PTC Expands Family Adventures, Adds Backcountry “Sneak Peaks”

Scouting is now a whole-family activity. Family Adventure Camp provides an opportunity for Scouting families to experience Philmont so they can spread their enthusiasm back home. To accommodate the growing demand for this program, Family Adventure Camp will be offered each week of the 2020 Philmont Training Center (PTC) season.

Another new 2020 program is the “Backcountry Sneak Peek” which will train adult Crew Advisors on how to prepare their crews for a Philmont Trek. Part of their week will be a “mini-trek” so they can learn hands-on tips and techniques that will help their crews have a great Philmont Experience.

In short, the new lodging option at the Philmont Training Center has you covered. The Deluxe Tents — complete with a queen bed with premium linens, electricity and ceiling fan, and covered porch with cozy chairs — are the perfect place for families to experience the excitement of camping at PTC. They need to show Scouts the variety of trek adventures, and PTC’s reason for being. They will learn first-hand tips and techniques that will help their crews have a great Philmont Experience.

Many PTC conferences are “train-the-trainer” classes to enable Scouting leaders to take lessons learned back home to improve their Council’s programs. Direct leader training is always an important element at PTC, as manifested in the tested in the National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience and Philmont Training Center. Leadership Ambassador programs provide an important role in promoting these PTC opportunities. Many experienced Directors of Philmont only as a High-Adventure Base. They need to know that PTC provides them with an opportunity to return to Philmont and enjoy its amenities while learning how to improve their units, districts and councils back home. Likewise, new Scouting leaders need to know that they can self-select themselves to attend PTC just by registering for a conference on site.

In addition to promoting PTC attendance, Ambassadors should also be encouraging Scouts to look at Individual and Employment Opportunities. For many, these programs provide Scouts with a chance to experience Philmont. It is difficult to “roughing it” in the Deluxe Tents, offered for an additional fee ($650 per person). A smaller fee ($300 per person) is available for those participants interested in only the Deluxe Tent Price.

Camping Director Steve Nelson (with microphone), along with Associate Camping Directors Philip Farrier and Daniel O’Neill announce the 9-Day Trek Program at the National Outdoor Conference at PTC in September.

New Nine-Day Itineraries Provide Flexible Options

Philmont Scout Ranch is excited to announce 9-day treks as an additional program option available to those who want to participate in a Philmont trek. 9-day treks are an excellent option for those who want to spend more than a week in Philmont’s backcountry but may not be able to make it out for a full 12-day trek due to travel or other factors.

New treks are currently being built for this opportunity, which will be available in limited quantities in 2020 and 2021. The price for 9-day treks will be $900 in 2020 and $965 in 2021.

These new treks will allow participants more time in the backcountry than a 7-day trek. With the added time comes additional opportunities to do program and summit peaks, as well as more time for hiking after the accclimation process.

Deluxe Tents Enhance PTC’s Appeal

“Philmont’s Deluxe Tents will give more opportunity, not just to Scouts, but also to leaders who have limited vacation time and can’t take off time for a 12-day trek, but may be able to take off time for a 9-day trek,” says Director of Camping Steve Nelson.

During the summer of 2020, 9-day treks will be departing on Mondays, and three slots will be available each Monday. If your unit or council continues to schedule treks in a 9-day trek for 2020, call Philmont at 575-376-2281 and ask to speak with the camping registrars.

Registration for 2021 treks will open on October 28, 2019, and itinerary selection for 2021 will open in January 2021. If you’re interested in a 9-day trek in the summer of 2021, the registration process for these will be the same as 12- and 7-day treks.

To understand the Deluxe Tents, let’s first talk about the “standard” tents at the PTC. For years, families visiting the PTC — including multiple trips with my own family when I was a Scout — have stayed in tents that are far roomier than the ones rolled up in your base- ment. PTC’s standard wall tents are spacious. They have two cots, zip-open windows, electricity, a chair and a light.

The Deluxe Tents (also known as Eco -Tents), offered for an additional fee on a first-come, first-served basis, take the PTC tents to the next level.

Room for six: Each tent features a queen-size bed in the main room and two sets of bunk beds in a separate side room. Covered porch with chairs: Perfect for watching your kids play, catching up on some reading or just watching the sunset.

Queen bed with premium linens: Leave your sleeping bag at home. If you opt for a Deluxe Tent, the PTC has you covered.

Dressers: So you can unpack and stay a while.

Deluxe Tents Enhance PTC’s Appeal

Click here for the 2020 PTC Schedule

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PERMITTED USE - ONCE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 29 to December 5

Getting Ready for the 2021 Philmont Lottery

Here’s how Mitch Cohen, our Western Region Assistant Coordinator explains the Philmont Lottery.

