

The Cold Rush Klondike Derby

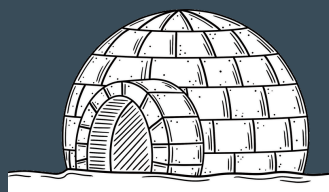
2025 LEADERS GUIDE



February 15-17, 2025
Tahoe Valley Campground
South Lake Tahoe

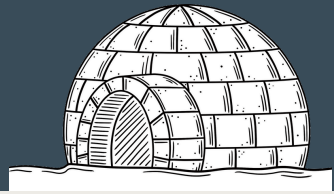
**Sponsored by Yerba Buena Lodge, Order of the
Arrow**

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INTRODUCTION

Thank you for joining us at the Order of the Arrow Klondike Derby!

The 2025 Klondike Derby will be held at Tahoe Valley Campground (TVC) in South Lake Tahoe. The Klondike Derby is a winter camping and competition opportunity (essentially a camporee in the snow) put on by the Order of the Arrow for the Golden Gate Area Council. We recommend that Scouts should be 14 years old and have attended Winter Camp Awareness training, similar to the one held by Yerba Buena on the USS Hornet, to ensure the safety, knowledge, and overall quality of the event.

We rely on your awareness of winter survival and information inside this packet to provide a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone in attendance!

In addition to winter training, we recommend a winter camping "shakedown" to guarantee all Scouts are properly prepared and that all materials and equipment you will need will be available to you during the event. Furthermore, you will need to bring specific items to be successful in your journey through the Klondike (for the competition events). You can find those materials listed later in this guide.

We hope you have a great experience at the Klondike Derby. If you have any questions or concerns prior to the event, do not hesitate to let us know by email at klondike@oa-yerbabuena.org.

Yours in Scouting,
Klondike Committee

*- Simran & Kavitha
Youth Chair & Adviser*



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

THE KLONDIKE IS AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE FOR ALL SCOUTS AND SCOUTERS THAT BRAVE THE COLD. WHILE THE OA IS PRESENT, THEY ARE THERE EMERGENCIES, YOUR UNIT SHOULD BE **SELF RELIANT**. THAT MEANS ALL EQUIPMENT, SITE SELECTION, YPT COMPLIANCE, MEALS, TRANSPORTATION, AND BASIC FIRST AID SHOULD BE ADMINISTERED BY YOU AND YOUR UNIT. WE WILL HAVE A CAMP MEDIC ONSITE 24/7.

What to Bring - The Basics

Water Containers:

Running water will be available at Tahoe Valley Campground but will not be available in the individual campsites. Bring appropriate containers and be prepared for a short walk.



Food:

There are no dining or kitchen facilities at TVC and there is no food package as part of the event. All troops will do their own meal planning and cooking using appropriate winter stoves and fuels. Bring everything you'll winter to cook from arrival to departure.

Wood fire cooking is discouraged as it tends to be slow and inefficient. Please see note below regarding ground fire restrictions.

Although there are grocery and dining amenities nearby, this is a camping activity. You should only leave the campground in the event of an emergency (If you must leave, you must talk with Klondike Derby Staff).



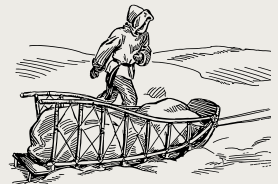
Sled:

Each patrol of five to ten scouts should build a sled, as featured at:

https://scoutingevent.com/Download/61582543/OR/Sled_Instructions.pdf

Each sled should be loaded with the materials mentioned in the sled materials section of Program Overview. These supplies are need to successfully complete each competition event.

You will use this sled to transport your gear from station to station, for the sled race, and it can be used to move gear from your vehicle to campsite.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION cont'd...

What to Bring - The Basics cont'd...

