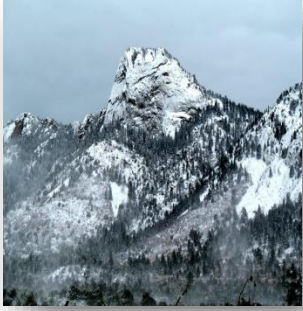


# Winter Adventure Program Planning Guide 2026



Philmont Scout Ranch

**Scouting**  **America**™



# Winter Adventure

Dear Winter Adventure Advisor:

Greetings from Philmont! As the leaves drop from the trees, the weather gets colder and colder, and as our first snow approaches, we are busy preparing for another exciting Winter Adventure season!

All of us here at the ranch are delighted that your unit is considering attending this winter. Whether it is your first time to camp in the snow or you are a seasoned veteran, this program is a great way to see Philmont in a way that not very many Scouts get to see! Winter Adventure is also a great way to introduce your Scouts to the unique experience of cold weather camping. Our goal is to teach your group how to both camp comfortably in the cold and have FUN!

This manual is designed as a resource to assist you and your crew in preparing for a very special experience at Philmont. Please review all the information and forms contained within but do feel free to contact us should you have any questions about your trip to Philmont. Our aim is to provide the best experience for you and your crew, from reservation submission to departure.

We look forward to serving you at Philmont and providing you with a fun winter experience. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

**Austin St. George** | Associate Director of Camping  
**BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**  
**Philmont Scout Ranch**  
17 Deer Run Road  
Cimarron, NM 87714  
Phone: 575-376-2281 ext. 51132  
[austin.st.george@scouting.org](mailto:austin.st.george@scouting.org)



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*"Delivering wilderness and learning adventures that last a lifetime."*

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## About Winter Adventure

Winter Adventure is Philmont Scout Ranch's winter camping program. The program started in the winter of 1990 and was known as Kanik (Inuit for snowflake). In 2011, the name was changed to Winter Adventure to provide consistency with Philmont's other Second Season adventure programs (Autumn Adventure, Sportsman's Adventure, etc.)

Initially the program was based on Northern Tier's Okpik program in Ely, Minnesota. The basic geography and environments of the two high adventure bases led to two different programs being developed. Philmont utilizes the mountains and incorporates skiing, snowshoeing, and snow and avalanche safety.

Cold weather camping is the ultimate test of your ability to camp and travel in the backcountry and to learn to live in harmony with the environment. Philmont's goal is to teach every person that participates in Winter Adventure how to camp comfortably and safely in the cold, and to have fun! The training provided during this experience, will prepare you to safely enjoy many more winter adventures and to teach others to enjoy these unique experiences. Your Philmont Winter Adventure Guide should be used as a resource to help everyone learn and have a positive experience.

Winter Adventure is the perfect opportunity to enjoy the beauty of Philmont and to see the ranch in a whole new light. Thank you for choosing Winter Adventure at Philmont Scout Ranch!

## Program Opportunities

Winter Adventure treks offer a unique opportunity to see Philmont like few others have. The winter program opportunities are all weather dependent, but we strive to be as flexible as possible to give you and your crew the best trek experience possible. Crews come for a weekend, a long weekend, or for a spring break trip. You can select the number of days that works best for your crew and tailor the activities to match.

### Snow Activities

- Snowshoeing
- Cross-country skiing
- Quinzhee building (snow shelters)
- Cold weather camping
- Sledding and tubing

### Merit Badge Offerings

- Snow Sports
- Search and Rescue

### Ski Resort Activities

- Downhill skiing or snowboarding – At Red River Ski Area
- Cross-country skiing

### Trek Offerings

- 7-Day Treks (March)

## Planning Your Winter Adventure

We try to make planning a Winter Adventure as simple as possible. We hope that you can use this book as a resource to assist you in the planning of your trek.

The planning process for a Winter Adventure Trek:

1. Select program options you would like to participate in
2. Make your reservation
3. Prepare your crew
4. Arrive for your Winter Adventure trek!

### Who May Participate?

Winter Adventure is open to crews of 5 to 12 participants accompanied by a Winter Adventure Guide. Larger groups will be organized into multiple crews (please call for approval). A crew may be assembled from a Scout BSA Troop, Venturing Crew, Sea Scout Ship, Explorer Post or an adult group of Unit, District, or Council Committee members.