You have decided to take a Philmont trek, congratulations! Now that you have taken the first step, what do you do now?

First, make sure you are on their mailing list. If you scroll to the bottom of the Philmont Scout Ranch home page, you will see an envelope, select it, and you will enter information to opt-in to their newsletter. They will send announcements about the trek lottery.

Registration information about the lottery is available at Philmont Scout Ranch > Register > Lottery. Lottery registration for 2021 will open on October 29 to December 3.

You register for the lottery in the fall, 18 months prior to the trek. If you register for the lottery in 2019, you are requesting a trek in the Summer of 2021. If you want to trek in the Summer of 2020, you can see the available trek dates at Philmont Scout Ranch > Register > Available Slots.

Seven day treks run from one week to another, but they do not have nearly as many of them so they are harder to fill. New nine day treks are coming in 2020 and 2021. (see accompanying article)

2021 Cavalcades, which are treks on horseback, have their own lottery a bit later in January of 2020.

In 2020 and beyond, the minimum crew size is 8 and a maximum is 12, with a minimum of 2 leaders over 21. Co-ed crews require both male and female adult leaders. The maximum number of adult leaders is 4.

A youth must be 14 years of age OR complete the 8th grade. Be aware of the height weight guidelines on the Philmont Health Form, as this can be an issue with some scouts and adults. All these policies are strictly enforced.

Recruiting the scouts and adults can occur before, during, or after the trek is awarded in the lottery. I recommend showing some YouTube videos and taping each itinerary to the walls, to show Scouts the variety of trek itineraries. I also walk them through a trek day by day. The magic of a Philmont trek is the programs. The 2019 itinerary guidebook can be found at Philmont Scout Ranch > Treks > 12-Day & 7-Day Treks.

If your crew is a “go”, you will select 5 trek dates. It is essential to talk to the scouts and parents about the dates so you avoid other activities such as band camp or conditioning for fall sports. Philmont will send a notice of when the lottery is live. When you go to the registration link, make sure all the information and dates you previously entered are correct, and hit submit.

I would recommend registering for 2 adults and 6 scouts because you can always add members to your crew. You will have to pay an $800 reservation fee at a bit later. Half of the remaining balance is due 10/1/2020 and the last half is due 3/1/2021. If you registered for 8 but you have 10, Philmont will collect the additional money at your trek check-in on the first day at the Ranch. Good Luck!
Branding Livestock Goes Back to Ancient Egyptians, Romans

The act of branding livestock with fire -stamped marks to identify ownership -originates in ancient times, with use dating back to the ancient Egyptians around 2,700 BC. Among the ancient Romans, they were used for brands were sometimes chosen as part of a magic spell aimed at protecting animals from harm.

Hiker’s Health Hints

Old Skills Become New in Living History

By Mitch Cohen, Assisstant Western Region Philmont Ambassador Coordi- nator

If you have a food allergy, health or dietary restrictions, Philmont Scout Ranch can most likely accommodate your restrictions. When eating at a dining hall at Camping Headquar- ters or the PTC, you can tell the server where your dietary restriction is. They will ask you to stand to the side, as they make you a special plate. When you register for Philmont Training Center and off-season conferences, they will ask about dietary restrictions. If you have a dietary restriction that they cannot accommodate, they typically contact you prior to the conference and work with you to at least partially accommodate your needs.

Dining in the backcountry takes a bit of work, but Philmont provides some excellent guidance to accomplish this. Start by going to Philmont Horse Brand.

When you are at a Staff Camp with a chuckwagon or Mexican dinner, have the Crew Leader relay your food re- striction to the camp staff. They will know how to adapt the meal to meet your restrictions.

When you look over your meals, de- termine what you can eat. You can make a small list in the meal bag and remove the unusable items. Remember that each bag of food is for two people, so if you cannot eat Greens, only remove one of the packages, not both. You do not want to short your partner, but at the same time carry food you cannot eat.

When your crew arrives at the com- missary to pick up food, make sure the crew leader also asks for your replacement food as well.

Like every camping trip, always have a "Plan B." Despite Philmont’s very best efforts, a special meal may not be there when and where you need it. It may have been forgotten at a back- country commissary or delivered to the wrong camp. Have a back-up plan such as carrying an extra meal or two with you, just in case.

With careful planning and preparation, many Scouts can enjoy Philmont Trails while leaving the foods they need along the way.
Dave Woodman inspires youth to dream of Philmont

Dave Woodman has been promoting Philmont since before the Ambassador Program even existed. "During my youth I was an Explorer Scout from Cimarroncita in Missouri and I was fascinated with Philmont," says Dave. "I wanted to be a part of the Ambassador program because some of the best summers of my life were spent at Philmont and I wanted to do what I could to help others have the experience that I knew was valuable for long-term planning."

