



# Philmont

## 2023 GUIDEBOOK TO ADVENTURE - ADVISORS EDITION



**PHILMONT SCOUT RANCH**  
DELIVERING WILDERNESS AND LEARNING  
ADVENTURES THAT LAST A LIFETIME

## **MISSION OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

## **A PICTURE OF THE FUTURE FOR SCOUTING'S SECOND CENTURY**

In Scouting's second century, we are building the leaders of tomorrow. Scouting's dynamic and engaging journey beckons to America's young people. Our exciting programs and outdoor adventures inspire lives of leadership, character, and service. Relevant and adaptive, we are a trusted advocate for youth. Our adult volunteers and employees are widely admired for their leadership excellence. True to our mission, Scouting reflects our nation in its ethnic diversity and shapes our nation by developing responsible citizens.

## **VISION STATEMENT – PHILMONT SCOUT RANCH**

It is the vision of Philmont Scout Ranch to continue to positively impact the lives of young people and their Scouting leaders through inspiring and effective delivery of the finest Scouting possible through backcountry adventures and Training Center experiences.

It is our further vision that these experiences will be expanded to help meet increasing demands. All future growth must be accomplished with minimal ecological impact on resources to ensure the preservation of this great asset to serve future generations of Scouts.

## **PHILMONT SCOUT RANCH AND TRAINING CENTER**

*Delivering Wilderness and Learning Adventures That Last a Lifetime*



# 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

## Table of Contents

<b>Philmont Magic.....</b>	<b>1</b>
Location and Terrain .....	1
History .....	1
Wildlife.....	1
Beauty .....	1
Program .....	1
Fellowship.....	1
Staff.....	1
Who may participate? .....	2
Harassment.....	2
Photo (Talent) Release Information.....	2
<b>Preparation for Philmont Scout Ranch .....</b>	<b>2</b>
Introduction.....	2
BSA Registration .....	2
Youth Protection Policies.....	2
Adult Leadership – BSA Policy.....	3
Coed/Female Crew Leadership Requirements .....	3
Youth Participants.....	3
Philmont “Crews” .....	4
Substandard Crews .....	4
Tenting Policies.....	5
<b>Crew Organization .....</b>	<b>5</b>
Advisors .....	5
Youth Participants.....	6
Crew Leader.....	6
Chaplain’s Aide .....	6
Wilderness Pledge Guide.....	6
<b>Organize Your Crew.....</b>	<b>7</b>
Crew Size.....	7
Youth Experience .....	8
Practicing the Patrol Method.....	8
Expectations of Participants .....	8
Hazing, Initiations, & Discipline .....	8
Conduct .....	8
Tobacco, Alcohol, & Drug Abuse .....	9
<b>Awards That May Be Earned During the Trek .....</b>	<b>9</b>
Philmont Arrowhead Patch.....	9
The “We All Made It” Plaque .....	9
Duty to God.....	9
Wilderness Pledge Achievement Award .....	9
La Docena Adventurado Award .....	10
Triple Crown and Grand Slam .....	10
50-Miler Award.....	10
<b>Advisor’s Packet.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Philmont Camping Gateway .....</b>	<b>10</b>
Reservation Contact.....	11
Lead Advisor .....	11
Crew Roster .....	11
Transportation Plans.....	11
Sister Crew .....	11
Expedition Number .....	11
Emergency Messages from Home or Work .....	12
Mail to Campers at Philmont.....	12
<b>Financial Fees &amp; Expedition Budget .....</b>	<b>12</b>
2023 Fee Payment Schedule.....	13
Payment Schedule.....	13
Philmont’s Refund Policies.....	13
Cancellation/Refund Policy.....	13

Refund Request Procedures.....	13
Crew Budget .....	15
Contingency Fund.....	15
<b>High Adventure Committee.....</b>	<b>16</b>
Committee Member Prospects .....	16
Committee Assignments .....	16
<b>Suggested Program for Philmont Rally.....</b>	<b>17</b>
Purpose of Meeting.....	17
Meeting Agenda .....	17
<b>Recommended Preparation Plan.....</b>	<b>19</b>
Expedition Training & Planning .....	20
Physical Preparation.....	21
Suggested Conditioning Program.....	21
Preparation Resources .....	21
<b>First Aid &amp; Health .....</b>	<b>22</b>
Philmont Infirmary .....	22
Treatment .....	22
Supervision.....	22
Wilderness First Aid & CPR Training .....	22
Wilderness First Aid .....	23
CPR Training .....	23
BSA Annual Health & Medical Record .....	23
Religious Beliefs & Medical Care .....	24
Immunizations.....	24
Height & Weight Restrictions .....	24
Height/Weight Chart .....	25
Assessment of body fat percentage:.....	25
Emergency Transportation.....	25
Medical Conditions.....	25
COVID-19.....	25
Allergies & Anaphylaxis .....	25
Asthma .....	25
Chronic Medical Conditions .....	26
Diabetes .....	26
Hypertension.....	26
Mental Health .....	26
Recent Musculoskeletal Injuries & Orthopedic Surgery.....	26
Seizures (Epilepsy).....	26
Food Allergies & Dietary Restrictions.....	27
Risk Advisory .....	27
Risk & Physical Preparedness.....	28
Insurance .....	28
<b>Travel &amp; Transportation.....</b>	<b>28</b>
Arrival & Departure .....	28
Philmont “Days” .....	28
Meals Provided by Philmont.....	29
Transportation Services.....	30
Travel companies serving Philmont .....	30
Private Vehicles.....	30
Philmont Bus Service.....	30
Amtrak Transportation.....	31
Lodging In & Around Cimarron, NM.....	31
<b>Other Information .....</b>	<b>32</b>
Uniforms.....	32
Trading Post – Tooth of Time Traders .....	32
Pack Rental .....	32
Fishing Licenses .....	32
Crew Lockers & Security .....	33
Drones .....	33
Shipping Procedures.....	33
Smartphones .....	33

# 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

## Table of Contents *(Continued)*

Patrol Method.....	34
<b>Hiking and Camping Skills.....</b>	<b>34</b>
Gathering Your Equipment .....	34
Organizing Your Crew .....	34
Backpacking – Setting the Pace .....	35
Conserving Energy .....	35
Be Prepared for Extremes of Weather.....	35
Lightning .....	35
Lightning Position .....	36
Flash Floods .....	36
What to Do When Confused .....	36
<b>Tips on Equipment and Clothing .....</b>	<b>36</b>
Tents .....	36
Packs.....	37
Map & Compass.....	37
Personal GPS and Emergency Locator Devices .....	37
Backpacking Stoves and Fuel .....	38
Clothing.....	38
Boots and Shoes .....	38
Socks.....	39
Glass and Aerosol Containers .....	39
Money.....	39
Sleeping Bags.....	39
Cameras/Crew Photographer .....	39
<b>Equipment Provided by Each Participant.....</b>	<b>39</b>
Lower Body Layers.....	40
Upper Body Layers.....	40
Head/Neck/Hands .....	40
Packs and Bags.....	40
Footwear.....	41
Sleeping Gear.....	41
Miscellaneous Items .....	41
Prohibited Items .....	42
Labels .....	42
<b>Equipment Provided by Crew .....</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Equipment Issued by Philmont .....</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>The Essentials for Hiking at Philmont .....</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Arriving at Philmont .....</b>	<b>44</b>
Day One at Philmont.....	44
Welcome Center.....	44
Council Contingent/Multi-Crew Group Check-In.....	44
Meet Your Ranger .....	45
Single Crew Check-In .....	45
Philmont Check-In .....	45
Day Two at Philmont.....	47
At Headquarters.....	47
En Route to Starting Camp .....	47
Starting Camp .....	47
Day Three at Philmont .....	47
Hiking at Philmont .....	47
Camping at Philmont .....	48
Bearmuda Triangle .....	48
Cooking and Food Pickups.....	48
Food Allergies .....	49
Alternative Cooking Methods.....	49
Last Day - Final Processing at Camping Headquarters .....	49
At Camping Headquarters .....	49
Homebound – Morning of the Final Day .....	50

**Preserving the Philmont Wilderness.....50**  
Wilderness Pledge .....50  
Leave No Trace .....51  
Report Artifacts .....51

**Safe and Healthy Camping and Hiking .....51**  
Keep Personally Clean .....51  
Caring for Your Feet.....51  
Wash Your Clothes .....52  
Dehydration.....52  
Heat Exhaustion .....52  
Heat Stroke.....52  
Hyperventilation.....52  
Hypothermia .....52  
Sunburn .....52  
Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS).....53  
Protection from Hantavirus.....53  
Avoid the Plague.....53  
Accidents .....53  
Stress and Group Dynamics.....53  
Purify All Drinking Water .....54  
Dishwashing Procedures .....54  
Use of Sumps.....54  
Disposal of Trash and Garbage .....54  
Latrines.....54  
Tobacco .....54  
Alcohol and Drugs .....54  
Firearms, Weapons, Fireworks .....55  
Prevent Wildland Fires .....55  
Climbing.....55  
Bears.....55  
Rattlesnakes .....56  
Insects .....56

**MEDICAL TREATMENT.....56**  
First Aid Kit .....57  
Medications.....57  
Camper Insurance Coverage.....57  
Emergency Transportation Costs .....57

**PROGRAM FEATURES.....57**  
Archaeology.....57  
Blacksmithing .....58  
Burro Packing .....58  
Cantina .....58  
Challenge Events .....58  
Chase Ranch .....58  
Conservation .....58  
Continental Tie & Lumber Company .....59  
Demonstration Forest .....59  
Environmental Awareness.....59  
Fly Tying and Fly Fishing .....59  
Geology .....59  
Gold Mining and Panning .....59  
Homesteading .....59  
Horse Rides.....60  
Jicarilla Apache Life .....60  
Low Impact Camping .....60  
Mountain Biking .....60  
Mountaineering.....60  
Philmont Campfires .....60  
Post-Civil War Settlers .....61  
Railroading .....61  
Rendezvous .....61  
Ring Ranch.....61  
Rock Climbing .....61

# 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

## Table of Contents *(Continued)*

Rocky Mountain Fur Company.....	61
Shooting Sports.....	61
Western Lore .....	62
Special Trail Meals .....	62
STEM.....	62
Wilderness Medicine/Search and Rescue/GPS Technology.....	62
<b>Religious Services.....</b>	<b>62</b>
Catholic .....	62
Jewish .....	62
LDS .....	63
Protestant.....	63
<b>Camps and Program Features .....</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>CAVALCADE GUIDEBOOK.....</b>	<b>65</b>
Horsemanship.....	65
Physical Preparation .....	65
Crew Equipment Issued at Philmont.....	66
Cavalcade Equipment List .....	66
Useful Knots & Diagrams .....	67
Day One at Philmont.....	67
Welcome Center.....	67
Meet Your Horseman and Wrangler .....	67
Philmont Check-In .....	68
Day Two at Philmont.....	69
Northern Itineraries.....	69
Southern Itineraries.....	69
Day Three at Philmont .....	69
Gymkhana .....	69
<b>Philmont Museums .....</b>	<b>70</b>
National Scouting Museum at Philmont Scout Ranch .....	70
Kit Carson Museum – Rayado .....	70
Villa Philmonte.....	70
Chase Ranch House Museum.....	70
<b>Philmont Training Center.....</b>	<b>71</b>
Conferences and Training .....	71
Family Adventure Camp.....	71
<b>Scholarships.....</b>	<b>72</b>
Waite Phillips Scholarships .....	72
Donor Scholarships .....	72
<b>Meanings &amp; Pronunciations.....</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>Individual Activities at Philmont .....</b>	<b>73</b>
Rayado .....	73
Ranch Hands .....	73
Trail Crew Trek.....	74
Order of the Arrow Trail Crew (OATC) .....	74
Roving Outdoor Conservation School (ROCS) .....	75
STEM Trek.....	75
<b>Fall, Winter, and Spring Programs.....</b>	<b>76</b>
Autumn Adventure .....	76
Autumn & Winter 7-Day Treks .....	76
Winter Adventure .....	76
Leave No Trace Master Educator Course.....	77
Philmont Advisor Skills School (PASS).....	77
Program Overview.....	77
Participants.....	77
Dates Offered .....	77
Wilderness First Aid.....	77

**Other Opportunities .....78**  
    Philmont Museums ..... 78  
    National Scouting Museum—Seton Memorial Library..... 78  
    Kit Carson Museum at Rayado ..... 78  
    Villa Philmonte ..... 78  
    Historic Chase Ranch..... 78

**NOTES .....79**

**INDEX.....81**



# 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

Welcome to Philmont Scout Ranch!

This Guidebook is designed to assist units and council contingents in planning a successful Philmont adventure. Your journey has already begun, and proper preparation now will result in a smoother, more enjoyable expedition.

It is important that each adult Advisor become familiar with every aspect of the trip. Equally important is sharing information with participants and their parents. Philmont is not like your local Scout camp, and we understand that Philmont might not be for everyone.

**Philmont is hard!** The stamina required to hike Philmont is much greater than you may be used to due to the distances traveled, elevation changes, and the overall duration of the trek. Every participant should understand *Philmont's Risk Advisory*, which can be found in the BSA Annual Health and Medical Record form.

Refer to: [www.philmontscoutranch.org/philmonttreks/trekrequirements/risks/](http://www.philmontscoutranch.org/philmonttreks/trekrequirements/risks/)

It is important that everyone is aware of potential hazards. Philmont places emphasis on physical preparation including a detailed Annual Health and Medical Record. Crews should carefully select participants, taking height/weight and medical conditions into consideration.

A Philmont trek is a crew-based, youth-led activity. Youth crewmembers fill the leadership positions, the adult crewmembers provide advice and guidance to them. **Advisors provide this to the entire crew, not just their own children.**

Philmont and the Boy Scouts of America expect that all participants will conduct themselves in a Scout-like manner. Over 20,000 participants attend Philmont every summer from across the nation and the world. While this provides an enriching experience for participants, it also requires a great deal of respect for each other. Let the Scout Oath and Law guide your crew in ALL situations.

Please read this guide carefully and distribute it to your other Advisors. Both experienced and new Advisors will find the answers to many of their questions regarding their upcoming Philmont trek within the following pages. Good luck as you continue to prepare for the trek of a lifetime! We look forward to serving you and your crew.

**Steven R. Nelson** | Director of Camping  
**BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**  
**Philmont Scout Ranch**  
17 Deer Run Road  
Cimarron, NM 87714  
P 575.376.2281 | F 575.376.2636

[www.PhilmontScoutRanch.org](http://www.PhilmontScoutRanch.org)  
[www.PhilmontTrainingCenter.org](http://www.PhilmontTrainingCenter.org)  
[www.facebook.com/philmontscoutranch](https://www.facebook.com/philmontscoutranch)



**Prepared. For Life.™**

*"Delivering Wilderness Adventures that Last a Lifetime"*  
*"I choose to have a great day!"*



# 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

## Philmont Magic

There is a magic spell at Philmont. Long ago, the Native Americans felt it. Later, Kit Carson, Lucien Maxwell, and other mountain men were captivated by the land. A century later, the late Mr. Waite Phillips found himself under its spell. His son, Elliott ("Chope"), and his cousins found it almost a necessity to return to Philmont during their high school and college summer vacations.

### Location and Terrain

Philmont is a National High Adventure base, owned and operated by the Boy Scouts of America. Philmont is large, comprising 140,711 acres or about 220 square miles of rugged mountain wilderness in the Sangre de Cristo (Blood of Christ) range of the Rockies in northeastern New Mexico. Thirty-six staffed camps and over seventy trail camps are operated by the ranch (four camps are in the Carson National Forest and several are on neighboring ranches).

Philmont has high mountains which dominate rough terrain with an elevation ranging from 6,500 to 12,441 feet.

Philmont has established special use permits with several neighbors:

- US Forest Service – Valle Vidal Unit of the Carson National Forest
- Barker Wildlife Management Area, New Mexico Game and Fish Department
- Colin Niblett State Wildlife Area
- Chase Ranch
- CS Ranch
- UU Bar Ranch

Each neighbor has established specific use requirements. If your itinerary passes through these lands, you will receive specific information during your orientation at Logistics. Each requires use of Leave No Trace techniques. These additional properties add about 110,000 acres for a total use area of 250,000 acres or 390 square miles.

### History

Philmont has a unique history of ancestral Puebloans who chiseled writings into canyon walls...Spanish conquistadors who explored the Southwest long before the first colonists arrived on the Atlantic coast...the rugged breed of mountain men like Kit Carson who blazed trails across this land...the great land barons like Lucien Maxwell who built ranchos along the Santa Fe Trail, and miners, loggers, homesteaders, and cowboys. All these people left their mark on Philmont.

### Wildlife

Philmont is abundant with wildlife – deer, elk, coyote, antelope, mountain lion, buffalo, beaver, wild turkey, bear, and others. Its hills and canyons teem with birds and its streams abound with fish. Its cool mountains harbor a wilderness of botany – trees, shrubs, flowers, and grasses.

### Beauty

Philmont is rich in natural beauty, including the soaring Tooth of Time...sunrise from lofty Mount Phillips...the blue water of Cimarroncito Reservoir...the panoramic sweep of the plains from Urraca Mesa...and sunlight filtering through aspen along the rippling Rayado.

### Program

Philmont provides an unforgettable adventure in sky-high backpacking country along hundreds of miles of rugged, rocky trails. Program features combine the best of the old West. Horseback riding, burro packing, railroading, gold panning, chuck wagon dinners, and living history provide exciting challenges each day. Rock climbing, mountain biking, and .30-06 rifle shooting and more make for an unbeatable recipe of fast-moving fun in the outdoors.

### Fellowship

The opportunities for fellowship at Philmont are incredible from your own crew to others from across the nation and the world.

### Staff

Philmont has the finest staff in America. Each staff member is carefully selected and trained. Scouting spirit, knowledge of camping skills, keen interest in their respective program specialties, and a love for Philmont lead the staff to deliver a rewarding and memorable experience.

When you come to Philmont, take advantage of these opportunities. It is one of the best investments you will make – the returns are great!

# 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

## Who may participate?

In keeping with the policies of the Boy Scouts of America, rules for participation are the same for everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, age, sex, gender, sexual orientation, marital or familial status, genetic information, citizenship status, protected activity, or any other status or classification protected by applicable federal, state, and/or local laws.

Participants must be registered members of the BSA who will be 14 years of age OR have completed 8th grade and be at least 13 years of age prior to participation. DO NOT request or expect any exceptions to this rule.

Some special programs allow for individual person registration and participation. A crew must have a majority of its members under age 21. Each participant must be capable of participating in the backpacking or horseback riding trek. Please note that specific programs may have additional requirements for participation including but not limited to a 200 lb. weight limit for Cavalcades and horse rides. Each participant must meet the health requirements as outlined in the Annual Health and Medical Record.

## Harassment

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. **Participants who do not meet these expectations may be asked to leave.**

## Photo (Talent) Release Information

All Philmont Scout Ranch participants are informed that photographs, film, video tapes, electronic representations and/or sound recordings may be made during their visit to Philmont Scout Ranch. These images may be used for training and promotion purposes for Philmont Scout Ranch and other projects approved by the Boy Scouts of America.

Each participant, by completing the Annual Health and Medical Record "Part A: Informed Consent, Release Agreement, and Authorization", will fulfill the necessary Photo (Talent) Release requirements for Philmont Scout Ranch. (For complete statement please refer to Part A of the Annual Health and Medical Record.)

## Preparation for Philmont Scout Ranch

### Introduction

This guide was extensively reorganized, rewritten, and checked for the summer of 2022. It has been further updated for 2023. Unit and/or contingent leaders as well as Crew Advisors should read it and become familiar with its contents. Hopefully, it will not only take some of the mystery from preparing for a Philmont activity but will also serve as a reference as you get ready to come to Philmont.

### BSA Registration

Lead Advisors must verify that all adult Advisors and youth participants are registered members of the Boy Scouts of America. Verification is also required that all participants 18 years old and older have a current certification of Youth Protection Training (within the past two years). The expiration dates for BSA Registration and Youth Protection Training must be after the last day of the trek.

### Youth Protection Policies

Philmont takes Youth Protection very seriously. Some of the Youth Protection policies that apply to participants at Philmont (and throughout Scouting) relate to registration and training. The complete set of Youth Protection policies may be found at [www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/](http://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/)

Age	BSA/Youth Protection Policies
Under 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must be registered in a <u>Youth</u> position</li></ul>
18-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must be registered in an <u>Adult</u> position</li><li>• Must be current in Youth Protection training</li></ul>
21+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>At least two Registered leaders are required</b></li><li>• A Registered female adult leader 21 years of age or over must be present for any activity involving female youth</li><li>• All leaders must be current in Youth Protection training</li></ul>

## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

All registered adults must have current BSA Youth Protection Training (certified within the past two years and not expiring until after the end of the trek). This means all participants 18 years old and older who are registered in Venturing, Exploring, Sea Scouting, or as an adult volunteer must have current Youth Protection Training. Because of the great concern the Boy Scouts of America has for the issue of child abuse in our society, the Youth Protection program has been developed to help safeguard both our youth and adult members. Adult BSA Registration requires verification of Youth Protection Training. All adults participating in a Philmont trek must be registered.

Youth Protection Training and documentation are available at your local council or online at

[www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/](http://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/)

**Philmont will strictly enforce Youth Protection policies, which include the *Scouting's Barriers to Abuse***

[www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss01/#a](http://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss01/#a)

### Adult Leadership – BSA Policy

As shown above, each crew **MUST** always have at least TWO BSA registered adults (called “Advisors”) 21 or older.

Philmont strongly recommends that each crew participates with THREE adult Advisors (FOUR if a coed crew – two male, two female). This provides flexibility if an adult Advisor needs to leave the trail. **If a youth participant must come off the trail for any reason, their parent cannot accompany them if it would result in the crew becoming a Substandard Crew** (see page 4).

**All advisors should understand they function as advisors for the entire crew, not just their own children!**

They are responsible for ensuring the crew follows all BSA and Philmont rules. The exception to this would be for an adult who is caregiver for a special-needs or disabled Scout; they are expected to work directly with that Scout to insure his/her safety and successful trek completion.

### Coed/Female Crew Leadership Requirements

Crews with female youth are required to provide at least one adult female Advisor while en route to and from Philmont and while on trek. A coed crew must have at least one male Advisor and at least one female Advisor, each of whom must be at least 21 years old.

Crews with coed youth members must function under appropriate co-ed unit policies.

Council Contingent crews may have a mixed registration of Scouts BSA, Venturing, Exploring, and Sea Scout members.

Unit-based crews may have coed registration if the type unit permits (e.g., Scouts BSA troops may not be coed, Venturing Crews, Ships, and Posts may).

If a father and daughter (under 18 years old) are participants, the crew must have male and female Advisors 21 years old or over.

### Youth Participants

In keeping with the policies of the Boy Scouts of America, rules for participation are the same for everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, age, sex, gender, sexual orientation, marital or familial status, genetic information, citizenship status, protected activity, or any other status or classification protected by applicable federal, state and/or local laws.

**Participants must be registered members of the BSA (who will be at least 14 years old) OR (have completed 8<sup>th</sup> grade and be at least 13 years old) prior to participation.**

Youth participants must be registered members of the Boy Scouts of America and may participate in a Philmont trek in one of the following ways:

- As members of a chartered unit—Troop, Crew, Post, or Ship.
- As members of a council contingent or district contingent with required leadership.
- As individuals in the Rayado men/women, Ranch Hands, Trail Crew, ROCS men/women, Order of the Arrow Trail Crew, or STEM treks. (Participant age requirements vary for individual treks — see page 69.)

**Each participant must be physically and emotionally capable of participating in and completing the backpacking or horseback riding trek.** Each participant must meet the health requirements as outlined in the BSA Annual Health and Medical Record.

## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

**Unregistered guests or family members are NOT permitted to camp at Philmont. There are no scheduled programs or available housing accommodations for family members of trek participants.**

### Philmont "Crews"

At Philmont, "Crews" take part in treks or Cavalcades. Regardless of the crew's origin (Scouts BSA Troop, Venturing Crew, Ship, etc.) Philmont considers them to be a "Crew".

Participant's ages also come in to play in the makeup of a "crew" at Philmont. Note that Philmont treks (12, 9, and 7-day) and Cavalcades must conform to the policies shown here. Crew makeup for Individual program crews will be determined by the department responsible for those programs; they will establish the "crews" based on criteria specific to the program(s).

#### Philmont Crew Makeup Policies

- Maximum crew size is 12 youth and adults (15 for Cavalcades)
- Minimum crew size is 8 youth and adults (10 for Cavalcades)
- Maximum of 4 Registered adults (21+) (5 for Cavalcades)
- Minimum of 2 Registered adults (21+)
- Crew must be majority youth (14-18)
- All crewmembers 18 or over must be Registered in adult positions and be current in Youth Protection training.

### Substandard Crews

Any time the crew fails to meet the Crew Makeup Policies above, they are considered a "Substandard" Crew. Philmont will make every effort to implement alternatives to permit the crew to stay on the trail. Philmont's objective is for every crew to succeed and enable them to complete their trek if at all possible. The crew should understand that, if there are no workable alternatives, the crew will have to come off the trail and depart Philmont.

Frequently, crews become Substandard if a youth crewmember becomes ill or sustains an injury and is transported to the Infirmary for care. While removing this single crewmember could result in the crew being below the minimum crew size, often the injured crewmember's parent insists on accompanying the youth to the Infirmary. Removing the two crewmembers very often makes the crew Substandard.

Parents are permitted to come off the trail with their child only in very limited circumstances. Clearly if the parent is the caregiver for a child with special needs or is disabled, they are encouraged to accompany them. Otherwise, parents are permitted to come off the trail with their child if the child is experiencing serious medical conditions such as broken bones, laceration(s) needing stitches, there is a high potential the child will be transferred from the Infirmary to an outside medical facility, possible surgical procedures (appendix, etc.), mental health or developmental issues, or other similar serious conditions. The parent will not be permitted to accompany the child in any event if their leaving would result in the crew becoming "substandard". If Philmont can implement steps that rectify the substandard crew issue, the parent can join their child when the solution is achieved.

When a youth participant is transported to the Infirmary for medical care, they are housed either in the Infirmary or in Infirmary Tent City. In either facility, adult leadership is provided by Philmont in conformance with BSA Youth Protection policies.

If an adult accompanies their child to the Infirmary, they will be housed in an Advisor tent in Base Camp Tent City. They will be provided meals in the Camper Dining Hall. They can coordinate with Infirmary Tent City to eat with and participate in other activities with their child if medically possible.

The Infirmary can release the youth crewmember to rejoin their crew or to be sent home. If they are released to home, Philmont's Logistics department will assist the parent making travel arrangements. It is the family's responsibility to pay for any needed transportation and lodging after departing Philmont. They must depart Philmont within 24 hours of being discharged from the Infirmary.

If the Infirmary releases the youth crewmember to rejoin their crew, they will be transported to the next staffed camp on the crew's Itinerary. Depending on the Itinerary, they may have to remain in Base camp for a day or more until the crew arrives at a staffed camp.



## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

The youth and parent should understand that they may not qualify for the Philmont Arrowhead award patch if they come off the trail during their trek or Cavalcade. This will be dependent on what they had accomplished before the medical situation occurred as well as what they were able to do after being reunited. They could be ineligible for the Arrowhead award because they did not complete their trek (went home after being released), did not participate in a Conservation project, or did not fulfill other requirements for earning the Arrowhead award.

### Tenting Policies

Tenting arrangements at Philmont (both in Base camp and in the backcountry) follow BSA's tenting requirements ([www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/](http://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/)) and must meet the requirements shown below.

#### BSA Tenting Rules

- Separate tenting arrangements must be provided for male and female adults as well as for male and female youth.
- Youth sharing tents must be no more than two years apart in age.
- In Cub Scouting, parents and guardians may share a tent with their family.
- In all other programs (Philmont treks and cavalcades), youth and adults are required to tent separately.
- Spouses may share tents.

Be aware that:

- The same tent sharing should be used in base camp tent city and in the backcountry.
- It is important that crews determine their tenting requirements before coming to Philmont.
  - **Crews should utilize 2-person tents wherever possible.** If a crewmember cannot share a tent because of the rules above, they should bring a one-person tent to minimize weight. Three person tents may require more space than is available in some backcountry camps.
  - **Crews should use the minimum number of tents permitted with the crew makeup and the BSA tenting rules above.**
  - Philmont backcountry camps have limited space; fewer tents will make the best use of this space.
- Philmont can provide the crew with 2-person tents at no charge. No 1-person or 3-person tents are available.

### Crew Organization

A “**crew**” at Philmont is made up of youth and adult advisors. There are several BSA and Philmont policies that must be followed with these, and several leadership “positions” required for each crew. For a multi-crew reservation (unit or council contingent), one person must be the designated the “Contingent Advisor”.

### Advisors

“Advisors” are the adult leaders of the crew. **All Advisors must be physically capable of hiking and camping for the entire length of the trek.** Each Advisor is expected to reflect high moral standards established by custom, traditional values, religious teaching and following the Youth Protection guidelines.

Philmont recommends that groups identify alternate adult leadership who are available to step in at the last minute in the event an adult Advisor is unable to attend. **Philmont CANNOT provide staff to meet the BSA's two-deep leadership requirement.**

**An Advisors' primary role is to coach, mentor, and support the Crew Leader, Chaplain's Aide, and Wilderness Pledge Guia.** By doing this, the youth leaders will gain leadership experience throughout the trek and will be able to help all members of the crew develop into a strong team.

As stated earlier, **all advisors should understand they function as advisors for the entire crew, not just their own children!** They are responsible for ensuring the crew follows all BSA and Philmont rules. The exception to this would be for an adult who is caregiver for a special-needs or disabled Scout; they are expected to work directly with that Scout to insure his/her safety and successful trek completion.

Adults should "Advise" the youth on "how" to make decisions, not "what" decisions to make. We all learn from our mistakes. Let the youth make mistakes as long as safety is not endangered. After they have made a mistake, talk with them about how the mistake could have been avoided, what other things could have been considered in making the decision that led to the mistake, etc.

Advisors should ensure the safety and well-being of each crew member through:

- First aid treatment.
- Administration of required medications.
- Proper water purification.
- Supervision any time a stove is in use.
- Guidance and support in emergency situations.

## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

Advisors also help foster positive crew dynamics, help settle disputes between members of the crew, assist with administering proper discipline if required, and ensure that the crew operates following all Youth Protection guidelines.

**Adult Advisors** must make every effort to help youth leaders succeed. By coaching and mentoring, adults can play a critical behind-the-scenes role. Adults make sure that safety procedures are followed and that Youth Protection policies are practiced.

### Youth Participants

A trek at Philmont is a “youth-led” activity. This is why the rules for crew makeup require a majority of youth participants. The leadership of the crew while at Philmont comes from these youth participants, not the adult advisors!

Throughout the history of the Ranch, the leadership growth of each youth member while practicing the Patrol Method has been a critical part of the total experience. Key leaders practicing servant leadership ensure that the crew has an enjoyable and successful trek. This is particularly true for the **Crew Leader, Chaplain's Aide, and Wilderness Pledge Guia**.

### Crew Leader

A well-qualified Scout, Venturer, or Explorer should be elected as Crew Leader before training begins. The Crew Leader is responsible for organizing the crew, assigning duties, making decisions, and recognizing the capabilities of each crew member. He or she leads by example and discusses ideas and alternatives with the entire crew to arrive at a consensus before acting. This responsibility requires someone with leadership ability who is respected by everyone. The adult Advisors will work closely with this individual.

The Crew Leader's responsibilities include:

- Incorporate the principles of the Scout Oath and Law into the trek experience.
- Follow the assigned itinerary.
- Complete and manage a crew duty roster.
- Adhere to all Philmont bear and wildlife procedures.

Crew Leaders will receive more information/training in a meeting with other Crew Leaders on the day of the crew's arrival at Philmont (Day 1)

### Chaplain's Aide

Each crew should also select a Chaplain's Aide; perhaps a member of the crew who has received a religious award in Scouting. The Chaplain's Aide is responsible for assisting the crew in being reverent during their time in the backcountry, as well as working with the Crew Leader and Lead Advisor to ensure the smooth operation of the crew.

The Chaplain's Aide will be asked to lead daily devotionals from the *Eagles Soaring High* booklet, lead grace before meals, and encourage participation in religious services. A packet of worship resources (including the *Eagles Soaring High* booklet) will be provided for use along the trail during a training session for Chaplain's Aides on the day of the crew's arrival at Philmont (Day 1). The Chaplain's Aide will guide the crew's participation in the Duty to God program and will certify completion of the Duty to God Award requirements for each crew member. Awards will be available for purchase at the Tooth of Time Traders at the conclusion of the trek; proceeds support the Chaplain Program at Philmont.

The Chaplain's Aide's responsibilities include:

- Set a good example by living the principles of the Scout Oath and Law.
- Teach the *Philmont Grace* to crew and use it before meals.
- Lead Roses, Thorns, and Buds each night.
- Assist the Crew Leaders and Advisors in conflict resolution.
- Provide support to fellow crew members that are having difficulties.
- Encourage fellow crew members in their own personal walk with God.
- Lead crew in daily reflections from *Eagles Soaring High* booklet.
- Encourage the crew to attend chapel services in Base Camp and in the backcountry if services are available on the crew's itinerary.

### Wilderness Pledge Guia

Each crew will select a Wilderness Pledge Guia (*Guide*). This individual will help the crew understand the principles of the Philmont Wilderness Pledge and Leave No Trace principles. This person helps the crew focus on camping practices that

## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

adhere to wilderness ethics outlined in the two approaches and ensures that the crew follows all Philmont camping practices. With more than 20,000 participants camping each summer at Philmont, it is important that each person do their share to ensure that we protect Philmont and our neighbors' properties for generations to come. The Wilderness Pledge Guia will certify completion of the Wilderness Pledge Achievement Award requirements for each crew member. Awards will be available for purchase at the Tooth of Time Traders at the conclusion of the trek; proceeds support the Sustainability Program at Philmont.

The Wilderness Pledge Guia responsibilities include:

- Learn the principles of Philmont's Wilderness Pledge and Leave No Trace
- Assist the crew in implementing Philmont's Wilderness Pledge and Leave No Trace principles throughout your trek.
- Guide the crew in discussions about wilderness ethics by focusing on a different principle of Leave No Trace for seven days on the trail.
- Help the crew follow all camping practices as outlined by their Ranger and strictly follow Philmont's bear and wildlife procedures.
- Help crew members earn the Wilderness Pledge Achievement Award with the help of the Ranger/Horseman/Wrangler.
- Lead the crew in preparation and completion of the scheduled conservation project while on the trail.