*Crews MUST meet the following requirements:*

- All participants must be registered members of the BSA.
- All participants must have completed the [BSA Annual Health and Medical Record](#) within the previous 12 months and meet physical condition requirements.
- Youth participants must be at least 14 years of age OR 13 years of age and in the eighth grade at the time of participation.
- Each crew must have two registered adult advisors, at least 21 years of age.
- For Winter Adventure Crews composed of multiple units (Scout Troops, Venture Crews, Sea Ships, etc.) Each unit needs to provide its own two-deep leadership meeting the requirements outlined in Scouting's Barriers to Abuse.
- Coed groups must have at least one female advisor (over 21 years of age) as a part of the two-deep leadership.
- Each group must have at least one member certified in CPR and Wilderness First Aid (may be met by two separate people).



## Winter Adventure Program

Cold weather camping is the ultimate test of your ability to camp and travel in the backcountry and learn to live in harmony with the environment. Training in winter camping will prepare you to safely enjoy many winter adventures and to teach others to enjoy these unique experiences.

Participants in Winter Adventure learn to camp comfortably in cold weather and enjoy Philmont's beauty in a way that few others have. Crews snowshoe to their camp, sleep in tents or snow shelters, and participate in a variety of cold weather activities.

Winter Adventure expeditions take place from late December through March.

### *Program Opportunities for Winter Adventure:*

- Cold weather camping
- Snowshoeing
- Cross-Country Skiing
- Quinzhee building (snow shelters)
- Sledding and tubing
- Snow Sports merit badge
- Search and Rescue merit badge



The most commonly used sites for camping include Miranda, Cimarroncito, Hunting Lodge, and Lover's Leap camp. The camping location will be selected based upon snow and weather conditions as well as other safety factors as identified by the Winter Adventure staff.

### *Winter Adventure Rates:*

- **Reservations:** Reservations are confirmed upon receipt of a \$500 deposit per crew
- **Cost:** \$120 per person per day
- **Travel Nights:** Available for crews who wish to add a night due to travel needs/restrictions/requirements = \$35/person
- **Balance:** Due upon arrival at Philmont.
- **Refunds:** ALL reservation fees are neither non-refundable nor transferable to the balance in the event of cancellation

### *Sample Winter Adventure Itineraries:*

Here are sample itineraries for Winter Adventure Programs both a weekend program and a long weekend program. But itineraries can be customized to your crew by change length of time, adding in Down-Hill Ski days, or Casita Camping.

#### *Weekend sample Itinerary (2 Days)*

Friday	Arrive at Philmont, Check-in to indoor accommodations, Winter Adventure Orientation and Gear Shakedown in the Winter Gear Room
Saturday	Breakfast in Base camp, Head to the Backcountry, snowshoe to campsite for the night
Sunday	Return back to Base, return gear, and depart Philmont after Lunch.

#### *Long Weekend sample Itinerary (3 Days)*

Friday	Arrive at Philmont, Check-in to indoor accommodations, Winter Adventure Orientation and Gear Shakedown in the Winter Gear Room
Saturday	Breakfast in Base camp, Head to the Backcountry, snowshoe to campsite for the night
Sunday	Stay in the backcountry participant in cold weather and winter activities.
Monday	Return back to Base, return gear, and depart Philmont after Lunch.



## Winter Adventure - Add on Programs

### Downhill or Cross-Country Ski Packages

The Downhill Ski Package is one of the best valued programs Winter Adventure has to offer. This package offers crews the opportunity to spend one or more days skiing or snowboarding at our partner resort: Red River Ski & Summer Area. Crews can add a ski day to a Winter Adventure or crews can spend their entire trip to Philmont going Skiing.

Philmont will make all the resort reservations and the logistics of hosting your crew at Philmont, and a Winter Guide will go to the resort with the crew to the Ski Area with one Philmont truck to help provide transportation for people and gear.

Crews may elect to spend their entire trip hitting the slopes! Enjoy the housing, meals, and amenities of staying at Philmont while you spend the day skiing or snowboarding at Red River Resort. Crews are lodged in heated dorms with bunk beds, private showers for each room, and meals are provided in the dining hall for breakfast and supper, and sack lunches are provided to eat at the resort. Crews can also visit the National Scout Museum, reserve a Villa Tour, and shop at the Tooth of Time Traders.