Equipment:

Each unit and participant should bring appropriate equipment that's intended for winter camping as described in the Winter Camp Awareness Training. This includes winter tents, sleeping bags, stoves & cookware, and clothing. See also the Suggested Packing List for Klondike Derby 2025 further down in this guide.

Adult Point of Contact

Each unit must designate one person as the contact for that unit and we must have that person's cell phone on file. We will send important updates via GroupMe to each unit's contact person. This includes whether or not we have to cancel the event due to severe weather.

This person, must be onsite attending Klondike.



Fires

No fire will be allowed directly on the ground. There are fire rings in Area F. If you want a campfire in your site you must dig down to the fire rings that TVC has in place.

There will be a group campfire on Sunday night following the competition.

Cancellation Policy

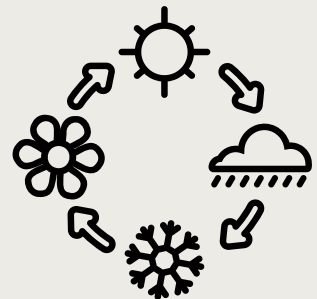
Our Klondike location was chosen based on its accessibility during a variety of winter conditions. Unless it is deemed by OA leadership to be unsafe, the event will go forward rain, snow, or shine. In the unlikely event of such a cancellation by the OA, registered units/participants will receive a full refund.

Refund requests from units/participants for reasons other than cancellation by the OA will be handled according to the GGAC Camp Refund Policy. Additional details can be found on the GGAC website

Severe Weather Cancellation

The policy for modifying or canceling the Klondike Derby due to extreme weather conditions is as follows:

1. If Highway 50 closes on our arrival day.
2. Anything outside the parameters of the Guide to Safe Scouting.
3. Any condition the OALodge Leadership deems as unsafe. This includes, but is not limited to wind chill, visibility, weather service warnings, etc.



Our Team is constantly viewing the weather forecasts, current conditions, as well as current road conditions.

DIRECTIONS

Map



Driving Directions

Tahoe Valley Campground is located at:
 1175 Melba Dr., South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

TVC is only a couple hundred feet off of Highway 50. As you get close to the Y intersection (the Highway 50/89 split), the campground will be on your right at the end of C Street. As you're driving East on Highway 50 you will turn right on C Street. If the snow isn't covering the street sign, there's also a campground symbol visible just before the turn.

If you arrive before check-in time and wish to get lunch in South Lake Tahoe, there are many nearby options. Once you are checked in, you must stay on-site. We cannot accommodate early check-in prior to 1:00 PM on Saturday.



Driving Conditions

Since we are in the mountains, be prepared for driving in snowy conditions. All vehicles must carry chains or other traction devices - this may be required by CHP based on highway conditions or access roads within TVC. Four-wheel/all wheel drive with snow tires on all four wheels is desirable but not required. Note that having four-wheel or AWD is not a panacea for driving in the snow. Be extremely careful at all times.

Please check road conditions before starting out at [Current Highway Conditions](#)



WHEN YOU ARRIVE

Limited Vehicle Space

Parking is limited at Tahoe Valley Campground so carpools of 4 or more are strongly encouraged. Each troop is allotted one parking spot per four people, rounded up (e.g. nine participants will receive 3 parking passes).

Parking Pass & Arrival Instructions

Upon arrival at TVC, you will be greeted in your vehicle by a Traffic Director. They will give you a parking pass and record the number of youth and adults in your vehicle. It is very important for you to keep this in your vehicle so that we know which vehicles on-site are ours and so we can identify and find an owner quickly if needed. Next, the Traffic Director will guide you to either an unloading area or a parking area depending on conditions and traffic.

****NOTE**** have a pen ready to fill out the form.

Unloading Process

If you are directed to a parking area, you may unload at your own pace. If you are directed to a temporary unloading area, you will need to unload as quickly as possible then move your vehicle before camp is fully set up. Extra tarps should be used when unloading to prevent gear from getting wet.

