

# PHILMONT AMBASSADOR UPDATE

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SERVING BOTH SIDES OF THE ROAD

Spring 2019

## Religious Program Conferences Inspire Scouters

Many Scout Units are sponsored by religious institutions. Accordingly, many churches and denominations have corresponding programs that encourage Scouts and Scouters to grow stronger in their faith, thereby earning them their religious emblem. Unlike most other Scout awards, these emblems are awarded by the religious group rather than the Scouting program.

There are four conferences at PTC during the summer of 2019 that are aimed at strengthening the ties between Scouting and specific religions. The four programs are all offered during Week 2 which runs from June 16 to June 22. Here are their descriptions from the PTC brochure.

### Methodist Scouting Conference

The United Methodist theme for 2019 is "Focused on Faith and Family": How does Scouting Ministry impact your faith? Your family? Your community? Come and find the calling to work for faith. Come and learn to build your faith family through Scouting. Come and hone the skills to make the Scouting programs a true ministry with youth. This conference is a key for UMM, Scouters, Scouting Coordinators, Charter Organization



Representatives, Venturing Advisors, Pack Leaders, Troop Leaders, SMS, Pastors, Youth Ministers, District, Conference, and Local Leaders. Don't forget to bring your whole family!

### Scouting for Jewish Youth

This course is designed to help everyone involved in Scouting for Jewish Youth make a greater impact in their role. We have designed a course for

Jewish scouters, unit leaders, members of council Committees on Scouting, and Jewish and non-Jewish professional staff. Topics will include Scouting's values are Jewish values; Jewish programming for local units and councils; Scouting for the Jewish family; special considerations in dealing with Jewish institutions; how to form a new, sustainable unit sponsored by a Jewish institution;

how to form or reorganize a local council Jewish Committee on Scouting; the three Jobs of the council Jewish committee on Scouting; Jewish religious observance (including Shomer Shabbat) while camping and trekking; Jewish scouting resources on the web; the Jewish religious emblem program; adult opportunities and recognitions; the value of visibility of Jewish Scouting beyond your unit;

becoming a Jewish Chaplain; developing relationships with Jewish Scouts of other nations; the Jewish scoutmaster's minute; and more.

### Scouting In The Catholic Church

This conference focuses participants not only on the mission and programs of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS), but also involves them in adult faith formation and an understanding of the concept of Scouting as a youth ministry. It is designed for adults interested in using Scouting as a program for Catholic youth ministry such as Scout Chaplains, clergy, (arch)diocesan or parish youth ministers, and council, diocesan, regional, and national Catholic Committee leadership and members.

### Vision 2020: A New Philmont Opportunity For Latter-Day Saint Families

This course will provide specific support, training, and information to help Latter-Day Saint Scouting families find a new chapter organization, start a Scouting unit, organize a committee, recruit youth, train adult and youth leaders, fundraise, develop an annual plan, and learn other skills necessary to continue their Scouting journey with energy, increased knowledge, and optimism in 2020. **P2**

## Trail of Courage Leads Scouts to Healthy Lifestyles

Philmont supports many aspects of Scouting's purposes one of which is personal fitness. Fitness is more than just being able to hike long distances while carrying a backpack or climbing to the top of Baldy, though. Scouts are "physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight." That's one of the reasons that Philmont started the "Trail of Courage" program in 2011 to encourage Scouts and Scouters to make the "Right Decisions Right Now" when it comes to maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

The Trail of Courage program supports Scouts in choosing to make good decisions that impact their lives now and in their future. As one participant said, "It was nice to relate the Philmont experience to our outside lives, and it showed us the purpose behind what we did".

Teaching Scouts about how decisions they make now affects their future health is at the core of the program. This is done by providing important information about how exercise and diet will improve their lives and how tobacco and illegal drugs will cause problems such as cancer and exposure to toxic chemicals. Participants are encouraged to take the Trail of Courage Pledge:

1. I pledge to become personally fit.
2. I pledge to eat a nutritious diet.
3. I pledge to exercise.
4. I pledge to be tobacco-free and not smoke or use smokeless products.



