

ROCS (Roving Outdoor Conservation School)

2023 APPLICATION



The Roving Outdoor Conservation School is an exciting program at Philmont Scout Ranch for Scouts and Venturers who have an interest in conservation, natural resource management, and environmental studies. The school is conducted during a 21-day trek through Philmont's rugged mountain wilderness backcountry.

The trek will offer each participant an in-depth experience in the philosophy and techniques of conservation with heavy emphasis on the development of critical thinking abilities and wise resource management decision-making. The Crew will hike through the Philmont backcountry and experience the unique program opportunities it offers to participants. The Crew will participate in interactive lessons covering some of the following fields of study:

forestry and fire ecology, stream ecology, wildlife management, geology, botany, environmental policy, and range management. In addition to becoming more knowledgeable in the natural science fields, "Leave No Trace" camping techniques, and principles will be integrated into the curriculum.

During the ROCS trek, each crew will spend several days participating in diverse conservation projects such as trail construction and maintenance, forest thinning, invasive species removal, and stream restoration. Students will be exposed to a variety of land management techniques as their trek crosses boundaries into neighboring properties such as the Elliot Barker and Colin Neblett Wildlife Management Areas and the Valle Vidal unit of the Carson National Forest. The experience of working on a wide array of projects will provide knowledge and skills that can be used to complete projects at local camps and managed areas in the participant's community when they return home.

ROCS participants will work and hike in crews under the leadership of trained instructors, many of whom have academic backgrounds in the sciences, natural resource management, and/or years of experience working in an outdoor classroom. Crews will be composed of young men and women from across the country. All crew equipment such as tents, cooking gear, and tools will be provided by Philmont, and all participants will be covered by campers' insurance.

Philmont Scout Ranch is comprised of 140,711 acres (219 square miles) of rugged mountain wilderness in the Sangre de Cristo Range of the Rockies. Philmont has over 350 miles of trails throughout the ranch. Philmont ranges from 6,500 feet to 12,441 feet in elevation above sea level. This is the ROCS "classroom"! Because of the remote setting and elevation, participants need to be prepared both physically and mentally to handle the challenges of the trek. Philmont experiences a wide variety of weather situations. Participants should be prepared for 100° days, 40° nights, as well as days of rain and even snow. All this adds to the Philmont experience!

REQUIREMENTS

- Be a registered member of the Boy Scouts of America in a Scouts BSA Troop, Venturing Crew, Ship, or Post.
- Be at least 16 years old by the date the program begins, but not yet 21 by the date it ends
- Be in excellent physical condition, able to hike 10 or more miles with a 40-50 lb. backpack. (Philmont height and weight guidelines will be strictly enforced.)
- Previous Philmont experience is not mandatory, but is **strongly recommended**
- **Letter of recommendation from an adult Scouter detailing your backcountry experience and your character must accompany this application**
- All participants in backcountry programs are required to have a current BSA Health and medical form completed within 12 months of their arrival at Philmont. The Annual Health and Medical Record parts A, B, and C must all be completed, and Part C must be signed by a MD, DO, PA, or NP.

HOW TO APPLY

Complete the following application. Apply early for best consideration. Applications will continue to be accepted until all spaces are filled. Have it approved by a parent or guardian, and your unit leader. Philmont will notify you of your acceptance. If accepted, a packet of materials will be emailed in March to assist you in preparing for your Philmont work and trek experience.

