



# OATC – Frequently Asked Questions

Here is a list of frequently asked questions, if you have any further questions, please feel free to contact us.

## EQUIPMENT

### *Are boots required?*

Short answer yes, a sturdy well broken-in pair of work or hiking boots are required for work week. Trail runners are acceptable for the trek week portion, but participants will need boots for work.

### *What gear is provided by Philmont?*

All Crew gear items such as stoves, fuel, tents, pots, water purification, bear bags and rope will be provided by Philmont and the Conservation department. The only crew gear item not provided are Philmont Sectional maps that can be bought upon arrival at the Tooth of Time Traders.

### *Can I rent a pack?*

Yes, Philmont can provide participants with a pack should the pack you bring be too small or become damaged. Costs vary around \$30 depending on the situation.

### *What is the weather like? Do we need cold weather gear?*

During the summers weather can vary greatly. Temperatures can be in the 90s and drop down to the low 30s. We recommend having a good layering system and most importantly high quality rain gear. Sleeping bags rated for 20 degrees would be recommended but higher temperature bags may work if used with a sleeping liner.

### *What happens in the event of an emergency?*

Philmont has an intensive infrastructure and full infirmary on base. Any injuries or mental health incidents will go through Philmont's Infirmary and parents and or guardians will be notified. OATC Foremen are trained in Wilderness First Aid and CPR and are properly trained to communicate to the Infirmary in case of emergency.

### *What is the Cell Phone Policy?*

Participants are highly encouraged to leave their cellular device in basecamp, so that they may take the unique opportunity to engage more deeply the beauty of nature and the Philmont experience. The backcountry has the tendency to break electronics, and we provide safe and secure storage for devices at basecamp so that cell phones can be used for coordinating travel logistics. If brought on trail, the participant is responsible for their device and only permitted to use it as a camera.

## Work Week

### *How long is the work week?*

Participants are expected to work a total of 40 hours. Working hours include trail construction, campsite improvements and refilling campsite water.

### *Where is the worksite?*

The current OATC worksite is located on the southern side of Mt. Phillips at over 11,000ft in elevation. Upon completion of the Mt. Phillips trail OATC will relocate to Cimarroncito Peak.

### *Do we return to base camp in between work and trek week?*

No, participants will start their trek week from Mt. Phillips but have an opportunity to send extra gear down to base in a summit or day bag.



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### Trek Week

#### *Who is leading the treks?*

Two OATC Foreman will be serving per crew. There will be two twenty-one-year-olds always present with the crews as they trek through Philmont Backcountry. During the trek week each participant will have an opportunity to take on duties such as navigator and crew leader.

#### *How many miles will the crews hike?*

Miles are completely dependent on the general shape of the crew but participants should expect to hike anywhere between 65-85 miles during trek week.

#### *Are there opportunities to take showers in the backcountry?*

Due to the nature of our program and water constraints, OATC Crews will not take showers until they return into basecamp. Your foremen will be able to instruct you on several ways to stay relatively clean during your trek.

### Travel

#### *What day do I need to arrive?*

For all participants traveling via train or plane travel; you will have to arrive the day prior to your trek start date. EX. Traveling from LAX to ABQ for session 5 - 706. Participants would fly into ABQ on 705 and shuttle to Philmont that day. For all participants arriving by personal vehicle; they will need to arrive on the trek start date by 11:00AM.

#### *What day do I need to depart?*

Participants should plan to depart on the last date of their trek. EX. Session 5 – 706 -720. Departure date would be 720. Participants traveling via the plane will depart Philmont in the morning. Participants traveling via Amtrak will leave that afternoon from Philmont and participants being picked up should plan to be picked up by 10:00AM.

#### *Where can I find shuttle information?*

Current shuttle information can be found on the Philmont website, [Getting to Philmont](#). Third-party shuttle companies provide this service to Philmont.

### Dietary Restrictions

#### *Do I need to bring my own food?*

OATC can accommodate common dietary restrictions such as vegetarian diets. For more severe allergies or uncommon diets participants should call OATC leadership in advance but will most likely need to provide their own supplementary food and possibly full meals. Please note your dietary needs on NOAERS otherwise we will be unable to plan for you.