5. I pledge to live free of drug and alcohol habits.
6. I pledge to learn the seven cancer danger signs.
7. I pledge to live the Scout Oath and Law.

Each point is intended to be discussed along the trail, one each evening. Having a group dialogue sets this program apart and is important in making the pledge relevant.

Advisors commented, "On its surface [the words] are not impactful. However, we engaged in deep heartfelt conversation that made the program very worthwhile."

"Our crew leader took this very seriously. He took time each day at camp and during our trek for 15 minute breaks to discuss the points of the Trail of Courage."

"We were able to have a very heart-to-heart real world conversation one evening about many of the topics

that they may not have had with their parents."

"The Trail of Courage provides an always important reminder of the dangers and challenges that young adults face and the consequences of unsafe decisions."

At the end of the Trek, the crew repeats the pledge together, then recites a personal pledge individually and signs a copy to keep:

"I pledge that I will not use tobacco products and will live free from drug and alcohol habits. I will do my best to educate my friends and my family to the dangers of using these products. I recommit to living every day by the Scout Oath and Scout Law. I will make the right decisions right now and choose to refuse when offered dangerous substances."

Since its introduction in 2011, participation in the Trail of Courage program has steadily increased from under 10% of Crews to over 60%. Information on the program is included in the "Guidebook to Adventure". Advisors are also informed of the program during the pre-Trek Advisors Meeting at Philmont Base Camp.

More importantly, Crew Leaders are trained by Philmont Rangers to help them understand the program and how to present it to their crew. As each crew member prepares to leave the Ranch, they are presented with their pledge card along with their Philmont Arrowhead patch. There's no better way to begin to take the lessons of Philmont back home. **P2**



### Who's Who at Philmont

## Caroline Miller - PTC Program Assistant

**Duties at Philmont:** I manage and organize all program details and staffing for PTC Conference Weeks and Family Program, Philmont Family Adventure Camp, and any offseason events going on at the Training Center. I work closely with PTC Director, the Registration Coordinator, and the event contact to make sure you have a phenomenal experience at Philmont!

**Number of Years at Philmont:** One year full time plus several seasonal positions.

**Prior Positions at Philmont:** 2013 & 2014 - Backcountry Staff, 2016 - Backcountry Camp Director, 2016 & 2017 offseason - PTC Staff, 2017 - Conservation Educator

**Most Memorable Experience at Philmont:** I don't think I can cut it down to one, but many of my most memorable Philmont experiences have occurred while hiking in the Backcountry. The beauty of the area is so peaceful and refreshing, and I always enjoy collecting some miles and hitting peaks.

**Most Humorous Experience at Philmont:** My brothers and dad came on trek in 2014, and I was able to take some days off and hike with their crew. We were hiking from Ponil to Pueblo at a nice, slow crew pace and the navigator for the day had already called for multiple pack off breaks. The fourth request came but this time, a shoes-off break. I asked the navigator to look around. Well he looked around and behold, there was Pueblo's flagpole and we had stopped just 100 feet from the cabin. **P2**

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Question:** I've heard that Philmont Ambassadors can wear gold shoulder loops because we represent BSA on a national level. Is this correct?

**Answer:** According to Grant Reigelman, Philmont Training Center Director, Ambassadors should wear shoulder loops appropriate to their primary registered status. Being a Philmont Ambassador is a Council, not a Na-

tional position.

**Question:** Can I use on-line Philmont or BSA logos to make my own Philmont Crew Class B shirts?

**Answer:** The logos are trademarked by the BSA and shirts should only be produced by a licensed vendor. The licensed vendors are able to obtain the logos they need through the BSA

Licensing division. The Tooth of Time Traders has increased their custom crew merchandise to help with this, including adding itinerary map tees this year. (See TOTT promotion below.) *All the money made through purchasing custom merchandise from the Tooth of Time Traders stays at Philmont and helps expand programs and prepare Philmont to welcome future crews.* **P2**

### NEW 2019 CUSTOM CREW ITEMS!

### New Ambassadors!

Welcome to the latest Scouters to join our ranks of people who are enthusiastic about telling other people about Philmont.