**NOTE:** As you can see here, Philmont and the BSA have a lot of "rules" and "policies". These have been developed over time and, for Philmont, are designed to provide some 20,000 campers each year with the best possible camping experience. They are also designed to minimize the impact on the land to preserve the wilderness experience for future campers.

With that said, are exceptions ever made? Reading social media, one might think they frequently are! That is not the case. There are a few exceptions made when it is the right thing to do and the reasons for the request are within the spirit of the rules. In 2021 an unusual number of exceptions were made – primarily to crew sizes and makeup – but that was largely to accommodate crews that had been turned away in 2018 (Ute Park Fire) and 2020 (COVID-19). For many of those crews, 2021 was their last opportunity to attend Philmont and Philmont made every reasonable effort to accommodate them. Beginning in 2022, these exceptions are no longer made!

If you feel you have a justified request for an exception to the rules, please contact Philmont's Infirmary if the request is medically related or send an email to [camping@philmontScoutRanch.org](mailto:camping@philmontScoutRanch.org) for all others. **No exceptions to Youth Protection Policies are entertained or granted.**

## Organize Your Crew

### Crew Size

The **maximum** and **minimum** crew sizes (minimum of 8 and maximum of 12 campers for treks and minimum of 10 and maximum of 15 for Cavalcades) are strictly enforced. Crews with fewer than the minimum for their activity type will not be permitted on the trail. Crews with more than the maximum must determine how to reduce their numbers to the maximum for their activity type.

These crew sizes are the best sizes for Philmont crews. This is due to Youth Protection and safety reasons – if a crewmember is injured, a team of 4 will be sent to obtain assistance. This team must meet Youth Protection rules as do the crewmembers remaining with the injured person. Philmont's itineraries have been developed with these numbers in mind and campsites are designed to comfortably accommodate a maximum of 12 campers (campsites used for Cavalcades can accommodate larger crews).

Council contingents and other large groups should organize their crews according to hiking and camping abilities. Each crew can then choose an itinerary that corresponds to the abilities of its participants and travel at an appropriate pace.

**Philmont reserves the right to combine smaller crews within contingents or multi-crew groups to maximize staff resources.** Should something happen to one of the Advisors, other adult Advisors need to be prepared to move to another crew within the contingent or multi-crew group. This may involve being moved to a different itinerary if necessary. If a crew goes below the minimum size while on the trail and it not possible for Philmont to absorb that crew in another crew, the crew that is smaller than the minimum size may have to come off the trail and be sent home.

**Because of the minimum number of adult Advisors required and/or the minimum crew size, it is imperative that adult leaders stay on the trail with their crew in the event their child is transported to the Infirmary. If the child's**

## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

injury/illness is severe, we understand that a parent should be with their child. In that event we will make every effort to ensure the remainder of the crew can stay on the trail with adequate adult leadership or crew size. This may require combining the crew with another crew (and changing to their itinerary) or other options. Be aware that this is not always possible, and the crew may have to come off the trail and depart Philmont. See page 4.

### Youth Experience

Philmont Scout Ranch is designed to be a youth experience. Waite Phillips set forth the following statement at the time of his gift to the Boy Scouts of America:

*"These properties are donated and dedicated to the Boy Scouts of America for the purpose of perpetuating faith, self-reliance, integrity, and freedom—principles used to build this great country by the American pioneer. So that these future citizens may, through thoughtful adult guidance and by the inspiration of nature, visualize and form a code of living to diligently maintain these high ideals and our proper destiny."*

Waite Phillips wanted the Philmont experience to focus on the youth participants!

### Practicing the Patrol Method

Your Philmont Trek will provide you an opportunity to practice many skills that you have learned while participating in your Troop, Crew, Post, or Ship. This experience brings in focus the importance of the Patrol Method. Each crew is a small group of participants much like a patrol. The crew members are close in age and experience level and working together helps them develop a sense of pride and identity. The participants elect their Crew Leader, divide the jobs to be done, and share in the satisfaction of accepting and fulfilling group responsibilities.

Three members of the crew will have a leadership responsibility that lasts the duration of the trek: **Crew Leader**, **Chaplain's Aide**, and **Wilderness Pledge Guia**. In addition, all members of the crew should serve in some leadership role each day, either as the primary or the assistant. Examples of rotated leadership responsibilities for the crew include navigator, cook, dishwasher, bear bags manager, water gatherer, and fire watchman.

The camping methods practiced at Philmont Scout Ranch support the Patrol Method concept. Two examples of this include cooking and washing dishes as one group. Members of the crew will rotate throughout the trek and fulfill these important responsibilities. This allows crew members to practice servant leadership as they take on a task that will support the entire crew.

Some of the current wilderness camping methods focus on the individual. In support of the Boy Scouts of America, Philmont will focus on the crew and the accomplishments that they can achieve by working together as a team.

The Ranger/Horseman/Wrangler assigned to the crew will help the entire crew achieve the most from their Philmont Adventure!

Various camping techniques will be taught to your crew by your Crew's Ranger. We recognize that you may have "better" ways of doing things but, what your Ranger teaches not only keeps the Philmont backcountry pristine but also supports the Patrol Method. Please do not follow the Ranger's instructions then switch to "your way" when the Ranger departs. This simply teaches your young people that they can follow rules when they want and ignore them other times!

### Expectations of Participants

#### Hazing, Initiations, & Discipline

Any form of hazing, initiation, ridicule, inappropriate teasing, or bullying is prohibited and must not be allowed.

#### Conduct

The Scout Oath and Law should serve as the guide in all interactions with other participants and staff. Philmont serves groups from many different backgrounds, and it is important that each group respects each other. This includes coed and female crews and female staff, members of various religious organizations, Scouts and Scouters of all gender identities and sexualities, and those of different ability. It is not acceptable to act in a manner which belittles, harasses, or makes others uncomfortable.

Each group should develop a procedure regarding unacceptable behavior and conduct. The best method to accomplish this is to outline expectations before the trip, as well as consequences if a participant chooses to act in a way that is contrary to the established guidelines. Parents and guardians must be informed of these guidelines.

## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

Remember, Advisors are responsible for their participants at all times — Philmont cannot provide supervision should a participant be removed from the trail for discipline reasons. They will be sent home at their own expense.

### Tobacco, Alcohol, & Drug Abuse

Our Scout Oath reminds us to keep ourselves physically strong. The use of smokeless or smoking tobacco, including vaping and E-cigarettes adversely affects the body and causes cancer. Because of the ever-present wildland fire danger, smoking is not permitted on Philmont trails. If adults must smoke in the backcountry, do it in an established camp near an unused fire ring. No smoking is permitted in Camping Headquarters except the designated area: back room of Advisors Lounge. Please refer to : [www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss04/](http://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss04/).

## Awards That May Be Earned During the Trek

### Philmont Arrowhead Patch

Crews on Philmont treks (or Cavalcades) may earn a Philmont Arrowhead patch that is worn on the right pocket of the Scout uniform. The requirements for earning this patch are:

1. Attend the opening campfire – “The Philmont Story”
2. Complete a Philmont-approved itinerary (there are some exceptions for medical reasons) with your crew.
3. Complete a 3-hour conservation project at one of several designated sites on Philmont or neighboring properties (with the help of Conservation Department staff) and take advantage of every opportunity to learn about and protect our landscape while practicing the art of backcountry living and travel that minimizes impact to soil, water, plant life, and wildlife.
4. Fulfill the personal commitment to the Philmont Wilderness Pledge.
5. LIVE THE SCOUT OATH AND LAW!

### The “We All Made It” Plaque

An award presented by Philmont to each crew that:

1. Demonstrates good camping practices and Scouting spirit.
2. Follows an approved itinerary and camps only where scheduled.
3. Fulfills the commitment to the Wilderness Pledge.

### Duty to God

Under the guidance of a crew Chaplain's Aide, each participant may fulfill the requirements for the Philmont “Duty to God” award. The requirements include:

1. Attend a religious service while at Philmont.
2. Participate in at least three daily devotionals with the crew.
3. Lead Grace before a meal.

Participants must obtain the Chaplain's Aide signature to certify completion of the requirements. Scouts and Advisors may then purchase a “Duty to God” patch from the Tooth of Time Traders. Proceeds support the Chaplain Program at Philmont.

### Wilderness Pledge Achievement Award

Each participant in the backcountry can earn the Wilderness Pledge Achievement Award. This award has five requirements. The Wilderness Pledge Guia will help all members of the crew complete the requirements and earn the award. A documentation form will be provided at the Wilderness Pledge Guia meeting held daily for trailbound crews at the Conservation pavilion. The Wilderness Pledge Achievement Award patches can be purchased by submitting the form at the Tooth of Time Traders. Profits from the purchase of this award will be used to expand the sustainable initiatives of Philmont Scout Ranch.

1. Take part in Ranger-led training for the Philmont Wilderness Pledge and the Leave No Trace principles as they relate to your trek.
2. Follow all Philmont hiking and camping procedures on your trek.
3. Practice all Philmont bear and wildlife procedures on your trek.
4. Take part in discussions focusing on the Seven Principles of Leave No Trace, led by your Wilderness Pledge Guia; find examples of the focus principle during that day of the trek.
5. Complete your assigned Conservation project while on your trek.

## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

### La Docena Adventurado Award

The "La Docena Adventurado" Award is presented to each crew that participates with the maximum number of participants: Backpacking Expeditions = 12 participants; Cavalcade Expeditions = 15 participants. A ribbon is presented to the Advisor during the arrival registration process.

### Triple Crown and Grand Slam

The Triple Crown Award is available to individuals who have participated in a high adventure program at three of the four national bases (Philmont Scout Ranch, Northern Tier, Florida Sea Base, and the Summit Bechtel Reserve).

The Grand Slam award can be earned by participating in a high adventure at all four national bases. Logistics will provide documentation to each crew to certify participation in a Philmont Camping Program and to track participation at other bases. The Lead Advisor should make copies of this documentation for each crewmember so they can track their progress individually. These awards are managed by the Sommers Alumni Association. Complete details on qualifying programs and award orders can be found at [www.NationalHighAdventureAwards.com](http://www.NationalHighAdventureAwards.com)

### 50-Miler Award

The 50-Miler Award, given by the National Council, BSA, may be earned by members of unit or council contingent groups. Requirements for this award include hiking at least 50 miles and performing a 10-hour conservation project (3 hours or more will be earned at Philmont and the remaining hours in your council). All 12-Day Philmont itineraries meet the 50-Miler distance requirement. The award is secured through your local council service center. Logistics will provide documentation to each crew certifying completion of the conservation project. The Lead Advisor should make copies of this documentation for each crewmember so they can track their progress individually.

## Advisor's Packet

In March 2023, each registered Lead Advisor will be sent a packet of materials for the crew. Included will be *The Participant's Guidebook to Adventure* (a copy for each member of the crew), an overall Philmont map, insurance pamphlet, and a letter from the Camping Director. The Lead Advisor's packet contains all the information needed for your Philmont trek. If lead advisors are not entered into the Camping Gateway, the advisor packet is mailed to the reservation contact of the expedition. This person will be responsible for distributing a packet to each crew's Lead Advisor.

Please notify Philmont if a change occurs in the Reservation Contact or if their address or email changes, as updates are emailed occasionally.

## Philmont Camping Gateway

The Philmont Camping Gateway is an online platform specially designed to help units register and plan for a successful Philmont trek. If you registered your unit to attend Philmont, then you have already accessed the Camping Gateway. After registration, units can access the Camping Gateway to find updates such as waitlist position and payment schedules.

After Philmont records the first payment for a reservation, the Camping Gateway will send a special email to the Reservation Contact with a link to access their invoice. A link to the crew's Roster will be emailed in August. The Camping Gateway will walk the Reservation Contact through selecting their crew Lead Advisor(s). Each Lead Advisor will be responsible for entering participant information for each member of their crew. Lead Advisors will receive an email regarding itineraries and itinerary selection.

The Gateway is accessible by email invitation link only. If you are a Lead Advisor or Reservation Contact, look for an email from [rosters@registerphilmont.org](mailto:rosters@registerphilmont.org) and you'll find a link to access the Roster Gateway.

In early December, the *Itinerary Guidebook* will be published for crews to download and review. Then, starting in mid-January, Lead Advisors can begin to submit itinerary preferences within the Gateway. These preferences can be modified until early February, when the Gateway will process all selections and make assignments using a random and fair process. (Actual deadlines are published yearly in the *Itinerary Guidebook*.) You will be notified via email after your itinerary has been assigned. For more information on Itinerary Selection, please see the *Itinerary Guidebook*.



## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

### Reservation Contact

This person created the initial Philmont reservation and has been the primary contact for payments and planning. Sometimes the reservation contact also plays the role of a Lead Advisor. Once inside the Philmont Camping Gateway, Reservation Contacts have the option to view and modify information for every crew roster in their reservation.

One Advisor in each crew is designated the “**Lead Advisor**”. This person is the principal Advisor responsible for coordinating a successful Philmont experience for each member of the crew. All adults support the Lead Advisor in accomplishing the duties of an Advisor.

### Lead Advisor

Each Philmont crew has one designated Lead Advisor. This adult organizes their crew and enters information for each crew member into the Philmont Camping Gateway prior to arriving at Philmont. In addition to participant information, the Lead Advisor also submits their planned Philmont arrival and departure travel information online.

### Crew Roster

Every crew attending Philmont for a trek or Cavalcade must submit important participant information (Crew Roster) using the Philmont Camping Gateway. The complete crew roster must be entered no later than thirty (30) days prior to your crew's arrival date. For example, if your Expedition number is 704-x, your roster must be completed no later than June 4 (July 4 – 30 days = June 4).

**Be aware that any additional crew members added to the roster after this date will incur a late addition fee of \$150.00.** This applies to additional crew members only.

Crew member information on the crew roster can be updated any time. This permits the Lead Advisor to change crewmembers without incurring the late addition fee.

### Transportation Plans

**Arrival and Departure plans must be submitted in the Camping Gateway at least two weeks prior to your arrival at Philmont.** Any last-minute changes to arrival information can be made by emailing Logistics at [philmont.logistics@scouting.org](mailto:philmont.logistics@scouting.org) or by calling (575) 376-2281 and asking for the Logistics Transportation Manager.

Philmont participants have found public carriers to be reliable transportation to the Ranch. Contact the representative of any of the carriers in the list on page 30 for scheduling information and costs.

### Sister Crew

Crews on a 12-Day trek will have the option to request to share an itinerary with another crew on a 12-Day trek with a matching arrival day. Lead Advisors for a 12-Day trek may select a Sister Crew as soon as they access their crew roster through the link received via email. Once a Sister Crew arrangement has been confirmed by both crews, either crew's Lead Advisor may submit itinerary preferences for both crews when Itinerary Selection opens in January 2023.

Please be aware that sister crews must function as independent crews. They do not hike or camp together and members may not move between crews. Sister crews can do evening activities together and, potentially program activities in staffed camps.

### Expedition Number

Crews at Philmont are identified by an “Expedition Number”. This is because crews come from units from all over the world — there may be multiple Troop 101's or Crew 101's at Philmont at any time. The expedition number provides a unique identification for each crew. All correspondence regarding the crew and all phone callers should use the crew's expedition number.

For all crews, the first three digits are in the form of “**mdd**” where **m** is the Month and **dd** is the Day of the crew's “Arrival” date at Philmont (Day 1). e.g., “715” represents July (7) fifteenth (15).

When the crew reservation made, a temporary Expedition number is assigned in the form of “**mdd-nnn**”

Where: “**nnn**” is a three-digit unique number.

When the first crew payment is made, the reservation Expedition Number is changed to a permanent Expedition Number.

## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

Expedition numbers are in different forms for different types of programs. They include:

- 12-Day Treks: **mdd-X(-nn)**
- 9-Day Treks: **mdd-9X(-nn)** (Note — arrive at Philmont on Mondays)
- 7-Day Treks: **mdd-7X(-nn)**
- Cavalcade: **mdd-yy**

Where:

**X** = a unique one or two alphabetic character identifier assigned after the first crew payment is accepted.

**(-nn)** is a unique crew number for multi-crew reservations. This is not present for single crew reservations.

**-yy** is used for Cavalcade Crews:

“CV” & “CW” designate Southern Itinerary cavalcade crews.

“CX” & “CY” designate Northern Itinerary cavalcade crews.

Examples:

624-120	Reservation for crew arriving June 24 (has not made Reservation payment)
624-C	12-Day Expedition arriving June 24
624-BB	12-Day Expedition arriving June 24
624-K-03	12-Day Expedition for third crew in a reservation (“K”) arriving June 24
702-9B	9-Day Expedition arriving July 2 (9-Day treks arrive on Friday’s)
701-7B	7-Day Expedition arriving July 1

## Emergency Messages from Home or Work

**Philmont Emergency Telephone Number: (575) 376-2281**

While at Philmont, your crew will be in the backcountry and will NOT be able to receive messages from home or work. In the event of an emergency, call Philmont at **(575) 376-2281**. This number is answered 24-hours a day, 7-days a week. If it is possible to get a message to a crew member, it may take between several hours and a day to deliver the message. It may not be possible for the crew member to return the message. Because of this, all crew members should make appropriate arrangements for others to conduct their business for the duration of the trek.

## Mail to Campers at Philmont

Mail can be sent to campers while they are at Philmont. Mail and packages will be delivered to the Philmont Mail Room in Base Camp. Be sure to include the Expedition Number! Please ship your packages at least two weeks prior to your arrival to allow ample time for delivery.

**Camper's Name, Expedition Number**  
**47 Caballo Rd**  
**Cimarron, NM 87714**

The US Postal Service, UPS, or FedEx may be used but be aware there is no “overnight” delivery available!

## Financial Fees & Expedition Budget

The 12-Day expedition fee is \$1,490.00 for each participant in 2023, youth or adult. A reservation fee of \$150 per participant (including adult Advisors) is required to hold your arrival date. Refer to your last invoice for your specific payment schedule.

**ALL fees (Reservation, Advance and Balance as indicated in the payment schedule) are NON-REFUNDABLE and NON-TRANSFERABLE to the balance of fees in the event of cancellation. Be cautious of making reservations or paying fees for those who have not made a financial commitment.**

Philmont must commit financial resources to employ staff, purchase food and supplies, and prepare for summer operations. Participants are therefore also required to make a financial commitment to attend. Be conservative in making reservations to avoid losing fees due to cancellations. Additional crew participants can be added to fill a crew to 12 members. Fees for additional participants can be included with your advance payment due October 1, the balance payment due March 1 or upon arrival at Philmont.

**SEND FEES TO:**      Camping Registrar  
                         Philmont Scout Ranch  
                         17 Deer Run Road  
                         Cimarron, NM 87714

## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

### 2023 Fee Payment Schedule

Be sure you have completed and submitted the Reservation Form with the initial fee payment.

AMOUNT DUE (Per Person)					
Transmittal	12-Day Trek	9-Day Trek	7-Day Trek	Cavalcade	DUE DATE
Reservation	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	January 30, 2022
Advance	670.00	612.50	500.00	525.00	October 1, 2022
Balance	670.00	612.50	500.00	525.00	March 1, 2023
	<b>\$1,490.00</b>	<b>\$1,375.00</b>	<b>\$1,150.00</b>	<b>\$1,200.00</b>	

There is a **Late Addition Fee** of \$150.00 for campers added to the crew within 30 days of the crew's Arrival Date. See page 11.

### Payment Schedule

Crews are responsible to know, understand, and adhere to the payment schedule.

- \$150 non-refundable reservation deposit per individual is due with the signed invoice. Minimum crew sizes apply.
- Advance payment (½ of remaining fees) per individual is due October 1 of the year prior to trek.
- Final payment (final ½ of fees) per individual is due March 1 of the year of trek.

### Philmont's Refund Policies

Each crew is responsible to meet all financial obligations within the allotted time frame. Failure to provide on time payments will result in cancellation. Deposits are non-refundable. Fees are nonrefundable unless Philmont can rebook the cancelled crew.

Philmont must commit financial resources to employ staff, purchase food and supplies, and to prepare for summer operations. Participants are therefore, also required to make a financial commitment to attend. Please be aware of this in making reservations to avoid losing fees due to cancellations.

### Cancellation/Refund Policy

Please notify Philmont immediately if your crew intends to cancel. Early notification may enable Philmont to rebook your cancelled trek and provide a partial refund less deposit. Fees are not transferrable to a subsequent year.

- \$150 deposit per individual is not refundable.
- Crews cancelling between deposit and first ½ payment will forfeit deposit.
- Crews cancelling after first ½ payment will forfeit 100% of fees paid.
- Crews cancelling after final payment will forfeit 100% of fees paid.

#### Possible Individual Refunds

- Medical Exclusion by Doctor – 100% Refund of fees paid less deposit – documentation required
- Military Deployment – 100% refund of fees paid
- Death – 100% refund of fees paid (1<sup>st</sup> Degree Relative)

#### **Refund decisions are made by Philmont management.**

Guidelines used in determining possible refunds:

- Job Situations – 100% refund of fees paid less deposit
- Family Emergency – 100% refund of fees paid less deposit
- Summer School – 70% refund of fees paid – documentation required
- School Function – 70% refund of fees paid – documentation required
- Found overweight at Philmont – 50% refund of fees paid
- Found sick or injured at Philmont – Prorate fees less deposit

### Refund Request Procedures

Refund requests for Expedition Fees must be submitted with proper documentation related to the circumstances, no later than September 30<sup>th</sup> of the trek year. Refund requests after that date will not be considered.

#### Information required to request a refund:

1. Expedition Number (i.e., 609-A)
2. Name of person requesting the refund.
3. Reason for not being able to participate in the trek – illness, injury, summer school, military duty, etc. Include official documentation to support the request (Doctor's statement, letter from school, military deployment/transfer, etc.)

## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

4. Address the refund request (with documentation) to Philmont Scout Ranch, 17 Deer Run Rd., Cimarron, NM 87714 or email: [Philmont.Camping@scouting.org](mailto:Philmont.Camping@scouting.org) and attach documentation.

The process for refund requests is as follows:

- If a refund request is approved by Philmont's management, a note is filed in the expedition file and, when the crew has completed their trek, the Registrar processes the paperwork. A refund authorization is sent to the National BSA Office in Irving, TX where check will be disbursed to the **Reservation Contact** for the Expedition on behalf of the person who requested the refund. It can take approximately six to eight weeks to process after the crew has departed Philmont before the check is received.
- If a refund request is not approved by Philmont's management, an email will be sent to the Reservation Contact for the Expedition explaining the reason for the denial.

## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

### Crew Budget

In establishing the actual fee for each participant, please review the budget worksheet found below. It is important to include all expenses.

FEE & DESCRIPTION	PARTICIPANT CHARGE	TOTAL CREW FEES (\$)
<b>Philmont Fees</b> Covers all Philmont meals, tents, cooking gear, program resources, camper's insurance, Advisor's packets, medical care, chaplain services, use of horses and burros, Philmont Arrowhead patch, crew photo, etc. All Philmont participants are charged the same fee.		
<b>Transportation</b> Transportation costs to and from Philmont. Be sure to check insurance coverage on packs and gear in transit.		
<b>Meals &amp; Lodging</b> All meals and lodging en route to and from Philmont (use of military bases helps cut down expenses). Include gratuities and occasional treats along the way.		
<b>Shakedown and Training</b> Meals and other incidental costs for weekend training and shakedown events.		
<b>Promotion</b> Costs for promotion including production of all material, postage, etc. including duffle bags, hats, t-shirts, council shoulder strips, and/or patches.		
<b>Equipment – Purchase or Rental</b> Include purchase or rental of any equipment or supplies required by expedition. <b>Expeditions are required to bring backpacking stoves.</b> (Crews using commercial transportation must ship their stoves and fuel bottles — using ground service only — prior to their arrival).		
<b>Side Trips &amp; Tours</b> During travel to and from Philmont		
<b>Contingency</b> Allowance for any contingency during the trip that may require unexpected expenditures. Refund at the end of the trip if unused.		
<b>Less: Philmont Scholarship</b> Waite Phillips Scholarships are available from Philmont by two primary methods—your local council or directly through the contact of a unit reservation. Deduct if you have a participant who receives financial assistance.		
<b>TOTAL:</b>	\$	\$

### Contingency Fund

Groups should have a contingency fund to cover unexpected expenses such as emergency transportation, roadside repairs, equipment failure, or additional luggage fees.

# High Adventure Committee

Planning and preparing for a successful expedition to Philmont Scout Ranch requires careful consideration of several different aspects of trip planning and execution. To accomplish these tasks efficiently, it helps to have a committee of interested individuals. **The responsibility of planning and executing this experience should not rest in the hands of one or two people who also serve as adult Advisors on the trek.** Responsibilities should be divided among members of this “Philmont Scout Ranch High Adventure Committee”. Regardless of whether the expedition is reserved as a Unit (single or multiple crews) or as Council Contingent (single or multiple crews), a committee will ensure that all required tasks are accomplished.

## Committee Member Prospects

- Council/district volunteers or members of a unit committee with an interest in High Adventure.
- Past participants—youth and adult. Youth participants who have been to Philmont within the last ten years are great resources, and they are eligible to serve as adult Advisors if they're over 21.
- Past Philmont staff members
- Parents of participants
- Adult Advisors
- Philmont Ambassadors

## Committee Assignments

- **Leadership**
  - Select adult Advisors for each crew and identify alternates in the event of last-minute cancellations.
  - Support the selection of youth leadership roles for each crew (Crew Leader, Chaplain's Aide, and Wilderness Pledge Guia (*Guide*)).
  - Work with Lead Advisors and provide support in using the Philmont Camping Gateway (page 10) and selecting itineraries.
- **Promotion/Marketing**
  - Develop a recruiting program to ensure that all available participant slots are filled. 12-Day Trek crews that arrive with the maximum capacity of 12 participants (15 for Cavalcades) will receive the “La Docena Adventurado” Award.
  - Conduct Philmont information sessions at the local troop, district, and council levels. These can be done at events such as summer camp, camporee, training events, and roundtables.
  - Include information about additional Philmont opportunities, such as individual programs for youth who cannot join the crew due to schedule conflicts.
  - Utilize all marketing channels available such as unit, district, and/or council websites, newsletters, and social media platforms.
  - Continue marketing to and recruiting potential alternate participants in the event of last-minute cancellations (both youth and adult).
  - Conduct parent information nights and be prepared to address any questions and/or concerns.
  - Consider use of a “Crewmember Contract” that defines expectations for crewmembers. These could include payment deadlines, minimum shakedown participation level, paperwork submission deadlines, etc. The contract should be discussed with the potential crewmember and his or her parents and signed by all.
  - Be prepared to organize a “Welcome Home” event to share the crew's adventure with friends and family following the trek. Use this as another opportunity to promote individual programs at Philmont for participants that are eager to return to Philmont.
- **Finance**
  - Develop a budget. Explore as many travel options as possible to find the most cost-effective means of travel and lodging for your crew(s). A sample budget is shown on page 15.
  - Include a contingency fund in the planning process to help cover emergencies that might arise during travel to and from Philmont as well as during your trek.
  - Utilize available scholarships. Philmont participants can apply for the Waite Phillips Scholarship (see page 13), which assists approximately 750 Scouts every year and grants approximately \$300,000 annually. Look for other local scholarship opportunities as well. Philmont Donor Scholarships are also available.
  - Plan and support fundraising activities to help participants raise the funds needed for their travel and expedition expenses.
- **Transportation**
  - Develop travel plans that include the following:
    - Overnight accommodations
    - Meals



## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

- Side trips and tours
- Arrange transportation to and from Philmont Scout Ranch (Cimarron, NM) via:
  - Private vehicles
  - Public transportation
  - Charter services
- Ensure the trip plans and accommodations abide by “The Sweet Sixteen of BSA Safety” and the policies and guidelines outlined in the “Guide to Safe Scouting.” ([www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/resources/sweet16/](http://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/resources/sweet16/))
- Submit arrival and departure plans in the Camping Gateway.
- **Equipment**
  - Help and support each crew member in securing the correct equipment for the experience.
  - Coordinate the selection and procurement of all crew equipment required for the expedition.
  - Coordinate special items such as crew t-shirts, hats, council shoulder strips, etc.
  - Coordinate special food needs for medical and/or religious requirements.
  - Assist with organizing and procuring food, equipment, permits, and reservations needed for weekend shakedown training trips.
- **Training**
  - Ensure that the crew meets the requirements for Wilderness First Aid and CPR training. (At least TWO individuals must present current training certifications upon arrival. See Page 22.)
  - Ensure that all adult leaders have are registered in an adult position with the BSA and are up-to-date Youth Protection training. These should not expire until after the conclusion of the trek.
  - Conduct at least two weekend shakedown training events.
- **Health & Fitness**
  - Assist all members of the crew in completing their Annual Health and Medical Record. Work with the Lead Advisor to ensure that all participants meet the Philmont requirements, including the height/weight requirements.
  - Review all Annual Health and Medical Records to be sure they are complete, and that each participant has included a copy of their health insurance information with their medical record.
  - Develop and implement a physical fitness program for all members of the crew. This may include physical performance “mileposts” each crewmember must achieve in preparation for the trek.
  - Track fitness activities to encourage all members of the crew to be ready for the physical demands of a Philmont trek.

## Suggested Program for Philmont Rally

### Purpose of Meeting

- To acquaint parents and youth with Philmont and the Risk Advisory.
- To share the calendar of events leading up to departure for Philmont.
- To inform them of procedures regarding payment of fees, BSA Annual Health & Medical Records, equipment needs, travel itinerary to/from Philmont, and any other trek requirements.
- Introduce expedition leadership, both adults and youth if the latter has been determined.
- Introduce the physical fitness plan and shakedown training plan.

### Meeting Agenda

- **Opening**
  - Philmont maps posted; photos of previous Philmont trips (if applicable).
  - Display of snapshots, souvenirs, mementos, etc. from Philmont.
  - Display of personal equipment needed with explanation of gear.
- **Meeting**
  - **Welcome & Introductions**
  - **What is Philmont?**
    - Presentation by a youth or Advisor who has been to Philmont on a previous trek. Include a brief history of Philmont and use Philmont's promotional videos from [www.youtube.com/philmontscoutranch](http://www.youtube.com/philmontscoutranch).
    - Keep it brief (no more than 30 minutes).
  - **Administrative Details**
    - Explain budget and what contributes to all costs associated with it.
    - Emphasize deadline of fee payments and the commitment required by each participant.
    - Review refund policies.
  - **Travel Plans**
    - Full “Class-A” uniform highly recommended for travel and Base Camp activities.

## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

- Backpack (for ALL trek related gear); mention the opportunity to rent a backpack at Philmont.
- Day pack for travel essentials.
- Boots (sturdy, comfortable, and broken in).
- Guide for spending money during travel, at Philmont, and on the trail.
- Review organization of crews and plans for shakedown training.
- **Physical Preparation**
  - Review and distribute Risk Advisory to all parents.
  - BSA Annual Health and Medical Record.
  - Discuss height/weight requirements - they are strictly enforced!
  - Share fitness plan.
- **Discuss the importance of parents engaging and supporting their child's success at Philmont.**
- **Review the plan for team building and communication.**
- **Distribute any forms and collect fees.**
- **Question & Answer Session**
- **Closing**
  - Introduce the Philmont Hymn
- **Notes**
  - Additional parent informational/organization meetings may be necessary.
  - Suggestion: Plan a cookout using dehydrated/freeze-dried menus and invite parents; review additional fitness suggestions.

## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

### Recommended Preparation Plan

It is important to have a detailed plan to help organize your crew to prepare for their Philmont adventure. This plan provides a breakdown of tasks and actions by quarter and month. A space is available to insert the name of the person responsible for completing the item.

