



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

Troop 139
Chester, NJ

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Chester Boy Scout Troop 139 Competes in Annual Klondike Derby

On January 26, 16 scouts from Troop 139 in Chester joined more than 25 other Troops from the area to compete in the annual Patriots' Path Council, Black River District Klondike Derby at Camp Trexler in Effort, PA. The Klondike Derby pits patrols of 4 to 8 scouts in a competition of scouting skills like knot tying, wood tool safety, first aid, and fire building as well as in other "mystery" events. The additional challenge is that each Patrol of scouts transports its gear from place to place on a custom-built sled, but instead of a team of dogs pulling, the scouts do the pulling. As scouts are to "Be Prepared", the sleds are designed to run either on wheels or on skis depending on the weather conditions. This year, conditions were ideal so the sleds could run on the skis as any good sled should. Each of the stations is run and judged by adult leaders who freely admit they can be persuaded that the scouting skill has been sufficiently completed if the scouts give them cookies, the tastier the better. Troop 139 entered 3 sleds in the competition with the best sled finishing in 8th place out of 42 sleds entered. Despite temperatures dropping to as low as 2F overnight, the scouts stayed over for the night sleeping in tents and all of the scouts had a great time.

Please see the photo for this article with caption under it on the next page.



Pictured from left to right: Eric Stiner (Sled Leader), Josh Layden, Jared Pelech, Nick Constantino, Philip Murray and James Gause. Photo by Steve Davis