Name	Area	Council
Sharon McRae	CR	Winnebago
David McRae	CR	Winnebago
Larry Green	SR	Pee Dee Area
Joseph Devereaux	WR	Utah National Parks

### Assistant Regional Coordinators Named

As Ambassador ranks continue to grow, our Regional Coordinators have a bigger job coordinating and tracking activities. The Assistant Regional Coordinator position was created to help deliver services to Ambassadors. Communication is key to the success of volunteerism, and one of the primary roles of the assistants will be to facilitate communication between the National Coordinator and regions so that all we Ambassadors can do a more effective job.

The four coordinators are Bob Weagraff - Southern Region, Dustin Taylor - Central Region, Pete Lane - Northeast Region and Mitch Cohen - Western Region.

#### Bob Weagraff - Southern

Bob has been the Ambassador to the Cape Fear Council since the program began in 2013. As an Adult Advisor on a Trek in 2009, he fell in love with Philmont and has shared his enthusiasm with scouts throughout the area, and now the southern Region. (weag4576@bellsouth.net)



been he lead Crew Advisor for multiple Philmont treks with his Troop, Crew, and Council contingent. Dustin has also trained many Council and area Troops and crews in preparation for a trek and LNT high adventure. (coronadophilmontambassador@gmail.com)



#### Pete Lane - Northeast

An avid hiker. Pete's done the Appalachian, Colorado and John Muir Trails. He's also a self-described Philmont junkie. Pete is Ambassador to the Mayflower Council in Boston's western and southern suburbs. Being a new Council, he knows how difficult it is to draw people to Roundtables. (pete.lane@comcast.net)

**Mitch Cohen - Western**

Mitch Cohen has enjoyed going to Philmont since he led a trek from Santa Ana, CA in 2011. Since then

he led another trek in 2013 and a coed Venture Crew with his son, daughter, and brother in 2015. He promotes back country treks and PTC, conducts gear checks for troops, and presents at University of Scouting events and Scout-O-Ramas in both the Orange County & Long Beach Council. (mitchellycohen@gmail.com) **P2**

**Dustin Taylor - Central**

Dustin is the Coronado Council Philmont Ambassador in Central and Western Kansas. He has



Seeing other Philmont displays first-hand can inspire enhancements to yours.

### Ambassador Seminars Recharge Your Promotions

After a few years of lugging your Philmont display all around your council, it can look a little worn and ragged. Your spiel can also sound a bit stale as well. It's then time to spruce and spice them up with fresh material and information. Attending an Ambassador Seminar will fill you with new ideas on just how to do it.

Ambassador I conferences are for newer representatives and provide you with background on the programs and workings of both sides of the road. You'll also get to see new offerings around the Ranch.

Ambassador II conferences delve into topics such as the new Family Adventure Program as well as go through the drill that crews experience on arrival at Camping HQ. Two full day sessions will be held in the backcountry.

These seminars are for Ambassadors only, and all current members should have received an invitation from their Regional Coordinator by now. Please contact yours if you have not. Coordinators are listed in the Newsletter information box on Page 4. **P2**

#### Ambassador Profile

### Selling Philmont Comes Easily to Mitch Cohen

Selling Philmont comes quite naturally to Mitch Cohen. "I've been in sales for over 25 years so I love getting in front of an audience, especially when I get to promote something I'm passionate about," shares Mitch. "I've witnessed how Philmont has changed my life and the lives of youth and adults that have been with me in the backcountry. I wanted to share that."

Mitch caught the Philmont bug when he was an Advisor on a Trek with his son in 2011. Before this first trek, several of the Crew had contemplated dropping out of Scouting after the trip. Afterward, all eight of them became Eagle Scouts.

"Their experience at Philmont increased their love of Scouting and helped develop a very strong sense of self-confidence," he reflected. "I read and helped edit several of their college entrance essays that documented the life-changing experience they had at Philmont."

Since then he's been on a Troop trek in 2013 and a Venture Crew trek in 2015 with his son, daughter and even his twin brother.

"As my last trek was nearing its end, it started to dawn on me that I needed to create a reason to get back to Philmont. That's when I learned about PTC and asked my council if I could be their Philmont Ambassador. Thankfully, our executive said yes."

