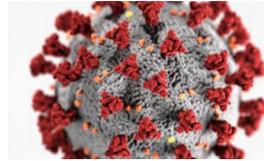


## Save The Date

**KLONDIKE DERBY  
FEBRUARY 27-28,  
2021**



**DUNSTABLE RURAL  
LAND TRUST**  
[DRLT.ORG](http://DRLT.ORG)



**COVID CHALLENGES**  
NO CAMPING  
NO SLEDS



**KLONDIKE TRADITION**  
SCOUTING IN THE  
OUTDOORS

# NEWSLETTER



## A Good Thing From 2020

It was a brisk, but tolerable winter Saturday in January. Many scouts arrived in the dark on Friday evening full of excitement, nervousness, spirit of competition and ready to enjoy a weekend of scouting with friends. Saturday mostly cooperated by holding off on the rain until all events concluded, ribbons awarded and the trophy passed from the past year's top patrol to 2020's newest champion. The Derby was complete and successful. Scouts

**Above Center**

**Scouts of Troop  
919, 2020 Klondike  
Derby, Billerica MA**

came and conquered the course. Camaraderie and confidence grew. Looking back on 2020, we will say many things were canceled and life was disrupted. But we won't say this about the 2020 Klondike. The 2020 Klondike Derby was one of the few things which went right and we can look upon as fun in 2020.

With 2021 swiftly approaching, we reflect on the Klondikes of the past. We know 2021 will be different, very different. Whether different or the same; as scouters, our aims are the same: provide a quality event which focuses on Scouting's purpose and promotes the ideals of Scouting. In short, give the scouts a fun venue where they can practice and display their scout-craft, bond as a team and make memories. Our scouts deserve this!

## Dunstable Rural Land Trust

This year's main event will take place at the beautiful Dunstable Rural Land Trust located off of Main Street in Dunstable near the Massachusetts/New Hampshire border. This location offers great features to include wooded trails for hiking, open areas for spreading out, and ponds for the sheer natural visage of a perfect outdoor landscape.

## Covid Challenges

The challenging Covid landscape has proven to be a great disruptor for 2020 like a cup of gravy with a hair in it. Its prominence of displeasure within our current year has been the subject of many a meme.

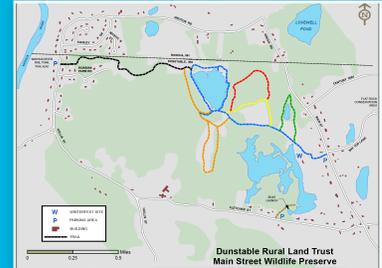


But in the tradition of the Boy Scout motto "Be Prepared", we forge ahead. In addition, borrowing the US Navy Seabee motto "Can Do!" and "The difficult we do right away, the impossible takes a little longer", as dedicated scouters and volunteers, we will persevere and find our

niche to ensure an event can occur-whether physical groups or virtual gatherings.

Safety protocols proposed for the event are designed to adhere to Council Gear and state guidelines. Careful examination was given

## Dunstable Rural Land Trust



Images taken from [drlt.org](http://drlt.org) website displaying the trails, water features, open areas and, of course, the grand feature of winter-Snow!

Feel free to explore the website and/or physical location to discover the splendor of the property.

to the rules to ensure we are keeping the participants and community safe; as well as, serving as ambassadors of Scouting. The following is a list of prospective considerations:

- **No** physical Opening or Closing Ceremonies or **overnight camping**.
- Less events to ensure patrols can complete event in about three hours.
- Depending on interest, offer a two day event to allow more patrols to complete course.
- Possible multiple locations in close proximity to accommodate patrol attendance interest.
- Assigned arrival times and start times.
- Offering Troops to host their patrols in isolated location of choosing.
- **No sleds** to maintain required social distance.
- Limiting patrols to a max of 10.
- Patrols provide own materials to mitigate cross contamination. Additionally, packet materials will be emailed for contactless delivery.

## Klondike Tradition

2021 will mark only the second time for me to partake in a Klondike Derby. My lack of experience in the event does not diminish my keen sense of awareness of how important this event is to Scouts. From the moment I pitched my tent in Billerica last January, I knew I was keeping tradition alive by volunteering and participating. Many Scouters before me had followed the same path in previous years ensuring the rich folklore of fun, friendship and the forest would live on in Scouting's future.

Sometimes, that path of scouting rolls easily along the trail. Sometimes, it stalls at a crossroad, trips over a bump in the road, or encounters a fork on the trail. The trail isn't always easily marked but the goal is never invisible -Keep Scouting moving forward by adapting, doing your best and never give up.

Late in his career as a baseball player, when his body ached daily and he wasn't as fast as he used to be and he could have eased off, the Hall of Famer Joe DiMaggio was asked why does he continue to play so hard. He simply replied, "The reason I play so hard is that somewhere out there is some kid who has never seen me play before, and I don't want to disappoint him."

As scout volunteers, we could just say it's easier to wait until Covid is over to get back to normal. We are at that crossroad, the bump in the road, the fork on the trail and behind us are up and coming Scouts who've never experienced the thrill of the Klondike, the warm Spirit of Scouting in cold weather, and the opportunity to tell the tales of how they challenged themselves and grew as young adults on that brisk winter day. Just as Joe DiMaggio played on and played hard, so will we. The 2021 Derby won't be just like 2020, or 2019 or even 2009. It will be what it can be in 2021. Most importantly, it will be!

-Misty Cheney

