

2025 Overmountain District

Vance Klondike Derby

Leader's Guide



New Life Baptist Church Bluff City, TN

February 15th, 2025

Dear Scoutmasters,

In 1897, the 'Cry of Gold' triggered a rush of over 10,000 men across the Alaskan wilderness to the Klondike area in the Yukon Territory, Canada. The challenging journey through forests, mountains, and rivers tested each man's strength, wilderness skills, determination, and teamwork. Only 2,000 of the initial participants reached the Klondike, and only a few found success.

The Klondike Derby offers Scouts the chance to experience the trials faced on the Klondike Trail. As a patrol, you will display the skills and teamwork that made the 1898 Yukon Gold Rush a part of American history.

Aside from being enjoyable, this event is also educational. We encourage Scouts to utilize the Scout Handbook as a resource. Our goal is to capture the essence of the Klondike, highlighting the hardships men faced and the importance of being prepared.

Welcome to the 2025 Klondike Derby. We hope that each unit will participate in this great annual event.

This year, there will be a unique twist to the event. Imagine being a part of the 1897 Cry for Gold but losing your sled and sled dog team in an avalanche. How would you survive? What would you do? You would have to survive without those items and carry all your tools and items to survive as a team. For the first time, The Overmountain District will hold a Sledless Klondike. Scouts will not need their traditional sleds but must carry all their items on their backs or hands as they travel the Klondike.

The attached program has been revised to provide you with the necessary information for registration and the Rules and Regulations governing the event on Sledless Derby Day. The material is intentionally vague on the actual programs and data, emphasizing the importance of being prepared without knowing what will happen. Each town "Mayor" of Klondike stations will score consistently, refrain from value judgments, and not discuss the problems before the event. They will be visiting and being challenged in each town they encounter. The Mayors will explain the challenges upon each Team's arrival. **No Patrol will be left behind, and if Mayors have left a town, all scoring from that town will be removed from the derby.**

To all units, Scouts, and Scouters planning to help or participate, we extend our thanks. Without you, there would not be a Klondike Derby or a reason to have one.

Have a great derby and good luck!

Yours In Scouting,
Brandon Mann

A special thanks to New Life Baptist Church for allowing us to hold the Klondike Derby on their property.

*** Please Remember ***

All participants shall not possess any electronic device (cell phone, two-way radio, etc.) during the event. Leave such items in the car or with an adult leader. Failure to obey will result in disqualification.

General Information

1. OPEN TO ALL OVERMOUNTAIN DISTRICT TROOPS

2. PATROLS: Each patrol from a Troop in the competition may have up to a maximum of 8 scouts.

3. RECOGNITION:

* Embroidered Klondike Derby Patch

* Trophies for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place Patrol Overall Winners

5. WATER is available inside the church and at Towns on Derby Day.

6. MAYORS: We are asking for 2 registered adults from each troop to act as Mayors. All Mayors for the Klondike Derby will meet at 8 AM on Derby Day.

8. LUNCH: All participants will have lunch at Ulcer Gulch. Each troop should bring 1 can of tomato-based soup per participant, including adults, for the mystery potluck lunch.

9. REGISTRATION AREA: Registration will be at the end of the parking lot there will be signs.

10. TROOP REGISTRATION: This will be completed by the Senior Patrol Leader who will report the number of patrols participating, the Patrol Name, a list of the names of the Scouts (maximum of 8 Scouts per patrol), and the number of adults registering. The Patrol Leaders will be required to attend a mandatory orientation at 8:45 AM at the flagpole, during which scoring and routine directions will be given.

11. Patrol CHECK-IN: Registration and check-in will begin at 8 AM. When the patrol leader has completed the registration of his patrol, he shall immediately report to a Derby official and request an inspection of his Patrol and their equipment. This

inspection must be completed by 8:45 AM. Upon completion of registration and inspection, all Patrols are to be moved to the designated starting area.

12. FEES: Fees are \$10 Per Scout and Scouter And must be paid at the time of signing up. Troops and Patrols must pre-register no walk-ons will be allowed. **DEADLINE FOR SIGN-UP IS 02/07/2025** You can register at: <https://scoutingevent.com/713-89435>

13. ADULTS/VISITORS: All are welcome. Adults may observe their Scouts in action but they may not coach patrols during the derby. The Klondike is a test of the leadership skills of the SCOUTS. Please remember.