MONTH/SEASON	SUGGESTED ACTION	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Winter 2021, Spring/Summer 2022	<b>Recruit a Philmont High Adventure Committee;</b> conduct monthly meetings (CC, U)	_____
	Conduct critique with previous years' expedition Advisors (CC)	_____
	Council Philmont Kick-Off (CC)	_____
	Determine attendance objective for councils & districts (CC)	_____
	<b>Establish schedules</b> for mailings, meetings, promotions (CC)	_____
	<b>Confirm two-deep leadership per crew with at least one alternate</b> (CC, U)	_____
	Announce details in council bulletin and provide Philmont updates, noting leadership participation, trip details, age/grade requirements and height/weight requirements for participation (CC)	_____
	Share Philmont plans with Camping Committee (CC)	_____
	Share Philmont plans with Unit Committee (U)	_____
	Promote Philmont at Roundtables (CC)	_____
	<b>Recruit participants</b> and collect Reservation Fee Payment from each participant (CC, U)	_____
	Transmit Reservation Fee Payment to Philmont (U – Jan. 31, CC – May 1)	_____
	<b>Enter Crew Roster on the Philmont Camping Gateway;</b> Lead Advisors will be able to enter, update, or modify information (CC, U)	_____
Fall 2022	Continue recruiting members of the Philmont High Adventure Committee; conduct monthly meetings (CC, U)	_____
	<b>Collect Advance Fee Payment from each participant</b> (CC, U)	_____
	Transmit Advance Fee Payment to Philmont (due Oct. 1, CC, U)	_____
	Philmont High Adventure Committee meets with all selected expedition Advisors and reviews plans (CC)	_____
	Conduct Philmont Parents' Rally (CC, U)	_____
	<b>Sign up 100% of quota</b> (CC)	_____
	Share Risk Advisory Statement with parents (CC, U)	_____
	<b>Arrange transportation and overnight accommodations to and from Philmont</b> (CC, U)	_____
	Make plans for training and the second parents' meeting (CC, U)	_____
	<b>When TREKS book of itineraries is published, begin reviewing itineraries with crew to determine top choices.</b> (CC, U)	_____
	Download BSA Annual Health & Medical Forms online (CC, U)	_____

(U) – Unit, (CC) – Council Contingent

## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

MONTH/SEASON	SUGGESTED ACTION	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
November 2022 to January 2023	Apply for Waite Phillips Scholarship (due Nov 30, U)	_____
	<b>Each participant should schedule a medical exam;</b> review completed medical forms prior to shakedown training (CC, U)	_____
	Continue updating Philmont news in council bulletin (CC)	_____
	<b>Begin physical fitness plan</b> (CC, U)	_____
	Conduct shakedown training weekends (at least two recommended) prior to arrival at Philmont; start moderate and gradually increase pack weight and difficulty (CC, U)	_____
	Submit Scholarship Certification Form to Philmont by stated due date (CC)	_____
	Review "Sweet 16 of BSA Safety" (CC, U)	_____
February to April 2023	Conduct Philmont High Adventure Committee monthly meeting (CC, U)	_____
	Transmit Final Fee Payment to Philmont by March 1 (CC, U)	_____
	<b>Receive Advisor's Packet:</b> includes <i>The Guidebook to Adventure</i> , insurance pamphlet, and an overall Philmont map (CC, U)	_____
	Continue physical fitness training (CC, U)	_____
	<b>12-Day, 9-Day, and 7-Day reservations complete the online Itinerary Selection through the Camping Gateway</b> (CC, U)	_____
	Share Accident and Sickness Insurance information, Risk Advisory Statement, Expedition Number and Philmont Address & Emergency Phone Number with parents (CC, U)	_____
	<b>Complete and confirm details for travel plans</b> (CC, U)	_____
May 2023	Continue physical fitness training (CC, U)	_____
	Conduct Philmont High Adventure Committee monthly meeting (CC, U)	_____
	<b>Complete Crew Roster and Arrival &amp; Departure Information</b> online in the Camping Gateway. Roster must be completed 30 days prior to arrival to avoid Late Addition Fee of \$150.00. Transportation information must be complete at least two weeks prior to arrival (CC, U)	_____
	Prepare a press release story for your local news publications; press release forms can be found online at <a href="http://www.philmontscoutranch.org/pressrelease.aspx">www.philmontscoutranch.org/pressrelease.aspx</a> (CC, U)	_____
June/July/August 2023	Continue physical fitness training (CC, U)	_____
	<b>BRING TO PHILMONT:</b> Completed BSA Annual Health and Medical Records, Wilderness First Aid & CPR certifications (CC, U)	_____
Following your trek	Email <a href="mailto:philmont.logistics@scouting.org">philmont.logistics@scouting.org</a> or call Logistics at (575) 376-2281 with any last-minute changes to arrival plans (CC, U)	_____
	Conduct Philmont High Adventure Committee Meeting to review the experience & evaluate preparation for the next High Adventure experience (CC, U)	_____
	<b>Plan family follow-up event to share photos and stories</b> (CC, U)	_____

(U) – Unit, (CC) – Council Contingent

## Expedition Training & Planning

To ensure the success and enjoyment of a Philmont trek, proper training and planning needs to occur. Each crew should conduct several backpacking trips to prepare each member physically and mentally and to mold the unit into an efficient camping crew. Philmont encourages crews to conduct at least two shakedown weekend trips. These shakedown activities should be for the dual purpose of improving physical abilities (see page 21), practicing camping skills that will be used at Philmont, and developing a cohesive crew that works together.

## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

### Physical Preparation

To enjoy the Philmont experience participants must be physically prepared to carry a 35- to 50-pound backpack over steep, rocky trails at elevations ranging from 6,500 to 12,441 feet. A regular program of physical conditioning for at least three to six months prior to the trek is essential. A longer period of conditioning is required for those unaccustomed to physical exercise. A program of regular aerobic exercise is highly recommended to become physically conditioned for Philmont. Plan to exercise for 30 to 60 minutes 3 to 5 times per week.

Jogging, running uphill, climbing long flights of stairs and hiking with a full backpack are excellent methods of preparation. How fast you run or how far you go is not nearly as important as regular exercise. Other aerobic exercises such as swimming, bicycling, stationary cycling, and aerobic exercise classes can supplement your training. Start slowly and gradually increase the duration and intensity of your exercises. Start a journal to record your progress. If anyone has questions, have them contact their family physician or exercise physiologist.

Backpacking is the best way to prepare for a Philmont trek. It is highly recommended that everyone in a Philmont crew review the Backpacking Merit Badge pamphlet as a source of information. The Venturing Backpacking pamphlet also has excellent tips for preparing for a Philmont trek. Be Prepared!

Select a hilly area for your training. Start with a short hike and a light pack. Increase the mileage and your pack weight as your training progresses. It is important to hike often enough while carrying a pack and wearing the boots that you will use at Philmont to toughen your feet and break in your boots. Most of the crews that participate indicate on their elevation forms that additional physical training by all members of their crew would have been helpful.

As said earlier, **Philmont is hard!** The stamina required to hike Philmont is much greater than you may be used to due to the distances traveled, elevation changes, and the overall duration of the trek.

### Suggested Conditioning Program

MONTH	CONDITIONING
December/January	<p>Complete health history on individual medical form and get parental approval (signature).</p> <p>Be examined by a physician or osteopath. Call attention of the physician to note on the medical form that describes the rigors of a Philmont trek and to the box that indicated areas of medical concern. Ask the physician about any special medical needs or areas of concern. If overweight, get a physician's recommendation on how to lose weight through dieting and exercise to meet Philmont's height and weight requirements.</p> <p>Walk, jog in place, swim or ride a stationary bike for 20+ minutes at least 3 to 5 times per week. Gradually increase the length of time and intensity of exercises.</p> <p>Purchase a pair of quality hiking boots. A pair of boots 6 to 8 inches high with sturdy sole are recommended. Wear your boots to school or work and when walking anywhere to break them in and to condition yourself.</p>
February/March	<p>When weather permits, jog, run or walk outdoors. Start with 20-minute sessions and gradually increase the length and the incline or speed. While walking, begin to carry your backpack and gradually add weight to it.</p>
April/May	<p>Continue exercising. Schedule a couple of 5- to 10-mile day hikes and at least two overnight backpacking trips of 10 to 20 miles. Plan the second trek to cover more rugged terrain or increase the mileage. Whenever possible, hike in the boots that you will use on the trail and carry your backpack.</p>
June/July	<p>Continue exercising right up to the day you depart for Philmont. Come to Philmont in top physical and mental condition ready for backpacking with a 35 to 50-pound pack over steep, rugged trails at high elevations.</p>

### Preparation Resources

- Training videos for your Philmont trek: Several trek preparation videos are available covering a variety of topics.  
[www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLknEzfYTrwSHzX3WH\\_P4\\_ckd9yeJpvjVw](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLknEzfYTrwSHzX3WH_P4_ckd9yeJpvjVw)
- Shakedown guide: This is a two-part guide in .pdf format. The parts may be downloaded from:  
[www.philmontscout ranch.org/philmonttreks/shakedown/](http://www.philmontscout ranch.org/philmonttreks/shakedown/)

# First Aid & Health

## Philmont Infirmary

Philmont's Infirmary is an "Infirmary" licensed by the State of New Mexico. It is supported by the Kansas University Medical School which has provided doctors, nurses, medics, and medical students as summer professional medical staff for over 60 years.

## Treatment

If a participant is injured or becomes ill while at Philmont, they are likely to be treated by the Infirmary. Initial support will most often come from backcountry staff who will communicate with the Infirmary by radio. Depending on the situation, the injured person may be transported from the backcountry to the Infirmary for treatment. In other instances, the person may be treated in the backcountry while remaining with the crew.

For participants brought to the Infirmary for treatment, the objective will be to provide treatment necessary for recovery and then to reunite them with their crew at the earliest possible time. This will be at the first staffed camp the crew will be staying at after the participant is cleared to return to the trail. If the participant cannot be cleared to return to the trail, Philmont's Logistics department will assist them in making arrangements to return home.

**NOTE:** Your crew Ranger will provide you with instructions on how to get help if you need it while you are on the trail. A note of caution however, you should think about how you could/would handle the situation if you were somewhere like a National Forest instead of Philmont. With your Wilderness First Aid training, you should be able to handle many of the injuries/illnesses that occur in the backcountry.

If you do send for help, you should be aware that you will very likely be told to stay where you are until assistance arrives. They will then assess the situation and either call for additional help or assist you getting the injured/ill person to a staffed camp or other location where a vehicle can take them to the Infirmary. This will almost always result in your crew missing that day's program and often not getting into camp until late in the day. If you can spread the injured/ill person's pack load among other crewmembers and walk them to the next staffed camp, it will result in minimal loss of program for the other crewmembers.

You should also plan who you will send for help if that is warranted. It's best to have a strategy in place before an emergency occurs. You will be taught to send four people to the next staffed camp, with information, to get help. Pre-plan who the four should be so you continue to have "two-deep" leadership with the team and with the group staying with the injured/ill person.

## Supervision

The Infirmary does have inpatient beds, but most participants are treated as outpatients. As such, they will be housed in "Infirmary Tent City". While there, Philmont provides the adult supervision and "two-deep leadership" required by BSA Youth Protection policies.

Because supervision is provided and space is limited, it is requested that parent(s) not come off the trail with an injured or ill youth (and youth not come off the trail with an injured or ill adult). Coming off the trail may result in the crew falling below minimum size, no longer having adequate adult leadership, and other problems that may have consequences for the remaining crewmembers. If the injury/illness is significant, it is recommended that the parent/youth come off the trail, but this should not occur for routine matters. See page 4 for guidelines regarding parents accompanying an injured/ill child.

## Wilderness First Aid & CPR Training

**Philmont requires that each crew have two participants who have completed Wilderness First Aid and two participants that have completed CPR training or hold a medical license.**

Current certification cards must be uploaded to the Gateway and presented upon check-in to verify this requirement. With two Wilderness First Aid and two CPR trained members on the trek, the crew will be better equipped to handle emergencies. This requirement can be met by youth and/or adult participants. Different crewmembers may hold the certifications – the same person does not have to be certified in Wilderness First Aid and certified in CPR. The required certifications may be held by two to four crewmembers.



# 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

## Wilderness First Aid

The approved courses listed below are a minimum of 16 hours and be taught at least partially in person. These certifications usually last for two years and the classes fill up quickly so get this training done early in your preparations. Wilderness First Aid training can be obtained from the following organizations recognized by the American Camping Association:

- American Red Cross – [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)
- American Safety and Health Institute (ASHI) – [www.ashinstitute.org](http://www.ashinstitute.org)
- Emergency Care and Safety Institute – [www.ECSInstitute.org](http://www.ECSInstitute.org) – Wilderness First Aid Advanced Level Course
- National Safety Council – [www.nsc.org](http://www.nsc.org) – NCS Advanced First Aid
- National Ski Patrol – [www.nsp.org](http://www.nsp.org) – Outdoor Emergency Care
- Remote Medical International – [www.remotemedical.com](http://www.remotemedical.com)
- Sierra Rescue – [www.sierrarescue.com](http://www.sierrarescue.com)
- SOLO – [www.soloschools.com](http://www.soloschools.com)
- The Mountaineers – [www.mountaineers.org](http://www.mountaineers.org) – Mountaineering Oriented First Aid
- Wilderness Medical Associates (WMA) – [www.wildmed.com](http://www.wildmed.com)
- Wilderness Medicine Institute (WMI) – [www.nols.com/wmi/](http://www.nols.com/wmi/)
- Wilderness Medicine Outfitters – [www.wildernessmedicine.com](http://www.wildernessmedicine.com) – Distance Learning Course does NOT qualify)
- Wilderness Medicine Training Center – [www.wildmedcenter.com](http://www.wildmedcenter.com)
- Wilderness Safety Council – [www.wfa.net](http://www.wfa.net)
- Wilderness Safety & Emergency Response (W.I.S.E.R.) – [www.wiser-wfr.com](http://www.wiser-wfr.com)

The Boy Scouts of America, the American Red Cross and the Emergency Care and Safety Institute (ECSI) have national agreements with the primary goal to help councils become self-sufficient in teaching First Aid courses. Check with your local Council Service center for help in locating a course in your area.

Philmont will accept the following advanced levels of training in lieu of Wilderness First Aid and/or CPR. A copy of the current license or certification must be shared with Philmont during the registration process. Remember to bring cards or certifications for verification.

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| • Wilderness First Responder                               | • Registered Nurse               |
| • Outdoor Emergency Care/Ski Patrol                        | • Licensed Nurse Practitioner    |
| • EMT-Basic, EMT-Advanced, or Paramedic                    | • Licensed Physician's Assistant |
| • Military Corpsman, Medic, or equivalent medical training | • Licensed Physician, MD, or DO  |

## CPR Training

Philmont also requires that each crew have two participants who have completed CPR training. There is no list of approved CPR courses, but it is highly recommended that the CPR certification include training in Adult and Child CPR, Choking, and use of an Automated External Defibrillator. Current CPR cards should be uploaded in the Camping Gateway prior to arrival at Philmont.

## BSA Annual Health & Medical Record

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 Records part A, B, and C must all be completed, and Part C must be signed by a MD, DO, PA, or NP.

The completed Health and Medical form should be reviewed by the crew's Lead Advisor to ensure they are aware of any medical issues that may arise on the trek and to make sure that it is filled out completely. The completed forms must be uploaded into the crew roster on the Camping Gateway in advance of your crew's arrival at Philmont. Information to upload the completed crew forms will be emailed to the lead advisor at the same time as itinerary selection information. Bring a hardcopy of the form to Philmont with you in case there is a problem with the uploaded electronic version.

For more information about completing the BSA annual Health and medical record please visit:

[www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/ahmr/medical-formfaqs/](http://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/ahmr/medical-formfaqs/)

**NOTE:** An individual should always contact the family physician first and **call Philmont at (575) 376-2281 if there is a question about the advisability of participation.** Philmont's Chief Medical Officer and other medical staff of the Philmont Infirmary reserve the right to make medical decisions regarding participation of individuals at Philmont.

## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

The Philmont High Adventure Risk Advisory should be read by each participant and their parent or guardian. It should also be shared with the medical provider completing the medical evaluation. The Philmont High Adventure Risk Advisory contains helpful information and interpretation.

### Religious Beliefs & Medical Care

The following is the policy of the Boy Scouts of America regarding medical requirements:

*Medical examinations for camp attendance are required of all campers for the protection of the entire camp group. The immunization requirement is waived for persons with religious beliefs against immunization. This form can be obtained at [www.philmontscoutranch.org/philmonttreks/healthform/](http://www.philmontscoutranch.org/philmonttreks/healthform/).*

### Immunizations

The BSA changed its policies on Immunizations effective 6/1/2022. Philmont is required to follow these recommendations. Check for the latest policies at [www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss05/#c](http://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss05/#c)

The BSA encourages all members of the Scouting community to utilize available vaccines that can provide protection in preventing infectious diseases.

Based on the recommendations of the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), it is the national policy of the BSA that all participants attending events, activities, programs, or camps requiring an Annual Health and Medical Record (AHMR) must be up to date on all the immunizations listed as required below:

**REQUIRED** for everyone:

- Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (DTaP or Tdap)
- Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) (if born in 1957 or later)
- Varicella (VAR) (chicken pox) (if born in 1980 or later)
- Polio (IPV)

Although not required, the following immunizations are **strongly recommended** by both the BSA and the CDC. Please review your age-appropriate immunization status with your personal health care provider:

- COVID-19
- Hepatitis A (HepA)
- Hepatitis B (HepB)
- Pneumonia (Pneumococcus): PVC13 or PPSV23
- Influenza (annually)
- Haemophilus Influenza Type B (HIB)
- Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)
- Meningococcus Conjugate (MenACWY)
- Meningococcus Type B (MenB)
- Shingles — Zoster recombinant (RZV)

As new vaccines become available these requirements and recommendations may be modified.

Exemptions to this immunization policy will be accepted for medical reasons as determined for everyone (e.g., those with congenital conditions, compromised immune systems, or taking certain medications). Scouts and Scouters who have been exempted from required vaccinations **MUST** have this documented by their personal health care provider.

### Height & Weight Restrictions

Philmont Scout Ranch has established weight limit guidelines. These measurements are used because overweight individuals are at a greater risk for heart disease, high blood pressure, stroke, altitude sickness, sleep problems and injury. Each participant's weight must be less than the maximum acceptable limit in the weight chart.

Participants 21 years and older who exceed the maximum acceptable weight limit for their height at the Philmont medical recheck **WILL NOT** be permitted to backpack or hike at Philmont. **They will be sent home.**

For participants under 21 years old who exceed the maximum acceptable weight for height, the Philmont staff will use their judgement to determine if the youth can participate. Philmont will consider up to 20 pounds over the maximum acceptable weight limit; however, exceptions are not made automatically and **discussion with the Philmont Infirmary in advance is required for any exception**. Due to rescue equipment restriction and evacuation efforts from remote sites, under NO circumstances will any individual weighing more than 295 pounds be permitted to participate in backcountry programs.

Participants planning to participate in the Cavalcade program or horse rides must not exceed 200 pounds.

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.

## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

### Height/Weight Chart

Height (inches)	Maximum Weight (lbs.)	Height (inches)	Maximum Weight (lbs.)	Height (inches)	Maximum Weight (lbs.)	Height (inches)	Maximum Weight (lbs.)
60	166	65	195	70	226	75	260
61	172	66	201	71	233	76	267
62	178	67	207	72	239	77	274
63	183	68	214	73	246	78	281
64	189	69	220	74	252	79+	295

### 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.

### Emergency Transportation

Philmont can assist with transportation arrangements to nearby travel hubs when a family emergency (death or serious illness) occurs during an expedition requiring a participant to return home, or if a participant must return home for personal medical reasons. Be aware that, because Philmont is in a remote location, transportation may not be available on short notice and there could be a delay before a participant is able to depart. Participants will be required to reimburse Philmont for any transportation services provided, including transportation to a required airport.

Participants who must return home before the end of their expedition are responsible for all transportation costs to the transportation provider. Travel costs to nearby travel hubs need to be paid directly to Philmont. Philmont will coordinate rides to: Raton train station/Greyhound bus station, Albuquerque airport, Colorado Springs airport, and Denver International Airport at a cost. Reimbursement of approved travel costs and ticket change costs may be covered by camper insurance.

### Medical Conditions

#### COVID-19

Philmont is required to follow protocols set forth by the BSA, the CDC, the State of New Mexico, and others. Typically, these are not optional, and they change frequently. In 2022, the protocols in place at Philmont resulted in very few campers turned away or sent home due to COVID-19.

Because the COVID-19 situation and recommendations regarding it have been evolving rapidly over the past few years, Advisors should refer to Philmont's current position regarding COVID-19 at [www.philmontscout ranch.org/covid-19-mitigation/](http://www.philmontscout ranch.org/covid-19-mitigation/). Check this page often but be sure to check it a week or two before your departure for Philmont to ensure your crew complies with the then current protocols when they arrive at Philmont.

#### Allergies & Anaphylaxis

People who have had an anaphylactic reaction from any cause must contact the Philmont Infirmary before arrival. If you are allowed to participate, you will be required to have appropriate treatment with you. You and at least one other member of your crew must know how to administer the treatment. If you do not bring appropriate treatment with you, you will be required to buy it before you will be allowed to participate.

#### Asthma

Asthma must be well-controlled before participating at Philmont. Well-controlled asthma may include the use of long-acting bronchodilators, inhaled steroids, or oral medications such as Singular.

In this instance, "well-controlled" means:

- A rescue inhaler is used less than two times per week.
- Nighttime awakenings due to asthma symptoms occur less than two times per month.

You will NOT be allowed to participate if:

- You have asthma NOT controlled by medication.
- You have been hospitalized or gone to the Emergency Room to treat asthma in the past six months.

## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

- You have needed treatment by oral steroids (prednisone) in the past six months.

You must bring ample supply of your medication and a spare rescue inhaler, none of which are expired. At least one other member of the crew should know how to use the rescue inhaler. Any person who has needed treatment for asthma in the past three years must carry a rescue inhaler on the trek. If you do not bring a rescue inhaler, you must buy one before you will be allowed to participate.

### Chronic Medical Conditions

Participants with most chronic medical conditions can participate successfully at Philmont if those conditions are well managed, and the participant has a plan for management prior to the trek. The best way to learn how to manage a chronic medical condition at Philmont is through progressive shake down hikes before coming to Philmont.

### Diabetes

Both the person with diabetes and one other person in the group need to be able to recognize signs of excessively high or low blood sugar. An insulin-dependent person who was diagnosed or who has had a change in delivery system (insulin pump) in the last six months is advised not to participate. A person with diabetes who has had frequent hospitalizations or who has had problems with low blood sugar should not participate until better control of the diabetes has been achieved. If an individual has been hospitalized for diabetes-related illnesses within the past year, the individual must obtain permission to participate by contacting the Philmont Infirmary at (575) 376-2281.

If the diabetic person uses an insulin pump and/or continuous glucose monitor, they must ensure they have adequate supplies and power for these devices for the duration of their trek. There will be no opportunities to recharge devices in Philmont's backcountry. If their device(s) communicate with a smartphone, the app used should be duplicated on one or more other crewmembers' smartphones to provide backup.

Insulin needed during the trek should be kept cool in an insulin cooling case similar to the [FRÍO insulin cooler](#) in a zip-lock bag in the diabetic person's backpack.

### Hypertension

Upon arrival at Philmont, all adult participants (21-year-old and older) will have a blood pressure check as part of the medical recheck process. Participants with a history of hypertension should be well controlled and must have a blood pressure below 160/95 at medical recheck before being allowed on the trail.

### Mental Health

A Philmont adventure can be a stressful and isolating experience for some participants and can be difficult for participants with a history of mental health illness. Participant should not stop taking any medication prior to coming to Philmont and should talk with their physician about how these medications may affect them while on the trail. Participants with a history of mental health illnesses should participate in multiple shakedown hikes with their crew prior to coming to Philmont to evaluate themselves and how they are feeling during the hikes.

Cell phone service and power are very limited in most of the Philmont backcountry. If a participant relies on a phone call, text, or games as a coping mechanism during stress those may not be available at Philmont. Learning new coping mechanisms and time away from electronics before a Philmont adventure will help participants be more successful.

### Recent Musculoskeletal Injuries & Orthopedic Surgery

Participants will put a great deal of strain on their joints. Individuals who have significant musculoskeletal problems (including back problems) or orthopedic surgery/injuries within the last six months must have a letter of clearance from their treating physician to be considered for approval. Philmont should be contacted in advance of participation. Permission is not guaranteed. Ingrown toenails are a common problem and must be treated 30 days prior to arrival.

### Seizures (Epilepsy)

The seizure condition must be well-controlled by medication. A well-controlled condition is one in which a year has passed without a seizure. Exceptions to this guideline may be considered on an individual basis and will be based on the specific type of seizure and likely risks to the individual and/or other members of the crew.

## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

### Food Allergies & Dietary Restrictions

Philmont trail food is a high-carbohydrate and high-caloric diet by necessity. It contains wheat, milk products, sugar and corn syrup, and artificial coloring/flavoring. **If an individual in your crew is allergic to any of the food products in our menu or requires a special diet, suitable replacement food must be purchased at home and brought to Philmont to replace those items. Food substitutions may be made ONLY for medical (including allergies), religious, or vegetarian/vegan reasons.** All food shipped to the backcountry is subject to inspection to ensure that food is being substituted for these reasons. *There is no fee reduction for individuals who bring their own food.*

If you think you may need replacement food, refer to [www.philmontscoutranch.org/philmonttreks/dining/](http://www.philmontscoutranch.org/philmonttreks/dining/) for the menu and ingredients list. The list for the summer menu will be available online in early May each year. Review the list and determine which items in each meal would cause a problem and replace with substitute food items. Keep in mind that Philmont participants need approximately 3,000 calories per day.

All meals are numbered 1 to 10. These meals are consumed on the last digit of the date that corresponds with the meal number. For example, on July 4, the crew will eat Breakfast 4, Lunch 4, and Dinner 4. The menu number is shown on the Crew Leader's Copy form (note that it shifts by one on August 1 so the crew does not eat the same menu number on consecutive days). Package the substitutes for each meal together in a plastic bag and label them each with your expedition number, the person's name, and the meal that the substitute food bag is needed for (ex: Lunch 5). Do this for all items that need to be substituted in all meals. The key is to be sure all bags are clearly labeled.

On the day of your arrival at Philmont, your crew's Ranger/Horseman/Wrangler, the Crew Leader, an Advisor, and the individual(s) needing the substitute food should bring their food and the crew's Crew Leader Copy to Logistics. The Logistics staff will then group the meals by backcountry commissary and arrange for them to be delivered. At the time of your backcountry food pickup, both the standard-issue meal bags and the substitute food bags will be available at the commissary. Everyone is issued the standard meal bags and it will be the responsibility of the person(s) with food substitutes to remove the items they cannot eat.

Appropriate substitutions can be arranged for food served in the dining hall by indicating the type of food restriction(s) on the Camping Gateway and speaking with the Dining Hall Manager at mealtime.

### Kosher/Halal Trail Menu

Philmont supports a Kosher/Halal trail menu. To assist crews in identifying which items are Kosher, the menu has an identification mark by each item that qualifies.

Crews or individuals that require a Kosher/Halal trail menu may bring substitutes for items that are not Kosher/Halal for each meal. These items must be labeled as outlined in the link above.

Philmont provides *My Own Meal* products which are Glatt Kosher/Halal **for dinner entrées only**. These meals must be picked up in Outfitting Services and processed in Logistics at the same time as the substitutes brought from home.

*My Own Meals* need only to be immersed in boiling water for five minutes to be ready. Philmont has Kosher vessels (brand new and not used) available. We recommend that Jewish and Muslim Scouts either bring their own trail stove or purchase one at Philmont so that they do not have to wait for a crew stove to boil their water and as a result, not eat at the same time as their crew members. Philmont Scout Ranch will do its best to provide specific information to help in planning meals for Jewish and Muslim Scouts.

### Additional Information

You may direct specific questions or concerns to the Philmont Jewish Chaplain or the Philmont Scout Ranch Director of Camping by emailing [camping@philmontscoutranch.org](mailto:camping@philmontscoutranch.org).

### 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.

Philmont staff members are trained in first aid, CPR, and accident prevention. They can assist the adult Advisors in recognizing, reacting to and responding to accidents, injuries, and illnesses. Response times can be affected by location, terrain, weather, or other emergencies and could be delayed for hours or even days in a wilderness setting.

All Philmont participants should understand potential health risks inherent at or above 6,700 feet in elevation in a dry Southwest environment. These include high elevation; a physically demanding high-adventure program in remote



## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

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 and heat exhaustion. Native wild animals such as bears, rattlesnakes, and mountain lions usually present little to no danger if proper precautions are taken.

### Risk & Physical Preparedness

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.

Your Philmont trek should not be the first experience with hiking and backpacking for a crew. Physical training and shakedown hikes in the year leading up to your trek will give you the greatest chance of success. These shakedown hikes not only help you to build physical fitness but also allow participants to evaluate their gear and clothing to see how it will function at Philmont, as well as make plans for dealing with any medical emergencies or conditions that may arise at Philmont.

### Insurance

The Philmont camper fee includes insurance coverage for health, accidents, and sickness en route to and from home and while hiking the trails of Philmont. This policy is an Excess Insurance Plan, meaning that the plan will pay all those eligible expenses incurred from a covered accident or sickness not paid by any other collectible insurance or pre-paid health plan in force for you or a dependent child/children. If no other collectible insurance or pre-paid health plans are in effect at the time of the loss, this plan will pay all eligible covered expenses up to the plan limits. There is no deductible under this plan. Specific information about the camper's insurance plan will be included in the Advisor's Packet.

**Name and policy number of the family policy must be noted on each medical form AND a copy of the insurance card (front and back) must be attached. If no insurance is in force, state NONE on the form.**

## Travel & Transportation

### Arrival & Departure

Many months of planning lead up to a crew's arrival at Philmont. **Arrange your travel itinerary to arrive at Philmont between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. on your SCHEDULED arrival day.** It is preferable that you arrive the day before your scheduled arrival versus arriving later on your scheduled arrival day.

Plan your **departure** from Philmont after breakfast on the morning following your trek (Day 13 for 12-Day Treks, Day 10 for 9-Day Treks, and Day 8 for 7-Day Treks). For crews needing to depart early on this day, arrangements may be made in Registration during check-in for a "Continental" breakfast at 5:45 am.

### Philmont "Days"

**Day 1** is your "**arrival date**". It corresponds to the month/date of the first 3 digits of your expedition number. For example, an expedition number of "704-???" should arrive at Philmont July 4 ("7" / "04"). Crews should plan to arrive at Philmont by mid-morning on this day. Crews traveling by train to Philmont should refer to page 31.

**NOTE:** it takes approximately 24 hours from the time a crew arrives at Philmont to check-in before they are ready to head out on their trek. Crews arriving mid-morning on Day 1 (or early arrival on Day 0) can expect to depart base camp for their trek mid-morning on Day 2. See page **Error! Bookmark not defined.** for detailed information on the Day 1 check-in process and stops.

Day 2 is a day when any check-in procedures not completed on Day 1 are done and the crew will depart base camp for their trek. The actual departure time will be dependent on the time the crew arrives on Day 1.

# 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

## Meals Provided by Philmont

"Day"	Activity	7-Day Trek			9-Day Trek			12-Day Trek			Cavalcade			Sample Date for 704-?? Expedition
		B	L	D	B	L	D	B	L	D	B	L	D	
0	Travel/Early arrival for west coast train crews													7/3
1	"Arrival Day" – Begin check-in process		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	7/4
2	Depart Camping HQ for Treks	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7/5
3		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7/6
4		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7/7
5		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7/8
6		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7/9
9	7-Day Treks return to Camping HQ	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7/10
8	7-Day Treks Depart for home Cavalcades return to Camping HQ	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7/11
9	9-Day Treks return to Camping HQ Cavalcades Depart for home				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			7/12
10	9-Day Treks Depart for home				✓			✓	✓	✓				7/13
11								✓	✓	✓				7/14
12	12-Day Treks return to Camping HQ							✓	✓	✓				7/15
13	12-Day Treks Depart for home							✓						7/16
		21 Meals			27 Meals			36 Meals			23 Meals			

✓ Camping Dining Hall  
✓ Trail or Dining Hall meal

Please refer to your invoice for your specific arrival and departure dates. The Philmont fee for a 12-Day trek covers 36 meals and 12 nights lodging, staff, and program supplies. Prorating for missed meals is not available.

Your expedition begins with lunch on your arrival day (Day 1). For 12-Day treks, you will come off the trail on Day 12 and depart Philmont after breakfast on Day 13. 7-Day Treks will come off the trail on Day 7 and depart on Day 8. 9-Day Treks will come off the trail on Day 9 and depart on Day 10. Cavalcades will come off the trail on Day 8 and depart on Day 9.

If a crew finds that their travel arrangements require arriving or departing at times other than on scheduled days, Philmont recommends that groups utilize other alternatives. **If it is necessary to arrive early or depart late, please enter the information in the Philmont Camping Gateway. All layovers are limited to one night before arrival OR one night after trek completion.**

To reduce the impact on other crews and program activities, early arrival crews must arrive prior to 7:00 p.m. This might require making overnight arrangements at other locations and arriving at Philmont in the morning on the regularly scheduled arrival day.

Scheduled expeditions will have priority, when it comes to Base Camp accommodations, over groups arriving early or departing late. All early arrivals/late departures will be assigned trail tents for lodging unless space is available in regular 7' x 9' wall tents on platforms with cots. The charge for additional meals is \$ per person/per meal and extra lodging is \$ per person/per night.

If a crew is delayed in-route due to some unexpected situation, please notify Philmont by calling (575) 376-2281 and ask for the Logistics Manager.

Your arrival time will determine your first meal at Philmont. Meals are served at the following times:

<b><u>TRAILBOUND CREWS</u></b>	<b><u>HOMEBOUND CREWS</u></b>
Breakfast – 6:30 a.m.	Breakfast – 5:45 a.m. (Continental) 7:00 a.m. (Regular)
Lunch – 11:30 a.m.	Lunch – 12:15 p.m.
Dinner – 4:45 p.m.	Dinner – 5:45 p.m.

A continental breakfast option is available at 5:45 a.m. for groups departing Philmont very early. This must be arranged at the Registration Office upon arrival at Philmont.

As a courtesy to all groups in Base Camp (homebound and trailbound), please DO NOT plan to depart Philmont prior to 5:45 a.m. Early morning departures impact everyone's ability to obtain adequate rest. Planning an extra travel day could allow a crew to leave Philmont at a reasonable time, visit local attractions, and position themselves closer to airports for early plane departures one day later.



## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

### Transportation Services

**Philmont does not endorse any agency or vendor listed in this publication** but provides this information to assist groups in making travel and lodging arrangements.

- Airlines to Denver (270 miles from Philmont), Colorado Springs (190 miles from Philmont), Pueblo (159 miles from Philmont), Albuquerque (220 miles from Philmont) and Amarillo (220 miles from Philmont) – obtain chartered bus directly to Philmont.
- Charter bus service arranged at home direct to Philmont.
- Amtrak Train to Raton, NM; Philmont bus to and from Philmont – (800-872-7245 or [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com)).
- Amtrak Train to Denver, CO; obtain charter bus directly to Philmont.

Inquire with airline reservation personnel about the possibility of supplemental chartered airline services offering packaged plans with reduced group rates. Review baggage fees and other airline related costs to include in the budget.

### Travel companies serving Philmont

- **Blue Sky Adventures** (877-225-8375 or [www.blueskyadventures.net](http://www.blueskyadventures.net)) charter service from Albuquerque, Denver, or Colorado Springs.
- **Cornerstone Bus Leasing & Rental** (844-496-8287 or [www.cornerstonebusleasing.com/philmont-shuttle-rental-discount](http://www.cornerstonebusleasing.com/philmont-shuttle-rental-discount)) Rental/Leasing of Mini-Bus Chassis from Denver or Colorado Springs.
- **Go Shuttle, LLC** (888-722-1483/720- 276-9976) van shuttle service from Denver and Colorado Springs.
- **Greyhound Charter Services** (800-454-2487 or [www.greyhound.com](http://www.greyhound.com) or [charters@greyhound.com](mailto:charters@greyhound.com))
- **Gray Line** of Colorado Springs (719-633-1181 or [coloradosprings@grayline.com](mailto:coloradosprings@grayline.com)) provides transfer services to/from Philmont for groups or individuals from Colorado Springs Airport.
- **Gray Line** of Denver (303-289-2841 or [denver@grayline.com](mailto:denver@grayline.com)) provides daily transfer services to/from Philmont for groups or individuals from Denver International Airport and Denver Amtrak.
- **Herrera Coaches, Inc** (505-242-1108, fax: 505-242-1125 or [www.herreracoach.com](http://www.herreracoach.com))
- **Leading the Way Tours, Inc** (866-696-5073 or [christine@leadingthewaytours.com](mailto:christine@leadingthewaytours.com)) charter services from Colorado Springs, Denver, or Albuquerque.
- **Pacesetter** (303-289-5637) provides service from Denver (airport or Amtrak) and Colorado Springs.
- **Premier Charters, Inc** (303-289-2222 or [ryan@ridepremier.com](mailto:ryan@ridepremier.com)) provides service from Denver and Colorado Springs.
- **Ramblin' Express** (800-772-6254 or 719-590-8687 or [service@ramblin.com](mailto:service@ramblin.com)) service in the Rocky Mountain region.

