



# Leaders Guide

**Klondike Derby**

***"1776 Winter Games"***

**Hosted by Troop 53, Darien**

**January 23-24, 2026**

**Hoyt Scout Reservation**



## Klondike Derby

**January 23 -24, 2026**

Hoyt Scout Reservation (Lower Hoyt)

3 Marchant Rd, Redding 06896

*Travel back to the winter of 1776 and experience life as a Continental Army Scout serving under General George Washington.*

*Patrols will face cold-weather challenges, complete critical missions, and rely on teamwork in the spirit of the Revolutionary War.*

This guide is intended to help Scouts and Scouters navigate their way through this event, and determine what they need to be prepared for success. Youth and adult leaders should read through this guide to ensure they are fully prepared this event. We suggest that you cover as much of both the event and campout details as possible with your unit before the event. If there are any questions, please use the email contacts below.

### Registration

<https://mycouncil.ctyankee.org/Event/1522>

**\$20.00 Youth/Adult Fee**

(Fee covers patches, Hoyt fees, Council Admin Fee, awards, and program expenses.)

**Troops should be registered and paid by January 19th.**

### Planning

The Klondike Derby starts with registration from 7am to 9am on Saturday. There will be an SPL Meeting at 9am. Troops should be present for the Opening Ceremony at 9:30 AM. Stations will begin at 10am.

Troops can camp overnight Saturday into Sunday, or just attend for the day. Campsites can be selected through online registration. (See campsite map on page 4.)

**The Closing/Awards Ceremony on Saturday at 4:30pm officially closes the event.** Troops camping Saturday night should provide their own evening program.

## YOUTH LED CAMPOREE & PROGRAM

SPLs, ASPLs and Patrol Leaders will form the Patrol Leaders' Council (PCL) for the Klondike and run the program, led by Troop 53, Darien

### SCHEDULE

#### Friday, Jan. 23, 2026

- 4 pm Camp Opens
- 4 - 8:30 pm Troop Check-in at the Ranger Station
- 8:30 pm SPL/SM Meeting for Troops camping overnight Friday

#### Saturday, Jan 24, 2026

- 7 am Reveille
- 7 - 9 am Breakfast
- 7 - 9 am Check in at the Ranger Station for Troops arriving Saturday
- 9 am PLC Meeting, Jackson Pavilion (SPLs, PLs, Station Leaders)
- 9:30 am Opening Ceremony (Sled inspection; see page 6)
- 10 - 11:30 am Morning stations (3 stations; 25 minutes each; see page 5)
- 11:30 - 1:30 pm Lunch (Cold Cookout entries due at 12.45pm; see page 6)
- 1:00 pm Scoutmaster Meeting — Ranger Station
- 1:30 - 3 pm Afternoon Stations (3 stations; 25 minutes each; see page 5)
- 3 - 3.30 pm Return Score sheets to Jackson Pavilion
- 3:30 pm Klondike 2026 Sled Race
- 4:30 pm Awards Ceremony (Closing)
- 5 pm Klondike Ends. Troops are responsible for their overnight camping safety and should provide their own Saturday evening program.

#### Sunday, Jan 25, 2026

- 10 am Departure - Safe trip home

### CHECK-IN AND CHECK-OUT

- Saturday Check-In — Troops must check-in/register between 7am and 9am at the Ranger Station **BEFORE** setting up their campsite. The opening ceremony will be at 9:30am.
- The 4:30 pm Awards Ceremony on Saturday allows Troops not camping Saturday night to receive their awards and patches. The Klondike Program ends after the Ceremony; Troops are on their own camping and providing their own Saturday evening program.
- Check-out — Please make sure your campsite is clean, your campfire is distinguished, and any picnic tables moved into your campsite have been returned to where you found them.