Parking

We expect between 70 and 90 vehicles depending on how well all the groups (you) carpool. Parking conditions will be variable as different areas of TVC may be accessible depending on snow conditions. We will likely have more than one parking area and it is possible that vehicles in your group may be directed differently. Please be patient and follow the directions of the Traffic Directors - this is one of the most challenging parts of the weekend logistically.

Checkin Process

February 15th 1:00PM - 4:00PM

To avoid bottlenecks, it is not necessary to check-in before moving things to the camp area. Troops must camp together but may select their own area. There are no defined or designated sites within the overall camping area. Be considerate and share space with others. Once your unit has chosen an area and begun to move things and set up, the adult-in-charge, or Scoutmaster and the SPL should come to the Admin Building to check in. This must be done before 4:00 PM on Saturday Feb 15, 2025. There is also an SPL/Scoutmaster meeting at 8:00 PM. Please refer to the Klondike Derby Schedule.

A Scout is Kind

All of the staff who are working at the Klondike Derby are volunteers. They are devoted to ensuring that you have the best experience possible. There's a lot that goes into moving 260 people, 90 cars, and 22 patrols doing 155 competitive events. It is likely to not go perfectly. Please also remember, unlike summer camp, this is a youth led event. Thank you for your support and remember to be patient with each other, too

WHEN YOU ARRIVE cont'd ...

Checking out

Departure time is by 10:30 AM on Monday, February 17th. Campsites must be inspected and cleared by a staff member by 10:00 AM. Once cleared, you may check out. Please leave the campsites cleaner than you found them! Patches will be mailed to each unit at a later date.

Campground Map

The map below shows tentative parking plans. The definitive parking plan won't be known until the day of as the resort will make the call depending on snow levels, plowing capabilities, and traffic concerns with other guests.

SAFETY

Weather Conditions

To ensure a safe and enjoyable outing, Be Prepared for sub-freezing weather at night. Remember, weather can be unpredictable, so come prepared regardless of the forecast.

Youth Protection

Please note that any female scouts attending with your unit require at least one female registered adult over age 21. All regular YPT guidelines (no 1:1 contact, 2-deep leadership, etc.) apply and all adults must be registered with Scouting America and have current YPT, AB506 and LiveScans.

As with any other Scouting activity, please use the Buddy System at all times.

Snow Play

Snow conditions make for lots of opportunities for fun. There will be free time for your Scouts to play and enjoy any snow that we have. There are some activities that may be appropriate for a family snow trip that are not OK at a scouting event. Specifically, downhill sledding during the Klondike Derby (sled, saucers, tubes, etc.) is to be confined to designated areas with adequate adult leader supervision and appropriate safety equipment (e.g. Helmets). Please monitor your Scouts to ensure snow play is safe. Additionally, the Guide to Safe Scouting prohibits Scouts throwing objects at other Scouts and this includes snowballs, which can be icy and cause injury.

Troop/Unit Outing

While the Order of the Arrow is providing facilities and programming, the Klondike Derby is ultimately a troop outing. Adult leaders in your troop/unit are responsible for the wellbeing of your Scouts. We will have a medic on site for First Aid. Each attendee must have current BSA medical forms A, B1, and B2 or they will not be allowed to participate. As with summer camp, **units should plan for the event that a Scout has to be taken to see a doctor and have adequate adult supervision should that occur. If not enough adult supervision, the whole troop/unit will have to leave. Parents should be available should their Scout need to be taken home.**

Any Scout exhibiting a fever or similar condition will be sent home. This is to ensure the Scout's safety in alpine conditions. Please ensure that no one who attends is feeling sick.



SAFETY cont'd...

Altitude Sickness

Elevation sickness can affect people differently. Symptoms can start even at low elevations. TVC is over 6,200' above sea level, at that elevation altitude sickness can and does occur. If you or any of your scouts are showing signs please see our camp medic. Signs to look for: headache, nausea, vomiting, fatigue, confusion.