PROGRAM FEE & SCHOLARSHIPS

The fee is \$900 in 2022 for the three-week experience. A \$150 non-refundable deposit is required with this application. The balance of the fee is due at the time of acceptance into the program. Additional expenses, including travel to and from Philmont, as well as miscellaneous purchases, are the responsibility of the participant. Those applicants not accepted will have their deposit returned. Participants canceling acceptance will be eligible for a refund (less deposit) if notification is received at Philmont by May 1. No shows are not eligible for a refund. We will accept applications until sessions are filled. Scholarship funds are available on a limited basis, apply using the attached application.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Shuttles are available from the Albuquerque, New Mexico and Colorado Springs and Denver, Colorado Airports to Philmont. The shuttles depart the airport at 1:00 to 3:00 pm, depending on the location, on the day **before** your scheduled start date, arriving at Philmont approximately 6:30 to 7:00 pm. The return shuttles leave from 6:00 to 7:30 am on your departure date, arriving at the Airports at 9:45 am to 12:00 noon, depending on location. You may also consider the bus or train arrival at Raton, New Mexico (45 miles from Philmont). A roundtrip shuttle is available from Raton. If you do not arrive by shuttle, plan to arrive at Philmont between 8:00 — 11:00 am on your scheduled start date. The Shuttle information/registration forms will be included in your March packet.

Note: Shuttle times may change so please check shuttle registration forms upon receiving them or call Philmont for updated information.

ROCS is a twenty-one (21) day program. Participants depart Philmont the morning of the twenty-second day (July 6, 14, & Aug 2 are departure dates).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information about the ROCS Program such as shuttle arrangements, physical requirements (BSA Annual Health and Medical Record), equipment needs, and hiking questions, contact Philmont Scout Ranch at (575) 376-2281 or email camping@philmontscoutranch.org. Another source of information to assist you in preparing for your adventure can be found at <http://www.philmontscoutranch.org>. During the summer season, Philmont's Logistics department will also be able to assist with transportation concerns or problems.

ROCS SESSION DATES FOR 2022

#1: June 15 - July 6

#2: June 23 - July 14

#3: July 12 – August 2

Please Note: If fewer than five participants register for a session by May 1, the session may be cancelled. Participants will be promptly notified, and alternative programs or dates will be suggested.

ROCS CODE OF CONDUCT

The general welfare of any group depends on the conduct of each individual member. This ensures the success of the school project and provides the maximum benefit to every participant. As a ROCS participant, I understand this and support the reasonable demands of conduct expected of me.

As a ROCS Participant, I Will:

- ✓ Live the Scout Oath and Law
- ✓ Observe, respect, and strive to live the Philmont Wilderness Pledge
- ✓ Observe the rules of the Philmont Conservation Department and my Instructors
- ✓ Wear my full official BSA uniform or work clothes as required
- ✓ Attend and participate in all functions of the program
- ✓ Be personally responsible for damage and loss of property
- ✓ Respect all safety procedures and learn to properly use equipment
- ✓ Be considerate of participants and staff at Philmont Scout Ranch at all times
- ✓ Understand that fighting with another participant or staff member is prohibited, and will be grounds for immediate dismissal from the program at the expense of the participant
- ✓ Understand that theft, vandalism, or deliberate destruction of property of other participants or Philmont is not permitted and will result in immediate dismissal from the program at the expense of the participant
- ✓ Understand the purchase, possession, or consumption of alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, tobacco, or illicit drugs at any time during the program, will not be permitted and will result in immediate dismissal from the program at the expense of the participant. This standard shall apply to all participants. Compliance with state law regulations will apply at all times.

By signing along with my parent/guardian on the final page of this application, I acknowledge I have read and promise to abide by the code of conduct for the ROCS Program and have read and understand all the information about the ROCS Program as listed on this application.

2023 R.O.C.S. APPLICATION

(Please type or print clearly)

Name _____ Email _____
(first) (middle) (last)

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home # _____ Cell # _____ Parent's Cell # _____

Date of Birth* _____ (*Must be 15 by program start date, but not 21 by its conclusion)

Additional Information: Gender _____ Age _____ Grade _____ Height _____ Weight _____
(male / female) (inches)

BSA Registration #: _____

SCOUTING AND OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE:

Registered with: Troop Venture Crew Post Ship Unit # _____ Tenure _____ Rank _____
------(Check One)-----

Council Name _____

Leadership Positions Held

Previous Philmont Experience _____ Year(s) _____

Other High Adventure Experience / Backpacking Experience (please be specific)