Mitch serves in the Orange County Council in southern California which has over 19,000 youth made up of 284 Packs, 331 Troops, 130 Venture Crews and 47 Explorer Posts. It's a hefty challenge to reach them all.

Dennis Percell, the other Council Ambassador, and he coordinate through phone, email and an occasional lunch together. Because both of them have other scouting positions, they find it good to share their opportunities on getting out and talking to others about Philmont.



Mitch Cohen's display photos help Scouters visualize themselves on a Trek.

"While I have the challenge of so many districts in our concentrated council, many other Ambassadors have to drive many hours to attend a roundtable. We have 9 districts and I haven't attended every roundtable. In addition, Long Beach Council is nearby and I've only attended their University of Scouting and Scout-O-Rama once. There are so many Scouters that don't know about Philmont or think that doing a week in the California Sierras is a similar experience."

Getting back to Philmont for the Ambassador I and II conferences has helped Mitch in many ways. "I like meeting Ambassadors from all over the country. I also enjoy learning about what they do to stand out in a crowd and promote Philmont."

"In my Council, Scout-O-Ramas, University of Scouting, and Roundtables definitely provide the most number of 'eyeballs' but there are so many other activities, fliers, and things the audience is paying attention to, I can easily get lost in the shuffle."

His large Philmont display map certainly helps his exhibit be an eye-

catcher. "Adults that attended years and decades ago love seeing where they hiked and sharing their stories with those around them. In addition, my tri-fold displays with lots of pictures helps potential attendees visualize themselves in the backcountry."

Mitch is constantly updating and improving his PowerPoint presentation. He believes that his most productive Philmont presentations are with individual troops and venture crews. Small audiences that are on the fence about going are the most receptive to his help. Mitch's Trek experience is very useful when he's called upon to help crews prepare by doing gear checks and by recommending training hikes.

As people approach his display, he asks them, "Are you familiar with Philmont?" Then he spends time listening. "This is tough as I'm inclined to talk and share my experiences and love of Philmont," notes Mitch. "My advice is not to be an Ambassador for yourself, but to be an Ambassador to the youth and adults that have never been to Philmont." **P2**



The house dining room displays the civilized amenities on the ranch.