### Private Vehicles

This method of transportation should be used only with full assurance that vehicles are safe, and drivers are reliable. Make sure there is adequate insurance coverage for each vehicle. Review the *Guide to Safe Scouting* for information about automobile liability insurance requirements, motor vehicle and driver checklist, and using automobiles, SUVs, and vans.

**Philmont is NOT responsible for vehicles parked in the camper parking areas.**

### Philmont Bus Service

Philmont provides round-trip bus transportation to and from the bus and train stations in Raton, NM at a cost of \$50.00 per person (subject to change) and to Cimarron, NM at a cost of \$15.00 per person. Buses are scheduled upon entering your Arrival Plans through the Camping Gateway. Because of commercial schedules, it may be necessary for you to eat in Raton prior to arriving at Philmont. If you arrive in Raton after 10:30 a.m. or 5:00 p.m., plan to eat a meal in town as you will not arrive at Philmont in time for a scheduled meal. The shuttle bus driver will take you to a fast-food location in Raton. This bus fee is payable on the day your crew checks-in at Philmont. Crews arriving by train should take their arrival time at Philmont into consideration.

## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

### Amtrak Transportation

Although Amtrak periodically changes its schedules and trains can be delayed, the (current) Amtrak service to/from Raton (Philmont) is:

Direction	Train #	Arriving From	Arrives Raton	Departing To	Departs Raton
Westbound	3	Chicago, Kansas City	10:25 am	Albuquerque, Los Angeles	10:30 am
Eastbound	4	Albuquerque, Los Angeles	4:38 pm	Chicago, Kansas City	4:42 pm

Crews traveling by train from the west coast (Los Angeles) should schedule their travel for the day before their “arrival date” to be able to complete the check-in process on Day 1. Crews traveling by train from the east coast should arrive at Philmont on their “arrival date”. They may want to travel a day earlier and spend the night in Raton or Cimarron to be able to actually arrive on their arrival date should the train be late.

If you travel by Amtrak and cannot arrive/depart Raton on your arrival/departure day, please consider planning to stay the night outside of Philmont. Space for early arrival/late departure crews is often extremely limited in base camp. Philmont's busses will transport you between the train station and motels in Raton or Cimarron and pick you up at the motel the next morning to continue to Philmont. E-mail [camping@philmontscoutranch.org](mailto:camping@philmontscoutranch.org) to discuss these options.

When the westbound Amtrak train is on time, Philmont's busses will stop so crews can have lunch at fast food restaurants in Raton. They will not arrive at Philmont until mid-afternoon. This may delay the crews departure to the backcountry until late on Day 1.

### Lodging In & Around Cimarron, NM

A list of all locations that offer overnight accommodations for groups traveling to Philmont is available at [www.philmontscoutranch.org/philmonttreks/travelingtophilmont/staynear/](http://www.philmontscoutranch.org/philmonttreks/travelingtophilmont/staynear/). Contact locations directly to make a reservation or seek specific information.

Agency & Address	Location	Distance from Philmont	Phone Number
<b>Cimarron Canyon State Park</b> P.O. Box 185 Eagle Nest, NM 87718 <a href="http://www.nmparks.com">www.nmparks.com</a>	Ute Park, NM	20 miles	575-377-6271
<b>NRA Whittington Center</b> P.O. Box 700 Raton, NM 87740 <a href="mailto:info@nrawc.org">info@nrawc.org</a> <a href="http://www.nrawc.org">www.nrawc.org</a>	10 miles SW of Raton on Highway 64	40 miles	575-445-3615
<b>Ponil Campground</b> 31006 U.S. Highway 64 Cimarron, NM 87714 <a href="http://www.Ponilcampgrounds.com">www.Ponilcampgrounds.com</a>	Cimarron, NM	6 miles	575-376-2343
<b>Hikers Cimarron Inn &amp; RV Park</b> 212 E 10 <sup>th</sup> Street Cimarron, NM 87714 <a href="http://www.HikersCimarronInn.com">www.HikersCimarronInn.com</a>	Cimarron, NM	5 miles	575-376-2268
<b>St. James Hotel</b> 617 Collison Ave Cimarron, NM 87714 <a href="http://www.exstjames.com">www.exstjames.com</a>	Cimarron, NM	4 miles	575-376-2664
<b>Sugarite Canyon State Park</b> HCR 63, Box 386 Raton, NM 87740 <a href="http://www.nmparks.com">www.nmparks.com</a>	Raton, NM	55 miles	575-445-5607

## Other Information

### Uniforms

Philmont strongly recommends groups wear the BSA field uniform ("Class-A") while in Base Camp, especially at chapel services, dinner, and Opening and Closing campfires. The uniform is also appropriate for traveling to and from Philmont. It is NOT required on the trail and may be left in personal vehicles or crew lockers for crews using public transportation.

The Tooth of Time Traders can produce custom t-shirts for your crew. Information can be found online at [store.philmontscoutranch.org/custom-crew-gear/](https://store.philmontscoutranch.org/custom-crew-gear/). They also carry a wide variety of Scouting t-shirts and other clothing. The use of Philmont logos is permitted provided they are manufactured by a BSA licensed vendor.

### Trading Post – Tooth of Time Traders

The Tooth of Time Traders carries gear that will cover all your crew gear and personal equipment needs, as well as Philmont souvenirs. To sign up for email updates and mailings, go to [www.toothoftimetraders.com](http://www.toothoftimetraders.com) and register your account today. If you want further information or have any questions, you can email [toothoftimetraders@scouting.org](mailto:toothoftimetraders@scouting.org).

Start shopping at [www.toothoftimetraders.com](http://www.toothoftimetraders.com)!

### Pack Rental

Philmont maintains several different brands of internal and external frame backpacks for rent. This can be helpful for participants who find that their pack is not the correct size, is not durable enough for Philmont's trails, or are not able to purchase a backpack for the trek. Philmont rents packs, with a pack cover, for \$ for the duration of the trek.

### Fishing Licenses

All participants 18 years old or older planning to fish are required to purchase a fishing license from New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, either online or at the Tooth of Time Traders. Fishing licenses for participants 18 years old and older are NOT available for purchase in the backcountry.

Fees for non-resident fishing licenses are as follows:

License (2022-2023 NM Game & Fish pricing)	License Charge	Habitat Stamp <sup>1</sup>	Habitat Management & Access Validation (HMAV) <sup>2</sup>	Vendor Charge	Total Charge
1 Day	\$12.00	\$10.00	\$4.00	\$1.00	\$27.00 or \$17.00
5 Day	\$24.00	\$10.00	\$4.00	\$1.00	\$39.00 or \$29.00
Philmont youth (under 18) license <sup>3</sup>	\$ 1.50	n/a	n/a	\$0.50	\$2.00
Annual	\$56.00	\$10.00	\$4.00	\$1.00	\$71.00 or \$61.00

<sup>1</sup> If planning to fish on U.S. Forest Service Valle Vidal land, anglers must purchase a **Habitat Stamp** (\$10.00).

<sup>2</sup> All anglers 18 years old or older are required to purchase the **HMAV** (\$4.00).

<sup>3</sup> Sold at Tooth of Time Traders, Abreu, Fish Camp, Phillips Junction, and Hunting Lodge. These licenses are good for the trek duration and only valid for fishing at Philmont.

***The Habitat Stamp and/or HMAV stamp is only purchased once each license year.***

If you are purchasing a one-day, five-day, or Philmont Youth license, we recommend that you do so at the Tooth of Time Traders after you arrive at Philmont. This is so we may help you align the actual fishing days with your itinerary and insure you have the required validations (Habitat Stamp or HMAV) before purchasing a non-refundable license. It also saves time in the backcountry. There is a special online kiosk at the Tooth of Time Traders available to help participants obtain their licenses.

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish requires each applicant to create an online account with a username and password before they can purchase a license. The system will assign the applicant a unique Customer Identification Number (CIN). You can speed up the process of purchasing your license at Philmont by obtaining this information before you leave home — be sure to bring your CIN and adults must bring their Social Security number to Philmont with them! Each person in the crew planning to purchase a license should obtain their own Customer Identification Number.

[www.wildlife.state.nm.us/fishing/licenses-permits/](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/fishing/licenses-permits/)

### Crew Lockers & Security

Philmont provides crew lockers with locks as well as safekeeping storage services for crews. Crew lockers (2' x 2' x 3') are available for items not needed on the trail. **These lockers are limited and groups traveling by private vehicle will be asked to store items in their vehicles. Crews using lockers will be limited to two lockers based on availability.**

Safekeeping storage is available for valuables such as tickets, cash, credit cards, car keys, etc. Items are sealed in envelopes and placed in a safe located at Camping Headquarters. Never leave valuables in tents or unattended. Philmont is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

### Drones

Philmont does NOT allow participants or seasonal staff to use drones for any purpose.

### Shipping Procedures

There are many different items that you may need to ship to Philmont, some of which may have specific shipping requirements. Fuel and stoves are some of the most common items shipped to Philmont, but the information below applies to any item that needs to be shipped to the Ranch.

Philmont requires crews to use backpacking stoves. Visit [www.toothoftimetraders.com](http://www.toothoftimetraders.com) for information on fuel for your Philmont Expedition. White gas and isobutane/propane fuel type canisters are available at Camping Headquarters and Trading Posts/Commissaries along your itinerary in the backcountry. All liquid fuel containers should be spun aluminum or hard plastic bottles designed to carry fuel.

If you are traveling by commercial transportation, you will need to ship your stoves and fuel bottles by United States Postal Service (USPS), United Parcel Service (UPS), or FedEx. Your package must be sent using ground service only.

If you plan to ship your stoves and fuel bottles, please follow the steps below:

1. Purge stoves with attached tanks until they sputter and go out.
2. Wash fuel bottles with hot, soapy water and air dry for at least 24 hours.
3. Box stoves and fuel bottles. Do NOT ship matches, lighters, compressed fuel canisters or other hazardous materials.
4. Use the following address to ensure that you receive your stove and fuel bottles:

**Advisor's Name, Expedition Number**  
**47 Caballo Road**  
**Cimarron, NM 87714**

5. This address can also be used for participant mail and packages which will be delivered to the Philmont Mail Room in Base Camp. Be sure to include the Expedition Number! Please ship your packages at least two weeks prior to your arrival to allow ample time for delivery.
6. If you are using UPS or FedEx, we strongly recommend that you obtain a prepaid return shipping label. Without a prepaid return shipping label, Philmont Mail Room staff will assist you in shipping your items home with either USPS or UPS.
7. At the conclusion of your expedition, the Philmont Mail Room staff will coordinate the shipping of your items home. Similar steps in preparing your stoves and fuel bottles are required. Stoves with attached tanks must be purged and fuel bottles must be washed with hot, soapy water. The Mail Room will allow the items to dry before the boxes are sealed and shipped. This part of the process will usually take place after your crew has departed. Return instruction sheets are provided when you arrive at Philmont.

Philmont works closely with the local US Post Office and UPS. These procedures must be followed closely to comply with all regulations to ensure that your stoves and fuel bottles are shipped properly.

### Smartphones

In an age of technology, smartphones are a common tool used in everyday life. While backpacking in the wilderness of Philmont is an experience best enjoyed without the distractions of technology, Philmont recognizes that their use is more common than ever. Photographs and videos can be taken on these phones, and solar chargers are widely available, as well as several useful outdoor apps. Cell phone service is very limited in Philmont's backcountry – it is generally available in the base camp area.

If it is imperative that a smart phone be taken on the trail, please ensure that it is being utilized in a way that enhances the Philmont experience and does not detract from the adventure for your crew or that of other crews on the trail. Download apps that will help the learning experience. Find a good stars/constellation app, an animal tracks/scat/calls app, or compare bird calls you hear on the trail with a bird call app. Reserve texting and phone calls for emergency use only. Also, keep in mind that there are **NO OPPORTUNITIES** on the trail or in any backcountry camp to ever recharge a smart phone, camera, or other electronic device.

### Patrol Method

Your Philmont trek will provide you an opportunity to practice the many skills that you have learned while participating in your Boy Scout Troop, Venture Crew, or Explorer Post. This experience brings in focus the importance of the Patrol Method. Each crew is a small group of participants much like a patrol. The crew members are close in age and experience level and working together helps each other develop a sense of pride and identity. The participants elect their Crew Leader, divide up the jobs to be done, and share in the satisfaction of accepting and fulfilling group responsibilities.

Three members of the crew will have a leadership responsibility that lasts throughout the trek: Crew Leader, Chaplain Aide and Wilderness Pledge Guia. In addition, all members of the crew will serve in some leadership role each day, either as the primary or the assistant. Examples of rotated leadership responsibilities for the crew include: navigator, cook, dishwasher, bear bags manager, water gatherer, and fire watchman (when fires are permitted).

The camping methods practiced at Philmont Scout Ranch support the Patrol Method concept. Two examples of this include cooking and washing dishes as one group. Members of the crew will rotate through the trek and fulfill these important responsibilities. This allows crew members to practice servant leadership as they take on a task that will support the entire crew.

Some of the current wilderness camping methods focus on the individual. In support of the Boy Scouts of America, Philmont will focus on the crew and the accomplishments that they can achieve by working together as a team, the Patrol Method.

The Ranger assigned to the crew will help the entire crew achieve the most from their Philmont Adventure!

### Hiking and Camping Skills

Time and effort spent in sharpening your hiking and camping skills will allow you more time to enjoy the natural beauties and program features of Philmont. The best way to practice and develop these skills is to participate in several outings with your crew. Use the Backpacking Merit Badge pamphlet or the *BSA Field Book* to guide your preparation and training. Philmont suggests two shakedown weekends. Step by step guides for shakedown weekends are available at

[www.PhillmontScoutRanch.org/shakedown](http://www.PhillmontScoutRanch.org/shakedown)

### Gathering Your Equipment

Backpacking requires proper equipment just as any outdoor sport. Without suitable equipment you will face unnecessary hardships. Take only what you need. After several overnight camps you should be able to conduct your own shakedown to eliminate items that you don't need. Remember, the key to successful backpacking is to go lightly. Check your equipment against the recommended list. This is the maximum. All backpackers can reduce this list and still be comfortable, clean, and safe. All equipment must be able to hold up to the rigors of a 12-day backpacking adventure. Learn techniques for taking care of your equipment. For more information about gear check out [www.PhillmontScoutRanch.org](http://www.PhillmontScoutRanch.org) and [www.ToothofTimeTraders.com](http://www.ToothofTimeTraders.com). Be sure to check out the video links on both sites for helpful information about equipment.

### Organizing Your Crew

A well-organized crew gets its chores accomplished quickly and has more time to enjoy Philmont. Your crew should be organized before you arrive at Philmont. If your crew is a chartered unit, this should be easy. If your crew is a provisional council group, it is especially important to be organized.

Elect a **Crew Leader** several months prior to coming to Philmont. Your Crew Leader is responsible for organizing the crew, assigning duties, making decisions, and recognizing the capabilities and limitations of each member. He or she leads by example and discusses ideas and alternatives with the entire crew to arrive at a consensus before acting. This responsibility requires someone with leadership ability who is respected by everyone.

Each crew should also select a **Chaplain Aide**, perhaps a member of the crew who has received a religious award in Scouting. The Chaplain Aide is responsible for assisting the crew in meeting their responsibility to the 12<sup>th</sup> point of the Scout Law, as well as working with the Crew Leader and Advisor to ensure good morale and the smooth operation of the crew.

Finally, every crew will select a **Wilderness Pledge Guia** (Guide). This individual will help the crew understand the principles of the Philmont Wilderness Pledge and Leave No Trace. This person will help the crew focus on camping practices that will adhere to the wilderness ethics outlined in the two approaches. With more than 22,000 participants camping each summer at Philmont, it is important that each person do their share to ensure that we protect Philmont and our neighbor's properties for generations to come.

A **Ranger** will be assigned to serve as a teacher and resource for your crew. This person will coach the Crew Leader and the rest of the crew. The Ranger will work with your crew for the first three days at the Ranch. Your Ranger may be either male or female.



## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

Your **Adult Advisor** counsels and advises your Crew Leader and crew. The Adult Advisor assists if discipline is required. With the assistance of your Ranger, your Adult Advisor is responsible for ensuring the safety and well-being of each crew member. The Adult Advisor lets the Crew Leader lead the crew. **Adult Advisors work with all crewmembers, not just their own child!**

The entire crew and especially the Crew Leader and Adult Advisor need to effectively relate to everyone in the crew. Crew congeniality is important to crew harmony. Make it a point to say something positive to each member of your crew at least once a day. Tell each person what he or she did well.

Good communication is crucial to your crew's success. Make sure that everyone participates in determining the objectives for the crew each day. After the evening meal is an ideal time to accomplish this.

Remember, when you are hot and tired, hungry, and irritable, so is your crew. Everyone is expected to control personal behavior, especially when the going is tough. The Crew Leader needs to continually monitor the crew's dynamics.

A daily duty roster will help to organize your crew. Each crew member is assigned a responsibility for each day. Jobs should be rotated so that at least one experienced and one new crew member work together. Every job should be clearly defined. Your crew should have a list of all tasks for each job so that everyone knows what is expected. A form is provided to your Crew Leader upon arrival at Philmont.

Before departing for Philmont, your crew should select one member to serve as its reporter. The reporter should work with their local news media, council, troop, and crew members to share stories and photos on social media and through news outlets. Plan a presentation for your unit back home to share at the next meeting. These methods will also help encourage younger Scouts to continue their advancements or prepare for their own Philmont adventure someday. Helpful examples and a press release template may be found at [www.PhillmontScoutRanch.org/PressRelease](http://www.PhillmontScoutRanch.org/PressRelease).

### Backpacking – Setting the Pace

If you pack properly, backpacking will be much easier. Practice hikes will help. Your pace is the key to good backpacking. It should be slow enough to allow everyone to keep together without bunching up. Single file is the rule. A steady, constant pace is best. When climbing steep grades, your pace should be slower, but still constant. Always keep your crew together. A medical emergency is the only reason to separate your crew.

Rest stops should be short and frequent. Any member of the crew can call for a rest stop at any time. Sixty second rests will let you catch your breath. Learn to rest without removing your pack; if you bend over and loosen your hip strap, you can remove the weight from your shoulders. Deep breathing works best for high altitude backpacking on Philmont.

### Conserving Energy

Use as many energy-saving techniques as possible; nibble snacks and drink plenty of liquids to sustain you throughout the day. On steep ascents, use the "rest step". Place the sole and heel of one foot flat on the ground. Lean forward and momentarily lock your knee. For an instant the bones of your leg and hips will support your weight, allowing the muscles of your thigh and calf to rest. Repeat this sequence with your other foot. Your pace will be slow, but you will save energy and make steady progress up the mountainside.

Use "rhythmic breathing" in conjunction with the rest step. To breathe rhythmically, synchronize your breaths with your steps. On moderate slopes, take one breath per step; on steep slopes, take two or three breaths per step to take in more oxygen.

### Be Prepared for Extremes of Weather

Be prepared for extreme weather variations at Philmont. Afternoon temperatures in low valleys can be hot (100 degrees or more), and night temperatures high in the mountains may drop to freezing.

Philmont can be extremely dry and then a sudden downpour will soak everything. Periods of rain lasting several days may occur. Fortunately, New Mexico's low humidity allows wet clothing and gear to dry quickly after the rain stops. Rain occurs most frequently in the afternoon and may last an hour, all night, or several days. Small hail or sleet often accompanies rain. Mountain weather is fickle – anything can happen and often does. Snow is possible, even during the summer. Weather conditions vary from one area of the ranch to another depending upon elevation, terrain, and irregular weather patterns. *You should be prepared for all the above weather conditions.* Please consult with NOAA for current weather conditions and information on past weather patterns.

### Lightning

Reduce lightning risk in the backcountry by timing your visits to high-risk areas with local weather patterns, find safer terrain if you hear thunder, avoid trees and long conductors once lightning gets close, and get in the lightning position if lightning is striking nearby and you can't get to safer terrain. There is no safe place outside in a thunderstorm.

# 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

## Types of Lightning Danger:

- **Ground Current** - 50-55% of all injuries - is electrical current dispersing through the ground. KEEP YOUR FEET TOGETHER AND TOUCHING. (One point of contact)
- **Side Flash** - 30-35% of all injuries - occurs by lightning arching away from a tall object to less resistance and not following the object to the ground. AVOID STANDING CLOSE TO TALL OBJECTS.
- **Upward Leaders** - 10-15% of all injuries - launched from the tops of tall objects, including people, near each downward leader. Suppress the tendency to launch a streamer by CROUCHING WHILE IN THE LIGHTNING POSITION.
- **Touch Volt** - 3-5% of all injuries - caused by contacting voltage in another object such as a wire or metal fence. AVOID CONTACT during lightning storms.
- **Direct Strike** - 3-5% of all injuries - is the least common of all lightning strike injuries. STRIVE TO MOVE TO SAFER TERRAIN.

## Lightning Position

It is important to keep your feet together and touching. (Ground Current) If possible, move to a crouching position. (Upward Leaders) It is also acceptable to sit on your backpack and pull your knees in to create the smallest contact with the pack. The crew should try and spread out at least 30 feet apart. If one member of your crew is jolted, the rest of you can give assistance. Keep track of one another by numbering off in a loud voice from time to time. If you are in a tent and a lightning storm approaches, sit up on your foam pad and pull your knees in to create the smallest contact with the ground. Be sure to pitch your tent in an area that is protected from lightning strikes.

## Flash Floods

In mountainous country, small streams can become raging rivers in a few minutes or even seconds. It is important to be alert to the possibility of flash floods and take steps to avoid a dangerous encounter. During and after periods of heavy rain, stay away from natural drainage areas. Always know where you are and how to get to higher ground. Watch for indicators of flash flooding such as an increase in the speed or volume of stream flow.

Beware of areas directly affected by or downstream from lands impacted by previous wildland fires. Pitch your tents on higher ground. Never attempt to cross a stream that is over knee deep on anyone in the crew. Retreat to the nearest staffed camp and request an itinerary change. Stay out of flood waters and narrow canyons.

## What to Do When Confused

When your crew hikes together, avoiding spreading out over a long distance on the trail renders the possibility of anyone becoming confused remote. By using a map and a compass with reasonable proficiency, you will always know where you are. Never allow one member of your crew to leave camp or side hike alone. Follow the "rule of four" by always hiking together in groups of four or more. If one person is injured, one treats the injured and the other two go for help.

Philmont has many trails. If you become confused, it is best to stay put. Make camp at a safe place, build a fire, and keep it going. (This should be done very carefully during drought conditions.) This may help a search party. Prepare your crew for a comfortable night. Extra food can boost the morale of a confused crew.

## Tips on Equipment and Clothing

### Tents

Due to the terrain, wildlife, and sudden change in weather conditions, tents are a required shelter for a Philmont trek and therefore all crew members are required to sleep in a tent. Bivy sacks and hammocks are not acceptable. Every member of your crew should be able to set up, take down, and fold the tent. Philmont uses two-person, free standing backpacking tents called "The Thunder Ridge" (footprint - 4'6" x 7'4"). The tent is durable, requires 6-8 stakes (not provided), weighs 5 lb. 4 oz., and is available for your use at no charge.

Space for tents in most campsites is limited. Use of two-person tents minimizes the footprint and avoids encroaching on the "Bearmuda" Triangle (see page 48). Two one-person tents take up nearly twice as much space as one 2-person tent. A 5' x 7' waterproof ground cloth must be used under each tent. These are not provided with the Philmont tents.

A tent washing station is located at Services for the washing of tents and dining flies. Crews are asked to help with this process as they return the equipment they have checked out. If you choose to provide your own tent it should be a two-person tent and free of all food smells. If you think your tent may have been compromised by food smells, please use a Philmont tent.

Philmont will allow a single person or three-person tent in the event of an odd numbered crew, gender numbers, and for youth protection compliance. **Keep in mind, due to recent changes in the Youth Protection Policy, parents cannot tent with their children. Please make tenting assignments accordingly.** Please use as few tents as possible



## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

### Packs

A sturdy, well-fitted pack is essential for backpacking at Philmont. A pack with a 65-85 liter carrying capacity will fit personal gear, crew gear, food, and water. There are many choices of packs and having a pack fitted to your body with appropriate sizing of shoulder straps and hip belt is essential.

Whether you choose an external or internal frame, there is a method for packing that is basic to all. Nearly all backpackers stow their sleeping bag in the bottom of the pack. This is also a good place for other items you won't need until you make camp at night: sleepwear, camp pillow, sleeping pad. Internal frame packs should have heaviest items placed on top of the sleeping bag and centered in your pack. For external frames, the heaviest items should be placed at the top and against the frame of the pack near your shoulders.

All items in your pack should be neatly organized and packed in waterproof bags or stuff sacks. Your map, compass, sunscreen, rain gear, camera, and first aid kit should be readily accessible. A waterproof rain cover is recommended to keep your pack dry at night and while hiking in the rain.

Check your pack weight. 20-25 pounds without food and water is preferred. Comfortable pack weights vary considerably with physical condition, age, and experience. Your training hikes will help you find out what is best for you. **As a regular rule of thumb, a fully loaded pack should not exceed 25-30% of your body weight.**

With your pack fully loaded, practice putting it on your back by first balancing it on one knee with the pack straps facing you, slip your nearest arm through the appropriate strap and smoothly swing the pack behind you, reaching down and back to slip your free arm through the second strap and jiggle your pack into a comfortable position.

If you are unsure of your pack's fit or question the durability for Philmont's trails, you can rent either an internal or external pack at Philmont for a fee of \$30 for the duration of the trek. This fee includes the pack cover. Our knowledgeable staff will fit you in the appropriate pack at Philmont and pre-reservations are not necessary. Please call the Tooth of Time Traders for information on pack sizing and review the chart included for information on types and sizes of packs available for rental.

BRAND	MODEL	VOLUME	SIZE
JanSport	Klamath	55 L	
		68 L	
		75 L	
Kelty	Tioga	86 L	
		94 L	
Osprey	La Plata	70 L	S/M, L/XL
	Kiva	70 + 5 L	
	Escalante	70 L	S/M, L/XL
		70 + 10 L	S/M, L/XL
		90 + 10 L	S/M, L/XL

### Map & Compass

Most trails on Philmont are marked at intersections, but they are not so well marked that you can put your map and compass away and forget them. Philmont trail signs often point to geographic features such as mountains, canyons, and streams. At the least, two (2) people share a map and compass. It's best if each camper has their own.

Learn and practice your map and compass skills. You will be able to always know where you are and where you are headed. Look at a map. Do you know what the symbols mean? What do the colors – black, brown, blue, green, white, and red – stand for?

Brown contour lines are particularly significant. The contour lines on Philmont's sectional maps represent a 50-foot climb, the more lines you cross on an upward route, the tougher the climb. Steep descents are tough, too.

You must be able to orient a map, understand symbols and scale (1: 31,680 for Philmont sectional maps). The BSA "Field Book" and the "Orienteering Merit Badge Pamphlet" are excellent resources.

Philmont has introduced trail signs that indicate the UTM coordinates of the specific location. You will be trained by your Ranger in understanding how to find a UTM coordinate on the map.

### Personal GPS and Emergency Locator Devices

If a member of your crew brings a personal GPS or Emergency Locator Device, they should know how to use and program them, and be very familiar with them prior to coming to Philmont. Philmont's sectional maps, available in advance from the Tooth of Time Traders, may be used to determine the UTM coordinates and elevations for camps and other locations; these locations should be loaded into the device(s) prior to coming to Philmont. To be correctly synchronized with these maps, GPS devices should be set for:

## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

- Projection: **UTM Zone 13**
- Horizontal Datum: **NAD83**
- Ellipsoid: **GRS80**

Emergency Locator Devices have many capabilities for sending messages. However, Philmont does not have the capabilities to receive messages from these devices. Your Ranger will teach you the emergency procedures used at Philmont.

### Backpacking Stoves and Fuel

All crews must provide backpacking stoves and the use of stoves is required.

Backpacking stoves must be used with adult supervision and should never be used in or near tents because of fire danger. Bottles designed to carry fuel should be used. Isobutane/propane fuel stoves are also acceptable. The Philmont Trading Post (Tooth of Time Traders) carries fuel bottles and several brands of isobutane/propane canisters. Outfitting Services carries white gas. Fuel is also available on the trail at commissary camps where you pick up food. Check the O-rings on your fuel bottles to prevent leaks.

If using isobutane/propane fuel stoves, be sure that they are designed to hold an 8-quart pot. The safest stoves on the market that accomplish this requirement have a fuel line that separates the canister from the stove. This reduces the reflected heat from impacting the canister and permits the user the ability to adjust the temperature safely.

Smaller one or two-person stoves have become available and popular, however they do not meet the requirements for crew cooking (Patrol Method) at Philmont Scout Ranch. A small stove might be a good addition for quick heating of water for coffee, tea, or cocoa while on the trail. Biofuel stoves are generally small, although, due to the desert southwest climate and frequent fire restrictions, these are not permitted for use at Philmont.

If using commercial transportation, stoves and fuel bottles can be shipped to Philmont and will be held at the Base Camp Mail Room for your arrival. (Allow two weeks.) A minimum of two stoves for your crew is required.

Learn and follow these safety tips:

- Keep fuel containers away from hot stoves and fires. Never use fuel to start a campfire.
- Let hot stoves cool before changing cylinders or refilling.
- Never fuel or operate a stove in a tent, building, or dining fly.
- Place stove on a level, secure surface before operating.
- When lighting a stove, keep fuel bottles and extra canisters well away, do not hover over stove, open fuel valve slowly, and light carefully. The pressure differential is greater at Philmont's high altitudes.
- Refill stoves away from open flames. Recap all containers before lighting stoves.
- Do not overload the stove.
- Do not leave a lighted stove unattended.
- Perform stove maintenance regularly, at home and at Philmont.
  - Store fuel in proper containers.

### Clothing

During cold periods, it is especially important to stay dry since wet clothing loses much of its insulating value (90 percent or more). Several light layers of clothing are better than one heavy layer since air trapped between layers of clothing provides a high degree of insulation. As the atmosphere warms you can remove one layer of clothing at a time for proper body heat management. Keep in mind that wool and synthetics insulate when wet. Lightweight merino wool base layers tend to be naturally odor resistant but can be expensive. Down or cotton layers such as sweatshirts and sweatpants drain body heat when wet, and dry very slowly.

While the official BSA uniform is highly recommended for use when traveling to and from Philmont and wearing at base camp, you may choose to wear other clothing on the trail. Long pants are recommended for cold nights and are required for horseback riding, conservation projects, and pole climbing at logging camps. Shorts and short-sleeved shirts will generally be sufficient during the day; however, a sweater or fleece jacket is necessary for cold mornings and evenings and possible downpours of rain or hail.

To be comfortable and dry during rain, a good quality rain suit is essential. Inexpensive vinyl rain suits or ponchos will not hold up under extended use. A poncho is not adequate. You need to have a durable rain jacket and pants.

### Boots and Shoes

High quality hiking boots that are broken-in are required for the trails at Philmont. Your trek will cover uneven, rocky surfaces and steep trails. Hiking boots that fit properly and are broken-in will prevent injury. Trail runners are permitted for hiking at Philmont and can reduce hiking weight, but they do not provide ankle support that traditional hiking boots provided and

## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

should only be used by those who have experience wearing them while carrying heavy loads through rocky terrain. Remember, boots are required for horse rides. Visit your local outdoor store and the sales staff will be happy to help you. You will also need a pair of sturdy lightweight, closed toe shoes for use around camp and occasionally when hiking without your pack. These will also be used when rock climbing, biking, and potentially crossing streams. Sandals are not recommended but can be used in campsites only. For more tips on choosing boots and footwear visit [www.ToothOfTimeTraders.com](http://www.ToothOfTimeTraders.com).

### Socks

The socks you wear on the trails will have a significant effect on your experience. Just like boots, choose your socks carefully. Socks for backpacking are designed to provide cushioning and abrasion resistance as well as warmth. You should choose socks made of synthetic materials or wool. Socks can add volume to your footwear. When you are fitted for your boots, make sure you wear the socks you have chosen to wear on your trek. There are 3 categories of socks:

- **Liners** - These are thin wicking socks that you wear next to your skin. They keep your feet dry and comfortable and are meant to be worn underneath other socks.
- **Lightweight Hiking Socks** - These socks stress wicking performance over warmth. They are relatively thin so that you stay comfortable on warm weather trips. They can be worn with or without sock liners.
- **Midweight Hiking Socks** - These socks are thicker and warmer than the lightweight hiking socks. Many have extra padding built into the heel and the ball of the foot for maximum comfort. They can be worn with or without liners.

### Glass and Aerosol Containers

Glass containers or aerosol cans should not be carried on the trail. Glass breaks easily and aerosol cans are bulky and may erupt in packs.

### Money

Campers spend an average of \$100 at Philmont's trading posts. Backcountry trading posts are located at: Ponil, Apache Springs, Abreu, Baldy Town, and Phillips Junction. If major items such as jackets, leather belts, and buckles are desired, more money will be needed.

\$20 - \$50 should cover most expenses on the trail. Money taken to the backcountry should be in small bills. Trail Charges can be made for larger purchases and emergency needs in the backcountry. These expenses may include:

- Shooting Programs: Three (3) shots are free at Philmont's .30-06, shotgun, and muzzle loading programs, and twelve (12) shots at the Cowboy Action Shooting program. Depending on availability, additional rounds may be purchased.
- Healthy trail snacks, root beer, repair items, and replacement equipment, etc.
- Fuel for stoves (available at all trading posts and commissaries)

### Sleeping Bags

Your sleeping bag should be warm (suitable for temperatures down to 20 degrees), but less than 5 pounds. You can increase the R value (temperature rating) of your bag by using an insulated pad under your bag, wearing long underwear and a hat, or using a fleece or synthetic sleeping bag liner. When your sleeping bag is packed it should be no more than 20 inches long and 10 inches in diameter, and it should weigh 5 pounds or less. Use a waterproof stuff sack to store your sleeping bag or if you do not have one, line the stuff sack with a heavy-duty (4 to 6 mil) plastic bag safely secured. This will keep your sleeping bag dry even in wet weather.