14. EQUIPMENT REQUIRED FOR EACH PATROL:

A. Patrol flag

B. Four Scout staves, or 4 poles -6' long by 2" diameter

C. Patrol chef kit

D. 8 10' lengths of rope

E. Plastic bag for trash (All trash is to be taken home by each Patrol.)

F. Adequate rain gear for each Scout – It must be rain gear, ski jackets, etc, that are water repellent/resistant are not acceptable

G. Eating utensils and adequate mess gear for each scout

H. Clean-up materials for the noon meal

I. 2 water bottles per scout with water for drinking and clean up, water is available at multiple locations.

J. 2 blankets per patrol

K. Patrol first aid kit

L. Materials for fire, tinder, Kindling, and fire starter

M. Compass (at least 3), notebook paper, and pen or pencil

N. Scouts BSA Handbook 14th Edition

o. Canvas or poly sheet goods equivalent to a 16' x 12' dining fly

15. FIRST AID: Medical care for all participants will be available all day at the Klondike Hospital.

16. TEAM REGULATIONS:

A. A Klondike derby sled or box is not permitted this year.

B. Patrols may include Arrow of Light (AOL) Scouts but are only there to shadow the patrol

C. All patrol members must wear gloves to prevent rope chaffing and frostbite.

D. **Sneakers are permitted!** The derby is held regardless of weather conditions.

Dress properly! Any Scout who is improperly dressed will not be permitted to participate.

Make sure each scout dresses warmly.

E. Scout Spirit shall be the order of the day. Mayors of each station will be instructed to refer persons and/or Patrols, which do not exhibit Scout spirit to the Klondike Committee for appropriate action. Disciplinary action for sufficient cause can result in total

disqualification of a patrol for a complete station or the Derby itself.

17. BACKPACK SPECIFICATIONS: should be large enough to hold the assigned items and the personal items for each Patrol Member.

18. FOOD – LUNCH: Each Patrol will be responsible for its lunch, if not participating in the mystery potluck meal provided.

19. RESPONSIBILITY: Scouts participating in the Derby have a responsibility to their Patrol accordingly.

20. MAP: Will be distributed on Derby Day.

There is no need to bring this year:

Klondike sled, towing harness, rope/twine to secure articles (Leave this home this year – it is not needed) This is a minimum equipment list.

Any or all of the listed items may be requested at the initial or final inspection. Any additional equipment items required will be announced at the January Roundtable.

KLONDIKE DERBY 2025 Schedule

8:00 - 8:45 Patrol registration at Dawson City Patrol check-in at Anchorage

8:45 - 9:00 Patrol leader orientation at flagpole Participation and promptness mandatory (no make-ups)

9:00 Mayors need to have their site preparations completed. Opening at Flagpole

9:10 Start Derby – depart for first city

9:20 Report to first city

9:50 Depart the first station for the second city

10:00 Report to second city

10:30 Depart the second station for the third city

10:40 Report to third city

11:10 Depart the third station for the fourth city

11:20 Report to fourth city

11:50 Depart the fourth station for lunch at Fairbanks

NOON All Patrols will report to Fairbanks for a cooking event and lunch.

1:45 Depart Fairbanks for sixth city

1:55 Report to Sixth City

2:25 Depart the sixth station for the seventh city

2:35 Report to Seventh City

3:05 Depart the seventh station for the eighth city

3:15 Report to Eighth City

3:45 Depart the eighth station for Anchorage and check out Mayors turn in all score sheets to Dawson City

3:55 All patrols must report to Anchorage for checkout. Following check out, stow all personal and Troop gear and return to the flagpole for closing.

4:15 Final Station of the day

4:45 Closing and Awards

5:00 Klondike closed

Patrol Flag Contest Guideline:

1. Patrol flags must be built by the scouts. Leaders and parents should act as advisors only. Please follow scouting safety guidelines for the use of power tools.
2. Patrol flags reflect honor to the patrol and its name. Originality and use of natural or creative materials usually help to create a competitive flag. Workmanship and overall appearance count.