Dave has done 5 tours at Philmont during the 1990s and 2000s. He's also attended three PTC Conferences. One was Search and Rescue and the other two were Ambassador conferences. He would have attended the Ambassador seminar on the side of the mountain if he could. But because of a schedule conflict, however, he will be attending the Ambassador III Seminar in September.

Dave is in the Heart of America (HOA) Council with headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri. The HOA Council serves nineteen counties in Western Missouri and Eastern Kansas. There are a total of eight Ambassadors in the council. "It was a great way to look at Scouting on a regular basis to plan and coordinate our presentations," explains Dave. "One of the challenges we face, though, is getting timely insertions in our council website publications."

"We do numerous presentations to units. We also do promotions at Commissioner's College, Order of the Arrow Conclaves, the annual Spring feast for the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, and this summer we did a presentation to the all-girl session at the Barst School Reservation. We also participated in the Councilwards ceremony for the Philmont Council 500, where several thousand Scouts were in attendance."

Dave's advice is to be enthusiastic, be available, and make your static display as attractive as possible. One of the things the HOG group does is to have a set of Philmont brands and provide the opportunity for Scouts to brand leather items that they will have with them. They also have a supply of leather rounders available if the individuals don't have a hat or belt or boots to brand.

"I enjoy doing these presentations because I know that if a young person's interest is stimulated, a great experience is ahead of them," explains Dave. "What I find most successful is talking to the potential youth participants. If I can get them excited, good things often follow."

Ambassador Profile

By Duane Taylor, Western Region Assistant Regional Coordinator

The Ambassador Seminar started on Sunday night with an ambassador only Villa Tour, that required an expeditious exit through the kitchen to make it to the opening campfire on time.

Monday had introductions, photos for our newsletter and an overview of the general program. There were presentations by a different university over all PTC programs and had presentations on the program and Family Adventure.

Wednesday, Rich Barth again led us on a tour of Camp Headquarters (HQ). We had a chance to see the locations that crews visit while being processed before and after a Trek. Thursday was a transition to marketing after some time talking about taking a Philmont trek. We discussed displays, presentation skills and what to do the first 180 days as a Philmont Ambassador.

The entire class also met Julie Phillips Puckett in the dining hall. Julie represents the third generation of the Phillips family’s connection to Philmont Ranch. As the granddaughter of Waite and Genevieve Phillips and the daughter of Elliott (chap) and Virginia Phillips, Julie spent 11 summers during her youth at Cimarroncita Ranch Camp for Girls, which is now a part of the Philmont Scout Ranch. She also cherishes memories of time spent with her father riding horses at Philmont, while he shared with her his deep love of the mountain ranch country.

Her dad was always happiest outdoors on a horse, whether at Philmont or on his own ranch, and Julie has been very keen to share her own love of horses with children visiting Philmont with their grandparent on many occasions. Julie also serves on the Philmont Ranch Committee.

The Ambassador I & II seminars host a Crew and Individual Trek Information Night for all week 7 PTC attendees. Dan Hughes and John Moore, both Philmont Ambassadors that attended the Ambassador I course in 2019 and on summer staff in Logistics, gave an outstanding presentation and demonstration on the trip and how to make the most of their experience as a Crew Advisor and Lead Advisor. We received many thanks from attendees and we received the week 7 conference chair Friday. After an evening full of adventures, we called the meeting to order, and we were able to hear first-hand from Shelley O'Neill, the Director of Business Operations (aka. Unit 3) about the effects that last year’s fires had on Philmont, and how they are recovering.

On Tuesday, we found out we were going on a one-day trek later in the week, so first thing in the morning we went to the camping area to meet our Ranger. We spent the whole day going through all of the activities that happen at Philmont, from the cooking area to the kitchen, to Philmont, to help us prepare for our trek. We even got a crew photo taken!”

On Wednesday morning, we heard from GW Bell about the Ambassador program and the Ambassador Tick.

The Ambassador II Seminar started on Monday night with an introduction to Philmont by Shelley O’Neill, the Director of Business Operations, and a talk on the history of PTC and the Ambassador program. On Tuesday morning, Rich Barth and the PTC Chaplain drove us to Indian Writings with a stop at Arrow Conclaves, the annual Spring feast for the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, and this summer we did a presentation to the all-girl session at the Barst School Reservation. We also participated in the Councilwards ceremony for the Philmont Council 500, where several thousand Scouts were in attendance.

