

# RANCH HANDS

## 2023 APPLICATION



The Ranch Hands program is an opportunity for young men/women to earn an eight (8) day Cavalcade trek at Philmont by participating in an eight (8) day work session. You will work with the Horse Department staff taking care of Philmont's 250 head of horses and 80 head of burros. You will be hauling hay and feed, saddling horses, helping keep the horses shod, and assisting on Philmont trail rides. The work can be strenuous and requires top physical and mental conditioning. All necessary equipment will be provided by Philmont, and all participants will be covered by camper's insurance.

After your eight-day work session, the Ranch Hands crew will gather and embark on an eight-day Cavalcade under the leadership of a Horseman and Wrangler. You will ride the trails through some of the most beautiful country in America. Each night you will be in a different Philmont camp where the program may be Rock Climbing, Archaeology, Mountain Man Rendezvous, or Homesteading. The final afternoon of your Cavalcade features a horseback Gymkhana.

### 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 your program begins, but not yet 21 by its conclusion.
- Be physically fit, able to lift and handle materials up to 65 lbs.
- As with all Philmont horse programs, there is a weight limit of 200 pounds.
- Be able to work and live under the leadership of one of Philmont's Horsemen at one of the Horse Camps or at Headquarters. All participants in backcountry programs are required to have a current BSA medical form completed within 12 months of their arrival at Philmont. The Annual Health and Medical Records parts A, B, and C must all be completed, and Part C must be signed by a MD, DO, PA, or NP.

**NOTE:** To comply with New Mexico work law, no exceptions can be made to these requirements.

### PROGRAM FEE

The fee for this sixteen-day experience is \$500 for 2023. 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 as participants in the program will have their deposit returned. Participants canceling acceptance will be eligible for a refund (less deposit) if notification is received by May 1. No-shows are not eligible for a refund.

### HOW TO APPLY

Complete this application. Be sure it has all the necessary signatures – yours, your parent/guardian, and your unit leader and attach a letter of recommendation. **Mail your completed application to: Philmont Scout Ranch, BSA, Attn: Ranch Hands, 17 Deer Run Rd., Cimarron, NM 87714.** Philmont will notify you in February. If accepted, a packet of materials will be emailed to you in March to help you prepare for your Philmont work/trek experience. **The Ranch Hands program is limited to 15 participants so get your application in early!**

### ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE PLANS

**Plan to arrive at Philmont between 8:00 and 11:00 AM on the first day of your program – July 7<sup>th</sup>.** Please report to the Welcome Center at Camping Headquarters. Wranglers will meet you here to take you through the check-in process.

If, due to transportation schedules, it is necessary for you to arrive a day early (on July 6<sup>th</sup>), please indicate this on your *Individual Arrival/Departure Plans* form included with this mailing. Do not arrive more than one day early. Tent space at Philmont Camping Headquarters is limited.

### DEPARTING PHILMONT

Plan to depart Philmont the morning of the seventeenth day – July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### TRAVEL

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 July 7<sup>th</sup>. 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.



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## 2023 APPLICATION

July 7 - 23

(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)

### HORSE EXPERIENCE\*: Check all that apply

- Own a horse
- Worked at Council Camp Horse Program
- Worked at Local Stable
- Lived/Grew-up on farm or ranch
- Horsemanship Merit Badge
- Experience with other Livestock
- \_\_\_\_\_ # of years horse-riding experience

**\*Horse experience preferred, but not necessary.**

### RANCH HANDS CODE OF CONDUCT

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

#### AS A RANCH HANDS PARTICIPANT, I WILL:

- Live the Scout Oath and Law.
- Observe, respect, and strive to live the Philmont Wilderness Pledge.
- Observe the rules of the Ranch Department and my Supervisor.
- Wear my full official BSA uniform or work clothes as required. Unofficial decorations are not part of the official uniform.
- Be personally responsible for damage and loss of property.
- Understand that theft, vandalism, or deliberate destruction of property, either other participants or Philmont's is not permitted and will result in dismissal from the program at the expense of the participant.
- Respect all safety procedures and learn to properly use equipment.
- At all times, be considerate of participants and staff at Philmont Scout Ranch.
- 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 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 and regulations will always apply.

## ***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 Ranch Hands, as listed in this application and have read and understand all the information about the Ranch Hands Program.

### **PARENT/GUARDIAN APPROVAL:**

My son/daughter has our complete permission to participate in a Philmont Ranch Hands 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 Ranch Hands Program.

Unit Leader Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### **FEE SCHEDULE:**

The total fee is **\$500 for 2023**. A \$150 deposit fee must accompany this application. The remaining balance of \$350 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: RANCH HANDS  
17 DEER RUN RD.  
CIMARRON, NM 87714**

Philmont Contact Information: Phone: 575.376.2281

Email: [camping@philmontscoutranch.org](mailto:camping@philmontscoutranch.org)

Web Address: [www.PhilmontScoutRanch.org](http://www.PhilmontScoutRanch.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 Ranch Hands 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.

**RANCH HANDS HEIGHT/WEIGHT CHART\***

Height (inches)	Max. Weight	Height (inches)	Max. Weight
60	166	64	189
61	172	65	195
62	178	66 and over	200
63	183		

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.