### GUIDELINES

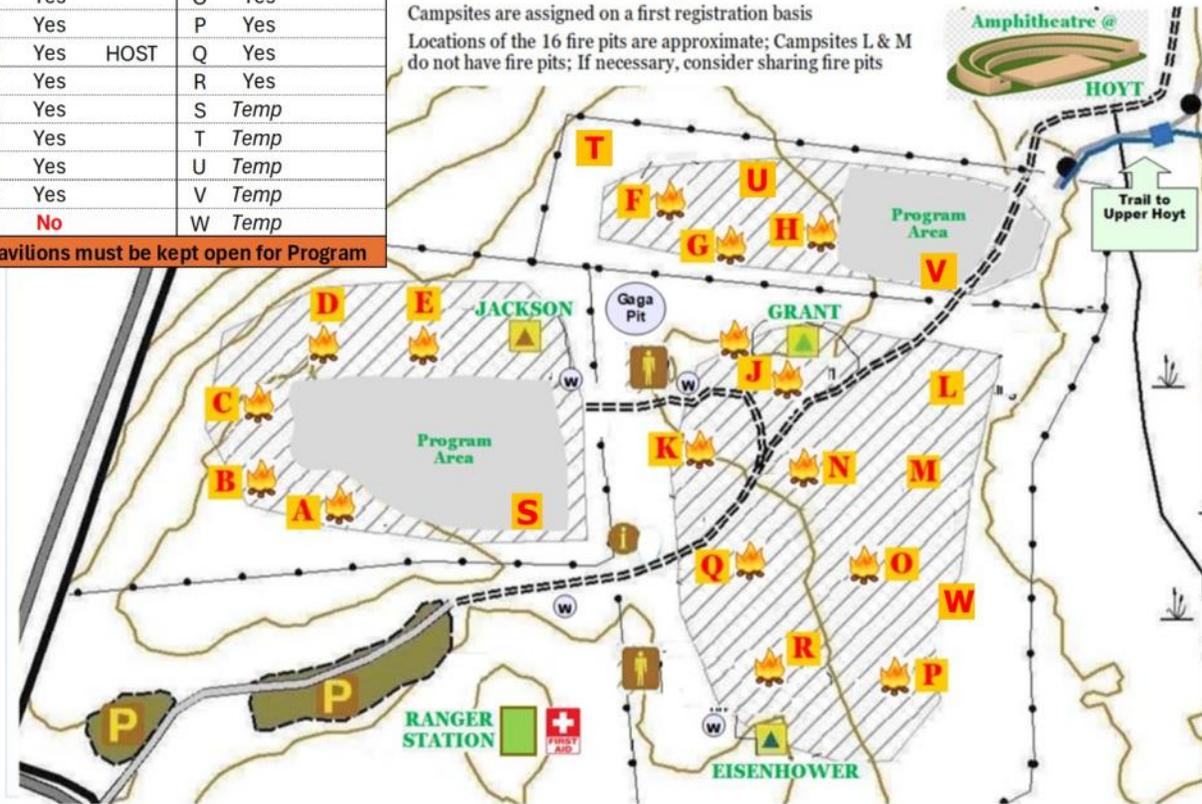
- The **Ranger Station** will serve as **Klondike Headquarters** for the weekend and will also serve as the First Aid and Warming Area
- The **Jackson Pavilion** will serve as **Program Headquarters** for the host Troop
- Weather and/or ground conditions at Hoyt may require camping and program areas be moved.
- Campsites can be reserved online but will only be finalized at check-in.
- Campsites are assigned on a first registered/first paid basis.
- Pavilions must be left open for program use. (The Host Troop may use the Jackson Pavilion.)
- Troops should be prepared to transport all gear in and out from the parking lot to their campsite. Vehicles are not permitted beyond the parking lot.
- Running water available near the ranger cabin & at each pavilion.
- Be Prepared and bring your own fire wood.
- **Carry out all trash. No dumpster.**

Campsites					
Host - Troop 53-B					
Site	Firepit	Troop	Site	Firepit	Troop
A	Yes		M	Temp	
B	Yes		N	Yes	
C	Yes		O	Yes	
D	Yes		P	Yes	
E	Yes	HOST	Q	Yes	
F	Yes		R	Yes	
G	Yes		S	Temp	
H	Yes		T	Temp	
J	Yes		U	Temp	
K	Yes		V	Temp	
L	No		W	Temp	

**Pavilions must be kept open for Program**

### Saugatuck Camporee Map (Lower Hoyt)

Jackson Pavilion serves as Program HQ  
 Check in & First Aid is at the Ranger Station  
 Campsites are assigned on a first registration basis  
 Locations of the 16 fire pits are approximate; Campsites L & M do not have fire pits; If necessary, consider sharing fire pits