"Ambassadors need to be passionate about what they do," says Shelley. "We all have the opportunity to be the window to the prime of Scouting experience for these kids. We can help them experience some of the best summers of their lives, and we can help them have meaningful experiences that they can share with the next generation of leaders."

It’s easy for Philmont to send you one package instead of several!

New Ambassadors!

By Rob Welander

This summer I went to the Philmont Ambassador II Seminar at the Philmont Training Center, and I had a great time. We were told that the "A2" course was a chance to take a few of the topics that are discussed in the "A1" course, and do a deeper dive into them. That was certainly the case this year!

We started off getting to know the others in the class. After that, we were able to hear first-hand from Shelley O’Neill, the Director of Business Operations (aka. Unit 3) about the effects that last year’s fires had on Philmont, and how they are recovering.

On Tuesday, we found out we were going on a one-day trek later in the week, so first thing in the morning we went to the camping area to meet our Ranger. We spent the whole day going through all of the activities that happen at Philmont, from the cooking area to the kitchen, to Philmont, to help us prepare for our trek. We even got a crew photo taken! On Wednesday morning, we heard from GW Bell about the Ambassador program and the Ambassador Tick.

We had Wednesday afternoon free to explore Philmont and Cimarroncita. On Thursday we got to go on our trek! We had a great time. Our two Rangers took us to the Zia Rose Turnaround, and taught us about map and compass navigation. The best part of the trek was stopping at the Red Roof Inn. We then took to Zastroend, and then on to Rayado River Camp. We saw a lot of the scenery and stopped to take a look at a bald eagle nest, a woodpecker nest, and cleaned up afterwards a couple of different methods. As we left Rayado River Camp for our hike to Abino, it started to rain, but then hailing. It was great.

The weather was the better time of the week we got to Abino, so we celebrated another day of Philmont life, and then took some time to head to the Shooting Sports area at the PTC. We closed the week with a Q&A session with Steve Nelson, the Director of Camping Services (aka. Unit 2) and Nick Hutchinson, the new Director of the PTC. It was a great week!
Astronauts Studied Geology at Philmont Before Moon Landings

On July 21, 1969, history was made when Eagle Scout Neil Armstrong first stepped on the moon. But about five years earlier astronauts were preparing for the historic day at Philmont in New Mexico. Beginning in March 1964, NASA sent these astronauts on geology field trips to introduce them to geologic concepts they might find on the moon.

The photo on the right shows the group standing in what is now the medical re-check building at the Philmont. Every backcountry partici- pant enters through the same doors and can stand in the same spot as Buzz Aldrin, Neil Armstrong and so many other incredible people who went through before them.

A banner hangs in the building that says: "Scouts who have walked on the moon, walked through these doors. What will your legacy be?"

Doctors Needs To Know What Scouts Are Getting Into

Getting the OK from your doctor is essential for your safety and the success of your Trek.

Participant safety is paramount at Philmont. If any condition is suspected or asked whether a particular person is medically able to go on a Trek, the best answer is "Ask your physician." A medical screening is not designed to assist participants.

A summary of the types of situations that Scouts will encounter is provided on the Philmont Class A Medical Form.

Philmont requires that this information be shared with the parent(s) or guardian(s) and examining physician of every participant. Philmont does not have facilities for extended care or treatment; therefore, participants who cannot meet these requirements will be sent home at their expense.

Cardiac or Cardiovascular Disease

Adults who have had any of the following should undergo a thorough evaluation by a physician prior to considering participation at Philmont.

1. Angina (chest pain caused by blocked blood vessels or coming from the heart)
2. Myocardial infarction (heart attack)
3. Heart surgery or heart catheteri- zation (including angioplasty to treat blocked blood vessels, balloon dilation, or stents)
4. Stroke or transient ischemic attacks (TIAs)
5. Claudication (leg pain with exer- cise caused by hardening of the arteries)
6. Family history of heart disease or heart attack in a member who died unexpectedly before age 50
7. Diabetes

Smoking and/or excessive weight

Youth who have congenital heart disease or acquired heart disease such as rheumatic fever, Kawasaki’s disease, or mitral valve prolapse should undergo thorough evaluation by a physician prior to considering participation at Philmont. The attitude at Philmont and the physical exertion involved may precipitate either a heart attack or stroke in sus- ceptible persons. Participants with a history of any of the first seven conditions should at least undergo a self-screening stress test. More extensive testing (e.g., nuclear stress test, echocardiogram) should be considered for participants who have coronary heart disease. Even if the stress test is normal, the results of testing done at lower eleva- tions and without the backdrops car- ried by trekkers do not guarantee safety. If the test results are abnor- mal, the individual is advised not to participate.