### *Program Includes:*

- Meals and housing at Philmont
- Ski or snowboard rentals\*
- Lift ticket for the day
- Sack Lunch provided by Philmont
- A Philmont Guide to help your crew navigate the resort

\*Helmets are REQUIRED for all downhill skiing and snowboarding activities, per BSA Guide to Safe Scouting. They are not provided in this fee, as they are rented from a separate vendor at the resort. They are rented separately by the Crew upon arrival at the resort for around \$12 per day.

Crews provide their own transportation to and from the resort unless other arrangements have been made prior to their arrival at Philmont. Dates and availability of ski programs are subject to weather and snow conditions as well as resort availability.

### *Ski Package Rates:*

Program	Length	Price – with Winter Adventure Fee Added
Downhill Ski Package	1 Day	\$205 per person per day

All resort fees, reservations, lift tickets, and equipment rentals (helmets separate) are all covered by the Ski Package fee. Contact Philmont for more information on availability, dates, and to provide a quote for your group.





## Casita Camping

Casita Camping allows for crews to camp in the comfort of one of Philmont's backcountry cabins. Popular cabins for the winter are Cimarroncito, Hunting Lodge, Miners Park, Miranda, Clark's Fork. Each cabin is outfitted for overnight accommodations with the main cabin utilized as the main lodge for cooking, eating, games, and activities. Campsite setup time is eliminated which allows for more time to enjoy the variety of snow and cold weather activities that the Winter Adventure program offers.

The Casita Camping program is open to all Scouts ages 11 and up. Lodging in cabins allows for all to learn more about cold weather camping and for younger Scouts to gain that experience and have cabins to warm up and get out of the weather. As with other Winter Adventure programs, guides remain with the crew to provide this training and to deliver the typical winter adventure activities and Merit Badges.

Meals are also upgraded with the Casita program. The kitchen will allow for preparation of a nice warm meal at the end of the day. These will be one-pot, or frozen and baked meals, simple in nature to prepare, but very filling. Dutch oven cobbler will be a nice treat to end the day, as well! Breakfasts will be oatmeal and other warm options, with lunch being the typical Philmont trail meal offerings.

The camping location will be selected based upon snow and weather conditions as well as other safety factors as identified by the Winter Adventure staff.

### *Casita Camping Rates:*

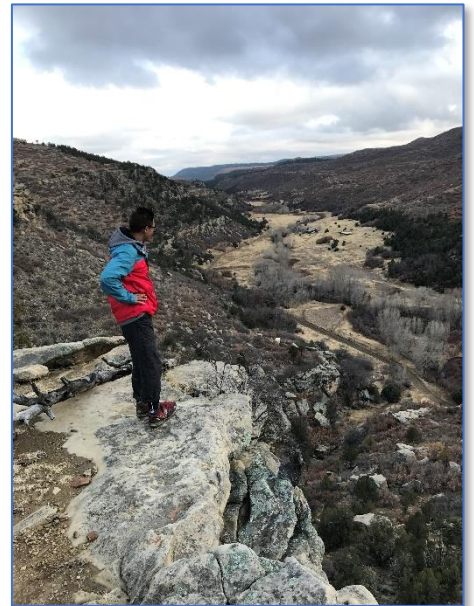
Program	Length	Price – with Winter Adventure Fee Added
Casita Camping	Per Day	\$125 per person

## Winter 7-Day Treks (only March)

Come explore the backcountry of Philmont on a winter 7-day backpacking program! Modeled after the 7-Day trek program in the summer, the Winter Trek offers similar opportunities to experience the thrills of hiking, climbing mountains, and taking part in unique program experiences. A Winter Adventure Guide will be with you for the entire trek and will teach you all the skills needed to enjoy a safe and fulfilling backcountry experience at Philmont.

Hike over 25 miles, enjoy the beauty of Philmont in the Spring, experience unique program opportunities provided by our winter staff, and earn a very special Arrowhead Award at the end of your experience. Details are as follows:

**SCHEDULE:** The Winter Trek program will be offered during the month of March, with arrival dates on Saturdays and Sundays. Arrival day will include shakedown and equipment/food issue, medical recheck; depart to the backcountry the next day; spend 5 days and nights enjoying your wilderness adventure; return to base for gear turn in and departure.



