Scouting America
Garden State Council

OPERATION POLAR BEAR 2026 (KLONDIKE DERBY)
Garden State Council Pinelands District
Pine Hill Scout Reservation | December 11 - 13, 2026
(Updated: 09/28/25)

What is a Klondike Derby?

GENERAL INFORMATION
A Klondike Derby is a one-day competitive event, which uses sledges and Klondike Gold Rush themes to complete a multiple "city" course and sledge race, challenging each sled team's skills and teamwork. The purpose of the Derby is first, a grand outdoor winter adventure full of fun and surprises, and second, a way for Scouts to test their basic camping and survival skills. Only in the case of extremely bad weather will the Derby be postponed or cancelled. Each Troop is encouraged to enter as many expedition teams as they can support. Minimum team size is 4 Scouts; smaller teams may be combined so that all may participate. Each expedition will visit several "cities" and will be provided a score sheet giving the order in which they are to visit these cities. **The order must be followed and the map used to find each destination**. The Mayor of each city will pose to the Scouts a problem. The Judges will monitor the team's progress and report to the Mayor as each task is performed. Maximum award per city is described later and awarded in points for completely and properly solving the problem as described by the Mayor. Each city will have a Mayor and Judges; ***the Mayor's word on all matters is final.***

NOTE: The Expedition (Patrol) Leader is the only member of the team who may communicate with a Mayor or Scorer!!!

REGISTRATION, INSPECTION OF SLEDGE PROCEDURES
Each Troop is required to check in Saturday Morning at Frost Corners between 7:30 and 8:45 AM. At this time, a final sled roster of Patrols, listing names and ages of scouts participating must be submitted. Each team leader will be issued any last-minute instructions, an Official Map and Score Sheet. All sledges will be checked to ensure all required equipment is present. All team members will also be checked for proper dress for the activity, and the current and expected weather conditions. If in the opinion of any Mayor, a Scout is not properly prepared for the weather, he may be disqualified.
NOTE: Disqualified Scouts will be made the responsibility of the Unit Leader for the day!



Each Scout must have:

1. A stocking hat or hat with ear protection.
2. Gloves or mittens.
3. Waterproof boots must be worn by all participants.
4. Rain gear.

For every 3 required items missing from the sled, 1 bonus point will be subtracted.

An egg will be given to the Team Leader to be returned at the end of the day. One Bonus point will be added when the egg is returned unbroken. The method for protecting the egg will be judged for originality and uniqueness and the most original/unique method will receive an award.

Each patrol must supply 1 can of soup for each 2 scouts in the patrol. Soup will be turned in at the Check-In station at Frost Corners and be limited to tomato-based vegetable type or chicken stock soups.

STARTING LINE

Each Team will next proceed to the starting line (Center of big field) at their assigned start time. At ten-minute (10) intervals, the Starter will send 12 expeditions off in search of Klondike Gold! **Each team must follow the order of stations on the score sheet they were issued at registration!**

SCORING

Each team will deliver their score sheet for the morning to the Official Scoring Station at Webster Lodge between 12:00 - 12:30 PM. They will then receive their score sheet for the afternoon time. A penalty of 15 points will be deducted from all teams not meeting the submission time period. Within 15 minutes of completing their last" city" all teams must report to the Official Scoring Station at Webster Lodge with their score sheet. When arriving at the Official Scoring Station, only the Expedition (Patrol) Leader should proceed to the Scorer's Table in Webster Lodge. It is the Patrol Leader's responsibility to check that the Score Sheet is



complete and accurate. No changes are allowed after a score sheet has been handed to an official Scorer!!! The object is to complete each task to the best of the team's ability as quickly as possible. This will require both Preparation and Teamwork.

AWARDS

Plaques will be awarded to the following placed finishers:

-Scouts: 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th
-Seniors 1st 2nd 3rd
(Members of the 1st place patrol will each receive a winner's patch)

Also:

-First Place for each Division for fastest sled at Whitehorse.
-First Place Overall for Scavenger Hunt
-First Place overall for Most Original/Unique Design for Egg Protection

OFFICIAL TIMES AND EVENT SCHEDULE

Each Troop will proceed to their Base Camp / Headquarters area for lunch. Any Team already actively engaged in a station's activities when lunch break begins will be allowed to finish, but no Team will be allowed to begin a station after that or before 1:15 PM.