HYDRATE HYDRATE HYDRATE! It's important to have everyone drink water on a regular basis. Even though it's cold out, dehydration can still take place. Have scouts drink regularly.

Health & Safety

Equipment:

Winter clothing is necessary and Scouts must be in proper winter clothing at all times. Please layer warmly and dress comfortably.

NO cotton as it holds moisture and will make you cold!

Winter clothing also includes proper footwear, non-insulated and non-waterproof shoes are not appropriate.

Please note, in the past, Scouts/units have had to leave the event early for safety reasons due to lack of preparation and inappropriate winter gear.

Things will get wet so make sure each attendee has plenty of extra clothes.

Have a plan in place in case one or more Scouts need to be taken home due to health or wet clothing issues.

Parents should be on standby to pick up their scout if the scout becomes sick/wet and can not stay.

Winter Ailments:

Be on the lookout for common winter camping ailments. This includes but is not limited to: hypothermia, dehydration, frostbite, and sunburn due to snow glare. Before arriving, please review the symptoms and first aid for these conditions.

For what to do in case of a serious case or emergency, please see the below section, "Injury and Illness."

Staff Instructions:

Troops are responsible for the safety of their Scouts, but everyone should look out for the safety of all participants. If an adult or Klondike Staff member gives a direction or restricts an area, please support them and ensure the Scouts follow their directions for everyone's safety.

Pre Event Pack Check:

Troops are also responsible for ensuring that their Scouts are prepared for the conditions. We strongly recommend that you hold a "shake down" or a "pack check" before you come to camp to ensure everyone has the proper equipment. You can find details on safe winter camping practices at [Yerba Buena Resources](#) under the Winter Camp Awareness presentation. In addition, if you have any questions you can refer to the suggested packing list or email klondike@oa-yerbabuena.org.

Nigh Time Safety"

It can happen, it's 2AM and a scout is cold or not feeling well. A good tip is for Scout Leaders to hang a lightstick or leave a light on so scouts can easily identify the leaders tent. Every Scout should know who to wake in the middle of the night if something is wrong.

SAFETY cont'd...

Health & Safety cont'd...

Injury & Illness:

In the event of injury, follow BSA First Aid procedures. Depending on the nature of the injury, the injured person should report to the Medic. To comply with YPT guidelines, a youth should always be accompanied by another youth and an adult or two adults.

If an injury dictates not moving the injured person, notify a Klondike Staff member. Keep them warm and comfortable, note the following:

- Exact Location.
- What happened? Are they conscious and breathing? Obtain description of injury.
- How many injured?
- Patient's name, age, sex and Unit if known.
- What first aid has been given?
- Who is with the patient?
- Who is caring for the patient?
- Time of accident.

INFORMATION FROM TAHOE VALLEY CAMPGROUND

The campground offers easy road accessibility and accessible running water. The camp sits at about 6,200 feet in elevation. While there is no guarantee of snow, conditions look very good this year.

Quiet Hours & Departure Time

There are a few rules set up by TVC that we ask you to comply with. Please keep the times from 10:00 PM to 8:00 AM Quiet Hours to respect the other visitors and other units. In addition, on Monday, February 17 please be out of your campsite by 10:00 AM, and make sure it is clean! Note that ground fires are not allowed, all fires must be in portable fire pits a minimum of 6 inches off the ground. With that, please be respectful and follow the Scout Oath and Law, we are representing Scouting!

Rules for Winter Camping at TVC

1. Be prepared for anything! Winter camping can be lots of fun when nature is properly respected, which means it can be dangerous if you are unprepared.
2. Only camp in the designated camp area. Please keep your unit together.
3. There are no cleaning services, so please put all trash into garbage bags and pack it out. Leave the campsite cleaner than it was!
4. Wood fires must be in a portable fire pit that is a minimum of 6 inches off the ground. Fire pits may not rest on the snow. Ashes must be packed out, not scattered.
5. Please maintain a quiet time from 10:00 PM to 8:00 AM.
6. There are designated toilets for male adult/youth and female adult/youth. Please use the correct facility to maintain YPT compliance. Use the portable toilets provided. Do not go elsewhere!