Winter 7-Day Treks	Overall Schedule	Day 1	Arrive at CHQ and meet Guide. Complete check-in process, begin shakedown & gear checkout, Crew photo, orientation, etc.
		Day 2	Depart from CHQ to Trailhead. Ranger Training, Trail Camp
		Day 3	Continue Ranger Training, follow itinerary, enjoy program, hiking, etc.
		Day 4	Follow itinerary, participate in program, hiking, conservation, etc.
		Day 5	Follow itinerary, participate in program, hiking, conservation, etc.
		Day 6	Enjoy last day & night on the trail. Special Arrowhead ceremony/presentation.
		Day 7	Pickup at trailhead, return to CHQ. Turn in gear, clean up, and lunch. Depart.

**ITINERARIES & PROGRAM:** Pre-set itineraries and programs will be established that will include a mix of trail camps, unique program opportunities, and miles of hiking challenges. Crews will cover at least 25 miles and enjoy programs based on the expertise and training of the staff. Past programs offered in winter programs has included blacksmithing, tomahawks, shooting sports, climbing, mountain biking, petroglyph tours, mine history, branding, and fishing. Programs offered will be fun and exciting for your participants! As part of qualifying for the Arrowhead award, Crews will also complete a 3-hour conservation project during the trek.

**WEATHER:** March weather at Philmont is mild during the day, but still cold at night. You can expect temperatures in the 50s and 60s during the day, with dips into the 30's at night. Weather will be monitored closely to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all. In the event of snow predictions or actual accumulation, programs will be modified to take advantage of this unique opportunity. Guides are already trained for winter program and can provide fun programs either way! Part of the orientation and gear shakedown process will include information on layering and cold weather camping.

**CREW & PERSONAL GEAR:** All personal and crew gear needs will be the same for a summer 7-day trek experience, with some exceptions. Cold weather rated sleeping bags will be necessary, and Philmont does provide sleeping bag liners from our normal winter stock to help add valuable degrees of warmth to your personal sleeping bag. Fleece jackets, warm base layers, and stocking caps will also be items participants will want to have on hand. (See the gear survey in the appendix to get an idea of what is required and what specialized gear Philmont has available for check out.)

**CREW SIZE, AGE & LEADERSHIP:** Crews are 5-12 participants in size, any exceptions must be approved in advance. Larger groups will be split into 2 Crews, if necessary. All crews require two adult leaders (21+), co-ed leadership if crews are co-ed. Participants are 14 years of age and up, or 13 and in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

**AWARDS & RECOGNITION:** Crews and participants are eligible to earn the same awards and recognition items that are available for summer 7-Day treks. They are:

- **ARROWHEAD:** A special Winter Trek Arrowhead Award is earned by successfully completing the itinerary, spending 5 nights in the backcountry, complete 3 hours of conservation work, and fulfill the commitment to the Philmont Wilderness Pledge.
- **OTHER AWARDS:** We All Made It plaque, Duty to God, Wilderness Pledge Award, Trail of Courage, and La Docena Adventurado Award.
- **TRIPLE CROWN:** Successful completion of the Winter Trek program qualifies participants for the Triple Crown and Grand Slam of High Adventure Awards. (Awards are administered by the Sommers Alumni Association. Applications are available online.)

**FEES:** The cost per participant for the Winter Trek program is \$840 per person. (Summer 7-Day Treks are \$1,235 in 2024 and \$1,335 in 2025.) This fee covers program expenses, food, misc. program expenses, select crew gear, and a Guide for the duration of the trek experience.



**ARRIVAL DATES:** Arrival dates for Winter Treks fall on Sundays, and departures on the following Saturday. This allows for travel days on each end of the week. Crews may opt to add early arrival or late departure ½ days to either end of the trek. (\$35/person/night for meals and lodging.)

2026	
ARRIVAL	DEPARTURE
2/28/26	3/7/26
3/7/26	3/14/26
3/14/26	3/21/26
3/21/26	3/28/26

**ADD ON PROGRAMS:** Crews may choose to add on program packages to a Winter Trek experience. For example, a crew to elect to participate in a Downhill Ski Day, etc. These may add a day to the overall trip as well as associated fees to the total package price. Contact Philmont for more information on adding program packages to a trek.

#### *Winter 7-Day Trek Rates:*

Program	Length	Price
7-Day Treks	7 Days	\$840 per person

#### *Other Winter Adventure Options*

More than any other program Philmont offers, Winter Adventure offers flexibility to meet the needs of your crew. Throughout the process of planning a Winter Adventure, we encourage you to get in contact with Philmont if you have any questions. As you consider your program options, keep in mind packages can be combined and tailored to suit your crew and the desired length of your stay.