Time	Event	Location
7:30 AM to 8:45 AM	**Registration/ Sled Inspection**	**In and around Pavilion**
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM	**Expedition Under Way**	**Cities**
12:00 PM to 1:15 PM	**Lunch Break**	**Base Camp/Headquarters**
1:15 PM to 4:30 PM	**Expedition Under Way**	**Cities**
4:30 PM to 4:45 PM	***Final Score Sheet Turn In***	**Webster Lodge**
Approximately 5:00 PM	***Award Presentations***	**Pavilion**

** ALL ***CITIES WILL CLOSE PROMPTLY AT 4:30 PM*** **



SLEDGE SPECIFICATIONS

1. **Each sledge must be six feet long.**
2. **Each sledge must display a patrol flag.**
3. **Each sledge must check in with equipment secured and NO scout on board.**
4. **No wheels are allowed on sledges**.

Official Klondike Derby Regulations for Pinelands District

1. Each Unit is required to have 2 adults serve on the Klondike Staff in some capacity. They can be Mayors, Judges, and Scorers or...??
2. Each Team must have between 4 and 8 members to compete. Smaller groups may be combined so that all will be able to compete and enjoy the fun.
3. All Scouts are to wear warm waterproof boots.
4. Each Unit must submit a roster for each Team signed by the Unit Leader at time of Check In.
5. No Team will be allowed to begin before 9:00 AM, or to compete between 12:00 and 13:15 PM!
6. Adults will not be allowed to help ***PHYSICALLY OR VERBALLY*** any Team during this event! The Mayors, Judges, or Scorers may deduct points after one warning!
7. Any injured or ill Scout or Scouter must present himself to the Klondike Medical Station located at the designated Headquarters. (Webster Lodge)
8. The registration fee will be $15.00 per Scout / Scouter. Only those registered will receive patches.
9. Each Expedition (Patrol) Leader must wear an armband displaying the letters PL. This should be brightly colored and worn in an obvious manner. During the Klondike, your Patrol Leader has been overcome with frostbite of the hands. **Unfortunately, he cannot physically help but may verbally guide his patrol to victory. (Reasoning: Exercising teamwork and communication with patrol members)**
   The Mayor at each station will be identified by wearing a reflective vest marked "MAYOR".
10. A.O.L. Scouts may be present and attend to observe but they will not be able to compete. See the section on A.O.L. attendance.



11. Participant patches will be given out to all registered patrol members. Adults will receive either a Mayor, Staff, or Participant Patch for the role they represented in this event. (1 Mayor Patch per city per unit (up to 2 total))
12. All equipment should be carried into camp from the parking area using sledges. However, there will be **ONE** vehicle allowed to access the campsites, and after dropping off their equipment, must be removed to the large parking area outside of the camp (****Read the Parking Policy**)**.
13. **LEKAU LAKE AND ALL OTHER BODIES OF WATER ARE ENTIRELY OFF LIMITS TO EVERYONE IN CAMP INCLUDING UNIT LEADERS AND STAFF!!! THIS RULE IS IN EFFECT REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE LAKE /POND IS FROZEN OVER OR NOT AND INCLUDES THROWING ROCKS, STICKS OR OTHER OBJECTS!!!! ANY TEAM OR INDIVIDUAL DISOBEYING THIS RULE MAY BE DISQUALIFIED!!!!!**
14. **We are guests at Pine Hill Scout Reservation. Please help ensure the property is protected, including but not limited to proper use of the Comfort Station by all participants**. In the past it has been necessary to close the Comfort Station and place it off limits due to misuse. It may become necessary to provide monitors for the use of the Comfort Station. Additionally, the stockade Fort is off limits. Please ensure your scouts stay out of the fort. **Miss-use of the facilities may result in disqualification of the team. Please clean out fire rings and utilize 5 gal. ash buckets. Please leave at the site entrance before departure.**
15. Divisions are divided as follows:

    Scouts: 11-17 years of age (Average Patrol Age of 13.9 or less)
    Senior: 11-17 years of age (Average Patrol Age of 14.0 or greater)

LEADERS, PLEASE NOTE

**** Please be sure to read the Parking Policy included with this guide. There have been some significant changes regarding vehicle access.**

These rules are in place to ensure an enjoyable event.
Please be sure all your Scouts and Scouters are aware of them.