### Cameras/Crew Photographer

Although optional, a camera will record memorable experiences and beautiful scenes. Some crews select a crew photographer who takes shots for everyone. Digital photography can dramatically change your picture taking and sharing ability and a dedicated camera can often yield better results than a cell phone camera. Cold weather or prolonged use can deplete camera batteries. Be sure to bring replacement batteries, a small lightweight solar charger, or portable charger/power pack.

## Equipment Provided by Each Participant

If you have any questions regarding any of these items on the Equipment List, please contact Philmont's Tooth of Time Traders at 575-376-1145 or [ToothOfTimeTraders@scouting.org](mailto:ToothOfTimeTraders@scouting.org).

## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

### Lower Body Layers

You will need 1-2 synthetic insulating layers. All must fit comfortably over each other, so they can be worn in combination.

EQUIPMENT	QTY	COMMENTS	CODE	CHECK
Base Layer	1	Long underwear bottom, mid- weight, synthetic or wool. Used for cold mornings or evenings, & extra warmth while sleeping.	T	
Rain Pants	1	Lightweight & sturdy	T, A, E	
Long Pants	1	Pants needed for spar pole climbing, horseback riding, cold weather, ATV's & conservation project. Convertible pants or long underwear with rain pants may be used.	T	
Underwear	3		T	
Hiking Shorts	2		T	

### Upper Body Layers

It is imperative to layer your clothing, combining different garments to achieve protection from the elements and optimum insulation. Synthetic or wool layers are recommended as they insulate when wet. Avoid cotton as it does not insulate when wet.

EQUIPMENT	QTY	COMMENTS	CODE	CHECK
Base Layer	1	Long underwear top, mid-weight	T	
Middle Layer	1	Wool sweater or fleece pullover	T	
Top Layer (Warm Jacket)	1	Lightest and warmest available. Wool or fleece is best since they both provide warmth if wet.	T, E	
Rain Jacket	1	Sturdy, waterproof jacket with hood. Layer over fleece for extra warmth.	T, A, E	
Shirt - Short Sleeve	2	Moisture wicking, avoid cotton.	T	
Shirt - Long Sleeve	1	Moisture wicking. Avoid cotton or nylon. Warmth layer for cold mornings or evenings. Required for several programs.	T	
Sports Bra	2	Synthetic or wool blend.		

### Head/Neck/Hands

EQUIPMENT	QTY	COMMENTS	CODE	CHECK
Wool or Fleece Hat	1	Preserves body heat during cool evenings and while sleeping.	T	
Glove Liners or Mittens	1 pr	Polypro or wool is best for warmth in cool, wet conditions. Work gloves for conservation projects are provided	T	
Baseball Cap or Wide Brim Hat	1	Protect ears and face from sun	T	

### Packs and Bags

EQUIPMENT	QTY	COMMENTS	CODE	CHECK
Backpack	1	Internal frame 75 L (4600 cubic in.) External frame 65 L (3966 cubic in.) Rental available w/pack cover-\$30 — see page 32.	T	
Summit/Daypack	1	Side hikes.	T, S	
Lashing Straps	1 pr	To hold sleeping bag on pack.	T	
Gal. Ziploc Bags	6-12	Keep gear dry and clothing organized.	T	
Pack Cover	1	Waterproof. Highly recommended. Make sure it fits over pack and any external items.	T, A	
Small Stuff Sacks	2 - 3	Pack personal items/organize.	T	
Ditty Bags	2 - 3	Put all personal smellables in one to raise in bear bag.	T	

## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

### Footwear

EQUIPMENT	QTY	COMMENTS	CODE	CHECK
Boots	1 pr	Well broken in durable boots. Trail runners are accepted but ankle support is highly recommended. Over the ankle boots are required for several programs.	T	
Socks	3 pr	Synthetic or wool.	T	
Liner Socks	3 pr	Synthetic or wool, wicks sweat away from foot.	T, O	
Camp Shoes	1 pr	Sturdy lightweight, closed toe shoes. Use in camp, side hikes, rock climbing, and biking.	T, O	

### Sleeping Gear

EQUIPMENT	QTY	COMMENTS	CODE	CHECK
Sleeping Bag	1	Rated 20 degrees and less than 4 lbs.	T	
Waterproof Stuff Sack	1	Alternatively use compression sack lined w/plastic bag.	T	
Sleeping Pad	1	Provides padding and insulation from the ground.	T	
Sleep Clothes	1 set	Worn only in sleeping bag. T-shirt & gym shorts acceptable.	T	

### Miscellaneous Items

EQUIPMENT	QTY	COMMENTS	CODE	CHECK
Bowl	1	Deep bowl of lightweight material.	T	
Mug/Cup	1	12-20 oz. Measuring style recommended.	T, O	
Spoon/Spork	1	Lightweight.	T	
Water Bottles (1 Qt.)	4 +	Any combinations of bladders and bottles are accepted, but at least one water bottle is necessary.	T, A, BB, E	
Pocket Knife	1	Small knife for opening food packages and water purification tablets.	T, A, S, E	
Matches/ Lighter	1	Pack in waterproof container for lighting camp stove. Can be shared w/buddy.	T, BB, S, E	
Flashlight/ Headlamp	1	Durable and lightweight. Everyone in crew should have one. Bring extra batteries.	T, E	
Trekking Poles w/rubber tips	1 pr	Rubber tips to prevent erosion. Can reduce impact on ankles and knees by up to 25%. Improve balance.	T, O	
Philmont Sectional Maps	2 sets	Overall maps are not for navigation.	T, A, S, E	
Compass	1	Liquid filled compass w/rotating dial is optimal.	T, A, S, E	
Bandana/tubular headgear	2	Serves as a washcloth, hot potholder, and a variety of other uses.	T, BB	
Money	\$20-\$50	Small bills. Backcountry trading posts have many items.	BB	
Lip Balm	1	Moisturizing balm with SPF 25+	T, A, BB	
Soap	1	Biodegradable. For body or clothes. Small amount needed.	T, BB, S	
Toothbrush	1	Trial size.	T, BB	
Toothpaste	1	Small amount needed.	T, BB, S	
Camp Towel	1	Quick drying & small.	T	
Tampon/Pads		Strongly recommended for all females to bring.	T, BB	
Personal Medication		Enough for entire trek.	BB	
Sunglasses	1		T	
Watch	1	Several recommended throughout crew.	T, O, E	
Camera	1	Batteries & memory card.	T, BB, S	
Whistle	1	To signal an emergency.	T, E	
Fishing Equipment	1	Some itineraries have fishing opportunities.	T, O	

## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

EQUIPMENT	QTY	COMMENTS	CODE	CHECK
Fishing License	1	NM State fishing license required. Purchase at Tooth of Time Traders or <a href="http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us">www.wildlife.state.nm.us</a> See page 32.	T, O	
Postcards	1+	Pre-stamped. Mailing available on trek	T, O	
Foot Powder	1	Can soothe tired feet, absorb moisture, and reduce chance of blisters	T, BB, S, O	
Notepad & Pen	1	For journals or emergency messages. The Philmont Passport is great for journaling.	T, BB, O	

### Prohibited Items

- Deodorant
- Radios/MP3 Players/Video Game Devices
- Hammocks
- Turkey Bags
- Bear Bag Pulley Systems

### Labels

Be sure to label all your clothing and equipment with your name and Expedition Number so you can readily identify what is yours and so any of your belongings that are sent to Lost and Found can be returned.

## Equipment Provided by Crew

Necessary items for each crew to bring or purchase upon arrival.

EQUIPMENT	QTY	COMMENTS	CODE	CHECK
Sewing Kit	1	Heavy thread & needle used to repair pack, tents, clothing, etc.	T	
Tent Stakes per person	5	Philmont Thunder Ridge tents - 8 Philmont dining fly - 8	T	
Extra water capacity 10 qt	2 - 3	One large Collapsible or several small ones. Review itinerary to ensure sufficient water carrying capabilities.	T, E	
Backpacking Stove	2	Take repair kit on trail. Stove should be able to safely hold 8 qt. pot	T	
Fuel Bottle/1 qt.	2	White gas & canister fuel is available in backcountry. Be able to carry white gas w/60 oz capacity or canister w/1600 grams capacity.	T	
First Aid Kit	1	Sufficient for crew and easily accessible.	T, BB, A, E	
Duct Tape	1	Small amount needed for trail repairs.	T, BB	
Spices		Personal preference to compliment cooked meals.	T, BB, O	
Waterproof Ground Cloth	1 per tent	5' x 7' is suitable for Philmont tents.	T	
Nylon Cord	3	50' x 1/8" for dining fly, clothesline, repairing items or tying items to pack.	T	
Sunscreen	2 - 3	6 oz tubes w/SPF 25 or higher.	T, BB, E	
Insect Repellent	2	Small bottles, no aerosol spray cans.	T, BB, E	
Water Purifiers/ Filters	2 - 3	All water from streams, lakes, wells, etc. needs to be purified. Water at staff camps is purified unless noted. Micropur tablets are issued so filters are optional and will require a repair kit on the trail.	T, O	
Multi-Tool	1	To remove lid from cooking pot & to repair gear.	T	
Trowel/Shovel	1	Useful if away from a camp or camping in low impact campsite	T	
Carabiner	1	Carabiner (locking preferred) must be rated as climbing strength for rigging "oops" bag w/bear bags. A carabiner designed to be a key ring is not sufficient.	T	



## Equipment Issued by Philmont

Each crew of 8-12 persons is issued the following equipment free of charge (except for any damage or replacement charges upon return).

EQUIPMENT	QTY	COMMENTS	CODE
Thunder Ridge Shelter (Dining Fly)	1	12' x 10' -- wt 2 lbs. 8 oz. Crews may bring their own. A wide/short dining fly is preferred vs. a tall/narrow area.	
Collapsible Poles	2	For dining fly, wt 1lb. 0.6 oz. Trekking poles are a convenient substitute.	
Philmont Thunder Ridge Tent w/ poles	1 per 2 ppl	Weight w/poles is 5 lbs, 5 oz. Footprint is 88" x 54". Personal tents must be fully enclosed. Single person tents are not allowed due to a larger overall camp footprint except for odd numbered crew or adult male/female tenting needs.	
Cooking Pot	1	8-qt Aluminum pot with lid: 1 lb., 5.8 oz Must be large enough to cook for everyone in the crew and must be large enough to submerge eating utensils to sanitize dishes before eating.	
Dishwashing-2nd cooking pot	1	8-qt Aluminum pot without lid: 1 lb., 4 oz. Must be large enough to heat water for washing and rinsing.	
Large Spoon	1	1 lg spoon, 2.6 oz	
Hot Pot Tongs	1 pr	3.5 oz. Multi-tool can be used instead.	
Plastic Trash Bags	10	Personal preference, multi-purpose.	C
Salt / Pepper / Condiments			BB, C, O
Dishwashing Soap, Hand Sanitizer, Scrub Pads			BB, C
Water Purifier Tablets, Micropur-1 tablet treats 1 liter, Resupply at Backcountry Commissaries.			
Bear Rope	2 - 3	Nylon, weighs 1 lb., 1 oz. each. Philmont requires crews to use Philmont's or equivalent dimension rope. Smaller diameter ropes may be lighter, but experience has shown that they are more difficult to hoist up and they can fray or snag on the bear cables.	BB
Bear Bags	5 - 8	For hanging smellables. 1 lb, 8oz	BB
Food Strainer and Scraper	1 ea	8 oz	
Toilet Paper		Resupplied w/Food Pickup	

**CODE:** (T)=Available at Philmont's Tooth of Time Traders; (A)=Easily accessible in pack or carried on person; (C)=Available for resupply at commissary camps; (BB)=Packed in bear bag at night; (E)= Philmont Essentials (see pg. 43); (S)=Share with a buddy; (O)=Optional

## The Essentials for Hiking at Philmont

The Essentials should be carried on all hikes, including side hikes. Once you are ready to go, be sure to tell someone your itinerary, including when you plan to return.

- **\*Map & Compass** – and the ability to read a map and use a compass.
- **\*Sun & Insect Protection** – sunscreen, broad-brimmed hat, sunglasses, insect repellent.
- **Water & Extra Food** – a minimum of 4 quarts of treated water is ESSENTIAL in the Southwest.
- **Rain Gear & Extra Clothing** – preferably a breathable rain suit with jacket and pants. Daytime temperatures can drop to 40 degrees F during the summer; nighttime temperatures can drop below freezing. Wool and/or polypro or other synthetic fabrics are recommended. Cotton clothing is not suitable for retaining body heat.
- **\*First Aid Kit** – adequate to treat common injuries that may occur on a hike, including latex or nitrile gloves for protection from blood borne pathogens (see page 56)
- **\*Matches** – waterproof, for building a small campfire if necessary for warmth, drying clothing, or boosting morale.
- **\*Pocket Knife** – a multi-tool knife with several tools is recommended.
- **\*Watch** – an inexpensive watch will help you stick to the scheduled itinerary. This can be attached to your pack or day pack.
- **Flashlight/headlamp** – for use if darkness overtakes you during your hike or an emergency requires that you hike after dark.
- **Whistle** – a simple whistle for use as a signal to alert others of your location.

(\*) Philmont allows these indicated items to be shared with a buddy.



### Arriving at Philmont

In **Cimarron, New Mexico**, a small, historic town that Kit Carson and Buffalo Bill once knew, turn south off U.S. 64 onto NM 21. Cimarron means “wild” or “untamed” in Spanish and echoes memories of a wild and woolly past. After crossing a small bridge over the Cimarron River, you will see a hotel to the left. The **St. James Hotel** boasts an exciting history. Jesse James, Wyatt Earp, Clay Allison, and other famous gunfighters stayed there. Twenty-six men were allegedly carried from the hotel – feet first!

Across the street is a building once known as **Schwenk's Gambling Hall**. Here Lucien Maxwell, a great land baron who owned 1,714,765 acres, including all Philmont, bet on one of the Old West's most famous horse races. Maxwell's bet was a roulette table piled high with gold. The race is famous because Maxwell warned his jockey to win, or he would be shot off his horse at the finish line. He won!

One block west of the St. James stands the **Old Mill**, an old grist mill, built in 1864 and operated by Maxwell. Now a museum, Philmont campers are always welcome. Plan to visit this fascinating museum before or after your Philmont trek.

Just beyond Cimarron you will pass the Philmont boundary marker. The land west of the highway is the **Buffalo Pasture** of about 4,500 acres and where Philmont's 100 head buffalo herd lives.

Looking to your right, every mountain you see lies on Philmont. As you scan the horizon, you can just see the top of the famous “**Tooth of Time**”.

Beyond the buffalo pasture, the group of buildings on the left are homes of ranch personnel. Farther back on the right are the barns where Waite Phillips once kept polo horses. The administration offices and homes are next on your left.

Warehouses for food and supplies, farm equipment, vehicles, and maintenance shops are located here.

Next on your left is the **Villa Philmonte**, the magnificent summer home of Waite Phillips built in 1927. Notice the Spanish-style architecture, high arches, and tile roof. Surrounding the Villa is the Philmont Training Center where Scouting families live in tent cities during weekly training conferences held throughout the summer.

Past the Villa, on the left, is the new home of the **National Scouting Museum** where you can find interesting collections and exhibits highlighting the history of the BSA, Philmont, Order of the Arrow, and much more!

Camping Headquarters is on your right. Continue to the entrance at the **Welcome Center** where you will begin your Philmont Adventure.

### Day One at Philmont

Day 1 at Philmont is the date shown by the first three digits of your Expedition Number. It is in the format of “mdd” where “m” is the month number and “dd” is the date of the month of your arrival. For example, if your expedition number is “704-ZZ”, your “Day 1” is July 4. This is the day you should normally arrive before lunch at Philmont.

**Please call the Philmont Switchboard if you will be arriving later than your scheduled arrival time.**

### Welcome Center

At last, you're here! Drive in beside the gateway to the unloading area at the Welcome Center. You will be greeted by a staff member with complete instructions for unloading and parking. Please follow them carefully.

### Council Contingent/Multi-Crew Group Check-In

Philmont allows councils to make reservations for multiple crews. Councils may make these reservations in advance of the unit registration process. Among other benefits, Council Contingents and multi-crew groups provide the ability to speed up the check-in process for all crews in their reservation.

The reservation for a Council Contingent or multi-crew group provides Philmont with a single point of contact. If this contact person will not be an Advisor who will accompany the crews to Philmont, an “Contingent Advisor” must be designated among the Advisors traveling with the contingent.

The Day 1 check-in process has several steps. With a Council Contingent (or any unit reservation with four or more crews), the Contingent Advisor can handle these for the entire group.

Upon arrival at Philmont's Welcome Center, the Contingent Advisor should identify themselves to the Welcome Center staff. The first step in the check-in process after meeting their Ranger for a Council Contingent or multiple-crew group is for the Contingent Advisor to go to Registration. They should take the Council Contingent/Group's records with them and be prepared to pay any outstanding fees the Council Contingent or Group has incurred. These may include outstanding camping

## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

fees, transportation charges, early arrival overnight, meal charges, etc. If each crew is individually responsible for these charges, they will be able to pay their charges when they individually check-in later at Registration.

Multi-crew reservations (whether individual units or council contingents) must arrive at Philmont together. If they travel separately, they must rendezvous in Cimarron and then arrive at the Welcome Center at the same time.

The Contingent Advisor should also have collected the following from EACH CREW in the contingent /group and take them to Registration:

1. Copy of online Crew Roster with any last-minute changes noted.
2. Two current certifications for Wilderness First Aid and CPR if not uploaded to the Gateway.
3. A check, cash, or credit card for any outstanding fees or charges.

After the Contingent Advisor has completed the Registration process, they can rejoin their crews to complete Base Camp procedures.

### Meet Your Ranger

At the Welcome Center, you will meet your Ranger, a well-qualified staff member who has a sincere interest in your group and has been trained to help your crew get started on a successful Expedition.

The Ranger's job is to lead you through the Philmont check-in and to accompany you for 2 days on the trail to coach and review camping and hiking skills.

Your Ranger will guide you through a series of important check-in stops, each designed to help your crew prepare for your adventure.

Stops will include:

- Camping Headquarters – Registration
- Conservation – Site Orientation
- Emergency Information
- Laundry
- Logistics – Trip Planning
- Mail Room
- Marketing & Photo Services – Crew Photo
- Outfitting Services – Gear/Food Issue
- Philmont Infirmary – Medical Recheck
- Security – Lost and Found
- Shakedown
- Tooth of Time Traders

By planning ahead and using your time wisely, your crew may have time to visit the National Scouting Museum, Seton Memorial Library, Villa Philmonte, Kit Carson Museum at Rayado, Historic Chase Ranch, and the Tooth of Time Traders. See *The Guidebook to Adventure* for more information.

### Single Crew Check-In

If your reservation is for a single crew, you will check-in after meeting your Ranger. Your Ranger will direct your crew through the check-in process.

The Lead Advisor for individual crews will need the following documents for check-in:

1. Check, cash, or credit card payment for expedition balance fees, additional crew photos, transportation, or any other potential charges that may be due by the individual crew.
2. Two current certifications from members of the crew for Wilderness First Aid and two for CPR.
3. Completed Annual Health and Medical Record with a copy of the health insurance card for each crew member, to be turned in at the Infirmary during Medical Re-check if they were not uploaded to the Camping Gateway.

Not having these documents ready and uploaded/filled out before arriving at Philmont will delay crews during Base Camp procedures and could result in a later departure for the trailhead on Day 2.

### Philmont Check-In

Before your crew hits the trail, the following tasks must be completed:

- **Start hydrating now!** Because of the low humidity and bright sun at Philmont, your body needs significantly more water than you are likely accustomed to. Typically, it is recommended participants drink 1 liter of water per hour while on the trail. Always carry a water bottle with you!
- **Tent Assignment:** You will receive tent assignments at the Welcome Center for your first night at Philmont. Your Ranger will show your crew to their assigned tents.
- **Registration:** Your contingent leader or Lead Advisor will meet the registrar in Camping Headquarters. Philmont requires that two persons in each crew be currently certified in Wilderness First Aid Basic and CPR. Current certifications will need to be presented if they were not uploaded prior to arrival. A large envelope will be provided to store extra money, credit cards and/or valuable documents in the safe while your crew is on the trail. Any outstanding fees will be paid at this time.

Individual crew advisors will need the following documents for individual crew check-in:

- Check, cash, or credit card payment for expedition balance fees, additional crew photos, transportation, or any other potential charges that may be due by the individual crew.

## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

- Two current certifications from members of the crew for Wilderness First Aid and two for CPR.
- Completed Annual Health and Medical Record with a copy of the health insurance card for each crew member, to be turned in at the Infirmary during Medical Re-check if they were not uploaded to the Camping Gateway.
- **Crew Photo:** A trained Philmont photographer will take your crew photo before you depart for the trail. Most crews elect to wear their BSA uniforms or a crew uniform. Each crew will also have the option to receive a free 4x6 print of their image or one free digital download. Additional photo merchandise is available at [www.philmontphotos.org](http://www.philmontphotos.org).
- **Logistics:** Your Adult Advisor and Crew Leader (only) will meet one of the itinerary planners at Logistics to finalize arrangements for your program, food pickups, bus transportation, and conservation sites. Your Crew Leader should bring their *Crew Leader Field Guide* and an unmarked Philmont Overall map to mark your route and campsites. Your Crew Leader will receive a detailed copy of your itinerary for use while on the trail.
- **Medical Recheck:** A medical recheck, which may include blood pressure and weight check, will be given to all crew members. Your Ranger will give you the procedures for this required recheck. You will need to bring any medication (in original containers) with you to the recheck.

**A participant whose weight exceeds the maximum allowable on the height/weight chart will not be allowed to participate and should not attend or they may be sent home at their own expense.**

To make the medical recheck as smooth as possible, crew advisors should closely check the Annual Health and Medical Record of each crew member to ensure they are completely and properly filled out and that all medical forms are uploaded to the Gateway before arrival.

Additional information on chronic health issues can be found on the Philmont Website.

- **Outfitting Services:** Outfitting Services is in the Mabee Services Building. Trail equipment including tents, poles, cooking pots, etc., will be issued to your crew along with your first issue of Trail Meals. The Crew Leader's Copy of your itinerary must be presented to draw your trail food. White gas purchases and pack rentals are also handled through Outfitting Services.
- The **Philmont Mail Room** is also located in the Mabee Services Building near Outfitting Services. Your Adult Advisor or Crew Leader should plan to check for mail before leaving this area
- **Shakedown:** You will unpack everything in a place designated by your Ranger. Your Ranger will review the necessary items and demonstrate the best methods of packing at Philmont. Store excess items in your crew locker or vehicle.

**PLEASE NOTE:** After leaving Camping Headquarters, there is NO opportunity to return excess baggage. If you have doubts about taking certain items, discuss them with your Ranger. Your Ranger is NOT permitted to bring any crew gear you take on the trail back to Base Camp nor can items be left in a backcountry camp to be delivered and held in Base Camp. You are responsible to carry everything you take with you for the duration of your trek.

- **Conservation Project and Emergency Boards:** Your Ranger will describe these information boards in more detail at their designated sites in Base Camp.
- **Tour Camping Headquarters:** As time permits, your Ranger can give you a tour of Camping Headquarters. Visit the National Scouting Museum and while there schedule a tour of the Villa Philmonte.
- **Tooth of Time Traders (TOTT) :** Your tour should include a visit to the Tooth of Time Traders where a complete supply of outdoor gear and equipment, Philmont items (patches, belts, buckles, maps, gift cards, etc.), and other souvenirs are available. The Tooth of Time Cantina is located adjacent to the TOTT. Items are available online at [www.ToothOfTimeTraders.com](http://www.ToothOfTimeTraders.com).
- **Headquarters Dining Hall:** In Camping Headquarters, you will eat in the dining hall. The menus are well-balanced and nutritious.
- **Leadership Meetings:** Separate meetings will take place for Lead Advisors (all adults should attend), Crew Leaders, Chaplain's Aides, and Wilderness Pledge "Guias". Topics will include current backcountry conditions as well as tips to improve your Expedition.
- **Religious Services:** Chaplains of Jewish, Protestant, Catholic, and LDS faiths conduct services at Camping Headquarters beginning at 7 p.m. Your crew is encouraged to attend (see page 62). The Tooth of Time Traders and will be closed at this time.
- **Contact home:** After supper is a good time to write home. Your parents will enjoy hearing from you. (Philmont postcards are available at the Tooth of Time Traders, Mail Room, and in backcountry Trading Posts).
- **Opening Program:** Your first evening program at Philmont is a portrayal of the "Philmont Story", a historic narrative of the Southwest. Your Philmont adventure begins here. Warm clothing is recommended for this and all evening programs.
- **A Good Night's Sleep:** Following the campfire, quietly return to your tent for a good night's sleep as it will help you adjust to the altitude and be ready. Tomorrow, you hit the trail! Be sure your crew adheres to the nightly quiet hours. Your actions can negatively impact others.
- **Security, Lost-and-Found, Crew Lockers:** Philmont employs a Seasonal Security Staff to assist with Lost and Found, issue crew lockers, and provide security. Crew lockers are reserved for crews traveling by public transportation.  
Crews with vehicles will store belongings in their vehicles. The number of lockers is limited (max 2 lockers per crew). When you hit the trail, nothing can be left in your tent. Do not leave valuables in tents while in Base Camp – Philmont is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

- **Laundry:** Dirty clothing may be laundered at Philmont's self-service Laundromat. One or more crew members should be assigned to bring all the crew's dirty clothes to the laundry. All clothing should be marked with your name in indelible ink and any loose patches or insignia should be removed to save time and confusion. Laundry soap and supplies are available from the Tooth of Time Traders or the Laundromat.

### Day Two at Philmont

#### At Headquarters

After breakfast, sweep your tents, and check out of tent city. Report to the Welcome Center at the time scheduled for your departure.

#### En Route to Starting Camp

For most itineraries, a Philmont bus will take your crew within hiking distance of your starting camp. A few itineraries now hike directly out of base camp.

#### Starting Camp

At your "starting camp" your Ranger will work with you on:

- Map & compass navigation
- Hiking etiquette
- Lightning safety
- Emergency procedures and first aid
- Wildfire safety
- Backcountry hygiene
- Campsite setup
- Water purification
- Stove and campfire safety
- Cooking, cleaning, and disposal of waste
- Bear, mountain lion, and wildlife procedures
- Leave No Trace ethics & the Wilderness Pledge
- Low-impact and minimum-trace camping skills and techniques

### Day Three at Philmont

After a good night's sleep and a good breakfast in the starting camp your Ranger will hike with you on the first leg of your Philmont trek. Your Ranger will be on hand to assist you and will offer constructive ideas on how to sharpen your camping skills. When your crew has achieved reasonable proficiency in hiking and camping skills, your Ranger will leave you (usually early in the morning of Day 4). Then you are strictly on your own.

#### Hiking at Philmont

Philmont abounds with picturesque hiking areas. Every section of the Ranch has many opportunities for stimulating and beautiful hikes. Take time to enjoy those scenic panoramas, delicate wildflowers, rippling streams, majestic peaks, and towering trees. Some of the most beautiful scenery is along little-used trails and remote trail camps. When your crew is quiet you may see wildlife including deer, turkey, porcupine, elk, bobcat, coyote, badger, and bear. Be sure to record the animals you see on your wildlife census card that is given to your Wilderness Pledge Guide upon check in.

A *Philmont Field Guide* is available at the Tooth of Time Traders to help enhance your experience.

Hiking is an important part of the Philmont experience. Navigators and Crew Leaders will need to study the map and Crew Leader Copy itinerary to determine the best route, the number of miles, and the elevation gain and loss. The map can provide many clues to help determine hiking times and scenic stops. Philmont requires that crews hike during daylight with rare exceptions to travel from a nearby trail camp to a staff camp for evening campfires. It is recommended that the Crew Leader lead a discussion about the next day's hike each evening following dinner and "Thorns and Roses". This insures the entire crew knows what to expect the next day, reason for getting on the trail early, etc.

**Hiking at Philmont is often difficult.** Weighty packs, steep trails, and high altitudes challenge even the best backpackers. Remember, your trek is a team effort. Stronger hikers are expected to help weaker ones. Faster hikers should hike near the end of the line and encourage the slower ones in front. Your crew should always hike together, staying within sight and sound of one another. This avoids the terrifying experience of someone being lost. Due to risks involved, Philmont strongly discourages hiking at night.

#### Fire Rings

Metal fire rings have been established at all camps. They are to contain fires, reduce possibilities of a wildland fire, limit amounts of wood burned, establish campsites in the most desirable locations, eliminate unnecessary fire lays, and designate the place for all cooking. Do not scar the beauty of Philmont camps by creating unnecessary new fire lays or enlarging existing ones. Keep your fire small – it will be easier to extinguish. Conditions may ban the use of wood fires. Stoves are required for meal preparation.

## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

### Camping at Philmont

Camping is the major activity at Philmont. You will camp every day on your trek at Philmont – camps that vary from vast meadows to narrow valleys and lofty mountain tops. Elevations at some camps are less than 7,500 feet; others exceed 10,000 feet. Your itinerary will include several different types of camps, such as starting, staffed, trail, low impact, and dry camps.

Rangers are the only staff in starting camps. Here you will receive Ranger training and become further oriented and acclimated to Philmont.

Staffed camps are supervised by a camp director and program counselors to present unique program features. Most staffed camps have potable water supplies and two-way radio communications with Philmont's Logistics department. You will be assigned a campsite by the staff.

Commissaries, trading posts, and showers are available at some staffed camps. See the *Itinerary Guidebook* for detailed information on camp facilities for your itinerary.

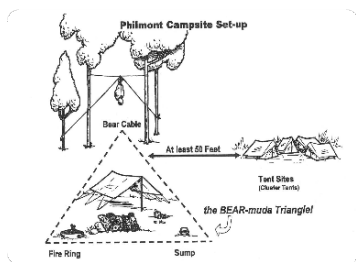
Trail camps have water but no staff. Here you are completely on your own. All itineraries include multiple trail camps. They are part of your Philmont experience. See the *Itinerary Guide Book* for ideas about what to do in trail camps.

Dry camps have no water and no staff. They are used because they provide scenic vistas, pleasant campsites, and valuable training. Vast stretches of the great Southwest are dry, and early pioneers traveling the Santa Fe Trail in covered wagons had to conserve every cup of water. Sometimes they had to drink the blood of their oxen and other animals to survive. You will not have to endure this much hardship, but you may need to carry water for several miles before arriving at your dry camp. Check your itinerary to determine the closest place to get water for all your camping locations.

All campsites on Philmont property are clearly designated with numbers routed into wood blocks attached to trees. Check your map and use a compass to be sure you're at the right place. Most camps are designated by rectangular trail signs with the camp's name. Look for a map of campsites that is posted in trail camps; sometimes the best campsites are secluded. The map will help you locate them.

Several low impact or Leave No Trace campsites are located on our neighbors' property. There will not be any signs to designate these camps or campsites. If your itinerary includes one or more of these camps, your Ranger will instruct your crew about the special camping techniques required as a part of our special use permits.

### Bearmuda Triangle



Your Ranger will teach your crew how to set-up your campsite using the "Bearmuda" Triangle. This method concentrates all activities that might have a smell within a triangle formed by the fire ring, sump, and bear cable. Tents are set up outside the triangle and backpacks, dining fly, cooking and dishwashing occur inside the triangle.

The tent area should be located at least 50 feet from the "Bearmuda" Triangle.

### Cooking and Food Pickups

Philmont rotates through a 10-day trail meal menu. Packaged in durable, recyclable poly bags, these lightweight trail meals have been carefully developed and checked for quality and quantity for the rugged mountain hiking and backpacking needs of energetic young people and leaders who hike Philmont Trails. Concentrated foods do not always look or taste the same as fresh, frozen, or canned foods, but when properly prepared they are appetizing and nourishing. Your crew may find it helpful to practice cooking freeze-dried/dehydrated food before your trek begins. Explicit cooking directions are indicated on each food packet for your convenience. Follow these instructions closely. Remember to make allowances for high-altitude cooking.

High-altitude cooking is different than at lower elevations – it takes longer. At 7,000 feet, which is low at Philmont, water boils at 199°F. At 9,000 feet, a typical Philmont elevation, it boils at 195°F and at 11,000 feet, a high Philmont elevation, it boils at only 191°F. Water at higher elevations is generally colder, requiring more time to boil. By keeping your pots and food and water covered, you can decrease the heat loss and reduce your cooking time. To overcome this loss of time due to high altitude and cold water, you should organize your meal preparation procedures well.

Your itinerary will show camps where you will pick up food. Normally, you will carry a 2 to 3-day supply – sometimes 4. Each meal bag weighs approximately 1 to 2 lbs. and feeds 2 campers. Each commissary will issue you specific meals which enables your crew to eat different food each day on the trail.



### Food Allergies

Philmont trail food is by necessity a high-carbohydrate, high-caloric diet. It is high in wheat, milk products, sugar and corn syrup, and artificial coloring/ flavoring. **If an individual in your crew is allergic to some food products on our menu or requires a special diet, suitable replacement food must be purchased at home and brought to Philmont to replace those items.** Philmont asks that food substitutions be made only for medical (including allergies) or religious reasons. All food shipped to the backcountry is subject to inspection to ensure the best delivery method. ***There is no fee reduction for individuals who bring their own food.***

Participants are responsible for providing their own substitute food. If replacement food is required, go to the Philmont website [www.PhillmontScoutRanch.org/philmonttreks/dining/](http://www.PhillmontScoutRanch.org/philmonttreks/dining/) where a link to the menu and ingredients list can be found. All meals are numbered from 1 to 10. Review this list and determine what items in the meals need to be substituted and prepare a substitute for that meal (i.e., "Dinner 5" or D5). When putting the substitute together, keep in mind that Philmont participants need approximately 3,000 calories a day. Package the items/meals individually and label them with your Expedition Number, person's name, and the meal the substitute is replacing. Do this for all meals with substitutions.

