

National Pike Klondike Derby Frequently Asked Questions – 14 October 2016

This event is subject to cancellation due to weather or other safety conditions, as determined by the NPD event staff or the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Event organizers will follow the BSA Guide to Safe Scouting and their own judgment when considering safety issues. NPD will make every reasonable effort to hold the event; however, if the event is cancelled, NPD will not be able to offer refunds but will distribute event materials in an equitable manner.

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[When is the Derby?](#)

This year's Klondike Derby will be held on Saturday, January 28th (Contingency Date: February 25th):

- The Cub Scout trail will run from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.
- The Boy Scout Trail will run from 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.
- Units may camp on Friday night, Saturday night, or both (see details below)

[Where is the Derby?](#)

The McKeldin section of Patapsco State Park:

<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/central/patapscomckeldin.asp>

[Who's in charge?](#)

Event Coordinator:

Bud Hunt (410-997-2665, hunt-family1@comcast.net)

Dan Phillips (503-758-3471, scouterdanmail@gmail.com)

Cub Scout Trail Coordinators:

Ed Wollack (301-854-0036, ejw3p1415@verizon.net);

Jerry Budai (443-838-4195, jerry.budai@gmail.com)

Boy Scout Trail Coordinator:

John Barrett (443-535-9584, cdrjandmsm@comcast.net)

Camping Coordinator:

TBD

Parking Coordinator:

TBD – Contact Bud Hunt, see above

Registrar:

Randy Miller (443-812-1606, randymiller10@comcast.net)

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How do I register my unit?

For online registration go to:

www.baltimorebsa.org/nationalpike/klondike

Online registration closes on January 21, 2017. If you need to register your unit after the 21st, please contact Randy Miller.

How long does the event take?

In 2013, units on the Cub Trail averaged three hours and two minutes (3:02) from the time they signed in at the registration desk to the time they signed off the trail. 60% of the units fell within 15 minutes of this 3:02 average. Note that most units sign in at registration about 15 minutes before their official start time.

Sleds took longer. Sleds that started on the trail before 11:30 took an average of five hours and 8 minutes (5:08) from the time they signed in at the registration desk to the time they signed off the trail, with two thirds of these units finishing within a half hour (+/-) of five hours. Units that started after 11:30 generally finished when the trail closed, having completed a varying number of stations. Note that most sleds sign in at registration about 15 minutes before their official start time.

Are siblings welcome?

Siblings are welcome to participate in the event, more so on the Cub Scout Trail.

If the sibling is a drag-along – not an active participant – we ask that you register the sibling as an adult and pay the adult fee; this helps cover the per-person fees that we pay to the park service.

If the sibling is an active participant – will receive a passport, a patch, and participate at each station – then please register them as if they were Scouts.

We caution parents that non-participating siblings – usually younger children – may grow cold quickly and may not last the three hours typical of the Cub Trail. Having a back-up plan to get younger siblings off the trail (perhaps at Ulcer Gulch, with food and a fire) is advisable.

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What if we want to camp at the park?

Boy Scout Troops and Venturing Crews are welcome to camp in the Group Camping area of the park. We usually have six to eight units camping on Friday night, and two to four camping on Saturday night.

Things to note:

- Water is available but units should come prepared to support their water needs for at least their initial meal. We'll provide an update later.
- Port-a-pots will be available (no indoor facilities).
- **No firewood may be transported into the campground (insect quarantine), but you may scavenge firewood from within the park.**
- The camping fee is \$2 per person per night; the fee is waived if you have a valid DNR Youth Group Pass.

TBD is the Camping Coordinator. See contact information above.

If you have Webelos who are interested in camping with a troop, please contact Randy Miller to make arrangements.

If your Pack wants to camp as a unit, please contact the Camping Coordinator. Cub Scout Packs are generally discouraged from camping at McKeldin in the winter. Let's make sure that the initial camping experience for Cubs is memorable in the most positive ways.

How large should a sled group be?

Stations on the Boy Scout trail are generally designed to accommodate a den or patrol – ideally six to eight Scouts. However, we do not restrict the sizes of groups on the trail. If you have a den of a dozen Scouts that want to run a single sled, you are free to do so; just be aware that there will likely be stations where not all of the boys can fully participate.

If your sled group is four Scouts or fewer, they may have difficulty executing some of the stations. If you have a group of three or fewer, Klondike registration may be able to combine your group with another small group to make a more natural sled group – please contact registration.

What are the sled requirements?

Webelos dens are expected to bring a sled with the equipment called out in the event flyer. A Webelos sled can be essentially anything, subject to the constraints expressed in the flyer (no metal runners). You may build a sled, borrow a sled (contact registration if you are interested in borrowing an existing Klondike sled), or use a commercially produced toboggan, sled, or wagon. Boy Scout patrols are expected to use a sled built by Scouts.

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Does my troop need to register through Doubleknot?

Troops should register through the Doubleknot online registration system if they will end up owing fees:

- If you are camping overnight at the park, and do not have a youth Group Permit, then you'll owe \$2 per night per camper (for all campers, youth and adult).
- If you run one or more sleds on the Boy Scout/Webelos/sled trail, you will owe fees for these Scouts

Troops whose entire participation is as station volunteers, and who do not camp overnight (or who camp overnight but have a YGP) should send an e-mail to the event registrar (Randy Miller) to provide contact information for event informational messages – and should of course coordinate with the Trail Bosses and Camping Coordinator as necessary.

What happened to the Adventure Trail?

We cancelled the Adventure trail this year due to a conflict with a Council Venturing event, but we expect it to return next year!