Total no. of backpacking overnights _____ Longest backpacking expedition: Days _____ Miles _____

Extracurricular Activities _____

Honors / Awards Received

Camp Staff Experience (When and Where)

CPR/First Aid Certifications _____

<p>I PREFER THE FOLLOWING SESSION:</p> <p>SESSION: (indicate 1st and 2nd choice)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> June 15 – July 6 <input type="checkbox"/> June 23 – July 14 <input type="checkbox"/> July 12 – August 2 <i>(July 6, July 14, and August 2 are departure dates)</i></p> <p>I request a vegetarian meal plan: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 deposit enclosed <input type="checkbox"/> \$900 total fee enclosed <i>(check payable to Philmont Scout Ranch)</i></p> <p>I request a special diet meal plan: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

Beware of Potential Risks

Philmont offers High Adventure backpacking treks and program activities in relatively inaccessible mountainous terrain. Parents, advisors, and youth participants should be alert to the potential for injury. Philmont strives to minimize risks to participants and advisors by emphasizing proper safety precautions. Philmont staff members will instruct you regarding safety measures to be followed. Each participant is expected to follow these safety measures and to accept responsibility for their health and safety.

By signing below, I acknowledge I have read and promise to abide by the code of conduct for ROCS, as listed in this application and have read and understand all the information about the ROCS Program.

PARENT/GUARDIAN APPROVAL:

My son/daughter has our complete permission to participate in a Philmont ROCS experience. I understand that this work is physically demanding and involves a degree of risk to participants as might be expected from hard work, riding, and/or handling horses. I, along with my son/daughter, also acknowledge and agree with the Code of Conduct.

Participant Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

UNIT LEADER APPROVAL:

I attest this applicant is a member in good standing and approve his/her participation in the ROCS Program.

Unit Leader Signature _____ Date _____

FEE SCHEDULE:

The total fee is **\$900 for 2023**. A \$150 deposit fee must accompany this application. The remaining balance of \$750 will be due upon receipt of confirmation.

NOTE: Deposit fee, all required signatures of approval, and one letter of recommendation must accompany application.

Please make check payable to **Philmont Scout Ranch** and mail to:

**PHILMONT SCOUT RANCH
ATTN: ROCS TREK
17 DEER RUN RD.
CIMARRON, NM 87714**

Philmont Contact Information: Phone: (575) 376-2281

Email: camping@philmontscoutranch.org

Web Address: www.PhillmontScoutRanch.org

HIGH ADVENTURE RISK ADVISORY

Philmont Scout Ranch Experience. The Philmont experience is NOT risk-free. Staff will instruct participants in safety measures. Be prepared to listen to and follow these measures. Accept responsibility for the health and safety of yourself and others in your crew. Each participant must be able to carry 25 to 30 percent of their body weight while hiking 5 to 12 miles per day in an isolated mountain wilderness ranging from 6,500 to 12,000 feet in elevation over trails that are steep and rocky. Weather during summer and autumn includes temperatures from 30° to 100°F, low humidity (10 to 30 percent) and frequent, sometimes severe thunderstorms.

Risk Advisory. Philmont has an excellent health and safety record and strives to minimize risks to participants by emphasizing appropriate safety precautions. Because most participants are prepared, are conscious of risks, and take safety precautions, they do not experience injuries. If you decide to attend Philmont, you should be physically fit, have proper clothing and equipment, be willing to follow instructions, work as a team with your crew, and take responsibility for your own health and safety.

All Philmont participants should understand potential health risks inherent at or above 6,700 feet in elevation in a dry Southwest environment. High elevation; a physically demanding high-adventure program in remote mountainous areas; camping while being exposed to occasional severe weather conditions such as lightning, hail, flash floods, and heat; and other potential problems, including injuries from tripping and falling, falls from horses, heat exhaustion, and motor vehicle accidents, can worsen underlying medical conditions. Native wild animals such as bears, rattlesnakes, and mountain lions usually present little danger if proper precautions are taken.