On the day of your arrival at Philmont, your crew's Ranger/Horseman/Wrangler, the Crew Leader, an advisor, and individual(s) needing the substitute food, should bring the food to Logistics. The Logistics staff will then group the meals to correspond with the crew's commissary pick-ups and arrange for food to be delivered to appropriate backcountry commissaries.

Managing food allergies is the responsibility of the participant, and a participant should be able to exercise good judgment in food selection and read food labels prior to arrival at Philmont. Appropriate substitutions can be arranged for food served in the dining hall by indicating the type of food restriction(s) on the Camping Gateway and speaking with the Dining Hall Manager at mealtime.

Please visit the Philmont website to review the current menus and ingredients. If you have any questions about food substitutions, please contact Philmont by phone at 575-376-2281 or email [Camping@PhilmontScoutRanch.org](mailto:Camping@PhilmontScoutRanch.org). The menu and ingredient list will be available online by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Alternative Cooking Methods

Crews coming to Philmont often inquire about the use of oven cooking bags (sometimes known as "turkey bags"). Their use may be a common practice on camping or backpacking trips on the local level, but Philmont requires that crews DO NOT use this cooking method while on an expedition at Philmont. Rangers will teach the proper cooking and cleaning procedures to the crew at the beginning of the trek using pots, camp suds, hot water, and Philmont sumps. This is an important skill for crew members to learn and helps reinforce the Patrol Method on the trail by rotating this valuable position on the crew duty roster to all members of the crew.

Turkey bags also create an environmental impact, the potential for increased odors that are carried in backpacks, hung in bear bags, or left in refuse containers, and impact the bear and wildlife procedures. Though Philmont now provides some dinner meals that allow for the pouring of hot water into the meal bags for preparation, these meal bags were already destined for the trash. 23,000 participants in a summer could create over 50,000 more bags that take up scarce refuse space in the backcountry and then must be hauled to a landfill. Your cooperation in this effort will help support Philmont's multiple sustainability initiatives and will make a positive and lasting impact on the environment.

### Last Day - Final Processing at Camping Headquarters

At your last camp, be sure to scour your pots and pans thoroughly before you return to Camping Headquarters. After breaking camp on the morning of your last day on the trail, you will hike to a designated pickup point where a Philmont bus will return you to headquarters – unless you are scheduled to hike in along Tooth Ridge.

**Do not return to Camping Headquarters until the date and time indicated on your itinerary.** Meals and accommodations for your crew are not available until that time.

### At Camping Headquarters

#### YOU WILL:

1. Be assigned tents at the Welcome Center or Outfitting Services (first stop)
2. Take care of your laundry, return crew gear to Outfitting Services
3. Eat in the dining hall as indicated on your itinerary
4. Have an opportunity to buy souvenirs from the Tooth of Time Traders
5. Participate in the evening "Awards Campfire"
6. Remove your equipment from your locker

# 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

## ADVISORS SHOULD ALSO:

1. Check in at CHQ Registration for your crew's photos, medical forms, and items left for safekeeping. This is where your Crew Leader should return your wildlife census card and First Aid Log.
2. Pay any acquired trail charges at the Tooth of Time Traders.
3. Pick up and distribute your mail from the Base Camp Mail Room
4. Receive certification toward the 50-Miler Award from Logistics (requires Crew Leader copy)

## Homebound – Morning of the Final Day

A "continental breakfast" is available at 5:45 a.m. for those crews who made arrangements at Registration on Day 1. After checking out of tent city (please leave it clean for campers who will follow), you will load your gear in your vehicle(s) near the Welcome Center.

## Memories – Keep a Journal

Many individuals and crews keep a log of interesting events that occurred during their Expedition. Memories of your Philmont adventure will live on for years to come when you read the record of your trek. You will recall happy times – when you rode horses over a scenic trail or when you finally conquered Mount Phillips – and trying ones – like the day it rained or the night your tent fell in a windstorm.

Each participant will be issued a **Passport Journal** to collect stamps from backcountry camps and to journal their adventure at Philmont. You are welcome to submit the highlights from your journal to the Welcome Center and they might be shared at closing campfire or lead to bigger adventures around the world!

## The Philmont Challenge

Philmont means more than just a series of scenic mountain camps or a collection of exciting programs. It is more than just a physical challenge.

It is an experience in living together and cooperating with others under sometimes difficult circumstances. It is learning to surmount the challenges of hiking and camping at high altitudes and learning to live in harmony with nature. You may get soaked to the skin in torrential downpour. You will breathe harder and faster than ever before in climbing a ridge or mountain, and after that you may even burn your supper. But you will make it, even though there will be times when you feel as if you can go no further.

In conquering these challenges, you will gain confidence and a belief in your ability and go on to even greater achievements. This new knowledge of yourself will inspire you to do something for your fellow man, your God, and your country. Now is the time to act! Set your goals high and resolve to achieve them. You can do it. You will be better for it and your Philmont experience will become even more meaningful. It will never really end.

## Preserving the Philmont Wilderness

Philmont is a magnificent wilderness camping area with an immense network of trails and camps tied together by service roads designed for service and protection of both campers and land.

Since 1938, thousands of young people have enjoyed the great scenic beauty of Philmont's mountain terrain and experienced the unique and memorable programs of its staffed camps. However, in the past, a few inconsiderate and impolite Scout campers, employing improper camping methods have marred certain areas of this magnificent land. Consequently, Philmont asks all campers and their Advisors to commit themselves to good Scout camping and genuine wilderness understanding.

Each camper and Advisor will be asked to sign the Philmont Wilderness Pledge, which declares that he or she will do everything possible to preserve the beauty and wonder of the Philmont wilderness and its facilities through good Scout camping. It is expected that Philmont campers will follow this pledge at all camping areas that they might visit throughout America.

## Wilderness Pledge

The 5 areas of emphasis of the Philmont Wilderness Pledge are:

1. **Litter and Graffiti:** Each camper should make sure that all backcountry facilities, trails, campsites, and latrines are left neat and clean, including Camping Headquarters, shower, and tent areas.

While litter can be picked up, graffiti often permanently defaces BSA property and detracts from the "Philmont experience". Do not contribute to this problem. Any Graffiti left on Philmont facilities will result in consequences, including the revocation of the Philmont Arrowhead.



## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

2. **Wildlife:** Respect Philmont's wildlife, including livestock. Follow all guidelines regarding food handling and trash disposal. Never feed or harass livestock or wild animals.
3. **Water:** You are in a land where water is scarce and very precious. Conservation and wise use of water has been practiced since the first person entered this land. Use water properly; never bathe, do laundry, wash dishes, or play in or near a spring or stream. Do not disturb or throw rocks in springs or touch any solar pumps. They are easily damaged, and the flow of water can be disrupted. Everyone needs water, and you should leave each spring and stream as clean as you found it.
4. **Trails:** Pledge to respect Philmont trails. Do not cut green boughs or trees, or mark on them. Do not cut across switchbacks, and do not alter or change trail signs.
5. **Campsites:** Each crew is responsible for leaving a neat and orderly campsite, whether it be in Camping Headquarters, staffed camps, or non-staffed camps. Your campsite should be left litter-free with its latrine and sump clean. Fires, if permitted, must be left DEAD OUT and then cleaned of debris before you leave. Do not trench tents; always pitch them on high ground. You should respect the feelings of those crews camping near you and those that will come after you.

Philmont serves over 23,000 Scouts, Venturers, Explorers, and leaders each year. Consequently, some trails and camps are subjected to heavy use. Nevertheless, it is not the wear of so many pairs of boots that mars Philmont. It is the carelessness and thoughtlessness of inconsiderate campers. It is our sincere hope that through your commitment to the Philmont Wilderness Pledge and Leave No Trace principles, Philmont will always remain a beautiful and clean place to enjoy high adventure.

### Leave No Trace

Hiking and camping without a trace are signs of an expert outdoorsman and of a scout who cares for the environment and Philmont. Your Wilderness Pledge Guia will lead the crew discussion on each principle. They are:

1. Plan ahead and prepare
2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces
3. Dispose of waste properly
4. Leave what you find
5. Minimize campfire impacts
6. Respect wildlife
7. Be considerate of other visitors

### Report Artifacts

Philmont is a natural outdoor biological, geological, archaeological, and historical laboratory and museum. Countless varieties of rock, plants, and animals are found here, as well as abundant evidence of past human habitation from Native Americans (arrowheads, potshards, grinding stones, etc.) to old mining camps (bottles, cans, equipment, cabins, etc.). Specimens of plants and animals (including mule deer antlers, elk sheds, or animal skulls), or artifacts mentioned above, are to be observed and left where you discover them, not collected, and removed from Philmont. Reports of discoveries are helpful in reconstructing Philmont's archaeological and historical past. These should be put in writing and left at the Camping Headquarters during the check-out process.

### Safe and Healthy Camping and Hiking

Strict adherence to proper health and safety practices is crucial at Philmont. Campers are responsible to themselves for remaining strong and healthy. Failure to purify water or to rinse dishes thoroughly may affect everyone in the crew. Health and safety are a crew responsibility, as well as individual ones. Here are some wise trail practices that will help you and your crew be strong, safe, and healthy.

### Keep Personally Clean

Good campers are clean. Personal cleanliness will make you feel better. Take pride in the personal appearance of yourself and your crew. Your appearance will be compared with that of other crews from all parts of America. A haircut is recommended the day before you leave for Philmont. Do your best to keep your hair washed and combed when you are in the rugged, challenging wilderness. Showers are usually available (except during drought periods) at Indian Writings, Ponil, Baldy Camp, Sawmill, Cimarroncito, Clarks Fork, Cyphers Mine, Beaubien, Phillips Junction, Miners Park, Abreu and Zastrow. Sponge baths can be taken at most camps.

### Caring for Your Feet

Proper foot care is essential to a successful Philmont trek. Blisters and foot injuries are one of the most common injuries suffered at Philmont but are completely preventable with some simple steps. Address ingrown toenails and foot issues at home well in advance of your trek. Cut your toenails short and square - don't round corners. Clean feet before and after hiking to remove any dirt or debris that may cause blisters. Change your socks daily. Always keep your feet and socks dry. Prevent blisters by treating hotspots before they become blisters. If a blister occurs, reduce friction in the affected area by

## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

changing shoes and socks, surround with a ring of moleskin or cover with medical tape. Treat cuts and sores on your feet with antiseptic and adhesive bandages.

### Wash Your Clothes

The mark of a first-class backpacker is clean clothes. You can wash clothing at shower houses. They will dry quickly in Philmont's low humidity.

### Dehydration

Low humidity and strenuous activity cause your body to lose enormous amounts of fluids and electrolytes. This fluid loss is occurring even though you may not feel like you are sweating and may not feel thirsty. You need to drink more water than you normally would at home, drinking six to eight quarts per day may be necessary to maintain adequate hydration. The salt content of Philmont's menus is adequate to replace your loss of salt from sweating. Salt tablets are not recommended, but alternating water and ½ strength sports drinks is encouraged.

Symptoms of dehydration include light-headedness, dizziness, nausea, general weakness, muscle cramps, and sometimes fever and chills. Hot, dry, clear days accelerate loss of body fluids. To prevent potential dehydration problems plan to hike early in the morning to avoid the intense heat of midday and take more water breaks than you normally would. As always prevention is key.

### Heat Exhaustion

Prolonged physical exertion in a hot environment may cause heat exhaustion. Symptoms of heat exhaustion are faint or weak feeling, dizziness, nausea, or a rapid pulse. Body temperature usually remains near normal. The afflicted person should rest in a comfortable, shaded environment and drink fluids.

### Heat Stroke

If heat exhaustion is left unrecognized and untreated it may progress into heat stroke. In heat stroke the body's cooling mechanisms stop functioning and the body temperature soars. Symptoms of heat stroke may include hot, red, dry skin, but is most recognizable by the change in the level of consciousness. To treat heat stroke, cool the patient immediately with a dip in a stream or put him/her in the shade and drape bare skin with wet cloths. When the patient can drink, give fluids. Treat for shock and get help.

### Hyperventilation

A feeling of panic accompanied by rapid breathing with shallow breath is symptomatic of hyperventilation. The subject loses carbon dioxide from the bloodstream and may become numb around the mouth and in the extremities. If untreated, the person may experience violent spasms in the hands and feet and even lose consciousness. Hyperventilation occurs fairly frequently, especially among teenagers and young adults while undergoing strenuous activity at high elevation. Difficulty breathing or breathing heavily while hiking is normal and shouldn't be confused with hyperventilation.

Although it is usually not serious for an otherwise healthy person, the symptoms of hyperventilation can be frightening to the subject and the crew. The most effective treatment is to have the subject re-breathe his or her own air from a plastic or stuff sack. The higher concentration of carbon dioxide in re-breathed air will enter the lungs within 10-20 minutes, the carbon dioxide will restore to a normal balance. Reassure the subject and tell the person to take long, deep breaths from the bag.

### Hypothermia

Hypothermia results from exposure to cold, wet weather, with most cases developing in air temperatures of 30° to 50°F (common in Philmont's high country). Wind, wet clothing, or exhaustion increase the chance of hypothermia. Always carry rain gear with you on side hikes and put it on before it begins to rain. Symptoms include faltering coordination, slurred speech, loss of good judgment, disorientation, numbness, and fatigue. Wet clothing must be replaced with dry (preferably wool or polypropylene) clothing. Apply heat to the head, neck, sides, and groin with warm-water bottles. Put the patient in a sleeping bag and give hot sugary liquids (if able to drink without choking). Do not rub the subject's body, as that may cause injury. If the patient can sit up and eat, encourage him or her to eat a snack as increased metabolism from digestion will help to warm the patient.

### Sunburn

Prevent sunburn by wearing a broad-brimmed hat and applying a high-numbered sunscreen (at least 25 SPF). Cover the most susceptible parts of your body (nose, head, face, neck, ears, back of knees, and legs). Fair-skinned campers should apply protection early in the morning and reapply it during the day. If you do become sunburned, treat it immediately. Get the afflicted person to shade and administer fluids. The incidence of developing skin cancer is high among people who have been severely sunburned during childhood. Taking preventative measures is a wise precaution.

### Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS)

Participants who live at less than 3,000 feet elevation may require 2 to 3 days or more to adapt to a higher elevation above 6,000 feet. Teenagers and young adults have a higher incidence of acute mountain sickness (AMS). A gradual ascent of not more than 1,000 feet per day (above 6,000 feet) elevation will help prevent AMS. Physical symptoms of AMS include headache, insomnia, fatigue, shortness of breath, lassitude, and intestinal upset. Psychologically, a person may become irritable and have difficulty concentrating. AMS usually occurs at elevations more than 6,500 feet – all Philmont qualifies!

To help your body adjust to the altitude make sure to maintain good hydration, eat full meals and get a good night sleep in the first few days at elevation. Descending to a lower elevation, avoidance of strenuous activity and taking Tylenol or Ibuprofen for headache may relieve the symptoms of AMS. If this is not successful within 24 hours, the subject may need to be transported to base camp. While regular physical conditioning prior to the trek is beneficial, it does not prevent the development of AMS.

### Protection from Hantavirus

Hantavirus is thought to be the cause of respiratory distress syndrome. This illness has affected persons in most western states. Rodents are the primary carriers of recognized hantavirus. It is believed that hantavirus is carried in the urine, feces and saliva of deer mice, rabbits, and possibly other wild rodents. A person contracts hantavirus by contacting rodent feces, urine, saliva, or things that have been contaminated by them. This illness is not suspected to be spread from one person to another.

All participants and staff engaged in hiking and camping should take the following precautions to reduce the likelihood of exposure to potentially infectious materials.

- Avoid contacting rodents and rodent burrows or disturbing dens (such as pack rat nests).
- Do not pitch tents or place sleeping bags in areas in proximity to rodent feces or burrows or near possible rodent shelters (e.g., garbage boxes or woodpiles).
- Do not use or enter cabins or other enclosed shelters that are rodent infested until they have been appropriately cleaned and disinfected. Report these to the next staffed camp.
- Do not sleep on the bare ground. Use of tents with floors and good ground cloths is required.
- Store food in a bear bag hung from a cable.
- Properly package all garbage and trash, and discard in covered trash containers at staffed camps.
- Use only water that has been disinfected by boiling, chlorination, iodination, or purification for drinking, cooking, washing dishes, and brushing teeth.

### Avoid the Plague

Rabies and bubonic plague are potentially transmitted by fleas carried by rabbits, bats, ground squirrels, chipmunks, and other rodents. Do not handle any animals. Do not feed any animals. Keep your tent zipped closed to prevent rodents entering.

### Accidents

Most accidents occur late in the day in camp, not on the trail. Many of them involve horseplay. Fatigue, mild dehydration, and altitude effects may impair a crew member's performance and judgment. Rock throwing, improper use of equipment, foolishness in hanging bear bags, climbing steep rocky ridges, running through campsites, climbing trees, and carelessness around fire lays are prevalent causes of accidents. To avoid them, individual and crew discipline should be maintained, and safety practiced in all activities.

### Stress and Group Dynamics

Numerous days in the rugged Philmont terrain sometimes produces mental and emotional stress, especially for members of crews whose training and preparation back home has been minimal.

Each crew is subjected to physical demands such as carrying a 35-50-pound backpack; gasping for breaths at high elevations; facing weather conditions varying from hot, blazing sun to cold, wet, foggy periods of several days; and getting started on camp chores early and doing them efficiently to participate in programs at the next staffed camp. These physical demands can create irritability and mental stress.

Personality differences and minor internal crew conflicts sometimes produce emotional stress. Each crew member should ask, "How can I eliminate or reduce my habits that may be offensive to others?" Good leadership on the part of the Crew Leader can help reduce the potential for conflicts. The Crew Leader should

1. Discuss alternative choices with the crew.
2. Listen to each crew member's ideas.
3. Make decisions in the best interest of the entire crew.
4. Assign duties to implement those decisions.
5. Evaluate with input from each crewmember how the crew did.

## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

Giving objective feedback based on observed behaviors rather than directing it to a specific person or persons can be extremely beneficial in resolving conflicts.

If stress is beyond the capabilities of the crew to manage, contact the nearest staffed camp for help. Depending upon the circumstances, a camp director or Philmont Chaplain may be called in to assist.

If a serious conflict develops, a camp director or chaplain has better success in helping the crew overcome it when called early, instead of allowing it to escalate.

### Purify All Drinking Water

All water from all sources – including springs, streams, and wells – must be purified. (Most staff camps have treated water. Be sure to check with staff that water is safe to drink.)

The most effective treatment to purify water is to heat it to a rolling boil. Philmont provides Micropur tablets that release chlorine-dioxide that is effective at killing waterborne bacteria and viruses that cause disease.

Some crews choose to carry water filters to remove small particles from water collected in streams. (Purifiers remove giardia, bacteria, cryptosporidium, and viruses – filters do not remove viruses.) If using a filter, you must also use additives or boiling to kill all viruses. You must bring extra cartridges and spare parts.

### Dishwashing Procedures

After each meal, scrape and wipe dishes, utensils, and pots as clean as possible. Wash using a mild, biodegradable soap in warm water. Use scrub pads to remove hardened food remains. Rinse dishes in boiling water. Before each meal sterilize dishes, utensils, and pots in boiling water. This disinfects any contamination from being in a pack.

Dishes and utensils will air dry quickly in Philmont's low humidity. Wash your dishes near a sump, not a water spigot which may contaminate the area.

Proper washing, rinsing, and sterilizing of dishes and utensils will prevent diarrhea, dysentery, and a host of other medical problems.

### Use of Sumps

When disposing of wastewater, drain it through a strainer provided by Philmont. The water should be disposed of in a provided sump or at least 200 feet, from any campsite or water source. Solid matter should be carried to the next staffed camp.

### Disposal of Trash and Garbage

Proper disposal of trash and garbage ensures a clean camp and protects everyone's health. Do not bury garbage or dump it in latrines; bears and rodents will soon retrieve it. Put trash and garbage in a plastic bag and give to a staff member at the nearest staffed camp. Philmont asks that you consolidate your trash as much as possible to reduce the volume before giving it to a staffed camp. Your Ranger will explain the recycling programs available for some backcountry items.

### Latrines

Pit latrines are provided for your use in backcountry camps. They should be kept clean and free of graffiti by members of your crew. At other locations you may need to dig a cat hole. Dig it at least 200 feet from any trail, water, or campsite. Dig the hole about 6 inches deep, but no deeper than the organic topsoil. After use, fill the hole completely, pack and mound the earth to avoid erosion. Garbage and trash must not be put in any latrine because animals will dig it out.

### Tobacco

Our Scout Oath reminds us to keep ourselves physically strong. The use of smokeless or smoking tobacco, including vaping and E-cigarettes adversely affects the body and causes cancer. Because of the ever-present wildland fire danger, smoking is not permitted on Philmont trails. If adults must smoke in the backcountry, do it in an established camp near an unused fire ring. No smoking is permitted in Camping Headquarters except the designated area: back room of Advisors Lounge. Please refer to: [www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss04/](http://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss04/).

### Alcohol and Drugs

Scouting activities are not a place to possess, distribute, transport, consume, or use any of the following items prohibited by law or in violation of any Scouting rules, regulations, and policies: alcoholic beverages or controlled substances, including marijuana. Possession of unprescribed drugs or misuse of prescribed drugs are also expressly prohibited. Groups or individuals found in violation of this national Boy Scouts of America policy will be sent home immediately at their expense.

### Firearms, Weapons, Fireworks

Firearms, ammunition, archery equipment, and other weapons are used at Philmont on a closely controlled basis. Personal firearms, ammunition, and other weapons are not used on Philmont property under any circumstance. Firearms are strictly prohibited at Philmont and must not be brought with you. Federal and state law restricts the transportation of most firearms across state lines so be sure to comply. If you cannot avoid bringing a firearm, it must be in a locked case and checked in at the registration office when you arrive and checked out when you depart Philmont. Secure storage is provided at CHQ; **DO NOT** store firearms in vehicles!

Sheath knives, fixed blade knives, and hatchets are not to be brought to Philmont.

Fireworks are dangerous, pose a fire danger, and are prohibited to be possessed at all Scouting functions.

### Prevent Wildland Fires

Our forests are a beautiful and valuable heritage. Philmont's dry climate requires everyone's cooperation to prevent wildland fires. The United States Forest Service points out that good outdoorsmen follow these practices when using fires:

1. Never build a fire against a tree, stump, root, or log as it may be difficult to control or put out.
2. Avoid building a fire on a grassy area, as this destroys one of our most valuable assets. Grass will not grow for several years on a fire spot. (At Philmont, always use established fire rings.)
3. Rake up flammable material before building a fire.
4. Never toss a match away. Put it in the fire or hold the match until it stops smoking, then break it between the thumb and fingers of one hand and step on it.
5. Never leave a fire unwatched, even for a few minutes.
6. Never try to put a fire out by scattering it.
7. Put out your fire with sand, damp earth or, best of all, water. After the first soaking, stir the ashes with a stick and add more water, then feel it with your hands to make sure it is out.
8. Keep in mind the forest and wildlife resources and possibly, human lives you are protecting by your care in handling fire.

Be alert for wildfires. If you see white smoke boiling up, you may have spotted a wildland fire. Prairie fires spread quickly, and their smoke is sweeping. If you spot a fire or think you have, report it to your Advisor, who will report it to the nearest camp director or staff member as soon as possible. Your crew should not attempt to fight wildfires and should quickly leave the area. Trained fire fighters will extinguish fires quickly once they are reported.

### Climbing

Falls from cliffs and rocky ridges are the most serious accidents that occur at Philmont. Campers should be constantly alert to this very present danger when climbing steep, rocky, mountain slopes. Common sense will enable you to differentiate between difficult and dangerous areas and to bypass dangerous areas completely.

Philmont conducts rock climbing at three staffed camps. *These are the only places where rock climbing is permitted*, and then only under the supervision of Philmont rock climbing staff.

Avoid throwing or rolling rocks. This is particularly dangerous in steep country. There may be other hikers below you. The "A-B-C" of mountain climbing is **Always Be Careful**.

### Bears

Bears are a unique and natural part of the Philmont environment. Like all wild animals they must be treated with respect. The black bear is not normally aggressive, and many crews will not even see one.

Anything with an odor (except the human scent) may attract bears. It does not matter if the odor is food related. Any odor may generate a curiosity in a bear which may result in a closer examination of that odor. At Philmont, all items with a smell are placed in a bear bag and hung at night or during the day when participating in program. It would be useful for each member of the crew to have their own ditty bag with their personal smellables in it to put in the bear bag. A few of these items are food, soaps, toothbrushes and toothpaste, lip balm, sunscreen, mosquito repellent, film cartridges, and first aid kits.

Good Scout camping practices are the best way to avoid contact with the bears. Avoid carelessness that results in improperly disposed food. Store all uneaten food in a bear bag. Do not put uneaten food in a latrine. Cook close to the fire ring and away from the sleeping area. Clean up only at the sump. Never eat food in a tent – the odor remains after the food is gone. Tents must be used only for sleeping.

## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

Human scent does not attract bears. The superficial application of scented lotions, soaps, deodorants, shampoo, or spilled food may, however, attract the attention of bears. Washing the body with various products should be done before mid-afternoon so that the residual smells have dissipated before night. Avoid perfumed products with strong odors. Any clothing on which food has been spilled must be placed away from the sleeping area at night. Deodorant is not allowed on the trail. Use sunscreen and insect repellent in time for odors to dissipate before night.

If a bear does visit your campsite, stay away from it, and make noise. Protect your food by hanging it from a cable erected by Philmont for that purpose. Crews that stop for a program or a conservation project should check with staff for bear procedures. Crews hiking off Philmont onto our neighbors' lands will need an extra rope for hanging bear bags. In Philmont camps the weight of the rope alone is sufficient to carry it over the cable. On neighbors' property, where there are no cables, crews will be instructed on how to create their own cable and bear bag system using three ropes. Never risk injury by attempting to protect your food or equipment from a bear. When you arrive at Philmont, your Ranger will thoroughly train you on those camping practices that are most effective in keeping wildlife away from your camp.

### Rattlesnakes

Some parts of Philmont are inhabited by prairie rattlesnakes. They generally live at elevations below 8,000 feet. Prairie rattlers are not aggressive unless provoked and usually sound a warning rattle before striking. If you see one, give it a respectful distance. Rattlesnakes are beneficial in controlling rodent population. Do not attempt to kill one yourself – report it to the nearest staff member. Rattlesnake bites are rare at Philmont.

### Insects

During wet periods mosquitoes take a new lease on life and they love to feast on young blood. Caution should be taken to prevent possible infection by West Nile Virus. Keep tents zipped closed to reduce the number of mosquitoes from entering. Insect repellent is recommended for the trail.

Philmont monitors the risk of any mosquito-borne illnesses in our area. Updated information will be shared at the Advisors Meeting upon arrival.

There are bees and wasps at Philmont. If you are allergic to stings, be sure you have proper medication and that a crew member is informed of your condition and the treatment you may require.

## MEDICAL TREATMENT

Each crew carries its own first aid kit to treat minor cuts, scratches, and burns. Philmont requires that at least two persons in each crew be currently certified in Wilderness First Aid and CPR (or equivalent). More serious cases can be treated by Philmont's trained Backcountry Staff. Backcountry staff work with Philmont Infirmary staff, which include physicians, nurses, medical students, and trained emergency response staff. All staff camps have two-way radios for reporting serious illnesses and injuries to the Infirmary. The Infirmary can provide recommendations for treatment over the radio, arrange transport to base, or send a medical team to the patient.

Everyone who gives first aid when blood or body fluids may be present must wear protective gloves. Anyone who contacts body fluids or substances should immediately wash with soap and water the skin surfaces that came in contact with body fluids. Report it at the next staff camp so that they can contact the Infirmary.

Several Philmont employees are certified by the New Mexico State Police to serve as Field Coordinators for search and rescue operations. When necessary, Philmont can request resources from throughout the state of New Mexico and adjacent states including trained search and rescue personnel (in addition to the Philmont staff), search dogs, trackers, helicopters, and other support. Philmont has written plans for managing different types of emergencies that may arise. Staff are trained in how to respond to emergencies that are most likely to occur.

The most common injuries and illnesses needing treatment at Philmont are:

- Sprains (knee or ankle)
- Abrasions/lacerations
- Altitude sickness
- Dehydration
- Upper respiratory infections
- Upset stomach
- Sore throat
- Nose bleeds

First aid providers should be knowledgeable in recognizing and treating these ailments.

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# 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

## First Aid Kit

Each crew must bring a first aid kit. Each crew carries its own first aid kit to treat minor cuts, bruises, scratches, and burns. More serious cases must be treated by Philmont's medical staff, which includes doctors, nurses, and medical students. All staffed camps have two-way radios for reporting serious illnesses and injuries to the Philmont Infirmary.

These items are recommended for a first aid kit to be used by a crew en route to, during, and returning home from a Philmont trek.

25 Assorted Band-Aids	10 Gauze Pads 4x4	1 Tape Roll 1"x5 yards	1 Elastic Bandage 4"
Hydrocortisone Cream	Tylenol	Ibuprofen	Antacids
Medicated Foot Powder	Non-Latex Gloves	Blister Kit	Antihistamines (Benadryl)
Disposable Alcohol Wipes	Triple Antibiotic Ointment	CPR Barrier Device	Triangular Bandage
Small Scissors	Throat Lozenges	Tweezers	Ziploc or Small Biohazard Bag

Many "over the counter" medicines and first aid supplies are available at the Tooth of Time Traders and backcountry trading posts.

## Medications

Philmont participants who need daily, or emergency medications should bring enough medication for their entire trip, it should be in date and in the original container for medical recheck. Participants who arrive without their medication or have medications that are expired will be required to get that medication at their own expense before being allowed on the trail.

Philmont maintains a secure and licensed pharmacy and can store backup medications for participants

## Camper Insurance Coverage

All campers and leaders are covered by a limited accident and sickness plan through Health Special Risk, Inc. The policy has a maximum coverage of \$15,000 for medical benefits and \$7,500 for sickness expense benefits and includes an excess insurance provision. The plan will pay all eligible expenses incurred from a covered accident or sickness not paid by any other collectable insurance or pre-paid health plan. There is no deductible under this plan.

## Emergency Transportation Costs

Philmont can assist with transportation arrangements to nearby travel hubs when a family emergency (death or serious illness) occurs during an expedition requiring a participant to return home, or if a participant must return home for personal medical reasons. Be aware that, because Philmont is in a remote location, transportation may not be available on short notice and there could be a delay before a participant is able to depart. Participants will be required to reimburse Philmont for any transportation services provided, including transportation to a required airport.

Participants who must return home before the end of their expedition are responsible for all transportation costs to the transportation provider. Travel costs to nearby travel hubs need to be paid directly to Philmont. Philmont will coordinate rides to: Raton train station/Greyhound bus station, Albuquerque airport, Colorado Springs airport, and Denver International Airport at a cost. Reimbursement of approved travel costs and ticket change costs may be covered by camper insurance.

## PROGRAM FEATURES

Each itinerary is carefully developed to give your crew the maximum enjoyment of hiking and camping in the high mountains of the Sangre de Cristos. Itineraries also include certain staffed camps where you will pick up food and participate in program features. Although programs are not compulsory, they are recommended to get the most benefit from your Philmont experience.

## Archaeology

The **Ponil** country in the northern section is rich in the prehistoric background of Native Americans. Your crew can help reconstruct Philmont history while participating in this fascinating program and learning about Indians who inhabited this area.

An educated archaeologist and staff explain and supervise the program in the North Ponil Canyon at **Indian Writings** camp. Activities may include assisting with excavations or preparing specimens and artifacts.

PLEASE NOTE: You can assist the archaeology program by being observant as you hike the trails. You may discover an artifact that will lead to further discoveries. Philmont's antiquities rightfully belong to Philmont and are most meaningful when left



## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

where found. Others can then share the benefit of your discovery. Please report all finds to one of the staff archaeologists at Indian Writings, the National Scouting Museum, or Camping Headquarters.

### Blacksmithing

The ring of hammer striking iron echoes through the mountains around **Black Mountain, Cyphers Mine, French Henry, Metcalf Station, and Rayado/Kit Carson**. Here staff blacksmiths will acquaint you with a working forge, blower, leg vice, hardie, and an array of tongs used to grip red-hot iron. They will discuss and demonstrate techniques for firing the forge, working metal, and tempering the finished product.

### Burro Packing

No animal is more closely associated with the colorful history of the Southwest than the burro. Burro packing methods are explained at demonstrated at **Ponil and Miranda**. Your tents and food may be packed on burrows using a diamond hitch.

Burros are available for use on the trail in the northern portion of the ranch, starting or ending at **Ponil and Miranda**. Burro traps (holding pens for overnight stops) are located at **Ponil, Pueblano, Miranda, Elkhorn, Flume Canyon, Head of Dean, and Baldy Skyline**. Hay for feeding is provided at these camps. If your itinerary provides for packing burros, take advantage of this unique opportunity to pack them just as the miners once did. All crews on a Burro Itinerary must take a burro.

### Cantina

**Abreu and Ponil** offer the opportunity for a thirst-quenching root beer in a Mexican or Western-style cantina. You can buy root beer for your whole crew or a cup for yourself.

### Challenge Events

A series of activities that will test the teamwork, skill, and resourcefulness of your crew awaits you at **Dan Beard, Head of Dean, and Urraca**. While the challenges can be met by every crew, the real contest is with yourself. Did you do your best? How would you do better next time?

### Chase Ranch

The **Chase Ranch** is located along the Ponil Creek adjacent to Philmont Scout Ranch. It was founded by Manly and Teresa Chase in 1867 and has been operated through four generations of family members. Beginning in November 2013, Philmont Scout Ranch established a special use permit with the Chase Foundation and began operation of the Historic Chase Ranch.

A turnaround to begin and end treks is located near the Main House at the Chase Ranch. Tours are offered of the 1871 house and surrounding grounds.

Several itineraries cross portions of the Chase Ranch and two Low Impact Camps have been designated in Chase Canyon. A staffed camp at Chase Cow Camp features a rock climbing and rappelling program.

### Conservation

In 1938, Waite Phillips donated the first tract of what would become Philmont Scout Ranch to the Boy Scouts of America. Prior to that gift and even before Phillips' ownership, that same land had been inhabited for thousands of years by Ute, Comanche, Pueblo, and Jicarilla Apache people. As American colonization began in the 1800s, and as mining, logging, and ranching industrialized the landscape, the high desert environment began to experience use of an unprecedented intensity. Over the past 80+ years, Phillips' original gift and subsequent multi-thousand-acre acquisitions have come to host over one million Scouts camping, hiking, and horse-back riding.