#### *Winter Adventure Program Options & Fees – 2026*



Program	Length	Price
Winter Adventure	Varies	\$120 per Person per Day
Casita Camping	Varies	\$125 per person per Day
Winter 7 Day Treks	7 days	\$840 per person
<b>Additional Program Fees</b>		
Downhill Ski Package	1 day	\$205 per person per day
Travel Nights		\$35 per person

#### **Hiking and Camping at Philmont during the Autumn and Winter...**

- ❖ *One of the best kept secrets of Philmont! The more intimate experience was fantastic and the training invaluable.*
- ❖ *Having the ranch to ourselves...WOW!*
- ❖ *Our Guide was experienced, well balanced, and respectful. He taught us a tremendous amount about Philmont and the great outdoors!*
- ❖ *We learned a lot from this experience and we look forward to coming back.*
- ❖ *Completely impressed with the diversity and expansiveness of Philmont. Gotta see it to believe it!*



## Making a Reservation

Once you have met with your crew or troop and decided to plan a Winter Adventure, your next step is making your reservation. The current year's reservation form can be found in the Appendix of this Planning Guide as well as online at [www.PhilmontScoutRanch.org/WinterAdventure](http://www.PhilmontScoutRanch.org/WinterAdventure)

Reservations are accepted on a first come, first serve basis online at [www.PhilmontScoutRanch.org/WinterAdventure](http://www.PhilmontScoutRanch.org/WinterAdventure). Opening weekend (Dec 28 – Jan 1) and holiday weekends fill up quickly, and crews are encouraged to get reservations in as early as possible. However, last minute reservations are often available. Crews seeking a last-minute reservation should contact Philmont as soon as possible to determine availability.

**Questions call 575-376-2281 or email [Philmont.Camping@scouting.org](mailto:Philmont.Camping@scouting.org)**

Your reservation will be confirmed upon receipt of a \$500 per crew deposit. Your deposit is nonrefundable and nontransferable to the balance in the event of a cancellation. The remainder of your balance will be due at the time of your arrival at Philmont, though it may be paid in advance.

You may add participants to your crew up to the time of your arrival at Philmont. If you have more than 12 people in a crew, you may be asked to function as two separate crews and will need to obtain approval from Philmont at least two weeks in advance.



## Crew Preparation

Like any big trip, you will want to make sure your crew is properly prepared for the trek. This includes logistical preparation as well as physical and mental preparedness for each crew member.

### Crew Paperwork

Copies of these forms are available at the end of this document as well as online at [www.PhilmontScoutRanch.org/WinterAdventure](http://www.PhilmontScoutRanch.org/WinterAdventure)

#### Submitted to Philmont Before Your Arrival

- Winter Adventure Reservation Form – This form is due along with your deposit payment of \$500 per crew in order to hold your Winter Adventure reservation.
- Crew Roster – A Crew Roster must be entered into the Gateway (Online Registration System) at least 2 weeks prior to your arrival.
- Medical Forms – Each crew member must have a completed BSA Health and Medical Record parts A, B, & C completed up to 12 months in advance of their participant in a Winter Adventure program. These must be uploaded on the Gateway before you arrive, and paper copies be brought with you.

### Gear Preparation

Once your reservation is confirmed, you should receive a packing list for your Winter Adventure trek. This includes all items you will need to have a successful trek. The list below indicates what items can be borrowed as part of the Winter Adventure Fees and what items must be brought by each crew member. The below lists are not intended to be used a packing list, but to illustrate the availability of gear.

#### Individual Items that can be Borrowed

- Insulating snow boots
- Wool or fleece jacket
- Wind and waterproof jacket
- Wool or fleece pants
- Wind and waterproof pants
- Scarf
- Insulating mittens
- Waterproof over mitts
- Sleeping pad
- Sleeping bag
- Sleeping bag liner
- Snowshoes
- Cross-country skis
- Ski poles

#### Crew Gear Provided by Philmont:

- Tents and stakes
- Cooking pots
- Stove
- Pulk sleds
- Backpacking backpacks
- Emergency first aid kit
- Shovels
- Sleds and snow tubes
- Water jugs

#### Gear NOT Provided

- Stocking cap
- Liner gloves
- Base layer shirt and pants
- Socks

## Physical Preparation

During a Winter Adventure experience, each person will hike, ski, or snowshoe along snow-covered trails pulling loaded sleds for up to 3 miles—or even more on a cross-country ski trek. The elevation at Philmont ranges from 6,400 to 12,400 feet. It is important, therefore, to prepare yourself and your crew for the trek.