Hypertension (High Blood Pressure)

The combination of stress and altitude appears to cause a significant increase in blood pressure in some individuals attending Philmont. Occa- sionally hypertension reaches such a level that it is no longer safe to en- gage in strenuous activity. Hyperten- sion can increase the risk of having a stroke or heart attack, myocardial infarction or angina. Persons coming to Philmont should have a normal blood pressure (less than 135/85). Persons aged 60 years or older and persons over age 50 with hypertension (greater than 150/95) should be treated before coming to Philmont, and should con- tinue on medications while at Philmont. The goal of treatment should be to lower the blood pressure to normal. Persons with mild hypertension (greater than 135/85 but less than 150/95) probably require treatment as well. It is the experience of the Philmont medical staff that such indi- viduals often develop significant hy- pertension when they arrive at Philmont. Participants already on antihypertensive therapy with normal blood pressures should continue on medications. Diabetic therapy to con- trol hypertension is not recommended because of the risks of dehydration that exist with strenuous activity at high altitude and low humidity. Each participant who is 15 years of age or older should be baseline blood pressure checked at Philmont. Those individuals with a blood pressure consistently greater than 150/95 may be kept off the trail until the blood pressure returns to normal.

Insulin-Dependent Diabetes Mellitus

Exercise and the Food eaten affect insulin requirements. Any indivi- dual with insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus should be in adequate control of their diabetes and should know how to adjust insulin doses based on these factors. The diabetic person also should know how to give a self- injection. Both the diabetic person and one other person in the group should be able to recognize indica- tions of excess blood sugar (hyperglycemia or diabetic ketoacido- sis) and to recognize indications of excessively low blood sugar (hypoglycemia). The diabetic person and one other individual should know the appropriate initial responses for these conditions. It is recommended that each participant be able to recognize indications of excess blood sugar and that one individual carry insulin on the trek (in case of accident) and that a third vial be kept at the Health Lodge for back- up. Insulin can be carried in a small thermos, which can be rewarmed with ice or cold water at most staffed camps.

A psychological disorder does not necessarily exclude an individual from participating at Philmont. However, the seizure disorder should be well con- trolled by medications. A minimum one-year seizure-free period is con- sidered to be adequate control. Philmont’s chief medical officer may consider exceptions to this guideline. Any exceptions will be based on the specific type of seizure and the likely risks to the individual and to other members of the crew. The medical staff at the Health Lodge may place limitations on activities (rock climbing, horse riding, etc.) for those individuals who are approved for participation but whose seizures are incompletely controlled.

Asthma, Allergy, or Anaphylaxis

Asthma should be well controlled before coming to Philmont. Well- controlled asthma means (1) the use of short-acting bronchodilator MDI (puff) and /or nebulizer (breath in and out) one time per day, and (2) no need for nighttime treatment with a short-acting bronchodilator. Well-controlled asthma may include the use of long-acting bronchodilators, inhaled steroids, or oral medications such as Singular (Singulair). You must meet these guidelines in order to participate. You will not be allowed to participate if (1) you have exercise asthma not prevented by medications, or (2) you have been hospitalized or have gone to the emergency department for asthma in the past six months, or (3) you have needed treatment with oral steroids (prednisone) in the past six months. You must bring a 15-day supply of your medications and a spare short-acting bronchodilator. At least one other member of the crew should know of the history of asthma in the crew. If you do not bring an inhaler, you must buy an inhaler at Philmont before you will be allowed to participate. Allergy shots may be given to persons on a maintenance dose and who have not had an ana- phylactic reaction. You must bring your own medications. Philmont staff will not administer, give, or store oral medications, or (2) you have been given an inhaler by Philmont while persons are on their trek. Per- sons who have had an anaphylactic reaction for any cause must contact Philmont before coming. If you are allergic to bee, wasp, or hornet stings, you should be aware of your symptoms and how to give the treatment. If you do not bring appropriate treat- ment with you, you will be required to have appropriate treat- ment with you. At least one other member of the crew should know how to give the treatment. If you do not bring appropriate treat- ment with you, you will be required to have appropriate treat- ment with you. At least one other member of the crew should know how to give the treatment. If you do not bring appropriate treat- ment with you, you will be required to have appropriate treat- ment with you. At least one other member of the crew should know how to give the treatment. If you do not bring appropriate treat- ment with you, you will be required to have appropriate treat- ment with you. At least one other member of the crew should know how to give the treatment. If you do not bring appropriate treat- ment with you, you will be required to have appropriate treat- ment with you. At least one other member of the crew should know how to give the treatment. If you do not bring appropriate treat-