## Focus on the Backcountry Chase Ranch

### Staffed Camp

**Elevation:** 6564 ft.

**Water:** Potable tap

**Activities:** Historic Chase Ranch tour

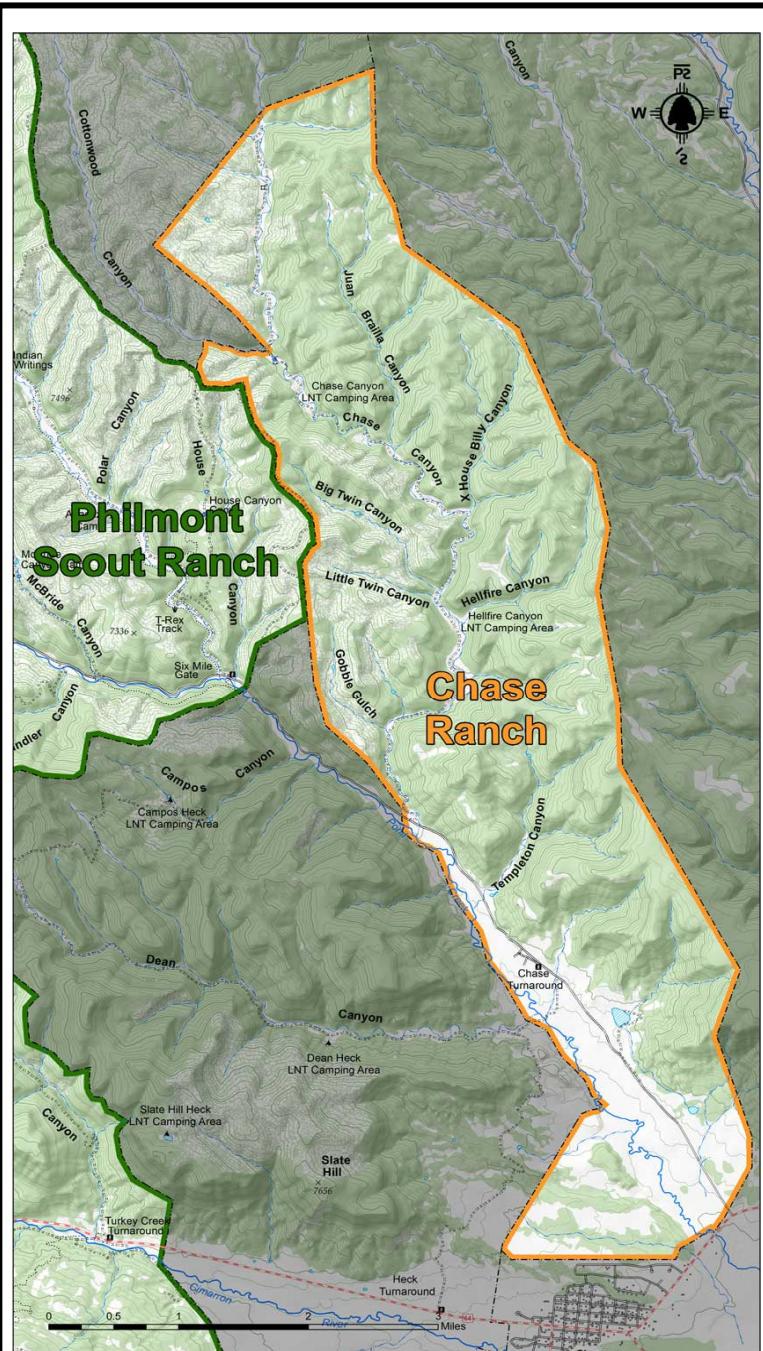
**Description:** Chase Ranch was the homestead of Manly and Maria Chase started in 1867. On the tour, visitors will learn of the family history and how the house grew from one-room to its present size. The Ranch still retains many features of the Old West alongside newer amenities.

**Nearby Camps:** Chase Cow, Little Twin, House Canyon, Chase Canyon, Hell Fire Canyon.

**Itineraries with program at Chase Ranch (2019):** 13, 16, 21, 28, 32, 33, 35



Spurs still hang along the family book collection at historic Chase Ranch.



In 2013, the Chase Ranch Foundation approached Philmont Scout Ranch with an interesting proposal; a 50 year lease agreement wherein Philmont would assume full responsibility of the operations and management of Chase Ranch, including transformation of the main ranch house and grounds into an educational museum open to all. Today, Philmont is dedicated to preserving the Chase family history by providing educational programs to both Philmont participants and the general public and through the preservation of those historic structures and their contents.

During the summer months, the staff gives guided tours of the main house, grounds, orchards and tack room to Crews and area visitors alike.

# Chase Family History Tells Story of the Real “Old West”

*From the Philmont Museum Archives*

In 1867, Manly and Theresa Chase arrived in the Ponil Country with a milk cow, two saddles horses and a wagon loaded down with all of their worldly possessions. The previous year, Lucien Maxwell had invited them to come see his land grant in the Cimarron country, promising “I’ll make you a deal”. They instantly took a liking to both the Pofil and Vermejo canyons. At first they lived on the Vermejo, partnering with John Daws, but they couldn’t get those Poñil canyons out of their mind. In 1869, Manly struck a deal with Maxwell purchasing the Poñil River bottom for \$2.50 an acre. Cash was tight so Maxwell offered to give Manly four acres for every wild horse he caught and broke. The Chase Ranch had



**Nettie & George Mason Chase**  
*circa 1920 at Ring Pace.*



**Manly & Theresa on their wedding day,**  
*October 21, 1860*

begun, and soon it would grow to over 1,900 acres.

The couple would work hard their entire lives; raising cattle, sheep, and horses; growing fruit, vegetables and grain; and operating a dairy, an orchard and even a coal mine. In the beginning they had to deal with Native Americans (sometimes friendly, sometimes aggressive), violence from the Colfax County War, cattle rustlers, disease and political corruption. Manly worked endlessly, creating numerous cattle and sheep companies, drawing in investors such as Frank Springer, H. M. Porter and John Dawson. By 1887 he was managing sheep and cattle herds on over one million acres. Often Manly found himself ‘on the road’, managing his companies, lobbying politicians and selling livestock. During these times Theresa oversaw the home ranch, including the bookkeeping, the gardening, the dairy, the orchards, entertaining guests, dozens of workers and, of course, raising their six children.