Please call the Philmont Infirmary at 575-376-2281 if you have any questions. All participants and guests should review all materials and websites related to the experiences they are planning to have at Philmont Scout Ranch. **Any exceptions to Philmont's medical requirements must be approved by the Philmont Infirmary in advance of arrival at Philmont.**

PHILMONT WEIGHT LIMITS FOR BACKPACKING AND HIKING

Participants on Philmont Backcountry programs must meet the established height and weight guidelines. These guidelines are strictly enforced and failure to meet these guidelines will result in you not being able to participate. These guidelines are enforced because overweight individuals are at a greater risk for heart disease, stroke, and injury. Each participant must be no more than the maximum acceptable weight for their height on the chart below. Due to the limitations of rescue equipment, evacuation efforts from remote sites, and limitations on horse capacity, no one over 200 pounds will be permitted to participate in the ROCS program.

Philmont does not have a lower weight limit, but all participants must be able to carry all the required equipment without exceeding a pack weight of 30% of their body weight.

Philmont Approval. Staff and/or staff physicians reserve the right to deny the participation of any individual based on a physical examination and/or medical history. Each participant is subject to a medical recheck at Philmont.

ROCS HEIGHT/WEIGHT CHART

Height (inches)	Max. Weight
60	166
61	172
62	178
63	183
64	189
65	195
66	201

Height (inches)	Max. Weight
67	207
68	214
69	220
70	226
71	233
72	239
73	246

Height (inches)	Max. Weight
74	252
75	260
76	267
77	274
78	281
79 and over	295

This table is based on the revised Dietary Guidelines for Americans from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and the Dept. of Health & Human Services.

* The maximum weight for any horse program at Philmont is 200 pounds.

Assessment of body fat percentage:

Both youth and adults who do not qualify for the exemptions listed above may also seek an exemption by having their body fat percentage measured. Males must have a body fat percentage less than or equal to 15%, and females must have a body fat percentage less than or equal to 22%. This testing can be done using a water displacement test, whole body air displacement testing (e.g., BodPod), or dual energy x-ray absorptiometry (DEXA) scan. Any other methods of testing such as skin fold testing will not be accepted. Contact your primary healthcare provider to find out where these tests may be available. Regardless of the result of any displacement testing, no participant will be permitted to participate in horse programs if they weigh more than 200 pounds and no participant will be permitted to participate if they exceed 295 pounds.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATION — INDIVIDUAL TREKS

A limited amount of financial assistance is available for Rayado, ROCS, STEM, or TCT participants. To apply, please complete this application and return it to Philmont by February 1 of the year attending. All information will remain confidential.

NAME _____ BIRTHDATE _____ AGE _____
(first) (middle) (last)

ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

COUNCIL NAME _____ UNIT # _____

- * How long have you been a member of the Boy Scouts of America? _____
- * Leadership position(s): _____
- * Local council camp experience (where & when): _____
- * Philmont experience: _____
- * Other high adventure experience: _____
- * Honors/awards (school, etc.): _____

** Attach an essay that will help the scholarship committee understand your hopes and expectations if accepted as a participant. Please address the following topics directly:*

- 1) *What previous experiences have you had that will help you meet the challenges of this program?*
- 2) *What do you hope to learn or accomplish through this experience?*
- 3) *How will this experience help you in future service to Scouting; in pursuing other educational, career, or life interests?*
- 4) *What will be your greatest contribution (skill, talent, character trait) as a participant of this trek.*

Parent/Guardian Information:

Father _____ Employer/Occupation _____

Mother _____ Employer/Occupation _____

State circumstances that require you to apply for financial assistance: *(attach additional page if needed)*

Amount of fee to be paid by:	
Participant	\$ _____
Family	\$ _____
Unit or Chartered Partners	\$ _____
Total Available	\$ _____
Financial Assistance Requested	\$ _____

Signatures required:

Participant _____

Parent/Guardian _____

Unit Leader _____

Date _____