Each crew should design an exercise regime that suits their need and schedules. There are resources for physical preparedness for a Philmont summer expedition that can be adapted to training for the winter available in the “Guidebook to Adventure – Advisor Addition” on the Philmont website.

Each participant must undergo a physical examination and complete the Heath and Medical Record in order to participate in a Winter Adventure trek. **Height and weight requirements will be enforced for all participants going to the backcountry.**



## Mental Preparation

Winter camping is notorious for being as much a mental as a physical challenge, so it is important to prepare yourself and your crew mentally as well as physically for the experience. As with any challenging task, success is a matter of attitude. If a crew approaches the challenges presented by winter camping with a positive attitude, excited to learn and grow from the experience, they will have much greater success than a crew approaching the challenges with a negative attitude. Your guide will prepare your crew for these challenges, but it is ultimately down to each individual to decide to embrace the challenges presented to them.

## Preparation from Your Guide

Your Winter Adventure Guide is a Philmont staff member who has received extensive training in winter camping skills and techniques. They will be with you for your entire expedition, teaching winter camping skills to the group, and ensuring an excellent camping experience. Your Guide will call 7-10 days before your crew's arrival date to introduce themselves and to ensure you and your crew are prepared for their trip. They are happy to answer any questions and want to begin to get to know your crew. This is a time to discuss your plans as well as your hopes and expectations for the trip. They will be able to provide up-to-date snow and weather information for the area and help you plan activities for your trip. Though we are not always able to accommodate requests we strive to be as flexible as possible.

Before your arrival, your Guide will work with the Winter Adventure Coordinator and the rest of the Winter Adventure staff to plan your trek from transportation to meals, housing, and equipment. Providing Philmont with accurate arrival plans, an accurate gear survey, and information on other crew needs helps the winter staff ensure your trip run as smoothly as possible.

## Traveling to Philmont Scout Ranch

Philmont is located in northeastern New Mexico. It is located 270 miles from Denver, CO, 190 miles from Colorado Springs, CO, 220 miles from Albuquerque, NM, and 220 miles from Amarillo, TX.

### Private Vehicles

Many Winter Adventure crews choose private vehicles as their method of transportation. This allows great flexibility in arrival and departure and is often the cheapest method of travel for crews. Some crews may choose to rent vans or other larger capacity vehicles, as may be appropriate for their crew size or needs.

This method of transportation should be used only with full assurance vehicles are safe and drivers are reliable. Make sure there is adequate insurance coverage for each vehicle. Philmont is not responsible for vehicles parked in parking areas.



### Flights

Crews may choose to fly to Philmont. There are major airports in Denver, Colorado Springs, and Albuquerque. From the airport, there are a variety of options to arrive at Philmont. Many crews will choose to rent a vehicle and drive the remainder of the distance. Philmont may be able to provide transportation from the airport with prior approval, depending on staff and vehicle availability. A new airline called Taos Air is now available for crews from Texas. Flights from Austin and Dallas are available, and Philmont shuttles can be scheduled for arrival and departure, see below.

### Train

Crews from all over the country take the train to Philmont every year. Amtrak trains from both east and west arrive in Raton, NM. If arranged in advance, Philmont may be able to provide transportation to Basecamp, depending on staff availability.

### Transportation Fee Schedule

This service is VERY LIMITED. Please call for availability.

Location	Fee	Breakdown
Raton – Amtrak	\$25.00	Per Person, one way
Denver International	\$500.00	Per Suburban (6 seats), one way
Albuquerque International	\$500.00	Per Suburban (6 seats), one way
Taos Airport (Taos Air flights from Dallas & Austin, TX)	\$40.00	Per Person, one way



## Arrival at Philmont

When you arrive at Philmont you will check in at the Camping Headquarters Office where your guide will meet you and begin the crew check in process. Working with you, the advisor, and the youth crew leader, your guide will review and collect all check in paperwork and final payment.