### *A True Citizen of the Ponil*

Born May 17, 1879 on the upper Vermejo River to Zenas and Mary Curtis, Henrietta Clay Curtis spent her childhood learning the skills of ranching. Her parents worked for both John Dawson and Manly M. Chase, and so early on she became schooled in the sheep and cattle

family. Eighty six years later, she passed away in the very same bed in which she had taken her first breath.

Gretchen was raised by her grandparents Zeta & Stanley Chase, whom she lovingly called “Moremom & Moredad”. They taught her the traditional ways of the Chase Ranch, including how to ride, hunt and work cattle.

As a young girl, Gretchen wanted little to do with anything except for the ranch. After graduating from high school, her Aunt decided to send her off to college (despite Gretchen’s desire to just work on the ranch). Over the next few years she earned an associate, a bachelors and a masters degree. Upon returning to the Chase Ranch, she began teaching in Cimarron. Like her grandparents, and great grandparents before them, Gretchen was an active part of the community. By 1964 she was working as a teacher, bus driver, student counselor, caretaker for her “Moremom”, and running the entire ranch!

It proved to be just a little too much, so she hired Ruby Gobble to help with the ranching chores. The result



**Gretchen Ann Sammis, circa 1950**  
*Oct. 12, 1925 – Aug. 14, 2012*

was a 45 year partnership and the continued success of the Chase Ranch.

Gretchen retired from teaching in 1972 to focus on the ranch and her cattle. The herd of Hereford cattle had originally been started by her great-grandfather, Manly Chase in 1867. High quality livestock had always been his goal, and Gretchen continued down that path, consistently improving the bloodline of her already top quality Herefords.

The herd wasn’t the only thing she worked to improve. Community service, education and conservation were top priorities. Gretchen was dedicated to soil and water conservation, and even held leadership positions at the local, state and national levels. She also served on the local school board for 18 years, was inducted into the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame in 1996, and awarded Cattleman of the Year in 2008. **P2**

### *The Last Generation: Gretchen Sammis*

Gretchen Sammis was the last member of the Chase family to farm, ranch, manage and live on the historic Chase Ranch. Born in the master bedroom of the Chase House to Fred Sammis and Margaret Lee Chase Sammis, Gretchen carried on the legacy and heritage of the Chase



The bunkhouse was home to the home to the ranch and farmland help for much of the history of the Chase family.

# Shakedown Guides Teach Backpacking Skills

"When it comes to backpacking, there's the right way, the wrong way and the Philmont way." This may not be entirely true, but Philmont has the collective knowledge of 80 years' experience to suggest what works well on the trail and what doesn't.

This wisdom is collected into two documents called the "Official Philmont Shakedown Guides. Part 1 and Part 2". They're accessible on the Philmont web site under "Treks".

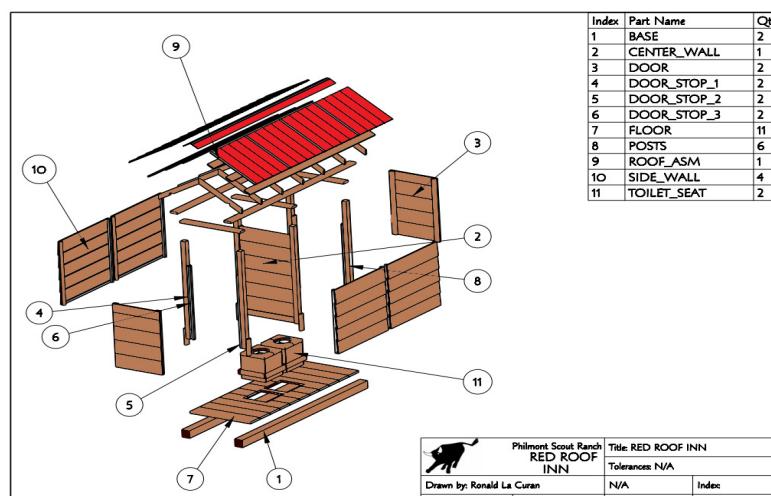
The guides are intended to be useful tools for Crews preparing for a Trek. And by 'tools', they are not meant to be the typical user's manuals that are glanced through once and put on a shelf. They should be put into practice on at least two shakedown hikes prior to a Trek. Ambassadors should refer Crew Advisors to them when asked how best to prepare for a Trek.

