

2026 Susquehanna District

Olympic Klondike



Susquehanna District
Leaders Guide
January 30 - February 1, 2026

Susquehanna District 2026 Klondike – Olympics



The theme for 2026 is "Olympic Klondike" and is to commemorate the winter Olympics being held in Italy this year. Events are a mixture of Scout-skill tests, teamwork challenges and physical contests. Emphasis is on fun, teamwork and sportsmanship. As in the real Olympics, there will be awards.

Klondikes are a chance to join in one of the oldest traditions in Scouting history – Coming together as a District for Scouting competition. District gatherings provide an opportunity to match skills against others within our district. There will be fun, friendship, and fellowship. This guide is intended to help your unit prepare for the fun and excitement of this year's Klondike.

The Scout oath and law will govern the behavior of all participants during this weekend. The principles of leave no trace should be practiced at all times. All events will be based on basic Scouting skills and concepts as taught and used in the Scout to First Class rank advancement sections of the handbook. They will also include fun type challenge events that will require effective communication, leadership, and teamwork to successfully complete.

We encourage you to brave the elements and join us the weekend of January 30 - February 1 for winter camping at J. Edward Mack Scout Reservation.

Saturday during the day we will challenge your Scouts and their leadership skills through a set of hands-on experience in decision-making. They will work as Patrols and be scored as Patrols. There will be a place and a learning experience for everyone, from the newest Scout to the oldest most experienced Scout. Following the Klondike, we encourage you to invite other Troops to a campfire in your camp site on Saturday for an evening of fun and fellowship.

Lunch will be the responsibility of each Patrol at their Troop camp site. All Stations will be closed from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 PM to allow everyone time to eat, rest and if necessary, warm up.

Klondike Derby sleds are a very important part of this winter event. We would prefer to see patrols build new sleds to the provided specifications. Previous sleds that are adapted to specifications are acceptable. Prepare your Scouts, sharpen their skills, and come prepared for an adventure in the winter snows of Camp Mack. "Be Prepared", "Do Your Best" and "Show Scout Spirit"!

All sleds should be built based on the description/instructions on page 6. Sleds not built to these specifications will not be eligible for the "Best Sled Award".

"Remember - Safety Doesn't Happen by Accident"

1.0 Registration for Event

Each Troop wishing to participate must complete their registration online via Tentaroo <http://padutchbsa.org/resource-center/tentaroo/>. If you're not sure how to complete the registration, go to the Council website <http://padutchbsa.org>, select Resource Center in the upper right corner and select Tentaroo Online Registration for a tutorial. Registration will open on November 7.

Cost:

Fee: \$15 by January 24, 2025, \$20 after January 24, 2025.

Date: January 31 - February 2, 2025

Location: Edward Mack Scout Reservation, 2 Scout Lane, Newmanstown, PA 17073

Registration Deadline: Late registration starts January 25; registration closes January 28.

The cost includes event patch, program costs, camp fees, latrines and warm-up lodges. All meals are the responsibility of the units. Additional patches will cost \$3 per patch and can be ordered through Tentaroo or by reaching out to Sheila Fasig.

If you have any questions, please call or email Sheila Fasig (717-575-4203, sheila.fasig@scouting.org) or Chet Bowen (717-304-5268, bowen17@hotmail.com).

2.0 Arrow of Light Scout Participation

AOL scouts are encouraged to participate in our Olympic Klondike on Saturday, January 31, by joining a patrol at a nearby Scouting BSA unit. Due to the expected temperatures in January/February AOL scouts are unable to camp overnight. Joining with an existing troop/patrol can be an excellent recruitment opportunity and a chance for AOL scouts to see how the troop operates. The best thing a leader can do to prepare their adults and scouts for the Klondike Derby is to teach them how to dress for outdoor activities during cold weather.

All AOL scouts must register through Tentaroo at the link above in Section 1 either as individuals or with a troop.