Intense land use of the last 200 years has not occurred without an impact on the local ecosystem and landscape. Phillips envisioned that Scouts could give back to the Ranch by working to preserve its integrity as a natural recreational resource. Since its beginning, Scouts visiting Philmont have been able to preserve, repair, and enhance the natural integrity of the Ranch for future generations by participating in projects ranging from trail construction and maintenance, stream restoration, and fire rehabilitation to forest fuels reduction, erosion control, and invasive species removal. Your crew will have the same opportunity this coming summer. As a requirement for the Arrowhead Award, your trek itinerary will feature an assigned 3-hour conservation project critical to the continued operation of Philmont Scout Ranch. This project will be facilitated by trained Conservation Department staff at one of several conservation sites across the Ranch.

In contrast to the Arrowhead Award, ten hours of conservation work are required for the 50-Miler Award. The three hours earned at Philmont for the Arrowhead Award may be applied toward that requirement, and the remaining seven may be completed in your local council or elsewhere.

However, crews may also elect to complete all 10 hours at Philmont conservation sites. If your crew is interested in this option, please speak to Logistics during trek planning as well as the Conservation Department during your Wilderness Pledge Guia's meeting.

## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

Due to project needs, priorities, attendance, and land use agreements, all project locations, times, and work are subject to change. Project assignments will be updated after itinerary selection. These modifications will be communicated when available. Any subsequent modifications will be further communicated in as timely a manner as possible. Please know that these necessary changes are not made lightly, and that every effort will be made to provide for the least interruption to the rest of your crew's trek. Your work is vital to the continuation of sustainable land use at Philmont, and on behalf of the Ranch, the BSA, and every Scout who has ever or will ever come to Philmont, the Conservation Department extends its deepest appreciation for your time and efforts.

### Continental Tie & Lumber Company

The exciting legend of the loggers with the Continental Tie and Lumber Company will come to life through the staff at **Pueblano** and **Crater Lake**. They will share their skills of spar pole climbing and the use of wood tools and instruments. Competition in exciting logging events such as log toss, cross-cut sawing, and log tong races will challenge your crew.

### Demonstration Forest

Between **Hunting Lodge** and **Clarks Fork**, near Cito Reservoir, a Demonstration Forest has been developed with the support of the American Tree Farm Organization. Be sure your crew takes time to learn about the forests and various forest practices taking place at Philmont. A visiting Forester will be available to visit with crew.

### Environmental Awareness

Become acquainted with some of the western birds, wildflowers, mammals, lizards, snakes, and insects in this natural outdoor wonderland. Discover what wildlife passed through camp by observing tracks and other signs – view how plant and animal species change as you climb higher into the mountains and learn why these changes occur – walk past the timberline and observe the life that survives the rigors of this high-altitude environment.

Across the Ranch, staff members will offer a program of environmental awareness through Philmont's STEM initiatives. These programs will help you understand Philmont's flora, fauna, geology, and life zones, and how that can be a part of maintaining the natural order of things so others that follow can enjoy them too.

A *Philmont Field Guide* is available at the Tooth of Time Traders. It will enhance your environmental awareness during your trek.

### Fly Tying and Fly Fishing

The Rayado and Agua Fria streams in the south offer excellent trout fishing. Though not large, these trout are wary and exciting to catch as a part of Philmont's catch and release fishing programs. Fly rods may be checked out at **Hunting Lodge**, **Fish Camp**, **Abreu**, and **Phillips Junction**.

At **Fish Camp**, a program counselor with material and equipment will show you how to tie your own trout flies. The thrill of catching trout on a fly you have tied is hard to beat! Near **Fish Camp**, **Phillips Junction**, and **Abreu** a catch-and-release program is in effect. If you don't know how to remove the hook from your fish, a program counselor will demonstrate the correct methods. A tour of Waite Phillips' fishing lodge, including a narrative of area history is also offered. All fishermen are required to have a current New Mexico state fishing license (see page **Error! Bookmark not defined.**).

### Geology

Philmont staff and volunteer geologists have teamed up to provide an exciting and educational program of geology and mining technology at sites where history comes alive – **Cyphers Mine**, **Baldy Town**, and **French Henry**.

### Gold Mining and Panning

Gold is still found in almost all streams at Philmont, which was once the scene of lucrative gold-mining operations. Mine shafts, sluice boxes, and placer mines dot the mountainsides and valleys. If your itinerary takes you to **Cyphers Mine** or **French Henry**, you will tour a real gold mine. Not working now, the mines are carefully maintained so you can tour the mine shaft. Bring your jacket and a flashlight for the tour. Learn about adventures and hardships as determined, past miners sought their fortunes in these historic mountains. When you find some gold, ask one of the staff miners for some cellophane tape so you can take your discovery home. Gold pans are available for you to use at **Cyphers Mine** and **French Henry**. You may even run across one of our Roving Prospectors; they will help you learn about gold panning and prospecting too!

### Homesteading

At **Crooked Creek**, **Rich Cabins**, and **Abreu** your crew will visit a working homestead. The staff will help you learn early day skills such as rail splitting, shingle making, primitive farming, log structure construction, and care of farmyard animals. In keeping with the Southwestern spirit of the program, you will be instructed in preparing a special Mexican meal at **Abreu**.

### Horse Rides

Philmont owns and maintains a remuda of 300 western horses with strings located at **Beaubien**, **Clarks Fork**, and **Ponil**. All three camps offer exhilarating mountain horse rides at times noted on crew itinerary. Be prompt for your scheduled ride. Reservations are made at Logistics on a first-come, first-served basis upon arrival at Philmont (confirm times at Logistics). Philmont wranglers are courteous but strict. They make certain everyone stays in line and maintains the pace to avoid endangering members of your crew. Even skilled riders cannot be permitted to ride at a different pace or away from the group. Please cooperate with the wranglers by following instructions for a safe and enjoyable ride. For your personal safety you will wear a helmet, which will be provided. Ponchos and maps should not be taken since they may frighten the horses. Wear long trousers on your horse ride to protect your legs. Closed toe shoes are required to protect your feet. Persons weighing over 200 pounds will not be permitted to ride.

### Jicarilla Apache Life

**Apache Springs** offers a unique program featuring the lifestyle of the Jicarilla Apache. You will see how the Jicarilla worked and played. A replica Jicarilla village has been erected for this program. Teepees are furnished with realistic fireplaces, back rests, robes, hides, and baskets for you to see. and Sporting Arrows programs will also be offered. After that, you can enjoy a "Jicarilla sauna" in a sweat lodge, followed by dousing with cold water (subject to fire restrictions).

### Low Impact Camping

Wildland ethics depend upon attitude and awareness rather than on rules and regulations. While at **Dan Beard**, **Rich Cabins**, and other entry points into the Valle Vidal, you will have the opportunity to learn how to enjoy wildland with respect to hiking, camping, eating meals, and disposal of trash without leaving a scar or trace. You will also receive further "Leave No Trace" information at **Whiteman Vega**, **Ring Place**, and **Seally Canyon**. Your Wilderness Pledge Guia will help you learn the techniques of Leave No Trace.

### Mountain Biking

Enjoy one of America's fastest growing sports at **Whiteman Vega** as your crew takes a wilderness mountain bike ride into the most remote areas of the beautiful Valle Vidal Unit of the Carson National Forest. You will learn bike maintenance, riding techniques, and bike trail construction.

### Mountaineering

Although not a staff-sponsored program feature, mountaineering can be as fun and exciting as any. Restless adventurers seek challenges, camaraderie, spectacular views, fields of delicate wildflowers, stimulating exercise, and solace by climbing high mountains. You can fulfill these urges at Philmont where many challenging mountains await.

**Mount Phillips** stands at 11,736 feet above sea level, towering over the beautiful southwest section of Philmont. This peak is a rugged climb with fabulous views of Eagle Nest Lake, Wheeler Peak (the highest peak in New Mexico at 13,161 feet of elevation), and most of Philmont.

**Baldy Mountain**, named for its rocky, barren top, is a favorite climb for those camping in the area at and around Baldy Town. Dotted with old gold mines, Baldy Mountain is the highest peak at Philmont, standing at 12,441 feet above sea level. The view from the top is unobstructed and spectacular.

The **Tooth of Time**, the iconic incisor sitting at 9,003 feet of elevation, rises abruptly 2,500 feet from the valley floor. A landmark among the old Santa Fe Trail would signify to settlers moving out West that they were approximately two weeks from arriving in Santa Fe.

**Big Red**, **Black Mountain**, **Hart Peak**, **Lookout Peak**, **Trail Peak**, and many other peaks will test your stamina and give you breathtaking views of surrounding terrain. **Little Costilla Peak** at 12,584 feet above sea level is in the Valle Vidal section of the Carson National Forest. Many false peaks will keep you guessing as you work to reach the summit.

Always carry, water, rain gear, a jacket, and other essentials when mountaineering.

### Philmont Campfires

Throughout the backcountry, various staffed camps conduct special evening campfires and programs.

**Urraca**, **Pueblano**, and **Crater Lake** campfires relate to the tales of the Old West, logging, and the history of the land. Facts about the Beaubien-Miranda Land Grant come alive, and the influence of Waite Phillips and his gift of Philmont to the BSA provides for a special inspiration.

At **Beaubien** and **Clarks Fork**, the focus is on the Old West with its songs and stories and true cowboy atmosphere. **Ponil** offers a nightly Old West Cantina show.

## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

At **Cyphers Mine**, the story of gold will ring through your ears as an interpreter relates the life and adventures of the miners of yesteryear at the nightly "STOMP".

At **Metcalf Station**, be ready for the Railroad Jubilee Campfire that regales stories and songs of railroading history and lore.

At **Rich Cabins** enjoy the family gathering and hear some stories and music regaling the life of the Rich family.

Conducting your own campfire can be equally stimulating, whether you are camping at Vista Grande, Wild Horse, New Dean, or another trail camp. You and your friends will enjoy the camaraderie that radiates from the warmth of a Scouting campfire (fire restrictions may prevent building an actual fire).

### Post-Civil War Settlers

Experience life as it was soon after the Civil War at this rustic settlement. Shoot .58-caliber muzzle loading rifles, learn to be a blacksmith, and meet former Fort Union soldiers. **Black Mountain** is one of Philmont's very popular living history camps.

### Railroading

At **Metcalf Station**, learn about the history of the Cimarron & Northwestern Railway and experience what it was like to build a railroad in the early 1900's. The ringing sounds of the mauls driving spikes, the "tick-tick" of the telegraph, combined with the smell of coal burning in the blacksmith's forge will fill the air just like it did in 1907.

Crews work as a section gang re-constructing the logging railroad that brought timber from the North Ponil canyon and Ring Place in the Valle Vidal to the sawmills in Cimarron. They will practice the techniques and use the tools that railroaders used in the early 1900's as they constructed the original railroad.

### Rendezvous

Catch some of the flavor of mountain man rendezvous while at **Miranda**. Find out why rendezvous were held and what went on. See demonstrations of the mountain man way of life and participate in some of these skills and contests such as tomahawk throwing and muzzle-loading rifle.

### Ring Ranch

Visit the historic Ring family home at **Ring Place** and learn about their way of life during the early years. Astronomy is featured each night. Gaze through a professional quality telescope to see the rings of Saturn, distant stars, and moons. Learn how to predict the weather in a wilderness setting.

### Rock Climbing

This fascinating and challenging sport is a favorite of all Philmont campers. You will scale a steep pitch and rappel down a sheer cliff. Philmont has carefully selected three areas to conduct this program where the rocks are safe and practical, but a distinct "Class Five" challenge. Under the supervision of expert climbers, you will climb using your hands and feet while protected by rope and harness, carabiners, and a helmet. Safety is always stressed and practiced.

Rock climbing is restricted to three locations: **Miners Park**, **Cimarroncito**, and **Chase Cow**, and is only done under the supervision of Philmont rock climbing staff.

### Rocky Mountain Fur Company

At **Clear Creek**, several veteran trappers of the Rocky Mountain Fur Company (portrayed by Philmont staff interpreters) have established an outpost camp. Trapping was their way of life; however, it is not practiced at Philmont today. See traps like those they used to catch beaver, muskrat, raccoon, and bear. Hear about how they cured hides and see trade goods which they used to purchase food and supplies.

### Shooting Sports

- .30-06 Rifle Shooting – This program offers a review of firearms and tips for successful and safe shooting. Wildlife conservation and game management are discussed. Metallic silhouette targets provide a challenging experience at Sawmill's range. Each participant will reload and fire three rounds.
- 12 Gauge Shotgun Shooting – Shooting trap takes skill, but with some instruction and practice, you may find that you can hit clay birds. Each participant at Santa Claus will reload and fire three rounds.
- Cowboy Action Shooting – This program is conducted at Ponil. Bring the Old West to life in this exciting shooting sports activity. Participants will shoot single-action army pistols, lever action rifles, and coach shotguns.
- Muzzle Loading Rifle – You will use powder, patch, ball, ramrod, and cap to actually load and shoot a .50 or .58-caliber muzzle-loading rifle. This exciting, historic program is offered at Black Mountain, Clear Creek, and Miranda.
- Additional rounds may be purchased at three for \$1.00 depending on availability and crew loads.

### Western Lore

Philmont is an operating western cattle ranch. Cowboys still watch over cattle on horseback and drive them from their winter pasture on the plains to high mountain meadows for summer grazing. While you hike on trails, look for the white-faced Hereford cattle. Though not wild, they are best observed from a distance. A cow with calf may become dangerous if she feels her calf is threatened. To chase or attempt to rope this animal is foolish and can result in serious injury. Watch and photograph them if you wish.

An organized western lore program is offered at **Beaubien**, **Ponil**, and **Clarks Fork**. Horse riding, campfires, and branding are all part of the western lore program. Philmont cowboys will tell you about New Mexico's cattle industry. Using authentic western lariats, they will show you how to rope.

The cowboy's garb and equipment will be displayed and explained. After a hearty chuck wagon dinner that you will help prepare, you will gather around a campfire under the western sky for an evening of songs, guitar playing, and stories of the Old West at **Beaubien** or **Clarks Fork**. **Ponil** campers will gather at the Cantina for a Wild West Cantina Show.

### Special Trail Meals

The programs at **Clarks Fork**, **Ponil**, and **Beaubien** include a special chuck wagon dinner. A Mexican homestead meal is included at **Abreu**. Members of your crew will help prepare these meals.

### STEM

Philmont has incorporated STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) activities at many of the backcountry staff camps. The STEM activities will provide interesting information and insights that will allow you to obtain a deeper understanding of the programs that you participate in. Watch for these fun experiences along your trek.

### Wilderness Medicine/Search and Rescue/GPS Technology

This exciting, informative program at **Seally Canyon** and **Carson** Meadows will enable your crew to "Be Prepared" to meet emergency first aid needs in a true wilderness environment. Every year, many people become lost in the outdoors. Scouts are often called upon to help search for these people. Your crew will enjoy learning how to correctly conduct an organized search. The staff will share highlights of the Search and Rescue Merit Badge.

### Religious Services

Philmont works with all religious faiths to make possible and encourage full compliance with the 12th point of the Scout Law. "A Scout is reverent. He is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties and respects the convictions of others in matters of custom and religion". Responsibility for fulfilling religious obligations rests with each Expedition Advisor, with the assistance of a Chaplain's Aide and with each crew member for himself.

Chaplains of Protestant, Catholic, LDS, and Jewish traditions conduct services each day at 7 p.m. at Camping Headquarters. The Tooth of Time Traders and Cantina are closed to avoid conflict with this Philmont religious hour.

Your Advisor and Chaplain's Aide will receive a schedule of other worship services. Your crew may also request a special worship service, which can be arranged if the location is accessible, and the schedule permits a chaplain to be there.

Each participant will receive a copy of *Eagles Soaring High* with daily meditations and is an excellent trail worship book. It will help you conduct a worship service when you are in a remote area of your Philmont itinerary.

### Catholic

Catholic chaplains are selected by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting. They are available for religious services, conferences, and confessions. Daily masses are celebrated at Camping Headquarters. Masses are conducted at outlying camps upon request. Scouts and Scouters of Catholic faith who cannot attend Sunday or weekend mass due to great distances between their camps and the place of mass may fulfill their obligation (through a special privilege granted by the Archbishop of Santa Fe) by attending a daily mass at CHQ the evening before departing for the trail or the evening they return to CHQ from the trail.

### Jewish

The National Jewish Committee on Scouting selects a Jewish chaplain who will conduct services and provide for your religious needs. Kosher dinners and pots are available at Outfitting Services to replace cooked trail dinners. If you require kosher food, you should make arrangements to get the required food shipped to Philmont before your arrival (or bring it with you) to replace non-kosher items in trail breakfasts and lunches. Philmont will deliver it to the appropriate commissaries on your itinerary.

## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

### LDS

An LDS chaplain is appointed by the National LDS Committee on Scouting. The chaplain may be contacted to arrange for special services, counsel, or religious services trail kits. Services are held at headquarters each evening.

### Protestant

Protestant chaplains are secured from various National Protestant Religious Committees. They conduct Protestant services every evening at Camping Headquarters and at some backcountry camps on weekends. Special backcountry services can be arranged.

## Camps and Program Features

Camp	Program Features	Camp	Program Features
ABREU	Mexican Homestead, Cantina, Animal Care, Mexican Dinner	Herradura	Trail Camp, Ranger Training
Aguila	Trail Camp, Ranger Training	House Canyon	Trail Camp, Ranger Training
Anasazi	Trail Camp, Ranger Training	HUNTING LODGE	Lodge Tour, History of Waite Phillips, Demonstration Forest, Fishing
APACHE SPRINGS	Jicarilla Apache Life, Sweat Lodge, 3-D and Sporting Arrows (Trap Archery), Food Pick-up, Trading Post, Fuel	INDIAN WRITINGS	Trail Camp, Ranger Training, Archaeology, Atlatl, Petroglyph Tour
Arrowhead	Trail Camp, Ranger Training	Little Twin	Trail Camp, Ranger Training
Backache Springs	Trail Camp, Ranger Training	Lovers Leap	Trail Camp, Ranger Training
BALDY TOWN	Food Pick-up, Trading Post, Museum, Geology, Gold Assaying, Fuel	Maxwell	Trail Camp, Ranger Training
BEAUBIEN	Horse Rides, Western Lore, Chuck Wagon Dinner, Evening Campfire	McBride Canyon	Trail Camp, Ranger Training
Bent	Ranger Training	METCALF STATION	Railroading, Blacksmithing, Handcar, Telegraph, Campfire
Black Horse, Copper Park, Ewells Park, Ute Meadows	Side hike Baldy Mountain	MINERS PARK	Rock Climbing, Rappelling, Food Pick-up, Fuel
BLACK MOUNTAIN	Post-Civil War Settlers-backwoods skills, Muzzle-Loading Rifle, Blacksmithing	MIRANDA	Muzzle-Loading Rifle, Burro Packing, Mountain Man Rendezvous, Tomahawks
CARSON MEADOWS	Search and Rescue, Wilderness Medicine	Old Abreu	Trail Camp, Ranger Training
Cathedral Rock	Trail Camp, Ranger Training	Olympia	Trail Camp, Ranger Training
Chase Canyon	Trail Camp, Ranger Training	PHILLIPS JUNCTION	Food Pick-up, Trading Post, Fuel
CHASE COW	Rock Climbing, Rappelling, Bouldering	Ponderosa Park	Trail Camp, Ranger Training
CIMARRONCITA	3-D Archery, Hunter Safety, Laser Shot Shooting Range	PONIL	Horse Rides, Burro Packing, Cantina Show, Western Lore, Food Pick-up, Trading Post, Chuck Wagon Dinner, Cowboy Action Shooting, Fuel, Cantina
CIMARRONCITO	Rock Climbing, Rappelling, Food Pick-up, Fuel	PUEBLANO	Continental Tie & Lumber Company, Evening Campfire, Spar Pole Climbing, Tie Making
CLARKS FORK	Horse Rides, Western Lore, Chuck Wagon Dinner, Evening Campfire	Rayado River	Trail Camp, Ranger Training
CLEAR CREEK	Rocky Mountain Fur Company, Muzzle-Loading Rifle, Trapping, Tomahawks	RAYADO/KIT CARSON	Historic Tour, Blacksmithing, LaPosta Store, Tomahawks, Weaving, Woodworking



## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

Camp	Program Features
CRATER LAKE	Continental Tie & Lumber Company, Spar Pole Climbing, Tie Making, Evening Campfire
CROOKED CREEK	Homesteading, Animal Care, Candle Making
CYPHERS MINE	Mine Tour, Blacksmithing, Gold Mining and Panning, Geology, Evening STOMP
DAN BEARD	Challenge Course, Low Impact Camping
Dean Cutoff	Trail Camp, Ranger Training
Dean Skyline	Trail Camp, Ranger Training
FISH CAMP	Fly Tying and Fly Fishing, Lodge Tour
Flume Canyon	Trail Camp, Ranger Training
FRENCH HENRY	Mine Tour, Blacksmithing, Gold Mining and Panning, Geology
GARCIA COW CAMP	Environmental Awareness, Habitat Studies, Teachings of Ernest Seaton Thompson, Lobo History
HEAD OF DEAN	Challenge Course
Hells Fire Canyon	Trail Camp, Ranger Training

Camp	Program Features
RICH CABINS	Homesteading, Animal Care, Food Pick-up, Evening Family Gathering, Fuel
Rimrock Park	Trail Camp, Ranger Training
RING PLACE	Fuel, Food Pick-up, Leave No Trace, Conservation, Astronomy, Weather
SANTA CLAUS	12-Gauge Shotgun Shooting and Shotshell Reloading
SAWMILL	.30-06 Rifle Shooting and Cartridge Reloading, Food Pick-up, Fuel
SEALLY CANYON	Wilderness Medicine/Search and Rescue, GPS Technology, Leave No Trace
Sioux	Trail Camp, Ranger Training
Toothache Springs	Trail Camp, Ranger Training
Upper Clarks Fork	Trail Camp, Ranger Training
URRACA	Challenge Course, Philmont Story, Evening Campfire
WHITEMAN VEGA	Mountain Biking, Leave No Trace, Conservation

**CAPITAL LETTERS denote Staffed Camps**

## CAVALCADE GUIDEBOOK

A Cavalcade Horseman and Wrangler will be assigned to your crew and will be with you throughout your trek. They will serve as guides and help care for your horses. Paying close attention to their instructions will help keep your trek running smoothly and safely. Although Cavalcade crews will not be backpacking, good camping and cooking skills are absolutely necessary.

You are responsible for your crew and for seeing that everyone works together as a crew. A Philmont Cavalcade is a team effort – everyone working together and encouraging each other. A crew with an enthusiastic spirit can do far more than it ever dreamed possible. Keep your crew's morale high.

### Horsemanship

We recommend that you and your crew practice horsemanship before your arrival. The Horsemanship merit badge is preferred. Be aware that there is a great difference between eight hours in the saddle at Philmont and one- or two-hours practice at your local stable. While on the trail, your Horseman and Wrangler will coach your crew on sitting up straight and balanced in the saddle. **However, if a horse is sores while on the trail due to sloppy horsemanship, the rider may have to walk or even be removed from the trail.** We strive to keep our horses sound and usable for seven Cavalcades throughout the summer, and it is not fair to those who follow if horses are brought in with saddle and cinch sores.

After instruction by your Philmont Horseman, each crew member will be responsible for saddling and unsaddling their personal horse. You will also receive instruction on packing a horse and tying a diamond hitch.

Be aware that horses are large and powerful animals and that sudden accidents can happen. Be prepared to listen to the instructions given by your Horseman and Wrangler for your safety. Your crew should come with a positive attitude, a willingness to learn, and a respect for horses.

### Physical Preparation

To enjoy a Philmont experience, everyone who plans to attend must be physically prepared. At Philmont, the horseback trails range from 6,500 to 11,000 feet of elevation. Time spent in the saddle will range from three to eight or more hours per day. Horseback riding is strenuous – some knee pain or soreness in your buttocks may be normal – and requires that the rider be physically fit and not overweight. Riders must be able to mount unassisted and must be mentally and physically prepared to sustain eight hours in the saddle alert and balanced. It is highly recommended that everyone on a Philmont Cavalcade fulfill the requirements for the Horsemanship Merit Badge.

You and your crew will be on horseback for six of the eight days that you are at Philmont. Each rider will be assigned a horse at the beginning and will ride that horse throughout the trek. Each horse will be expected to carry the rider plus loaded saddle bags. **FOR THESE REASONS, IT IS REQUIRED THAT EACH RIDER WEIGH NO MORE THAN 200 POUNDS. Regardless of height to weight ratio, no Cavalcade participant (youth or adult) can exceed 200 pounds. If you weigh 201 lbs., you will not be allowed to participate in a Cavalcade.**

Furthermore, regardless of height and weight, all participants must be able to mount unassisted from the ground.

**PARTICIPANTS WHO FAIL TO MOUNT UNASSISTED FROM THE GROUND WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE.**

Staff physicians at Philmont reserve the right to deny access to the backcountry to any adult or youth based on the medical recheck process at Philmont. All medical evaluation forms will be checked by Philmont medical staff. Areas of concern include, but are not limited to: heart disease, seizure disorder, sickle cell anemia, and hemophilia. **Blood pressure without medication must be less than 140/90 for a participant to be permitted to hike at Philmont.** If there are any doubts after the individual has had a physical examination, contact the Philmont medical staff. A Philmont Cavalcade is just as challenging and strenuous as a regular trek.

On Cavalcade layover days, side hikes by the crew and participation in various programs can be expected. A program of regular aerobic exercise is highly recommended to become physically conditioned for Philmont. Plan to exercise for 30 to 60 minutes at a time, three to five days a week.

Jogging, running uphill or up long flights of stairs, and hiking with a full pack are excellent ways to prepare physically. How fast you run or how far you go is not nearly as important as regular exercise. Other aerobic exercises such as swimming, bicycling, stationary cycling, and aerobic exercise classes can supplement your training. Start slowly and gradually increase the duration and intensity of your exercises. A sample conditioning program is included in the *2023 Council and Unit Planning Guide* to be used as a guide for your own program. Please refer to the "Recommendations Regarding Chronic Illnesses" that was included in that same guide. If anyone has further questions regarding their health, they should contact their family physician.

# 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

## Crew Equipment Issued at Philmont

Each Cavalcade will have two or three pack horses. The packhorses plus your personal horse will carry all your personal and crew gear.

Philmont will also provide all necessary horse gear including saddles, bridles, halters, saddle bags, and helmets. Philmont will provide a stuff sack for packing personal belongings and clothing. These stuff sacks are NOT waterproof. If participants desire a waterproof stuff sack, they must bring their own 30L stuff sack in the dimensions of 21 ¼ inches long by 11 inches in diameter. Larger stuff sacks will not be permitted. Crew camping gear such as tents, pots, large spoon, pliers, camp suds, scrubby, matches, toilet paper, sump material, dining fly, bear bags, and bear rope will also be provided. Each participant **must have a raincoat with a hood and rain pants** which need to be one size larger. **Participants may not bring their own saddles, bridles, saddle pads, or saddle bags.**

**Please note that Cavalcade Crews must bring their own cooking stoves or ship ahead of time.**

Trail meals will be provided by Philmont. If an individual in your crew is allergic to food products in the Trail Meal Menu or has special dietary restrictions, replacement food must be purchased at home and transported to Philmont.

## Cavalcade Equipment List

Following is a suggested Cavalcade Equipment List. The list may look extensive, but it should be remembered that Cavalcades are camping on the trail for five or six nights. Keep in mind that all personal gear must fit in the respective packing areas listed below. The **stuff sacks are 21 ¼ "x 11"** and the **saddle bags are approximately 3"x 12"x 12" per side**. The stuff sacks are standard BSA nylon bags as found in a Scout Supply Center.

### KEY FOR EQUIPMENT LIST

(\* = Available at Tooth of Time Traders; \*\* = Western Riding boots required, no lug-soled boots or lace-up boots; (BB) = Placed in bear bag at night; (S) = Share with a buddy/crew)

#### Crew Stuff Sack (1)

- Toiletries, medications, any other "oops bag" items, and mess kits (BB)
- Deep bowl or small plate\*
- Spoon\*
- Cup (Advisors' coffee at Staff Camps)\*
- Any medication that does not need to be accessed during the day
- Toothpaste (BB, S)\*
- Tampons/pads (BB)\*
- Weight-bearing carabiner\*
- 50 feet of nylon rope\*
- Sewing kit\*
- Comb (S)\*
- Shaving cream (no aerosol cans; optional) (BB, S)
- Insect repellant (BB, S)\*
- Tent stakes – 8 per tent and 8 for the dining fly (After camp has been set up for the first time, tent stakes may be rolled up inside packed tents and the dining fly)

#### Personal Stuff Sack (1 per person)

- Sleeping bag (in a compression sack)\*
- Sleeping clothes (to be worn in sleeping bag ONLY, t-shirt/shorts)
- Socks
- Underwear
- 1 spare long sleeve shirt
- 1 spare pair of long pants
- Clothes for side hikes
- Shoes for side hikes/wear around camp
- Camp towel\*

#### Saddle Bags ( 1 per person)

- 2, one-quart plastic water bottles with secure lids (NO camelbacks)\*

#### Feed Bag

- Food for the morning/lunch (provided) (BB)
- Medication taken during the day & emergency medication (BB)
- Lip balm (BB)\*
- Sunscreen (BB, S)\*
- Camera
- Philmont Map (S)\*

#### Tied to Your Saddle

- Warm jacket (wool or fleece)
- Rain jacket
- Rain pants

#### Directly in Pannier Bags (On Pack horses)

- Crew first aid kit (BB, S)
- 2, 2-½ gallon collapsible water jugs (crew must provide)\*
- Backpacking stoves
- Fuel bottles
- Ground cloths for tents

# 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

## On Your Body While on Horseback

- Western riding boots (smooth-soled, with a 1" heel, no laced boots allowed)
- Jeans (western cut, baggy jeans wrinkle up and cause chaffing)
- Long sleeve shirt (tucked in)
- Belt\*
- Helmet (provided)

## Other Gear

- Uniform shirt and bottoms (for travel)
- Alarm clock/watch
- Flashlight/headlamp\*
- Pocket knife (no sheath knives) (S)\*
- Compass (S)\*
- Camera
- Notepad/pencil/pen\*
- Bandana (BB)\*
- Sunglasses\*
- Money (\$20 to \$50 in small bills)
- Compact sleeping pad\*

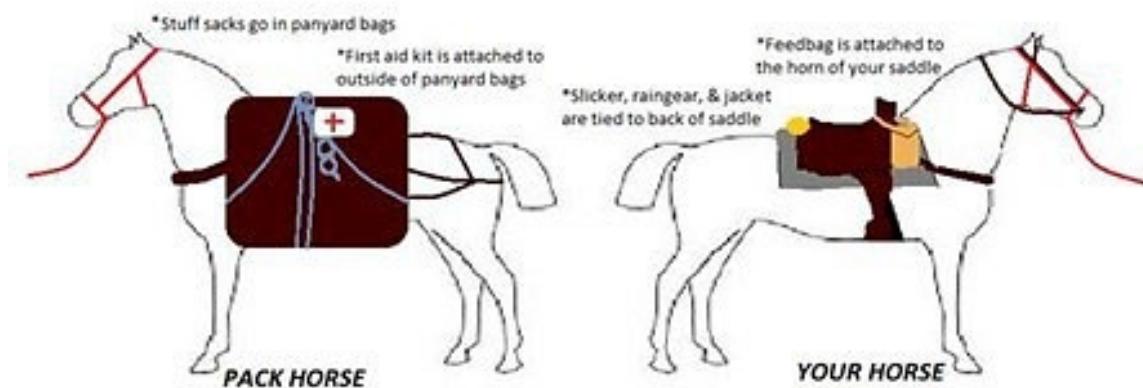
## Not Allowed

- Deodorant
- Radios/MP3 Players/Video Game Devices
- Hammock
- Video Cameras

## Useful Knots & Diagrams

It is recommended that all participants become familiar with the knots listed below. Please use [www.animatedknots.com](http://www.animatedknots.com) as a resource.

- **Sheet Bend:** Used to attach a halter to a horse's head
- **Quick Release:** Used to tie a horse to a fence post or tree
- **Square Knot:** To secure saddle bags, jackets & feed bag to saddle
- **Clove Hitch:** Used in the set-up of a dining fly
- **Taut Line Hitch:** Used in the set-up of a dining fly
- **Lark's Head:** Used to hang bear bags
- **Daisy Chain:** Used to consolidate the trail of rope securing the crew gear to a pack horse
- **Diamond Hitch:** Used to secure crew gear to a pack horse
- **Half Hitch:** Used to secure crew gear to a pack horse



## Day One at Philmont

### Welcome Center

At last, you're here! Drive in beside the gateway to the unloading area at the Welcome Center, where you will be greeted by a staff member with complete instructions for unloading and parking. Please follow them carefully.

### Meet Your Horseman and Wrangler

A Horseman and Wrangler will be assigned to your crew for the initial processing through Camping Headquarters and will guide you through the steps outlined in the Cavalcade Guidebook to Adventure. They will be spending the morning of your arrival day shoeing horses and checking tack. They will be available to meet your crew at 1:00 pm at the Welcome Center on your arrival day to process you through Camping Headquarters and to prepare you for your circle ride the next day.

The Horseman's job is to lead your Cavalcade crew through your eight days and to care for the horses. He or she will give instructions on horsemanship and do everything possible to assure a safe trip. Please pay close attention to instructions and follow all suggestions for a safe experience.