A.O.L. Scouts Camping and Participation Notes

- **No official competition:** AOL Scouts cannot compete in the main Scouts BSA or Venturing competition. They are generally not counted as part of a Scouts BSA patrol's sled crew in events where competition is the primary focus.
- **Observation allowed:** AOLs may tag along and observe the activities.
- **Camping requirements:**
- AOL Dens (not individual AOLs) may camp with the Troop.
- AOLs must have **two-deep Cub Scout leadership from the Pack**, including **one needing to be a BALOO-trained leader**.
- AOLs follow the family camp rules of Cub Camping.

WRISTBAND POLICY AT CAMP

Garden State Council has a policy for those attending an event at one of their sites, which states that all those attending and registered will wear a wristband. This wristband will let everyone know that you are registered for the event and have paid the event fee. This wristband must be worn the entire time that you are at the event. This policy is for all participants, both adult and youth. When you arrive at the site and register all those who have paid for the event will be given a wristband. If you arrive on Friday night, you will be given the wristbands at the leader meeting in Webster Lodge at 9:30 PM. If you are arriving Saturday, you will be given the wristbands when you register in the morning for the participants that are there for registration. Participants arriving after registration is completed will need to come to Webster Lodge to check in and get their wristband. This will help ensure that all the people on the grounds are attendees and should be there.

Camp Use Policy

General Information and Procedures

Vehicles and Trailers All vehicles must remain in designated parking lots. Upon arrival, each unit may use one vehicle to transport gear from the parking lot to the campsite. During the time at camp the only permissible vehicles allowed to be used is Council approved vehicles. All vehicles moving through camp must have hazard lights on at all times.

Trash Disposal



Each unit is responsible for managing and disposing of its own trash and trash bags. Please use the camp dumpster for disposal during or at the end of your stay. The location is marked on your camp map.

Water Access

Most campsites are equipped with a water faucet. However, during winter months, campsite water is turned off. Units must then use one of the three frost-free water pumps located throughout camp. These are clearly marked on your map.

Hazardous Weather and Fire Safety

In the event of hazardous weather, the Camp Master will direct all units to a designated shelter with hard cover. If a fire safety concern arises, an alarm will sound. All units must immediately report to the **Campfire Circle** for safety and accountability.

Smoke, Substance, and Weapons Policy

Garden State Council Properties are a smoke-free, vape-free, drug-free, and alcohol-free property. This policy is strictly enforced. The use of tobacco products, including vaping devices, is not permitted anywhere on Council properties. Alcohol is also strictly prohibited. If caught using these products, you will be asked to leave the property.

Firearms and Other Weapons

There are to be no firearms or personal weapons of any kind brough onto Council properties are allowed on camp property. This includes—but is not limited to—archery equipment, hatchets, throwing axes, and any personal range or activity materials. Units found in violation of these policies will be asked to leave camp immediately.

Check-In Procedure

We're excited to welcome you! Upon arrival, please park in the main lot.

- Arrive as a group and wait to be greeted by the Campmaster.
- Have your unit roster ready.
- Parking is permitted only in designated areas.

Units are encouraged to arrive between 5:00 PM and 9:00 PM. For early or late arrivals, please contact the Garden State Council Service Center at 609-261-5850 or email Daniel.Lykowski@scouting.org at least one week prior to your check-in date. For last-minute changes, call the camp Ranger at Pine Hill Scout Reservation 609-641-5700 so he can inform the Camp Master.

Check-Out Procedure



All units must check out with the Camp Master/Camp Ranger before departure. Please schedule your check-out time with the Camp Master when you arrive.

Cancellation Policy

When making a reservation**, payment is expected at the time of booking.** The "Bill Me Later" option is no longer permitted.

Garden State Council units are granted two free tent campsite rentals per year. Please note sites that contain Lean-tos are not included in this offer.

To receive a full refund, cancellations must be submitted at least 30 days before your scheduled check-in date. Cancellations made 14 days in advance are eligible for a 50% refund. No refunds will be issued for cancellations made less than 14 days prior to check-in.



