

Troop 850 – Trip Description

February 2019 Klondike Derby

Challenging Winter Camping Event with Competitive Activities against other Troops.

Sponsored by MAD the Mercer Area District.

Date: Friday February 22 – Sunday February 24

Departure: Leave from MUMC – 5:30pm Friday

Return: Approximately 10:30am Sunday

Location: Ockanickan Scout Reservation

Who: Maximum 9 scouts. Due to the challenging conditions participants must be at least 14 years old.

Scouts participants must attend regular Troop meetings on Feb 4 and 11 for training and preparation.

Cost: \$40 plus some specialized gear is required (see below)

Description:

The Klondike Derby is a challenging winter camping event in which Scouts BSA patrols participate in competitive activity stations. All participants will camp for two nights in tents in a wooded site and provide for and prepare all meals except for dinner on Saturday. The purpose of this event is to reinforce winter camping skills, scout skills, and the patrol method. The outdoor competition takes place on Saturday during the day, with patrols pulling a sled from station to station. Points will be awarded based on the patrol's abilities and teamwork. Due to the challenging nature of winter camping and the competition, this is a Scouts BSA event only. This event takes place snow, rain or shine, and will only be cancelled if severe winter weather is forecast for the area.

We will participate with our Klondike sled in activity stations throughout the day. Points will be awarded at each station based on our success at completing the activity and teamwork. The teams with the top six scores will each receive a prize.

Sled Race: We will participate in the Klondike sled race at the time provided on the schedule. If there is no snow on the ground, there will be separate races for sleds on runners and on wheels. Races will be

run in heats, with the winners from each competing in the final race. Scouts will likely run the course several times!

There are also competitions for Dutch oven dessert and campfire skits.

Preparation:

The Klondike Derby is a fun and memorable event for the Scouts, provided they stay warm and dry. Be prepared for the worst case scenario, which would be a cold, driving rain all weekend long. Dressing in layers and a good pair of winter boots is mandatory at this. Scouts in sneakers, cotton jeans or cotton hooded sweatshirts should not be allowed to attend. Campers should bring several pairs of non-cotton socks and an extra set of dry non-cotton layers. We will limit participation to only those youth that are properly instructed and outfitted for the weather. The Klondike Derby is not an appropriate event for first year scouts. Unprepared scouts will not be allowed to stay in a cabin under any circumstances. For the competition, patrols should practice lashing, knots, rope climbing, semaphore, map and compass skills, and advanced first aid.

We will prepare for the competition events, discuss cold-weather camping and cooking, and prepare our sled at our regular Troop meetings on Feb 4 and 11.

Special Gear:

Scouts must have appropriate non-cotton layered clothing, in particular at least 2 sets of “wicking” long underwear. Outerwear needs will depend on the weather, but scouts must be able to bring a winter jacket or rain gear or both depending on the forecast. Winter boots or waterproof hiking boots will be essential, and ideally a scout will have spare footwear.

We’ll be sleeping in the Ockinickan tents, just like at summer camp. An appropriate sleeping bag is essential. Unfortunately we won’t know what conditions we are expecting until immediately before the event. The Derby will take place rain or shine, and any scout who signs up will be expected to attend with the appropriate gear – note this may include very cold conditions requiring a “zero degree” or similar sleeping bag. The “typical” nighttime temperature in February is about 20 degrees but of course that can vary greatly. (if the weather is very cold, budget \$200 or more to purchase a cold weather sleeping bag, or about \$100 to rent one online.)

Leaders: ASM Bob Steen and Jason Orbe. We do have room for parents!

Signup: Signup by February 1 is required. We will need at least 5 scouts and a maximum of 9, on a first come, first served basis. Sign up at the Troop 850 web site. A check made out to Troop 850 can be mailed to Anna O'Brien at 19 Berkley Avenue, Belle Mead, NJ 08502. Payment is due upon registration. Scout is not registered until payment is received.

As always, current medical forms are required.

EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT POLICY: All approved trip expense receipts must be submitted with a Check Request Form (http://bsatroop850.com/images/Troop_850_Check_Request.pdf) **within two weeks of the conclusion of the event.** An example would be the purchase of food or supplies for a trip. A check request form must be completed with the appropriate receipts attached. We encourage all receipts be submitted regardless of reimbursement so we can monitor the true cost of an activity.