

Grand Columbia Council

POLAR PATROL



The Polar Patrol recognition is presented to scouts or adult leaders in the Grand Columbia Council who accumulate 50 or more "Polar Points" while camping under the auspices of the Boy Scouts of America. Qualifying scouts or adult leaders can apply for recognition using the Polar Patrol Application form, and this can be awarded at any event including a Court of Honor.

One polar point is awarded for each degree below freezing recorded during an overnight council, district, or unit campout. The weather bureau station nearest the campsite (or that most closely represents the conditions at the campsite) determines the degree of temperature; however, a leader's thermometer reading can also be accepted. For example, a recorded overnight temperature of 10 degrees Fahrenheit would equal 22 polar points ($32-10=22$) towards the required 50 Polar Points.

The accumulation of Polar Points for this recognition follows these guidelines:

1. Polar Points are accumulated by overnight camping (the entire night) in a tent, snow shelter, in the open, or other method. This does NOT include sleeping in a cabin, travel trailer, vehicle, etc.
2. Methods to keep warm in tents, snow shelters, and such include appropriate layering of clothing, sleeping bags, and other traditional methods including hand or foot warmers. Other methods such as stoves or heaters are not permitted for safety considerations.
3. If in the open, fires are permitted as long as they do not constitute a hazard to the scouts or the surrounding area.
4. "Under the auspices of the Boy Scouts of America" means that appropriate adult leadership must be present, the guidelines in the Guide to Safe Scouting and Youth Protection guidelines must be followed, the campout must be under the direction of the scout unit, and the principles of Leave No Trace must be followed.
5. Within the climate of the Grand Columbia Council and depending on the year, it may take several camping seasons for scouts to qualify for this recognition, so Polar Points can be accumulated over more than one season of camping. Therefore, units are encouraged to track and record Polar Points as these records will be required to apply for this recognition.
6. Polar Points accumulated in seasons prior to the introduction of this recognition will be considered. A resource to determine historical temperature data can be found at www.wunderground.com/history.
7. ***Cold weather camping should not be attempted if appropriate preparations for safety have not been planned out in advance. Neither scouts nor adult leaders should ignore appropriate safety measures in an effort to receive this recognition. This is cool, but not that cool.***

Grand Columbia Council POLAR PATROL APPLICATION



Applicant Name: _____ **Unit Number:** _____

The above applicant has met the requirements of the Grand Columbia Council "Polar Patrol" by accumulating at least 50 "Polar Points". The camping associated with these Polar Points was completed under the auspices of the Boy Scouts of America including appropriate supervision and the standards set forth in the Guide to Safe Scouting and the Youth Protection guidelines. It is understood that this recognition is an individual recognition in the Grand Columbia Council and as such, the patch should not be traded or transferred.

The following table details the accumulation of Polar Points by the applicant:

Date	Location/Camp Name	Temperature	Polar Points
Total Polar Points:			

Unit Leader Certification

I certify that the following information provided in the table above accurately represents the "Polar Points" accumulated by the applicant and that the applicant qualifies to become a Lifetime Member of the Grand Columbia Council Polar Patrol.

Name: _____ Position: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Submit application to the Scout Shop for fulfillment and for pricing information.