3.0 Station Sign Up

Unit Leaders are strongly encouraged to sign up to run one or more of the various stations at the 2026 Klondike. We are trying to offer 13 different stations this year throughout Camp Mack. The Google Link below will take you to the sign-up list for the various stations. When designing your station, please try to incorporate the “Olympic Theme” into your station. As a unit, you are welcome to design the station as you see fit. Please provide a brief station description as well as your contact information on the Google Sheet. I will be reaching out as we get closer to the event to discuss specifics of your stations. If you require any specific supplies for your station, please reach out to Chet Bowen or Sheila Fasig,

[2026 Susquehanna Klondike Station Sign Up - Google Sheets](#)

4.0 Camping Accommodations

Troops participating in the Klondike will have the opportunity to camp out Friday and Saturday night. Camping is available in the short-term camping areas only. There will be no lodges available for participants except for warm-up stations. Camping and cooking equipment is the responsibility of the individual Troops.

Please keep a reasonable distance between campsites. Taps “known as Quiet Time” will be from 11:00 PM until 6:30 AM. Campsite courtesy can be defined as Common Sense and Respect for Others.

5.0 Awards

Each Scout and Scouter will receive a Klondike patch.

The following awards will be presented at the final assembly on Saturday afternoon.

- First, second and third place to the patrols with the highest overall scores from the event.
- First, second and third place to the patrol with the best sled based on Olympic theme (**must follow sled guidelines to be eligible for this award**).
- First, second and third place to patrol with the best flag based on Olympic theme.
- First, second and third place to patrol with the best patrol cheer based on Olympic theme.

6.0 Health & Safety

Medical assistance will be available for the entire event. Any special restrictions for any camper must be noted on your registration roster. Medical personnel will be in camp from Friday night to the end of the event on Saturday. They will be located at the headquarters in Blair Lodge. Please make the health officer aware of any special health considerations at check-in.

The way to insure a safe and health Klondike is to always use COMMON SENSE. **Be Safe, Do Your Best, and Have a Great Time!!! If you have signs and symptoms of illness, please stay home.**

All participants (youth and adult) are required to have an up-to-date BSA Health Form (parts A and B) on file with each troop. Parts A and B do not require a doctor's visit.

See: <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/HealthandSafety/ahmr.aspx>

In the event of a camp-wide emergency, we will activate the siren. **If the siren sounds, EVERYONE IN CAMP MUST REPORT TO THE DINING HALL.**

Patrols should not utilize personal two-way radios or cell phones during the event. The basic rules of Scouting will be enforced throughout the entire weekend. Any Scouts near the lake or leaving camp will be disqualified from the event and leaders will be asked to take the scout home.

7.0 Friday Night Cracker-Barrel, Leaders, SPL and Mayors Meeting

There will be a meeting of all SPLs and Scoutmasters on Friday night at 9:30 pm in Blair Lodge to review the Patrol Packet which is the overview of all stations, their locations at camp and the instructions and schedule for the Klondike. After that meeting there will be a cracker-barrel for the SPLs and Scoutmasters.

At 10 pm on Friday night in Blair Lodge there will be a meeting of the “Mayors” (the Scoutmasters whose troops are running a station for the Klondike). We will review the Mayors Packet along with the directions and scoring for running the stations.

The current plan is to have 13 stations for the klondike and will be looking for troops to volunteer to run them. Station ideas are prepared based on the theme of the event and will be provided to units volunteering to run, however units are able to modify the station set up if they wish. We’ll need **double stations** set up at each campsite so that 2 patrols can run at a time.

8.0 Patrol and Troop Preparation for the Olympic Klondike

Patrol size should be no more than 8 scouts. Patrols should review the list of stations outlined below and begin preparing for the event in December. Please train your Scouts in winter camping skills. Patrols and staff are also encouraged to “dress the part”. The purpose of the event is to have fun, but it is difficult to have fun while you are cold, wet, and unprepared.

You and your patrol must work as a team to complete, navigate Camp Mack and the various challenges throughout the camp.

Areas of focus will be: First Aid, Injury Transportation, Marksmanship, Fire Building, Communication, Campsite Preparation, Orienteering, Knots, Lashings and overall scouting knowledge.