EQUIPMENT TO BE CARRIED ON SLEDGE

1. Rain gear for each patrol member (large trash bags can be used).
2. 10’ length of rope for each scout (min. 1/4” rope). Min. of 6 lengths per sledge.
3. **Materials to make a bird’s nest and tinder for a 12" fire lay**. (Only the amount of Materials that can fit in a plastic “sandwich bag” may be used. No “treated” wood.)
4. A waterproof container large enough to hold at least three matches to be provided at check in and/or flint and steel (optional for bonus points).
5. Patrol First Aid Kit
6. Two warm blankets
7. Notebook, clipboard, or page cover to keep score sheet dry and neat,
8. Roll of toilet paper. (just in case)
9. Reusable cup (**No disposable cups**) and spoons for hot drink and soup for each patrol member. **(These will not be provided at the station.)**
10. Trash bag for rubbish
11. Patrol Flag- **make sure the flag is removable from the sled as it will be required to be used at one of the event and points will be deducted if the patrol is not able to use the patrol flag**
12. Extra clothing for each scout to ensure every member of the patrol remains warm and dry to complete the day’s events. This should include extra socks and gloves.
13. Patrol leader’s armband, (to be worn clearly visible on right arm).
14. Scout Handbook
15. Scout Neckerchief or bandana for each patrol member to serve as blindfolds.
16. At least one compass (More than one preferred, no specific model is required)
17. Record of pace measurement per 100 meters for each Scout.
18. Proof of Totin’ Chip for all Scouts on sledge. (Copies of cards or list signed by Scoutmaster, Scouts that don’t have it due to rank or time as a Scout will not be penalized just let us know on the list)
19. Proof of Fireman Chit for all Scouts on sledge. (Same as above)
20. Writing Instrument of some type
21. Notebook or paper for note/information taking
22. A pair of work gloves for each scout.



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PACE COUNT

It is required to know the pace count of each scout on the sled for the compass event. We have requested that a list be with the sled at the time of the sled inspection. Please complete the list below to have with the sled.

If the pace counts have not been determined prior to this morning we have provided and area to accomplish this determination. A 100 foot course has been marked out. The scouts pace the 100 feet and divide the number of paces into 100 feet to determine the number of feet per pace. It is suggested to pace the course twice and average the number of paces.

Name	# of paces	(100' / #of paces)	Feet per pace
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
(Alternate)			
(Alternate)			



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ALL UNIT LEADERS PLEASE NOTE

1. Each Unit will be asked to provide 2 adults to help staff this event. We need your help! It takes almost 90 adults to properly staff this event. Please volunteer early so staffing concerns can be addressed before the event.

2. There will be an event calling for the tying of a Sheep Shank. While this is no longer a knot required for advancement the decision was made to continue to include this knot. Please be sure all participants are familiar with the ability to tie this knot.

Last Minute Reminders

- Fires will be allowed in the campsite fire rings only. Some picnic tables are available on a first-come, first-served basis. If you take a picnic table, it must be returned to the proper storage area after lunch. **A five-gallon bucket will be provided to put the ashes from the fire. The bucket must be placed on the path leading to your camp site when you leave.**
- No vehicles will be allowed to travel in camp on the day of the Klondike events.
- Each Troop is asked to bring 1 can of soup for every 2 scouts participating. These cans will be distributed to the stations and the Mayors and their staff will have hot soup available for the boys throughout the day's events.
- On Saturday morning an adult leader from each troop must turn in a completed Unit Roster at a separate table in the Check-In area. This list must include all scouts and adults attending the event (no matter if they are staying overnight or just coming for the day. The form is included at the end of this packet.
- Patrols will be required to lift and tie their sled to ropes for an event. Please make sure that all items are secured on the sled and the Patrols can lift their sled.

****Special Note: Be sure to read the policy regarding vehicles in camp.**

Young Scouts? Not used to Winter Camping? You may still participate in this event by arriving on Saturday morning and adhere to the times indicated for those camping this weekend. **Due to Camp costs etc., cost will be the same whether staying over or not.**



Klondike Derby Meetings for Staff and Mayors 7:30 pm at Rowan Scout Center

- Tuesday September 15, 2026
- Tuesday October 20, 2026
- Tuesday November 17, 2026
- Tuesday January 19, 2027 ** Wrap Up Meeting **

All units attending the Klondike Derby

- Two evaluation forms will be provided to each sled. One form to be completed by adult leaders (only one form necessary per unit) and one form to be completed by sled teammates. Please be sure these forms are turned in with the final score sheet.

