

Introducing your Scouts to an incredible trekking opportunity with National Geographic in Asia!

Dear 2019 Philmont Advisors and Crew Leaders,

Because of YOU, Scouts are preparing to adventure into the rugged mountains of northern New Mexico at Philmont Scout Ranch. By working together to overcome crew challenges, they will develop character, confidence, and leadership that will forever change their perspectives and guide their future footsteps! Rooted by Scouting principles, their footsteps are part of a much larger walk that is shared by all of humanity.

Through an educational partnership with the Pulitzer Center, your Scouts will learn about the larger walk from a National Geographic Fellow who has been traveling around the planet by foot since 2013. They might even have a chance to join his global journey in Asia! Paul Salopek's Out of Eden Walk re-creates our oldest ancestors' journey out of east Africa across Asia, and down to the southern tip of South America. Moving at the slow beat of his footsteps, he is documenting and sharing the quieter, hidden stories of people who rarely make the news.

Paul urges Scouts at Philmont to document their journeys as well, in their Passport Journals. By slowing down, observing carefully, reflecting, and writing, your Scouts will learn how to use the skills and habits of a journalist to improve the quality of their experience at Philmont. It's a time they'll want to remember and intentionally use to think about their place in the crew, but also the world! Below are select Philmont quotes from Scouts in 2017.

"Going to Philmont was the first experience where we didn't have phone coverage, we didn't have consistent contact to friends and family and we couldn't share every photo to snapchat. We actually for the first time slowed down and enjoyed the beauty around us. Instead of the daily messaging, we had real conversations with the patrol that was at Philmont. We sat around the fire at dinner and talked about what we'd seen that day and what we did. We would talk about what was coming up the next day and how we planned to achieve our next goals."

"My experience at Philmont taught me that the world is more than it is behind a screen. On every new journey I go on, I will use the slow journalism techniques that Paul Salopek has taught me to meet new people, try new things, and overall, enjoy that experience even more. Philmont has helped me change the way I view the world."

These are the types of takeaways that we hope your Scouts will discover and record on the trail. To maximize the impact, we hope you will introduce the idea of documenting their preparations and shakedown hikes this spring.

Little do they know today, but their lives are about to change! No matter the location – Troop Meetings, Service Projects, Council Camp, Jamboree, Philmont – your Scouts are developing skills, confidence, and character because of you! Thank You for helping them experience the grand Adventure that is Scouting!

Please take a moment to visit the link below, where you can learn more about this amazing opportunity:

www.pulitzercenter.org/Scouting

Hike on!

Mark Schulte
Education Director
Pulitzer Center



Crew Leader and Advisor Talking Points for Reinforcing Passport Journal Program to Crew Throughout Philmont Trek.

- **Passport Journals** – These are your Passport Journals – they are part of a program that is connected to National Geographic and the Pulitzer Center, but the primary concept is this... We encourage you to take advantage of your time at Philmont – to disconnect, to observe, to reflect, and to record your thoughts and stories of the journey along the way in your Passport Journals.
- **Slowing Down** – The focus of the partnership with National Geographic Fellow, Paul Salopek is to **slow down** and focus while you are here, and to apply what you learn at Philmont to your lives back home.
- **The Out of Eden Walk** – Salopek’s project, the Out of Eden Walk, is about **slowing down** – To do this effectively, he is walking around the world, re-creating the journey of human migration from its origin – out of Africa, across Asia, and down to coast of the Americas (from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego). Moving at the slow beat of his footsteps, he is documenting and sharing the quieter, hidden stories of people who rarely make the news.
- **Milestone Readings** – Every 100 miles along his route, Paul takes what he calls “Milestone Readings,” which includes a photo, sound recording, journal entry, and interview with the first person he meets. We encourage you to adopt the concept of milestones on your trek, maybe not at specific intervals, but by creating a space each day and night to record thoughts in your journals.

Read a few examples of what those entries might look like in the “Walking With Paul” section of your Passport Journals.

- **1-Page Essay** – At the end of your trek, you’ll have an awesome opportunity to write a short 1-page essay about your experience at Philmont and slowing down to journal helped to enhance your experiences here. The best essays will be selected and narrowed down and 2 Scouts will be selected to walk with Paul
- **Walking with Paul** – The winners will join Paul on his Out of Eden Walk somewhere in Asia. Two Scouts, Miciah Thacker and Christopher Sherman traveled to India in April 2018 to walk with Paul, to camp on one of the last conservation preserves in India, and to be a part of a story that Paul was working on with the local people that these important conservation issues are impacting.

Read here – [Joining Paul Salopek on the Trail, Two Exemplary Scouts Put Slow Journalism Into Practice](#)

- We encourage you to make the most of your experience here at Philmont and wish you the best in being selected to Walk with Paul.
- Additional information can be found in your Passport Journals and details related to the essay can be found at pulitzercenter.org/scouting.

We wish you the best in the essential roles that you have this summer – changing lives as a Philmont Advisor and Crew Leader team. We encourage you to observe, reflect, and write about your crew’s experience in your Passport Journals as well!