### *Paperwork to bring for check in:*

- Crew roster entered in the Gateway
- Paper copies medical forms for each participant
- Verification of CPR and First Aid training for at least one advisor
- Method of payment for any outstanding balance (check, cash, credit card)

After check-in, your guide will show the crew to their dorms and take the crew through shakedown, gear issue from Winter Adventure supplies, and medical recheck. You will have the opportunity to visit the Tooth of Time Traders, to obtain any items you may need before hitting the trail in the morning.

## Your Winter Adventure Trek

### Winter Adventure Orientation

An important part of the Winter Adventure program is providing your crew with the knowledge and experience to camp comfortably and safely in the cold. To achieve this, your guide will provide technical instruction on winter camping. This will take the form of a presentation, short lessons, and gear shakedowns that will begin after supper on your first night at Philmont.

### Housing at Philmont

Most Winter Adventure crews will stay one or more nights in Base Camp. Winter crews are housed in dorms equipped with bunk beds, heating, and running water. Linens and towels are not provided in these units.



For crews that travel to the backcountry, Philmont provides 2-person, 4-season tents to crew members. Camping locations are in remote backcountry locations with no amenities or running water.

### Food

While crews are in Base Camp, they will eat in the Dining Hall located at the Philmont Training Center. In the backcountry, meals are high calorie pre-packed meal bags containing around 4,500 calories a day. Winter camping is a calorie-intensive activity that requires frequent small meals throughout the day. In the backcountry, dinner is a hot meal cooked with the group. Breakfasts and lunches are made of typical Philmont trail meal ingredients. Packets of instant coffee, hot chocolate, tea, and apple cider are also provided for a warm drink in the morning or evening! (Limited options for vegetarian and other dietary needs are also available, but supplements for these needs may need to be provided by participants. Please call ahead to discuss any of these needs.)

## Winter Adventure Requirements

### Adult Leadership Requirements

The best available adult leadership should be recruited to accompany each crew. In keeping with the policy of Scouting America, there are no gender restrictions for adult leadership at Philmont, as long as all policies are followed for single gender or coed crews (policies outlined below). **Each adult must be a registered member of Scouting America and have current Youth Protection Training.**

All Advisors must be physically capable of hiking and camping in Philmont's high mountains for the length of the expedition. Each Advisor is expected to reflect high moral standards established by custom, traditional values, religious teaching and follow the youth protection guidelines.

Coed Venturing Crews and Explorer Posts are required to provide coed leadership while en route to and from Philmont and while hiking the trails of Philmont.

- Council Contingent crews may have a mixed registration of Scout BSA, Venturing and Exploring members. Each crew that has coed youth members must follow Venturing policies.
- If a crew has female participants (18 or younger), the crew must have a female Advisors 21 years of age or over.

**Each crew should have a majority of youth participants.** (An adult participant 18 through 20 years of age may be counted towards the youth count.) All Adult crew winter adventure experiences are also available, please contact Philmont for questions.

Each unit attending Philmont must have at least two BSA registered adult Advisors, both Advisors must be at least 21 years of age, and a registered female adult leader 21 years or over must attend for units with female youth.

Unregistered guests or family members are not permitted to attend Winter Adventure.

**Philmont recommends groups identify alternate leadership able to “step in” at the last minute in the event a leader is not able to attend. Philmont cannot provide staff to meet the BSA, two-deep leadership requirement.**

### Scouting's Barriers to Abuse

The Scouting America has adopted the following policies for the safety and well-being of its members. These policies primarily protect youth members; however, they also serve to protect adult leaders

Current Scouting Barriers to Abuse can [be found by clicking here](#).

**Philmont will strictly enforce youth protection policies which include the Barriers to Abuse within Scouting.**

### A Word About 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 respect the other. This includes coed and female crews and female staff. 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/or 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 contrary to established guidelines. Parents/guardians must be informed of the guidelines.

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 must be sent home at their own expense. **An adult advisor will be required to come off the trail to provide supervision and assist with transportation arrangements in the event a participant is sent home.**

Philmont strongly recommends tobacco products not be used. Smoking and the use of smokeless tobacco is prohibited in all Philmont buildings, tents, vehicles and on Philmont trails. If tobacco is used it must be in designated areas.

Possession or use of alcoholic beverages or non-prescribed drugs (including marijuana) or abuse of prescribed drugs are expressly prohibited in the Philmont program. Groups or individuals found in violation of this policy will be sent home immediately as arranged with the responsible council or parent/guardian.