Only paid participants will receive patches.



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Klondike Derby Sled Check-In Form 2026

This form may be copied, as necessary.

District:_____Troop #:_____Town:_____

Patrol Name _____

Name of Scout	Age
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	

Average Age _____

Division: **Scout / Senior**

(Circle One)

Adult Staff member names: 1._____

2._____



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Klondike Derby Event Registration Procedures 2026

Please register on the Council website using Black Pug: https://scoutingevent.com/690-PLDKlondike

Payment may be made online, at Scout Shop or Council office, or by check mailed to 693 Rancocas Rd, Westampton, NJ 08060, after unit is registered.

All balances paid by check in on Saturday, December 12, 2026.

Online registration closes at 4:00 PM on Thursday December 10, 2026. After that date, registration will only be available at the event when you check in, and payment will need to be made in full.

Only paid participants will receive patches.

Any units who may find it necessary for anyone (Scouts or leaders) to leave camp at any time must ensure that those individuals sign out from camp at the headquarters at Webster Lodge. Similarly, anyone arriving late must sign in at Webster Lodge. The same would apply to anyone who earlier left camp and then returned, they must also sign in.

REFRESHMENT STAND

There will be no refreshment stand provided this year. All units attending for the day must provide their own lunch. See the note on page 14 about anyone leaving or arriving at camp. This includes lunch pickups. The camp trading post might be open for snack purchases on Saturday.

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Boy Scouts of America **Unit Roster** **Garden State Council**

COMPLETED FORM MUST BE TURNED IN BY THE UNIT LEADER DURING SATURDAY MORNING CHECK-IN

Troop #: _____ District: _____ Camp Site: _____

On Site Leader Name: _____ Scoutmaster Name: _____

ADULT ROSTER				
#	Last Name	First Name	Emergency Phone No.	
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

YOUTH ROSTER				
#	Last Name	First Name	Emergency Phone No.	Age
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
			Adult Count	
			Youth Count	
			Total Count	

Only Paid participants will receive patches

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Klondike Derby Vehicle/Trailers Parking in Camp

FRIDAY ARRIVALS:

1. All Troops will report to the main parking area with all vehicles/trailers to check in with Klondike Staff.
2. One vehicle/trailer will be assigned an entry pass, and they will proceed to their assigned site to unload.
3. Initial vehicle/trailer will depart campsite after unload is complete and report back to the main parking area and park in the designated trailer parking area. Additional equipment shall be transported by sled to site.
4. If needed the next vehicle from the Troop will be issued the vehicle entry pass to proceed to the campsite to unload and then depart the site.
5. All vehicles must be out of the Troop Campsites before 2230 hours Friday night.
6. Event Staff will determine if a Troop will be allowed to keep their trailer at the site or a nearby parking area for the weekend.

SATURDAY CAMPING ARRIVALS:

1. Units must arrive and check in with Klondike Staff to obtain vehicle pass to enter campsite with vehicle/trailer between 0630 and 0700.
2. Unit may proceed to campsite with vehicle/trailer to off load and then must be removed and parked in the designated trailer parking area in the main parking lot by 0730.
3. No vehicles/trailers will be allowed into campsites after 0730 hours Saturday. At this point gear must be transported by sled or by hand.