9.0 Equipment

9.1 Personal equipment for each scout:

1. Appropriate winter camping equipment, clothing and footwear as suggested by Scoutmaster.
2. Pocketknife, poncho, compass, pencil and paper, Scout Handbook, filled water bottle for drinking, and Scouting Spirit.
3. **ONE UNBREAKABLE CUP FOR DRINKING!!** No cups will be provided.
4. Extra socks, shoes and clothes are recommended.
5. **Waterproof / insulated boots are recommended – NO SNEAKERS**

9.2 Equipment for each Patrol

UNITS PLEASE NOTE – below is an expected list, once stations are finalized a final patrol equipment list will be emailed to all unit leaders no later than January 12.

1. Klondike derby sled built and designed to specifications on Sled Info Sheet
2. Patrol flag, patrol roster and patrol cheer.
3. Two signal flags.
4. Firewood, flint and steel or hot spark, fire starting materials (all natural)
 - a. Commercial products, chemical lighters, matches, steel wool, batteries are not allowed
 - b. No pre-built fire starters
 - c. Firewood must be wood, not lumber. All dry grass, leaves, pinecones, etc can be used to start fire, but the actual fire needs to be 90% wood.
5. Two 6-foot poles
6. Blanket or stretcher material
7. Tarp
8. Trash bag
9. Note pad and pen/pencil.
10. First aid kit including several bandages or 4-5 bandana/neckerchiefs.
11. Knowledge of knots/lashings for tenderfoot, second class and first class
12. Helmet for sled rider.

9.3 Equipment for Troop

1. Winter camping and cooking equipment as recommended by the BSA. If you have any questions concerning winter equipment, we suggest you refer to Scouting publications.
2. Each Troop must supply their own meals.
3. Complete troop roster by patrol and handed in at registration. Patrols will not receive their Patrol Packets until all required paperwork is received.

10.0 Scoring (20 points per station)

Each patrol (no more than 8 Scouts) will be given a score at each station based on the following:

- Teamwork
- Communication
- Time to complete task
- Accuracy of task
- Does patrol have all needed equipment
- Patrol flag design for Olympic theme
- Patrol cheer based on Olympic theme
- Best sled design based on Olympic theme and designed according to specifications on Page 8

Bonus points for the overall event will be awarded for:

- Camping Friday night

Note – points will be deducted for adult interference with the patrols at the stations.

Scoutmasters, please relay all this information to your Senior Patrol Leaders.

Klondike Derby Sled Information

The Klondike Derby sled must be home-made and of a design similar to a dog sled. All patrols must have a sled to compete. It should be approximately 6 ft. long and should be able to hold all patrol equipment and lunch items listed on the Patrol Equipment List (Section 9.2). Personal items should be carried by patrol members in their own day packs. There are resources for Klondike sled design on the web. Sleds do not need to be “re-made” each year but should be modified to fit the theme of each year. Toboggans, wagons, and other sleds not designed specifically for this event, are prohibited. Below is a recommended sled criteria and build list.