# 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

## Philmont Check-In

Before your crew hits the trail, the following tasks must be completed:

- **Start hydrating now!**
- **Tent Assignment:** You will receive tent assignments at the Welcome Center for your first night at Philmont. Your Ranger will show your crew to their assigned tents.
- **Registration:** Your contingent leader or Lead Advisor will meet the registrar in Camping Headquarters. Philmont requires that two persons in each crew be currently certified in Wilderness First Aid Basic and CPR. Current certifications will need to be presented if they were not uploaded prior to arrival. A large envelope will be provided to store extra money, credit cards and/or valuable documents in the safe while your crew is on the trail. Any outstanding fees will be paid at this time.
- **Crew Photo:** A trained Philmont photographer will take your crew photo before you depart for the trail. Most crews elect to wear their BSA uniforms or a crew uniform. Each crew will also have the option to receive a free 4x6 print of their image or one free digital download. Additional photo merchandise is available at [www.philmontphotos.org](http://www.philmontphotos.org).
- **Logistics:** Your Adult Advisor and Crew Leader (only) will meet one of the itinerary planners at Logistics to finalize arrangements for your program, food pickups, bus transportation, and conservation sites. Your Crew Leader should bring their *Crew Leader Field Guide* and an unmarked Philmont Overall map to mark your route and campsites. Your Crew Leader will receive a detailed copy of your itinerary for use while on the trail.
- **Medical Recheck:** A medical recheck, which may include blood pressure and weight check, will be given to all crew members. Your Ranger will give you the procedures for this required recheck. You will need to bring any medication (in original containers) with you to the recheck.

**A participant whose weight exceeds the maximum allowable on the height/weight chart will not be allowed to participate and should not attend or they may be sent home at their own expense.**

To make the medical recheck as smooth as possible, crew advisors should closely check the Annual Health and Medical Record of each crew member to ensure they are completely and properly filled out and that all medical forms are uploaded to the Gateway before arrival.

Additional information on chronic health issues can be found on the Philmont Website.

- **Outfitting Services:** Outfitting Services is in the Mabee Services Building. Trail equipment including tents, poles, cooking pots, etc., will be issued to your crew along with your first issue of Trail Meals. The Crew Leader's Copy of your itinerary must be presented to draw your trail food. White gas purchases and pack rentals are also handled through Outfitting Services.
- The **Philmont Mail Room** is also located in the Mabee Services Building near Outfitting Services. Your Adult Advisor or Crew Leader should plan to check for mail before leaving this area
- **Shakedown:** You will unpack everything in a place designated by your Horseman. Your Horseman will review the necessary items and demonstrate the best methods of packing at Philmont. Store excess items in your crew locker or vehicle.

**PLEASE NOTE:** After leaving Camping Headquarters, there is NO opportunity to return excess baggage. If you have doubts about taking certain items, discuss them with your Ranger. Your Ranger is NOT permitted to bring any crew gear you take on the trail back to Base Camp nor can items be left in a backcountry camp to be delivered and held in Base Camp. You are responsible to carry everything you take with you for the duration of your trek.

- **Conservation Project and Emergency Boards:** Your Horseman will describe these information boards in more detail at their designated sites in Base Camp.
- **Tour Camping Headquarters:** As time permits, your Horseman can give you a tour of Camping Headquarters. Visit the National Scouting Museum and while there schedule a tour of the Villa Philmonte.
- **Tooth of Time Traders (TOTT):** Your tour should include a visit to the Tooth of Time Traders where a complete supply of outdoor gear and equipment, Philmont items (patches, belts, buckles, maps, gift cards, etc.), and other souvenirs are available. The Tooth of Time Cantina is located adjacent to the TOTT. Items are available online at [www.ToothOfTimeTraders.com](http://www.ToothOfTimeTraders.com).
- **Headquarters Dining Hall:** In Camping Headquarters, you will eat in the dining hall. The menus are well-balanced and nutritious.
- **Leadership Meetings:** Separate meetings will take place for Lead Advisors (all adults should attend), Crew Leaders, Chaplain's Aides, and Wilderness Pledge "Guias". Topics will include current backcountry conditions as well as tips to improve your Expedition.
- **Religious Services:** Chaplains of Jewish, Protestant, Catholic, and LDS faiths conduct services at Camping Headquarters beginning at 7 p.m. Your crew is encouraged to attend (see page 62). The Tooth of Time Traders and will be closed at this time.
- **Contact home:** After supper is a good time to write home. Your parents will enjoy hearing from you. (Philmont postcards are available at the Tooth of Time Traders, Mail Room, and in backcountry Trading Posts).
- **Opening Program:** Your first evening program at Philmont is a portrayal of the "Philmont Story", a historic narrative of the Southwest. Your Philmont adventure begins here. Warm clothing is recommended for this and all evening programs.

## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

- **A Good Night's Sleep:** Following the campfire, quietly return to your tent for a good night's sleep as it will help you adjust to the altitude and be ready. Tomorrow, you hit the trail! Be sure your crew adheres to the nightly quiet hours. Your actions can negatively impact others.
- **Security, Lost-and-Found, Crew Lockers:** Philmont employs a Seasonal Security Staff to assist with Lost and Found, issue crew lockers, and provide security. Crew lockers are reserved for crews traveling by public transportation.  
Crews with vehicles will store belongings in their vehicles. The number of lockers is limited (max 2 lockers per crew). When you hit the trail, nothing can be left in your tent. Do not leave valuables in tents while in Base Camp – Philmont is not responsible for lost or stolen items.
- **Laundry:** Dirty clothing may be laundered at Philmont's self-service Laundromat. One or more crew members should be assigned to bring all the crew's dirty clothes to the laundry. All clothing should be marked with your name in indelible ink and any loose patches or insignia should be removed to save time and confusion. Laundry soap and supplies are available from the Tooth of Time Traders or the Laundromat.

### Day Two at Philmont

#### Northern Itineraries

After breakfast, check out of tent city and report to the Welcome Center for your bus ride to Ponil for horsemanship and saddle training. You will be matched with a horse that will be yours for the remainder of the Cavalcade. After training, you will go on a circle ride that will start and end at Ponil. You will spend this night at Ponil and receive camping training at this time.

#### Southern Itineraries

After breakfast, follow your Horseman's instructions and report to Cattle Headquarters for horsemanship and saddle training. You will be matched with a horse that will be yours for the remainder of the Cavalcade. After training, you will go on a circle ride that will start and end at Cattle Headquarters and complete campsite training before going back to your tents at camping headquarters for the night.

### Day Three at Philmont

Those on Southern itineraries will check out of tent city after breakfast and report to Cattle Headquarters with your gear where your pack horses will be waiting. After packing all personal and crew gear and saddling up, your Horseman will lead your crew to your first backcountry camp. Those on Northern itineraries will report to the Ponil Corral where your Horseman/Wrangler will pack all gear and lead you to your first backcountry camp.

#### Gymkhana

On your last day, after arriving back at base camp or Ponil for South or North itineraries respectively, your crew will compete (weather permitting) in a series of light-hearted riding games against the other cavalcade crew that began their trek at the same time. This event is called Gymkhana (jim-CON- uh) and is meant to be the culmination of your trek and a demonstration of the horsemanship skills you have honed during your week in the saddle.

#### THE PHILMONT GYMKHANA PATCH



A patch awarded by Philmont to each participant after the gymkhana competition on the afternoon of your last day.



### Philmont Museums

Exhibits at the four Museums recount and interpret its rich historical past as well as the story of the Boy Scouts of America. They are open every day, and you will have opportunity to visit them either at the beginning or end of your trek. There is no admission charge.

#### National Scouting Museum at Philmont Scout Ranch

The Museum houses history of the Boy Scouts of America, Philmont Scout Ranch, and the Southwest. It is located at Headquarters. The Seton Memorial Library, located in the National Scouting Museum and home to the personal art, library, and anthropological collections of the founder and first Chief Scout of the Boy Scouts of America, Ernest Thompson Seton. The Museum Gift Shop carries a wide variety of Native American jewelry, carvings, blankets, Southwestern books, and other specialty items appropriate as mementos of your Philmont trek.

#### Kit Carson Museum – Rayado

Philmont lies on part of a land grant given to Carlos Beaubien and Guadalupe Miranda by the Mexican government in 1841. Mountain man Lucien Maxwell founded a colony on the grant on the Rayado River in 1848. A year later he was joined at the settlement by frontiersman Kit Carson. In 1951 the Boy Scouts of America constructed an adobe museum at Rayado to serve as an interpretive area to portray its history. It was named in honor of Kit Carson.

Staff at Kit Carson Museum dress in period clothing and demonstrate frontier skills and crafts like blacksmithing, cooking, weaving, and farming. Each room in the Museum is outfitted with reproduction furniture and objects typical of New Mexico in the 1850s. The Rayado Trading Company, located in La Posta at the Museum, sells books, maps, reproduction tools and equipment, moccasins, and blankets. Tour the historic Maxwell-Abreu house which dates from around 1849.

Kit Carson Museum is located seven miles south of Headquarters. Bus transportation to and from the Museum is available from Headquarters each day. Large groups should schedule with Logistics Services before leaving to the Kit Carson Museum.

Rayado is a registered historical site on the Santa Fe National Historic Trail.

#### Villa Philmonte

When Waite Phillips gave Philmont Ranch to the Boy Scouts of America in 1941, he included in the gift his palatial home, the Villa Philmonte. Philmont maintains and preserves the “Big House” as a memorial to Phillips and his generosity to the Boy Scouts. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Tours of the Villa may be scheduled at the National Scouting Museum.

#### Chase Ranch House Museum

Since 2013, Philmont has managed the historic Chase Ranch, founded in 1869 and operated successfully by the Chase family for over 140 years. The Ranch is famous for its role in establishing the ranching industry in the New Mexico territory as well as hosting famous visitors such as Lew Wallace and Clay Allison. The Ranch House, built in 1871, is open for tours daily. Knowledgeable staff help visitors experience this important piece of western history, showcasing everything from dinosaur bones and local Native American relics to ranching equipment and fine art.

The Chase Ranch House is located 7 miles north of Headquarters. Bus transportation may be available depending on availability. Arrangements for this transportation may be scheduled with Logistics while in Base Camp.

## Philmont Training Center

[www.PhilmontScoutRanch.org/PTC](http://www.PhilmontScoutRanch.org/PTC)

### Conferences and Training

The Philmont Training Center (PTC) is the Boy Scouts of America's training and conference center. Each year a variety of conferences and retreats are held to help adult leaders learn best practices from a world class faculty. Network with Scouters from around the world and strengthen Scouting in your local council with these exceptional learning experiences. Conference guests are encouraged to bring their families to participate in a wide range of family programs making the PTC experience a unique family adventure.

### Family Adventure Camp

BSA Family Adventure Camp is a unique chance to experience the Philmont Scout Ranch like never before! We like to call it "Scouting's Best Vacation."

Family members of all ages will have a chance to participate in all the incredible activities offered at Philmont which include: Hiking, Crafts, Shooting Sports, COPE, Horseback Riding, Fly Fishing and so much more! Make memories with your family that will last a lifetime.

### Fun for the Whole Family

Did you know that Philmont offers programs for the whole family while your trek is in the backcountry? From world-class conferences to our exciting Family Adventure Camp, family members of all ages can have their own unique Philmont experience. Arrive and depart together; our flexible program schedules can accommodate most groups. Everyone wins!

## Scholarships

It is the vision of Philmont Scout Ranch to continue to positively impact the lives of young people and their Scouting leaders through inspiring and effective delivery of the finest Scouting possible through backcountry adventures and Philmont Training Center experiences. Philmont receives many donations from all over the country from those who have had the opportunity to experience Scouting Paradise in God's Country and wants to share that opportunity with others. There are several financial need-based scholarships available from Philmont, your local council or elsewhere. Scholarship funding is limited so please apply quickly.

### Waite Phillips Scholarships

Philmont offers scholarships to young people through the generosity of a gift made by Waite Phillips in the 1960s. The funds are distributed by two primary methods:

1. Funds are allocated to each council with a contingent participating at Philmont. If you have young people who need financial assistance, contact your local Scout Service Center about the availability of scholarship money. Youth apply to the council and the award amount is credited after the certification form is received by Philmont.
2. Individual units (Scouts BSA Troops, Venturing Crews, Explorer Posts) may apply for a Waite Phillips scholarship. Each crew may apply for one scholarship worth \$375. Application forms are emailed to Reservation Contacts and are due back to Philmont by November 30 prior to the upcoming summer. This scholarship is to help make it possible for a youth member to participate who might not otherwise be able to experience Philmont.

### Donor Scholarships

Philmont receives many donations from all over the country from those who have had the opportunity to experience Scouting Paradise in God's Country and wants to share that opportunity with others. The Donor Scholarship application can be found on our website: [www.philmontscoutranch.org/philmonttreks/fees/](http://www.philmontscoutranch.org/philmonttreks/fees/). Scholarship funding is limited so please apply quickly.

If you have questions about Philmont scholarships, please contact [camping@philmontscoutranch.org](mailto:camping@philmontscoutranch.org).

## Staff Opportunities

Philmont hires more than 1,300 seasonal staff members every summer. All staff members must be 18 years of age or older. If you're interested, visit [www.PhilmontScoutRanch.org/jobs](http://www.PhilmontScoutRanch.org/jobs) for more information. First time staff are asked to select at least one base camp position (Food Service, Welcome Center, Housekeeping, Activities, etc.). Positions are in these departments:

- Office Staff
- Food Service
- Commissary
- Trading Post
- Maintenance
- Ranch Dept
- Museum
- Security
- Ranger Dept
- Conservation
- Marketing & Photo Service
- Logistics
- Medical
- Activities
- Philmont Training Center
- Backcountry Programs

## Meanings & Pronunciations

Philmont has a strong Spanish heritage. Derived from a Spanish land grant, Philmont and vicinity is inhabited by many Spanish descendants. New Mexico is by law a bilingual state; both Spanish and English are officially recognized and commonly spoken. The following is to help you understand and correctly pronounce frequently used Philmont names, most of which have Spanish origins.

Abreu ..... Ah-bray-you  
 Agua Fria (cold water) ..... Ah-wah Free-ah  
 Aguila (eagle) ..... Ah-ghe-la  
 Beaubien ..... Bow-bee-en  
 Bonita (beautiful) ..... Bow-knee-tah  
 Caballo (horse) ..... Cah-bye-yo  
 Cimarroncito (little wild one) ..... Seam-mar-ron-see-toe  
 Conejo (rabbit) ..... Con-nay-hoe  
 Cyphers ..... Sigh-furs  
 Ewells ..... You-ulls  
 Guia (Guide) ..... Gee-ah

Jicarilla ..... Hic-are-ree-yah  
 Oportunidad (opportunity) ..... Op-pore-tune-ee-dahd  
 Ponil ..... Poe-kneel  
 Pueblano (little village) ..... Pweb-lawn-oh  
 Rayado (streaked) ..... Rey-ah-doe  
 Sangre de Cristo (blood of Christ) ..... San-gray day Cris-toe  
 Sombra (shadow) ..... Sohm-brah  
 Urraca (magpie) ..... You-rock-ah  
 Valle Vidal (valley of life) ..... Va-yeh Vee-dal  
 Villa Philmonte ..... Vee-yah Fill-mon-tay  
 Visto Grande (magnificent view) ..... Vees-toe Gran-day

## Individual Activities at Philmont

Applications are available at [www.PhilmontScoutRanch.org/PhilmontTreks/](http://www.PhilmontScoutRanch.org/PhilmontTreks/), by calling (575) 376-2281, or emailing [Camping@PhilmontScoutRanch.org](mailto:Camping@PhilmontScoutRanch.org). In addition to regular 7, 9, and 12-day expeditions, Philmont offers the following activities:

### Rayado

Young men and women who have a great desire for adventure can participate in Philmont's most challenging experience – the Rayado program. Many miles of rugged trails and high peaks await those who become Rayado participants. On Rayado you'll learn new leadership skills, advanced trekking and camping skills, and see parts of Philmont you didn't know existed. Rayado participants will experience more of Philmont's backcountry and will have program opportunities not available to participants on 12-Day, 9-Day, or 7-Day treks. If you liked your regular trek, or if you have never been to Philmont before and have always wanted to, you'll love Rayado. The program is designed specifically to challenge one's mental and physical abilities.

Rayado Men and Women learn the true meaning of adventure, fun, and "expecting the unexpected".

The Rayado program is unparalleled for developing outdoor leadership, group dynamics, wilderness problem solving, and advanced outdoor skills. The most qualified Rayado participants often become part of the elite Philmont staff in future seasons as Rangers, backcountry staff, and headquarters staff.

Outstanding young men and women, at least 15 years of age but not yet 21, are eligible to participate in the Rayado program. Two 20-day treks are offered each summer. They are not coed. Leadership is provided by Philmont's most experienced Rangers.

Older Scouts and Venturers who have mastered basic outdoor skills should consider applying for the challenging and selective Rayado trek program. A Rayado trek encourages participants to attain a high level of personal growth and self-reliance. Rayado is a 21-day program. Participants depart the morning of the 21st day. (July 10 and August 8 are departure dates).

2023 Dates & Fees	
Sessions/Dates	#1: June 20 – July 10 #2: July 20 – August 9
Cost	2023 = \$1,235.00
Age	15 by program start date; not yet 21 by program conclusion
Length	20 days and nights

### Ranch Hands

Ranch Hands is a program for Scouts and Venturers who have knowledge of horsemanship/horse care and want to expand their skills and experience. The Ranch Hands crew will spend eight days working in the ranching department hauling hay, saddling, carrying out daily chores and completing other horse program tasks. Then, they will participate in their own special Cavalcade itinerary for eight days. Ranch Hands is a 16-day program. Participants will depart the morning of the 17th day. (July 23 is a departure date).

2023 Dates & Fees	
Sessions/Dates	#1: July 6 – July 22
Cost	2023 = \$500.00
Age	16 by program start date; not yet 21 by program conclusion
Length	16 days and nights

## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

### Trail Crew Trek

Trail Crew Trek (TCT) is a coed educational program focused on conservation project management and leadership development. TCT begins with seven days of trail construction deep in the Philmont backcountry and culminates with a seven-day backpacking expedition. Participants will work with and learn from Philmont staff, as well as professionals in the fields of land stewardship and natural resource management. TCT provides a strong foundation for participants to become involved in conservation and other projects in their local communities. Participants depart the morning of the 15th day. (June 27<sup>th</sup>, July 18<sup>th</sup>, and August 8<sup>th</sup> are departure dates).

2023 Dates & Fees	
Sessions/Dates	#1: June 14 – June 28 #2: July 26 – August 9
Cost	2023 = \$475.00
Age	16 by program start date; not yet 21 by program conclusion not yet 21 by program conclusion
Length	14 days and nights

### Order of the Arrow Trail Crew (OATC)

In partnership with the Order of the Arrow, Philmont offers an opportunity to join other Arrowmen in cheerful service and the formation of lasting brotherhood on the trails at Philmont. The first week focuses on trail construction and maintenance under the guidance of Philmont trail crew foremen. Participants will construct multi-use trail at a remote backcountry worksite while developing skills to successfully trek across Philmont on week two that is a seven-day backpacking trek designed by the participants. The OATC is a 14-day program. Participants depart the morning of the 15th day. (June 22 & 29, July 6, 13, 20 & 27, and August 3, 10, & 17 are departure dates).

2023 Dates & Fees	
Sessions/Dates	#1: June 8 – June 22 #2: June 15 – June 29 #3: June 22 – July 6 #4: June 29 – July 13 #5: July 6 – July 20 #6: July 13 – July 27 #7: July 20 – August 3 #8: July 27 – August 7 #9: August 3 – August 17
Cost	2023 = \$425.00
Age	16 by program start date; not yet 21 by program conclusion
Length	14 days and nights

Participants must be registered members of the Order of the Arrow.

## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

### Roving Outdoor Conservation School (ROCS)

The Roving Outdoor Conservation School (ROCS) is an exciting 21-day program for Scouts and Venturers who have an interest in conservation, environmental science, natural resource management, and outdoor leadership. ROCS offers participants hands-on experience in conservation and environmental science. As the crew hikes the Ranch, they will camp in different forest types and participate in activities in the following areas: forestry, fire ecology, insects, fisheries management, wildlife management, geology, plant identification, dendrology, watershed management, and range management. In addition, part of the trek will practice Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly principles. ROCS is a 21-day program. Participants depart the morning of the 22nd day (July 6, 14, and August 2 are departure dates).

2023 Dates & Fees	
Sessions/Dates	#1: June 15 – July 6 #2: June 23 – July 14 #3: July 12 – August 2
Cost	2023 = \$900.00
Age	16 by program start date; not yet 21 by program conclusion
Length	21 days and nights

### STEM Trek

The STEM Trek is an exciting program for Scouts and Venturers looking to enjoy a 12-Day trek throughout Philmont's rugged mountain wilderness while learning about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in the process. Hike and learn about forestry, wildlife management, geology, botany, watershed management, physics, chemistry, astronomy, stream ecology, and range management. STEM Trek participants will spend their time at the Ranch taking part in Philmont program while engaging in interactive lessons and science. Scouts will go beyond regular program and explore the scientific principles that make outdoor adventure the most exciting component of the Scouting program. STEM Trek participants will hike alongside Philmont staff with academic backgrounds in the subject matter and who have experience with outdoor education. Participants depart the morning of the 13th day. (July 22, 28, and August 3 are departure dates). Co-ed sessions are available.

2023 Dates & Fees	
Sessions/Dates	#1: June 13 – June 25 #2: July 15 – July 27 #3: July 23 – August 4
Cost	2023 = \$1,490.00
Age	14 by program start date; not yet 21 by program conclusion
Length	7 or 12 days and nights



## Fall, Winter, and Spring Programs

### Autumn Adventure

The fall is a great time to experience Philmont. Autumn Adventure treks are scheduled from September through October. Each trek can be customized to fit the schedule of the group attending and can vary from a leisurely day hike to an extended backpacking expedition.

Autumn Adventure is open to crews of 8 to 12 participants accompanied by an Autumn Adventure Guide. Larger groups are organized into multiple crews. A crew may be assembled from a Scouts BSA Troop, Venturing Crew, Explorer Post, or an all-adult group such as a unit, district, or council committee members. All participants must be registered members of the BSA.

Youth participants must be at least 14 years old or in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and at least 13 years old at the time of participation. Youth groups must be accompanied by at least two adult leaders. Coed youth groups must have at least one adult male and one female adult Advisor.

Every participant is required to have a current medical examination within the previous 12 months and meet requirements for physical condition. Philmont requires at least one crew member be certified in Wilderness First Aid and CPR.

### Autumn & Winter 7-Day Treks

7-Day Treks are now available during these seasons and offer a special opportunity to earn a new Philmont Arrowhead Award and qualify for the Triple Crown and Grand Slam of High Adventure.

### Winter Adventure

Participants in Winter Adventure learn to camp comfortably in cold weather and enjoy Philmont's beauty in winter. After an initial training session, several program options are available to each group depending on its interests, the weather, and snow conditions. Crews hike through the backcountry, sleep in tents or snow shelters and participate in activities such as ski touring and snowshoeing, snow shelter building, winter ecology, Search and Rescue Merit Badge and avalanche beacon education.

Winter Adventure expeditions are scheduled around weekends from late December through March. The Winter Adventure program is available to crews of 6 to 12 participants, who will be accompanied by a Winter Adventure Guide. A crew may be assembled from a Troop, Crew, Post, or Ship and must have a majority of youth participants. All participants must be registered members of the BSA.

Each crew must have at least two registered adult Advisors and must be at least 21 years old. For coed Venturing Crews and Explorer Posts, there must be a male and female Advisor, both at least 21 years old. Youth participants must be at least 14 years old or in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and at least 13 years old at the time of participation.

Every participant must be in good physical condition and present an Annual BSA Health and Medical Record form with a current medical examination that has been filled out by their physician within the past 12 months.

A typical Winter Adventure trek lasts three days, scheduled over a weekend, but the length of the trek can be adjusted to fit the schedule of the group attending. However, groups that wish to limit their trek to only the weekend will have limited time for program activities.

- **Special Holiday Program** – Philmont offers a special deal on Winter Adventure between Christmas and New Year's Day.
- **Cold Weather Camping Program** – Winter Adventure is a program which teaches participants how to camp comfortably during cold winter months. With the help of a trained Winter Adventure Guide, you will learn to camp, cross-country ski and build snow shelters. Winter Adventure's main goal is to teach crews how to be "comfortably cool" while out in the cold, giving Scouts skills to take home and use in their own cold weather camping programs.
- **Downhill Skiing Package** – For a small extra fee, you may add a day of downhill skiing at the beautiful Red River Ski Resort when you participate in Winter Adventure.
- **Cross Country Skiing Package** – For a small extra fee, you may add a day of cross-country skiing at the Enchanted Forest Cross Country Ski Area when you participate in Winter Adventure.

## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure

### Leave No Trace Master Educator Course

The five-day Master Educator course is designed for people who are actively teaching outdoor skills or providing recreation information to the public. This valuable training is recognized throughout the world by the outdoor industry, land management agencies, and the outdoor recreation community. Master Educators can train others in Leave No Trace skills as well as facilitate Leave No Trace Trainer courses and awareness workshops.

This course is offered during one week of the Autumn Adventure season. Please contact Philmont Registration for additional information.

### Philmont Advisor Skills School (PASS)

This weekend long training experience provides an opportunity for crew advisors to learn the fundamentals of Philmont camping skills and procedures in the beauty of the Sangre de Cristo mountains. Courses are taught by experienced Philmont Rangers and Backcountry Staff and help advisors learn important skills that will help them be better prepared for their summer experience.

Participants will have an on-site, hands-on learning experience that will give a better understanding of the following Philmont skills, procedures, and resources:

- Conducting a shakedown hike
- Philmont issued gear
- Physical conditioning
- Crew Youth Leadership positions
- Campsite setup and the "Bearmuda Triangle"
- Smellables and bear bag hanging
- Dining fly and tent setup
- Gas stove operation and care
- Philmont's backcountry cooking method
- Sample some of the newest trail meal options
- Dishwashing and sump use
- Effectively breaking camp
- Day 1 Base Camp processing
- Scheduling Philmont Museum experiences
- Philmont Second Season Programs
- Introduction to Winter Adventure Program

### Program Overview

After checking in and processing the evening before, the course will start with a quick tour of the Day 1 process in base camp, gear shakedown, and outfitting services for food and supplies. The crew is taken to a backcountry trailhead for a short hike to a camp where the training will commence. The next day includes a short hike and a return to base camp for continued sessions, tours of the Villa Philmonte and the National Scouting Museum. The closing dinner will be a special opportunity for recognition and closing words and presentation of the official PASS patch.

### Participants

The PASS program is tailored especially for any adult leader registered for the coming summer seasons but is open to ALL registered BSA leaders who want to learn more about camping at Philmont! Crews are limited in size and will be mixed groups of leaders from across the country. (Crews are limited to 12 persons each.) Space is limited, so register early!

### Dates Offered

The PASS program will be offered during multiple weekends during the winter and spring season. Arrival dates are on Fridays, with departures on Monday mornings. Weekends the program will be offered are:

- September 23-16, 2022
- October 7-10, 2022
- January 13-16, 2023
- February 17-20, 2023
- March 24-27, 2023
- March 31 – April 3, 2023

Fall 2023 course dates are not set at this time.

### Wilderness First Aid



A brand-new option available for PASS participants will be an add-on package to complete Wilderness First Aid training while at Philmont. This will be taught on-site by one of our certified staff members and will qualify for your crew's Wilderness First Aid requirement for your Philmont Trek. Space is limited due to class size restrictions (COVID protocols) and will be filled on a first come, first served basis. The course is 16 hours long and will require two additional nights at Philmont. Cost for the add-on package will be \$125 and covers training materials, meals, and lodging. The course will be taught October 6-11, 2023.

If spots are available, Advisors not participating in PASS can sign up for this Wilderness First Aid Training opportunity. The cost for the course for non-PASS participants will be \$175. Use the special WFA registration form on the website to see what dates and spots remain for the courses. [www.philmontscout ranch.org/philmont-advisor-skills-school/](http://www.philmontscout ranch.org/philmont-advisor-skills-school/)

### Other Opportunities

Exhibits at the four Philmont museums recount Philmont's rich historical past. They are open every day, and you will have the opportunity to visit them either at the beginning or the end of your trek. There is no admission charge.

#### Philmont Museums

##### National Scouting Museum—Seton Memorial Library

Located across the road from Camping Headquarters, the National Scouting Museum houses history exhibits related to the Philmont area and worldwide Scouting history. The Seton Memorial Library is home to the personal art, library, and anthropological collections of the founder and first Chief Scout of the Boy Scouts of America, Ernest Thompson Seton. The Museum Gift Shop carries a wide variety of Native American jewelry, carvings, blankets, Southwestern books, and other specialty items appropriate as mementos of your Philmont trek.

##### Kit Carson Museum at Rayado

Philmont lies on part of a land grant given to Carlos Beaubien and Guadalupe Miranda by the Mexican government in 1841. Mountain man Lucien Maxwell founded a colony on the grant on the Rayado River in 1848. A year later, he was joined at the settlement by frontiersman Kit Carson. In 1951, the Boy Scouts of America constructed an adobe museum at Rayado to serve as an interpretive area to portray the area's history. It was named in honor of Kit Carson.

Staff at the Kit Carson Museum dress in period clothing and demonstrate frontier skills and crafts like blacksmithing, cooking, shooting, and farming. Each room in the museum is outfitted with reproduction furniture and objects typical of New Mexico in the 1850s. The Rayado Trading Company, located at the museum, sells books, maps, reproduction tools and equipment, moccasins, and blankets. You can also tour the historic Maxwell-Abreu house, dated around 1847.

The Kit Carson Museum is located seven miles south of Camping Headquarters. Transportation to and from the museum is available from Camping Headquarters each day. Large groups should schedule through Logistics before going to the Kit Carson Museum. Rayado is a registered historical site on the Santa Fe National Historic Trail.

##### Villa Philmonte

When Waite Phillips gave Philmont to the Boy Scouts of America in 1941, he included in the gift his palatial summer home, the Villa Philmonte. Philmont maintains and preserves the "Big House" as a memorial to Phillips and his generosity to the BSA. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Tours of the Villa may be scheduled at the National Scouting Museum.

##### Historic Chase Ranch

Since 2013, Philmont has managed the historic Chase Ranch, founded in 1869 and operated successfully by the Chase family for over 140 years. The Ranch is famous for its role in establishing the ranching industry in New Mexico territory, as well as hosting famous visitors such as Lew Wallace and Clay Allison. The Ranch House, built in 1871, is open for tours daily. Knowledgeable staff help visitors experience this important piece of western history, showcasing everything from dinosaur bones and local Native American relics to ranching equipment and fine art.

The Chase Ranch is located seven miles north of Camping Headquarters. Bus transportation is available daily. Arrangements for this transportation should be scheduled through Logistics.

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## 2023 Advisor's Guidebook to Adventure NOTES

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# INDEX

Accidents.....	53	Firearms.....	55	Organizing Your Crew .....	34
Advisor’s Meeting .....	46, 68	Fireworks .....	55	Outfitting Services .....	46
Arriving.....	44	First Aid Kit .....	57	Packs.....	37, 40
Autumn & Winter 7-Day Treks.....	76	Flash Floods .....	36	Passport.....	50
Autumn Adventure .....	76	Food Pickups .....	48	Patrol Method .....	34
Backpacking Stoves .....	38	Footprint.....	36, 42	Philmont Training Center.....	71
Bearmuda Triangle.....	48	Fuel.....	38, 42	Photo (Talent) Release .....	2
Boots .....	38	GPS .....	37	Program .....	1, 57
Cavalcade		Group Dynamics .....	53	Program Features .....	63
Welcome Center .....	67	Harassment .....	2	Programs.....	76
Cavalcade		Health & Safety .....	51	Ranch Hands .....	73
Guidebook .....	65	Accidents.....	53	Ranger.....	45, 47
Cavalcade		Altitude Sickness .....	53	Rattlesnakes .....	56
Northern Itineraries.....	69	Cleanliness .....	51	Rayado Trek .....	73
Cavalcade		Clothes Washing .....	52	Registrar .....	45, 68
Southern Itineraries.....	69	Dehydration .....	52	Religious Services .....	46, 62, 68
Cavalcade		Foot Care.....	51	ROCS .....	74
Gymkhana.....	69	Hantavirus.....	53	Scholarships.....	72
Chaplain’s Aide Meeting .....	46, 68	Heat Exhaustion .....	52	Security .....	69
Check-In .....	68	Heat Stroke .....	52	Shakedown .....	46, 68
Clothing.....	38	Hyperventilation .....	52	Sleeping Bags.....	39
Conferences and Training .....	71	Hypothermia .....	52	Smartphones .....	33
Cooking .....	48	Plague .....	53	Socks .....	39
Crew Leader’s Meeting .....	46, 68	Sunburn.....	52	Staff .....	1
Crew Photo.....	68	Hiking.....	47	Staff Opportunities .....	72
Day One.....	44	History .....	1	STEM Trek.....	75
Day Three .....	47	Homebound.....	50	Sumps .....	54
Day Two.....	47	Horse Rides.....	60	Tent Assignment.....	68
Dehydration .....	52	Insects.....	56	Tents .....	36, 43
Dining Hall .....	68	Insurance Coverage.....	57	Tobacco .....	54
Dishwashing .....	54	Latrines.....	54	Trading Posts .....	39, 46, 68
Drinking Water .....	54	Laundry.....	69	Trail Crew Trek.....	74
Drones.....	33	Leave No Trace .....	1, 47, 51, 60	Training Center .....	71
Emergency		Lightning .....	35	Trash .....	54
Locator.....	37	Location.....	1	Turkey Bags.....	49
Transportation.....	57	Lockers.....	46, 69	Weather.....	35
Equipment		Logistics .....	46, 68	Welcome Center.....	44
Crew.....	42	Lost & Found .....	46, 69	Wilderness Pledge .....	50
Personal .....	39	Map & Compass .....	37	Wilderness Pledge “Guia” Meeting .....	46, 68
Philmont Issued .....	43	Meanings and Pronunciations.....	72	Wildlife.....	1
Essentials for Hiking .....	43	Money .....	39	Winter Adventure.....	76
Family Adventure Camp.....	71	OA Trail Crew.....	74		
Fire Rings.....	47	Opening Program .....	68		





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### **PHILMONT GRACE**

For Food  
For Raiment  
For Life  
For Opportunity  
For Friendship and Fellowship  
We Thank Thee O Lord

### **PHILMONT HYMN**

Silver on the sage,  
Starlit skies above,  
Aspen covered hills,  
Country that I love.

Philmont here's to thee,  
Scouting Paradise,  
Out in God's Country,  
Tonight.

Wind in whispering pines,  
Eagles soaring high,  
Purple mountains rise,  
Against an azure sky.

Philmont here's to thee,  
Scouting Paradise,  
Out in God's Country,  
Tonight.