KLONDIKE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

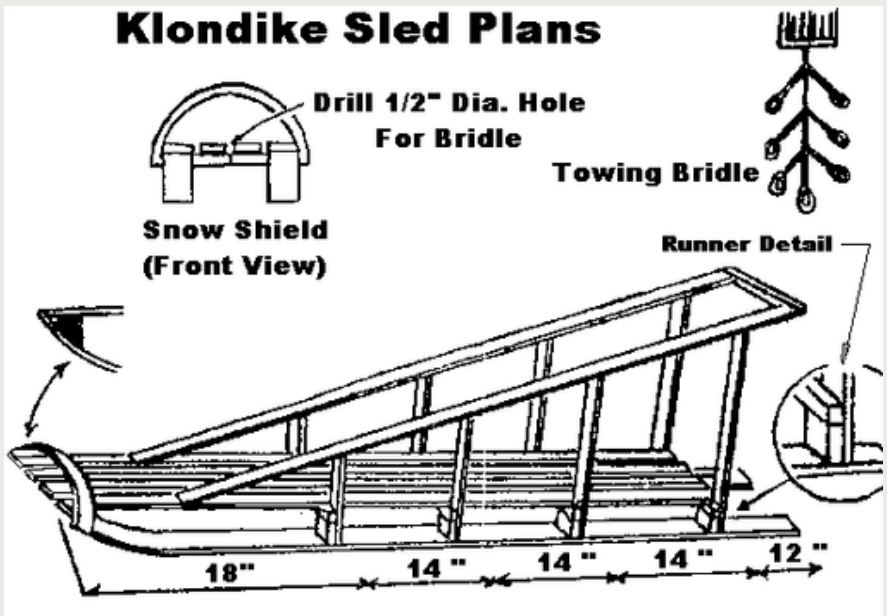
To be shared with SPL/lead scout

History & Klondike Format

The Klondike Derby is a three-day Winter Camporee that has been put on by Scouting units since 1949. In 1975, the OA hosted its first winter event to provide Scouts and Scouters from around the Council the chance to come and test their skills! In addition to these scouting roots, the Klondike Derby is based on the heritage of the Klondike Gold Rush of 1896 to 1899 and is composed of an array of competitions named after some of the Klondike Gold Rush towns. Each town has a competition centered around a feature of that town. Scouts will need to work together to overcome the challenges each town imposes and have fun!

Sled Inspections

The Klondike Derby is a three-day Winter Camporee that has been put on by Scouting units since 1949. In 1975, the OA hosted its first winter event to provide Scouts and Scouters from around the Council the chance to come and test their skills! In addition to these scouting roots, the Klondike Derby is based on the heritage of the Klondike Gold Rush of 1896 to 1899 and is composed of an array of competitions named after some of the Klondike Gold Rush towns. Each town has a competition centered around a feature of that town. Scouts will need to work together to overcome the challenges each town imposes and have fun!



KLONDIKE PROGRAM OVERVIEW cont'd...

To be shared with SPL/lead scout

Competitions

There will be two sessions of competitions as well as a sled race. The two sessions will comprise multiple stations. There will be 4-6 stations before lunch (session 1) and 4 -6 stations after lunch (session 2). Each patrol is expected to finish as many stations as they can. Each station will be scored. For the sled race, the fastest team wins. The patrol with the overall best score will be the Klondike champion.

The stations will challenge scouts in some scout skills (fire building, knot tying) and others will challenge accuracy, balance, and memory.