### Saugatuck District Weather Cancellation Policy

The District Key 3 and those from District Staff responsible for an event will determine if a delayed start or cancellation of a District Activity is needed based on the following:

- Weather Alerts and Warnings
- Driving conditions
- Ability to run program
- Availability of District and Unit Staffing
- Conditions at the location

A delay or cancellation will be announced by noon on Friday at the latest. Scoutmasters will be notified by email and a notice will be posted on the Council Website. If a District Activity goes ahead under potential travel advisory conditions, Unit Leadership is responsible to determine if driving conditions are safe for their unit and if their Scouts are prepared to meet the challenges of the pending weather. If a Troop has any concerns, please stay home and be safe.

### Questions:

Registration/Campsite/Logistics:

Bill Reynolds, Saugatuck District Director: [bill.reynolds@scouting.org](mailto:bill.reynolds@scouting.org)

District Activities: [saugatuck-activities@ctyankee.org](mailto:saugatuck-activities@ctyankee.org) (Charles Colfer & John Hanks)

Program:

Charles Colfer, Saugatuck District Activity Chair: [saugatuck-activities@ctyankee.org](mailto:saugatuck-activities@ctyankee.org)

Grant Evans, Scoutmaster, Troop 53: [gevanst53@gmail.com](mailto:gevanst53@gmail.com)

## ***1776 Winter Games***

Troop 53, Darien has designed six exciting stations that use and enhance Scouting skills. Scouts will go on an adventure through six different stations moving through the Winter Games. Troop 53 is requesting Troops to sponsor or run a station.

<b>Station &amp; Year</b>	<b>Station Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Troop Assignments</b>
1 1773	Boston Tea Party	Haul "tea" using a Troop Sled & Construct a Patrol Shelter for supplies	Troop 53 Darien
2 1777	Lexington & Concord	Tomahawk throwing	Troop 20 Wilton
3 1775	Sybil Ludington's Midnight Ride	Blind maze	Troop 19/190 Norwalk
4 1777	Battel of Saratoga	Lash a catapult to launch "cannonballs"	Troop 35 Darien
5 1781	Surrender of Yorktown	Semaphore messaging & flagpole lashing	Troop 125 Wilton
6 1778-79	Putnam's Winter Encampment	Fire building	Troop 222 Norwalk

Please Note: Fire Starting Materials must fit in a 1 gallon Ziploc bag, can include matches, lighters, lint, shavings, tinder etc., but no fatwood or accelerants.

### **Patrol Competition**

Awards for 1st Place, 2nd Place, and 3rd Place

- Six stations will be set up, each able to handle up to 3 Patrols at a time
- Patrols rotate every 30 minutes, and **should remain at each station for the full session**
- If Troops wish to host a station, please contact the Troop 53 Scoutmaster & SPL.
- If materials need to be purchased for the event, please get approval from the District Activity Chair before purchase. Receipts will be required for reimbursement.
- Scoring Matrix — up to 20 points per station:
 

5 points for on-time arrival	2 points for Scout Spirit
5 points for teamwork/leadership	8 points for completing the task

Other Awards

- Cold Cookout
- Sled Presentation & Race



## SLED PRESENTATION & RACE

- Troops/Patrols are encouraged to bring a Troop/Patrol Sled to the Klondike.
- **There will be a sled presentation at the opening ceremony.** Each Troop will present their Troop sled decorated in a way that highlights what their Troop is best known for. The Host Troop will choose their favorite sled which will receive a special prize.
- **At 3.30pm, there will be a sled race in the main field in front of the Jackson Pavilion.** Rules will be announced prior to the start but SAFETY is paramount so no Scouts can be directly in front of the Sled or moving backwards.

## COLD COOKOUT

You're active outdoors at the Hoyt Klondike in January. Low temperatures mean your body needs more energy just to maintain your core temperature, increasing your calorie burn rate. **Our Cold Cookout Challenge is to prepare a hearty lunch to refuel your Patrol for the afternoon activities.** Ideas include hearty soups, stews, or chilis. Each Patrol entered in the Klondike can enter the **Cold Cookout**. Each Troop attending can also submit an adult entry. Cooking is at each Troop's campsite. The Cookout starts at 11:30am with entries due at the Jackson Pavilion by 12:45 pm. (Cooking fires can be started before 11:30am.)