Part 1 covers all-important leadership positions, gear and food selection, conditioning tips, and backcountry practices used at Philmont. These are the types of things that should be decided and taught before the actual shakedown trips.

## Leadership

Leadership heads the list when it comes to preparation. The duties as well as the personality characteristics of the Crew Leader lead off the guide. Traits like a positive attitude, attentiveness to all crew members' needs, and the ability to identify and resolve conflicts before they develop into larger issues can make or break a Crew's experience.

Likewise, the responsibilities of the Lead Adult Advisor as being a coach,



## Respecting Nature, Personal Privacy on Treks

Practicing backcountry sanitation is an important part of respecting nature. It's all part of Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics and the Philmont Wilderness Pledge. Rangers will teach proper waste disposal to Crews as part of their training duties.

## Behavior and discipline need to be addressed before a Trek begins.

Everyone needs to understand that latrines should be used for their intended purpose only. Disposal of solid waste, trash, etc. in them is strictly prohibited. Defacing or damaging them is not keeping with the Scout Law.

At other times, scouts may need to dig a cat hole. It should be at least 200 feet from any trail, water, or campsite. A hole should be about 6 inches deep, but no deeper than the organic topsoil. After use, it is filled completely, packed and mounded to avoid erosion. A marking stick notifies others it is there.

Everyone on a Trek needs to respect each other's privacy in the backcountry, including toilet use. Each group

mentor, and supporter for the youth leadership is explained.

## Gear Selection

Common questions about what kind of gear is advisable on a trek is covered in depth. Many of these tips were covered in the Spring, 2018 issue of the Philmont Ambassador Update. This and past issues are available on the Philmont Ambassador Resources webpage. <https://www.philmontscoutranch.org/ptc/ambassadorresources/>

## Menu

Meals provided by Philmont give hikers the calories needed to keep energy levels up while also appealing to Scouts' tastes. The guide provides suggestions for do-it-yourself trail food that closely approximates what crews get at Philmont. Actual trail meals are at time available through the Tooth of Time Traders. The 2018 supply is sold out, but 2019 meals will be available in September.

## Physical Preparedness

Although hiking at altitude may be the best pre-Trek training, the guide has suggestions for preparing adults and Scouts. Just doing local hiking and backpacking trips are a good start.

## Duty Roster

Crew leaders should prepare a duty roster before the trek begins so everyone knows what's expected of them. Rather than assigning the same tasks to the same individuals, jobs should be rotated so everyone has a chance to learn new skills. On smaller crews, members may have multiple jobs each day.

## Backcountry Skills

Hiking etiquette, navigation, camp set up and break down, cooking, cleaning, bear bags, waste disposal and fires are essential skills that the guide covers.

Some skills, like knowing to adjust for a different magnetic declination, are more common to Philmont, while others are good practices crews should learn before they leave home. Rangers spend time reinforcing these lessons early on each Trek.

## Conducting a Shakedown Hike

The best way to really learn backcountry skills is to put them to use on a shakedown hike. Not everyone is within convenient distance to mountainous terrain, but the same skills can be used on hikes closer to home.

One of the best ways to do this is to work on merit badges in Camping, Cooking, Hiking and Backpacking. Earning the 50-miler Award includes 10 hours of conservation work which is good experience for your conservation project at Philmont.

The second part of the Guide covers Advanced Skills useful on Philmont Treks or other wilderness trips.

## First Aid

Philmont requires that at least two crew members be trained in Wilderness First Aid. The skills taught in the course certainly help when professional medical help may be hours away. There are a number situations that are more common at Philmont than on a shorter trip. Dehydration, heat-related illnesses, acute mountain sickness, and ankle/knee injuries can seriously affect the Trek. Even a blister can slow down a crew, upsetting its hiking and program plans. Prevention is key, but preparation is also essential.