Sunday Campfire

On Sunday evening all units are invited to the Staff camping area for an evening campfire and awards presentations. Each patrol should be a scout approved skit. Plan on having your patrol skit be reviewed prior to the campfire. SPLs should be ready to talk about the skit(s) at the Saturday evening SPL/SM meeting

Sled Materials

The following materials are required to complete the Klondike events. Using your sled, you will carry the following items to each event:

- * A Sled
- * Cloth Bandages (10 suggested)
- * First Aid Brace or things to make a brace
- * Tarps (minimum 2, more recommended)
- * First Aid Kit
- * Pot (To boil water in a timed competition)
- * Patrol Flag
- * Wood to chop for kindling
- * Axe/Hatchet
- * Any natural materials for survival shelter (tarps allowed)
- * Extra Rope, Natural Fiber Preferred
- * Water Bottle or cup
- * Bicycle Helmet for Sled Ride



KLONDIKE SCHEDULE

Tentative schedule. Time and events may change due to weather and campground conditions.

SATURDAY

1:00 PM to 4:00 PM - Check-In & Camp Set-up: Units must check in at the Klondike Derby Administration Tent/Office to confirm pre-registration information and receive additional information.

PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE BEFORE CHECK-IN TIME.

4:00 PM to evening - Troops Schedule: You are free to schedule your own dinner, and clean-up.

5:30 PM to 7:00 PM - Capture the Flag(optional)

7:30 PM to 9:00 PM - Campfire(optional)

8:00 PM to 8:30 PM - SPL & Scoutmaster Meeting: Meet at the admin tent/office for your initial Klondike Debrief. We will go over the weekend and important things you will need to know.

10:00 PM Quiet Time: The campsite asks that we impose quiet hours after 10:00 PM to 8:00 AM. Please be courteous and kind to other visitors and follow these guidelines.

SUNDAY

7:00 AM Wake-up

7:00 AM to 9:00 AM - Breakfast: This is your time to get a good breakfast (this will help you keep warm), clean up, and prepare for the day. Don't be late for flags!

9:00 AM to 9:30 AM - Opening flag ceremony: Please wear your field uniform to flags. We recommend wearing warm clothes and activity wear underneath as we will go almost immediately into the events.

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM - Session 1 of Competitions: Now the fun starts, patrols will rotate through multiple stations that will challenge scout and winter skills. SLED INSPECTIONS are an event.

Note: All Scouts and Scouters must be properly dressed for cold weather. See the Health and Safety Section

KLONDIKE SCHEDULE cont'd

SUNDAY

12:00 PM to 1:30 PM - Lunch: A short intermission in the events to allow everyone to get lunch, please prepare something quick so you have enough time.

1:30 PM to 3:30 PM - Session 2 of Competitions: More competitions! During Session 2, we will be reviewing your campfire skit, so be prepared to share with the staff.

3:45 PM to 5:00 PM - Sled Races: The final event and main competition of the Klondike Derby. Due to the number of participants, the races will be done in heats and will be determined on time.

5:00 PM to 7:30 PM - Dinner preparation and clean up.

5:30 PM to 6:00 PM - SPL & Scoutmaster Meeting: This will be your closing Klondike Debrief. We will go over important checkout procedures.

7:30 PM to 9:30 PM - Outlaw Campfire (optional): We hope you'll participate in this interactive campfire during this time. The best skit and song will receive a prize. In addition, the first portion of the campfire will be the award ceremony for the events earlier in the day. If you choose not to stay for the rest of the campfire, please attend the award ceremony!

9:30 PM to 10:00 PM - Prepare for bed and Quiet Time (10 PM)

MONDAY

7:00 AM Wake-up

7:00 AM to 8:30 AM - Breakfast: We recommend something fast, filling, and easy to clean up.

