non cotton socks (bring extra in case they get wet)
About 7 pairs change every meal and at bedtime (no lie)
- Warm long underwear and warm pjs
- Layers- at least 3 one being waterproof (snow happens)
- Waterproof shoes or snow boots
- Bike helmet to wear in case sledding for fun happens!
- Day pack with 10 essentials including a compass to be carried by each scout
- A traction device on your shoes is a smart idea like Yak Tracks or the like. The roads get icy and traction on shoes/boots helps prevent falls
- An extra change of dry, clean clothes and a plastic bag or 2 for wet gear
- Flashlights and extra batteries
- **Snow shovel(s)** This is repeated for emphasis
- Optional: hand warmers
- **Tip:** wise leaders bring a few extra sleeping bags or blankets, extra tarps and plastic bags for wet things and also ask each scout Saturday morning if their gear is dry (we can dry it) and if they were warm enough.
- **Uniforms of the Day:** Scouts BSA Field uniform (Class "A") is required for the Saturday morning & evening flag. Otherwise be warm and waterproof.



General Schedule of Events

(Specifics given to SPLs at Friday's meeting)

Friday, Feb. 27

FYI Sunrise is at 6:44AM and Sunset is at 5:43PM. However once the sun dips below the mountain the temperatures go down fast
Historical Average Temp for February ranges 26-40 degrees.

1:00PM-4:00PM Staff arrival, set up and snow shoveling

4:00PM – 8:00PM Friday Night Arrival and check-in. Late arrivals please contact Kim Stout @ 509-631-1759 in advance. If you get lost you can try the camp phone and someone will likely answer after they figure out how to answer a landline ;) Have your medical forms all ready for adults and youth. Campsite selection and set up

5-8:30 pm Hot soup supper in Lodge (If you're arriving later, just come in quietly so that you don't interrupt the SPL meeting. Thanks)

8:30PM SPL/PL/SM Meeting in Lodge

Saturday, Feb 28 FYI Sunrise is at 6:43AM and Sunset is at 5:45PM

9:30 Flag Meet at the flagpole with your Troop Flag in your Class A's with layers underneath.

10:00-4:00 Winter Campsite set up and Building! All cooking must be done over fire!

4:00 Flag ceremony! We will retire some old flags and then Camp Tours Begin!

7:00 Full Belly Bear Dessert due at lodge for judging and sharing.

7:15 Campfire skits, songs, awards and Eating of Deserts!

Sunday, Mar 1 FYI Sunrise is 6:41AM

9:00AM Interfaith Worship Service in Lodge

10:00AM Breakfast and Checkout begins
Please be out of camp by noon

Events-

There are always points awarded for scout spirit and the "Snowball Award". Then there is the "Polar Bear" Award for the over-all competition winner!



Competition is almost all about your Campsite!

We are looking for a great, well prepared, clean and organized site. With primitive shelter!
Here is an Example score card! (It may change slightly, suggestions welcome)

Polar Bear 2026 Score Card

Troop _____	Worst	OK	Best
<i>If it was totally awful you can put a 0</i>	1	2	3
Fire above ground			
Fire suppression handy (shovel or bucket)			
Kitchen area separate from sleeping area			
Dishes Clean and Stored (may be in/on drying rack/device if not in use)			
Food Prep area Clean			
Dishwashing Station			
Handwash station with soap			
Drinking water available			
First Aid Kit Visible	No		Yes
Camp Gadget			
Troop and Patrol Flag displayed	0	1	Both
Garbage Secured	>2	1 - 2	None
Defined Wood Splitting Area			
Wood neatly stacked (not a trip hazard)			
Cutting Tools Stored/ Placed Safely			
Menu, Duty Roster, and Fireguard posted	0	1 - 2	All 3
Overall Site Organization			

Total Points!

Polar Bear Shelter Score Card 2026

Troop _____	Worst	OK	Best
	1	2	3
Primitive shelter/s			
Enough Space for all Scouts (sleeping bag proof)			
Moisture Barrier between ground and sleeping bag			
Comfort added (ie. Reflecting wall for lean-to, sleeping spots higher than entrance for warmth)			

Point Total

Full Belly Bear Dessert Challenge!

(0-5 points) each troop/patrol should prepare a dessert in camp and bring it to the lodge for judging and sharing.

	5 is the best
Desert Name/Number	Rating 1-5

Notes: (I don't like cherries so it never had a chance)

Arrow of Light Dens are welcome! Don't forget helmets are required for sledding. We are so glad you get to come!

From Guide to Safe Scouting.

- Arrow of Light Scouts may participate at a Scouts BSA "camporee" (council * Guidelines for Arrow of Light Scouts Camping Overnight with Scouts BSA
- Arrow of Light Scouts can participate and camp at a unit coordinated campout with a Scouts BSA troop they are eligible to join. They must attend as an Arrow of Light den/patrol under the supervision of two deep leadership from their Arrow of Light den/patrol or pack. All Cub Scout camping requirements still apply, including the Arrow of Light den/patrol must have a BALOO trained adult leader in attendance and all of Scouting's Youth Protection policies apply.
- Arrow of Light Scouts may participate at a Scouts BSA "camporee" (council coordinated, short-term camp, see NCAP SA-001) during the day and/or overnight with their Arrow of Light Den/Patrol. Arrow of Light Scouts can attend as an Arrow of Light den/patrol under the supervision of two deep leadership from their Arrow of Light den/patrol or pack. The Arrow of Light Scout's parent or legal guardian(s) may attend with the Arrow of Light den/patrol and their child, either alongside the two-deep leadership or as part of it if they are registered with the pack.