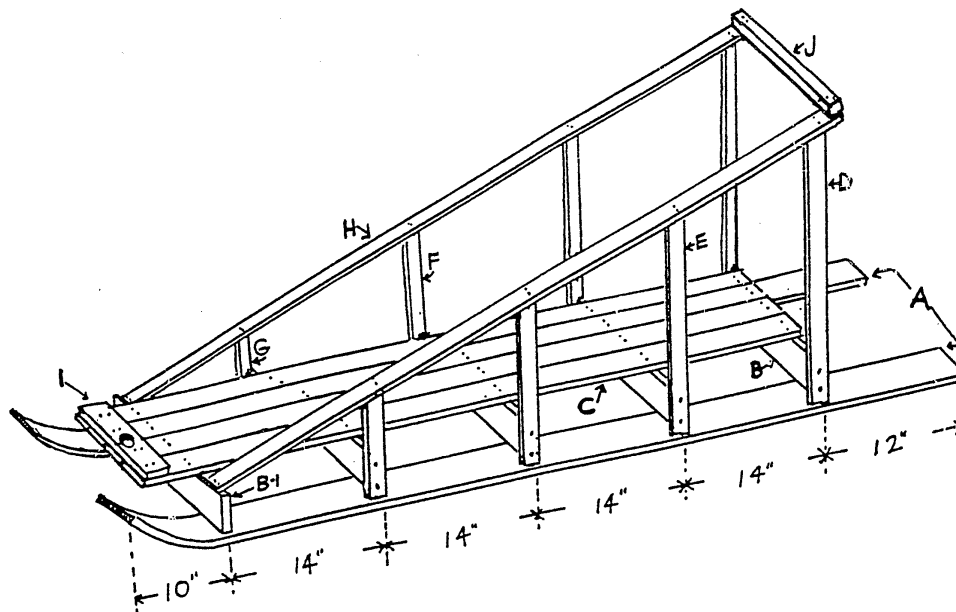
Sled Information

Materials

- A: Runners - 2 pcs. 4" x ½" x 6'6"
- B: Cross supports - 4 pcs. 1" x 4" x 18"
- B.1: Cross support - 1 pc. 1" x 4" x 20"
- C: Floor planks - 4 pcs. ½" x 4" x 5'
- D: Rear uprights - 2 pcs. 1" x 2" x 40"
- E: 2nd Rear uprights - 2 pcs. 1" x 2" x 31"
- F: 2nd Front upright - 2 pcs. 1" x 2" x 22"
- G: Front uprights - 2 pcs. 1" x 2" x 13"
- H: Hand rails - 2 pcs. 1" x 2" x 6'
- I: Tow bar - 1 pc. 1" x 4" x 16"
- J: Handle bar - 1 pc. 1" x 2" x 20"

Criteria

1. Sled bodies should be made of wood.
2. No plastic sleds, no shopping carts, no bicycle parts.
3. Weight and mobility will effect your ability to preform in some of the stations
4. Sled should have four wheels between 8" - 10" in diameter. Two wheels on both side, fron and back.
5. Axles are optional.



2026 KLONDIKE – OLYMPIC KLONDIKE

January 30 - February 1, 2026
Camp Mack Scout Reservation

Friday, January 30, 2026

Location

6:00 PM	Arrival & Assigned Campsites	
7:00 - 9:00 PM	Patrol Registration	Blair Lodge
9:30 PM	Scoutmaster & SPL Meeting	Blair Lodge
10:00 PM	Mayors Meeting	Blair Lodge
11:00 PM	Taps - Quiet Time	

Saturday, January 31, 2026

Location

6:30 AM	Reveille	
7:00 - 8:30 AM	Individual Troop Breakfast	Troop Sites
7:30 - 8:00 AM	Late Patrol Registration	Blair Lodge
7:30 - 8:30 AM	Staff Breakfast	Blair Lodge
8:45 AM	Assembly & Raise Colors	Main Pavilion
9:00 AM	First (assigned) Station	
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Stations Open	
12:00 - 1:00 PM	Lunch (Stations Closed) Staff Lunch	Troop Sites Blair Lodge
1:00 PM	Stations Open	
3:30 PM	Stations Close	
4:30 PM	Awards Presentations, Retreat	Main Pavilion
6:00 PM	Individual Troop Dinner	Troop Sites
8:00 PM	Invite a Troop Campfires	Troop Sites
11:00 PM	Taps - Quiet Time	

Sunday, February 1, 2026

Location

6:30 AM	Reveille	
7:00 - 8:30 AM	Individual Troop Breakfast	Troop Sites
9:00 AM	Depart - Happy Trails	

Notes:

- 1) Warm-Up Stations for Friday night will be at Blair & Denlinger Lodges
- 2) First Aid Station will be at Blair Lodge
- 3) Warm-Up Station for Saturday will be at Blair Lodge

2026 Susquehanna District Klondike

Unit Attendance Sheet

Unit: _____

Patrol Name: _____

1. PL: _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

Patrol Name: _____

1. PL: _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

Patrol Name: _____

1. PL: _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

Patrol Name: _____

1. PL: _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

Scoutmaster: _____

ASM: _____

Attach extra sheets if needed. To be turned in at event registration.