8:30 AM to 9:30 AM - Pack Up and Inspection: To ensure the cleanliness of the camp, each area must be inspected by a staff member before departure and receiving your patches. Please be checked out by

10:00 AM to 10:30 AM - On the Road

GEAR LIST**Suggested Packing List for Klondike Derby 2025****Mandatory**• **Essentials**

- 2 Liters Water (available on-site)
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen/Lip Balm
- Windbreaker
- Pocket Knife
- 50 feet of nylon rope
- Matches/Lighter/Flint Steel
- Rain Gear
- Compass
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- First Aid Kit
- Cell Phone battery

• **4 Season Tent**• **0 Degree Bag (or with liner)**• **Clothes**

- Wool/Synthetic Thermals
- At least 3 layers (wool/synthetic Shirt)
- Insulating Layer
- At least 4 pairs of wool socks
- At least 4 pair of synthetic/wool underwear top & bottom
- Snow boots (waterproof & insulated)
- Spare tennis-shoes
- Beanie/Hat
- At least 2 pair synthetic scout pants
- At least 2 pairs of other synthetic shorts/pants
- Snow Gloves (waterproof)

• **Sleeping pad (Closed Cell, Light)**• **Toiletries**

- Toothbrush/Paste
- Floss
- Hand Sanitizer

• **Optional**

- Camera
- Hand Warmers
- Notebook + Pencil
- Snow Shovel
- Small Amount of Cash
- Quick-Dry Towel
- Portable Seat/Camp Chair
- Bear Can
- Whistle
- Mirror
- Portable fire pit at least 6 inch off ground
- Wood for fire
- Bucket for fire (required if you choose to have a fire)
- Shovel for fire (required if you choose to have a fire)
- Walkie Talkie

• **Shared Gear**

- 2 Large tarps for gear unloading/packing
- Cooking equipment

• **Notes**

- **NO COTTON**
- **ALWAYS STAY HYDRATED**
- **Think back to WCA**
- **BRING ENERGY SNACKS**

FAQs



What is the minimum age for Scouts to attend?

We suggest a minimum age of 14. If a scout is younger than 14 it's your call, as the Scout Leader, if that scout is responsible enough to handle the extreme and preparation needed for snow camping.

Do I absolutely need to bring a sled?

No, but your patrol(s) will have to find some other way of hauling your gear from event to event and you won't be able to participate in the sled races.

So if we don't have sled, what do we do during the sled race?

A scout is kind so see if another unit or patrol will let you borrow their sled for the race. The sled race counts as a competition so you don't want to miss out. Plus it's a lot of fun.

Is it ok for parents to be out of town during the Klondike?

NO, if something happens to a scout their parents need to be ready to assist and potentially drive up to pick up their scout. If not the entire unit may have to leave if someone feels sick.

Why would the entire unit need to leave if a scout is sick and the parents aren't able to pick them up?

Remember YPT and two deep leadership needs to be followed. If a unit only has two adults onsite and one takes a scout (plus a buddy) home, that would only leave one unit leader for the rest of the scouts.

So what should parents do if they shouldn't take off to Hawaii?

South Lake Tahoe has some world class skiing and some amazing accommodations. And there are several nearby towns, even some below the snowline, that make for a great weekend getaway.

RESOURCES

[Scouting America Winter Camp Safety](#)

[Klondike Derby Sled Instructions](#)

[Winter Camping Presentations](#)[Winter Camping WCA Presentations- First Aid](#)

[Tahoe Valley Campground](#)

[Youth Protection and Adult Leadership](#)

[BSA Annual Health and Medical Record](#)

[Current Highway Conditions](#)

[Winter Driving Tips](#)

[GroupMe](#)

**Barton Memorial Hospital
2170 South Ave.
South Lake Tahoe, Ca. 96150
(530) 541-3420**

**Raley's
1040 Emerald Bay Rd.
South Lake Tahoe CA, 96150**

**Ace Hardware
1931 Lake Tahoe Blvd
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
(530) 541-3601**

**Big 5 Sporting Goods
2062 Lake Tahoe Blvd, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
(530) 542-6221**