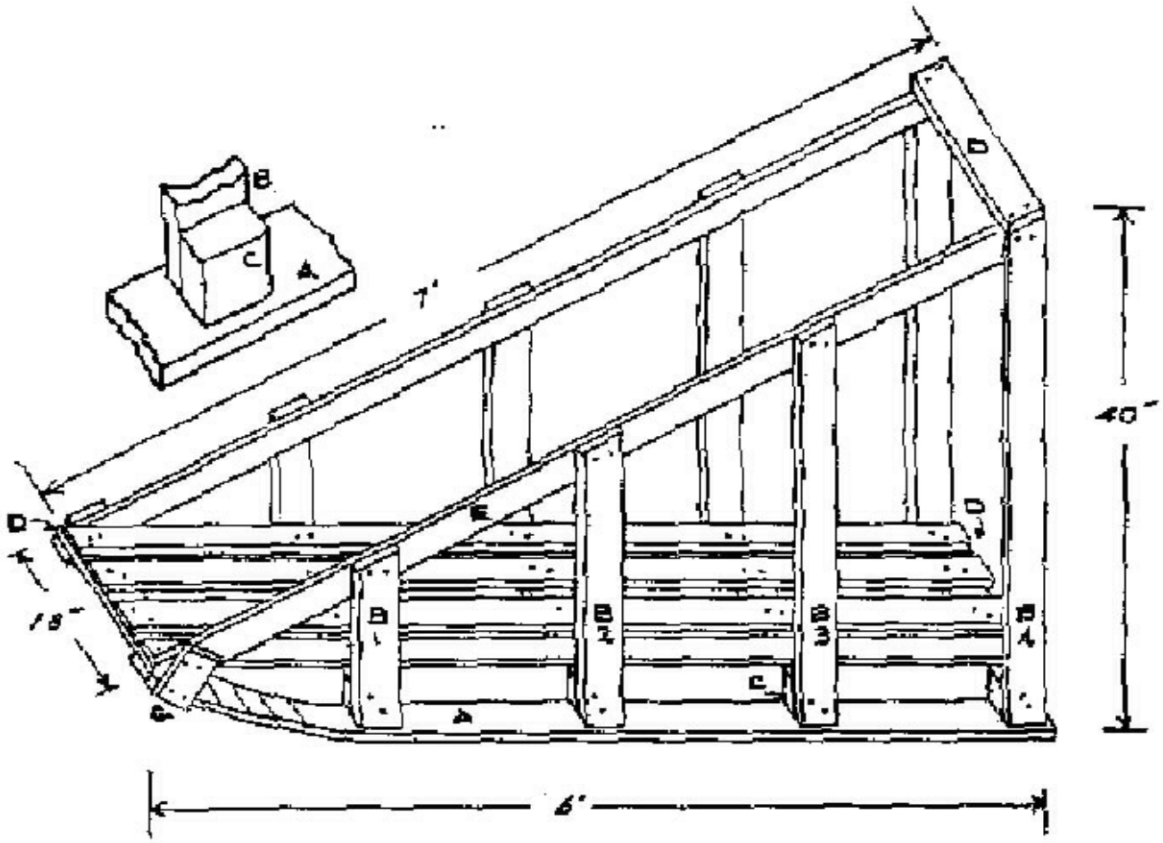
SUNDAY MORNING CHECK OUT

1. One vehicle/trailer per site will be allowed to enter at a time to load out gear for transport to main parking area.
2. Units must report to Webster to have a staff member inspect the site before leaving, and to check out of camp.

No vehicle or trailer parking is permitted in the Lower Parade Field parking lot.



Typical Sledge Construction



BILL OF MATERIAL

Part	Key	No. Pieces	Dimensions
Runners	A	2	1" x 4" x 6'
Uprights	B	2	1" x 4" x 3'6"
	B1	2	1" x 4" x 2'8"
	B2	2	1" x 4" x 1'9"
	B3	2	1" x 4" x 10"
Upright supports	C	8	2" x 4" x 4"
Cross supports	D	6	1" x 4" x 1'6"
Floor strips	E	6	1" x 4" x 6'
Hand rails	F	2	1" x 2" x 7'
Front supports	G	2	1" x 4" x 6"

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Bill of Material

PART	KEY	No. Pieces	Dimensions
Runners	**A**	**2**	**1” x 4” x 6”**
Uprights	**B1**	**2**	**1” x 4” X 3’6”**
Uprights	**B2**	**2**	**1” x 4” x 2’8”**
Uprights	**B3**	**2**	**1” x 4” x 1’9”**
Uprights	**B4**	**2**	**1” x 4” x 10”**
Upright Supports	**C**	**8**	**2” x 4” x 4”**
Cross Supports	**D**	**6**	**1” x 4” x 1’6”**
Floor Strips	**E**	**4**	**1” x 4” x 6’**
Hand Rails	**F**	**2**	**1” x 2” x 7’**
Front Supports	**G**	**2**	**1” x 4” x 6”**

4.5	9	2	4
4	8	1.5	3
3.5	7	1	2
3	6	.5	1



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