Judging will be based on:

- Timeliness – Late submissions will be penalized.
- Presentation/Appearance – At least 2 team members should present their entry
- Taste/Texture
- Ease of recipe, preparation, and cleanup
- Extra points awarded if the entry is also the Patrol/Troop lunch

Troops will provide their own cooking gear, ingredients, and utensils. Because it's hard to chop vegetables and meats with gloves on, prepping ingredients before the Klondike at a Troop meeting is permitted. A Scout is trustworthy so prepping should be done as a team and not delegated to a parent. Prepared ingredients should be safely stored (e.g. Ziploc bags, coolers) before the cooking begins.

## Troop Responsibilities

- Ensure all Scouts are prepared for cold weather activities and camping for one/two nights.
- If a district activity is going ahead under potential travel advisory conditions, Unit Leadership is responsible for determining if driving conditions are safe for their unit and if their Scouts are prepared to meet the challenges of the pending weather. If a Troop has any concerns, please stay home and be safe.
- Troops should carry Part A and B of the Annual Health and Medical Form and a permission form for each Scout signed by a parent or legal guardian.
- Troops camping should have one adult certified in First Aid/CPR.



## Guide to Safe Scouting—Winter Activities

### Winter Camping Safety

All Troops should conduct “Cold Weather Training” for their Scouts prior to the Klondike. Adult Leaders should be familiar with the Winter Camping Safety section in the Guide to Safe Scouting.

It is the responsibility of each Troop’s Adult Leadership that their Scouts arrive for the Klondike with the necessary skills and equipment required to safely camp and participate in the activities. Troop Leaders should not hesitate to send Scouts home who are not properly prepared.

Remind Scouts that the buddy system is in effect at all times. Scouts should be comfortable reporting having problems with the cold. The Ranger Station will be available Saturday during the day as a warming area.

From the Guide to Safe Scouting: There is magic to camping in winter. It is one of the most challenging of outdoor adventures. Special considerations for winter camping are:

1. **Qualified Supervision.** It is vital that a leader be an experienced winter camper with strong character and common sense.
2. **Equipment.** Be completely outfitted for cold weather. Equipment should be checked to ensure good condition for the activity and proper maintenance while in use. Youth should be adequately clothed, and blankets should be a suitable quality and weight.
3. **Physical Fitness.** Youth should be suitably fit for the activity. Periodic rests while building snow caves and engaging in other strenuous cold-weather activities will help prevent accidents and overheating.
4. **Buddy System.** Having Youth paired aids in monitoring each other’s physical condition and observation of surroundings and circumstances.
5. **Planning.** Safe activities follow a plan that has been conscientiously developed. In winter, plan to cover no more than 5 miles per day on snowshoes or 10 to 12 miles on cross-country skis. Allow ample time to make it to camp at the end of the day.
6. **Safe Area.** Leaders should determine whether an area for winter camping is well-suited and free of hazards.
7. **Weather Check.** Weather conditions, potential hazards, and the appropriate responses should be understood and anticipated. Go to [my.scouting.org](http://my.scouting.org) for Hazardous Weather training.
8. **Burning.** Never use flames in tents, teepees, or snow shelters. This includes burning any solid, liquid, gel, or gas fuel; using features of tents or teepees that support stoves or fires; and use of chemical-fueled equipment and catalytic heaters.
9. **Discipline.** All participants should know, understand, and respect the rules and procedures for a safe winter camping experience. Applicable rules should be discussed prior to the outing and reviewed with all Scouts when leaving for the winter event. Rules are effective only when followed.

# SAUGATUCK DISTRICT HOYT PARKING

**Entrance: 3 Marchant Rd, Redding 06896**

Please place on dash so it can be seen from windshield.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make copies for each vehicle parking at the Klondike.**

# SAUGATUCK DISTRICT HOYT PARKING

**Entrance: 3 Marchant Rd, Redding 06896**

Please place on dash so it can be seen from windshield.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_