## Weather

Philmont's climate zones range from high desert plains to alpine tundra. Crews may experience several of them over the course of one day. Knowing what to expect in each helps

## Firearms and Fireworks

Philmont does not permit you to have personal firearms or fireworks in your possession while on the premises.

## Smoking and Tobacco

Smoking and the use of tobacco products by anyone under age 18 is illegal in the state of New Mexico, and Philmont strongly discourages the use of tobacco products by anyone. All buildings, tents, and vehicles at Philmont are smoke-free. There are designated smoking areas for those who smoke.

## Alcoholic Beverages

As a facility of the Boy Scouts of America, possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages is not permitted on the property.

## Drugs

Possession of unprescribed drugs, or abuse of prescribed drugs, are expressly prohibited in the Philmont program. Individuals or groups found in violation of this policy will be sent home immediately.

## Harassment and Hazing

Philmont and the Boy Scouts of America prohibit language or behavior that belittles or puts down members of the opposite sex, unwelcome advances, racial slurs, chastisement for religious or other beliefs, or any other actions or comments that are derogatory of people. Any form of hazing, initiations, ridicule, or inappropriate teasing are prohibited.

## Driving

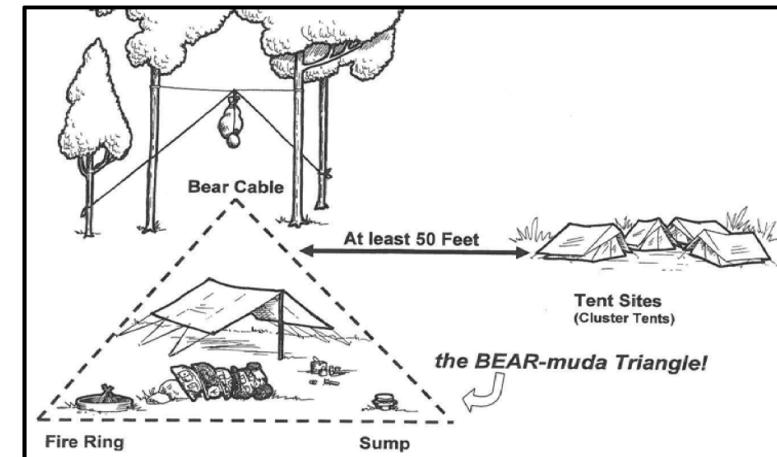
New Mexico has a mandatory seatbelt law, and speed limits are strictly enforced.

## Pets

Other than those required for assistance, pets are not allowed at Philmont. Animals native to this part of the country are plentiful in the area, and we want to keep this natural environment for all guests to enjoy. The Raton Animal Hospital will board pets at a standard daily rate. You must place your pet before your arrival.

## Drones

Philmont does not allow the use of drones for any purpose, unless the approval of Philmont Management has been granted. **P2**



making the Philmont experience enjoyable for current crews and all those crews coming afterwards. Putting these principles into practice in a pre-Trek training regimen will make it much easier to stick to them on the trail.

## Group Dynamics

Crews will go through the forming, storming, norming and performing stages at one time or another before, during or after their trek. It's best that they experience at least the first three before they set foot on Philmont property. Again, shake-down trips help work out the kinks beforehand.

## Physical Preparation

As covered in the first part of the guide, a big part of a trek is getting physically prepared. If someone is having difficulty keeping up on preparatory trips, that's the time to talk to them about their personal program for being ready. Some scouts may need an extra year or two to build strength and endurance for a Trek.

One of the ways to be ready is to go over the principles of the "Trail of Courage" program (see article on Page 1). Healthy diet and regular exercise habits developed beforehand are key to enjoying your Trek.

## First Day at Philmont

A crew's Philmont Trek kicks into high gear the moment they arrive. There is a routine that every Crew goes through on that first day. By knowing what to expect, Leaders can ensure that they are ready and have all the right forms, equipment, and knowledge to set them off on the journey of their Scouting career. **P2**

**Safety First!**

Click here to access the Shakedown Guides.

## Philmont Ambassador Newsletter

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