## Youth Participants

WINTER ADVENTURE PARTICIPANTS MUST BE AT LEAST 14 or 13 AND IN THE 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE. TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT, PLEASE DO NOT REQUEST OR EXPECT EXCEPTIONS! REQUIREMENTS FOR PHILMONT PARTICIPATION CANNOT BE RELAXED.

In keeping with the policies of Scouting America, rules for participation are the same for everyone without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, citizenship status, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, physical disability, military status, or unfavorable discharge from military service.

Youths must be registered members of Scouting America and may participate in a Philmont expedition in one of the following ways:

- As members of a chartered unit – Scout BSA Troop, Venturing Crew, Explorer Post, or Sea Scout Ship.
- As members of a council contingent or district contingent with required leadership. Other Requirements

## Wilderness First Aid & CPR Requirements

Wilderness First Aid is the assessment of and treatment given to an ill or injured person in a remote environment where definitive care of a physician and/or rapid transport is not readily available. Wilderness First Aid training is a sixteen-hour course. Several hours may be required for Philmont medical staff to reach a remote backcountry location after a message is relayed to base camp. Wilderness First Aid, First Aid, and CPR training will result in proper and prompt attention being given to injuries and/or illnesses. **\*Equivalent training can be obtained from the following nationally recognized organizations:**

- 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.ESCIInstitute.org](http://www.ESCIInstitute.org) – Wilderness First Aid Advanced Level Course
- Longleaf Wilderness Medicine - [www.longleafmedical.com](http://www.longleafmedical.com)
- 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.edu/wmi/](http://www.nols.edu/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)

Scouting America and the American Red Cross and Emergency and Safety Institute (ECI) have national agreements, the primary goal of which is to help councils become self-sufficient teaching First Aid Courses. Wilderness First Aid is

specified in these agreements. Visit with your council service center for more information about the implementation of the agreements that are working in your council.

**For the Winter Adventure program, we require that each crew have one participant who has completed CPR and Wilderness First Aid certification**, (can be met by two separate people) and be able to show certification documents upon arrival. We thank those that have become certified or are planning to accomplish this task. With two certified persons on the trek the crew will be better able to handle emergencies. This requirement can be met by youths or adults. Your guide will have similar or even advanced levels of first aid training and can assist with needs as well.

Philmont will also accept the following advanced levels of training and a copy of the current license or certification must be shared with Philmont during the registration process:

- Wilderness First Responder
- Outdoor Emergency Care/Ski Patrol
- EMT-Basic, EMT-Advanced, or Paramedic
- Military Corpsman, Medic, or Equivalent Medical Training
- Registered Nurse
- Licensed Nurse Practitioner
- Licensed Physician's Assistant
- Licensed Physician, MD, or DO

#### Religious Beliefs and 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 <http://www.PhillmontScoutRanch.org/Camping.aspx>.

#### Health and Medical Record

**Each camper and Advisor are required to have a medical evaluation within twelve (12) months of their participation date** by a physician licensed to practice medicine. An examination conducted by a physician's assistant or a nurse practitioner will be recognized for states where they may perform physical examinations to students enrolled in public school systems. **The BSA Annual Health and Medical Record must be used.** This form is available through our website, [www.philmontscoutranch.org/Camping.aspx](http://www.philmontscoutranch.org/Camping.aspx) or [www.scouting.org/Home/HealthandSafety/ahmr.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/Home/HealthandSafety/ahmr.aspx).

Advisors are to collect completed forms for each participant, Parts A, B and C, and make sure a copy of the participant's Health Insurance Card is attached. These forms will be turned into the Philmont Infirmary upon arrival at Philmont which is part of Day One's processing.

Philmont Scout Ranch Supplemental Information should be read by each participant and parent or guardian, if under 18 years of age, and shared with the medical provider completing the medical evaluation. The Supplemental Information contains helpful information and interpretation.

**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 the participation of individuals at Philmont.**

#### Immunizations

Verification is required that adequate Tetanus Immunization has been given within the last 10 years prior to arrival at Philmont. If this service must be performed at Philmont, you will be charged accordingly.

### Medications

Each participant at Philmont who has a condition requiring medication must bring an appropriate supply. The pharmacy at the Philmont Infirmary is limited and the identical medications may not be available. In certain circumstances duplicate or even triplicate supplies of vital medications are appropriate. Participants will be charged for maintenance medications or medications that should have been brought to Philmont and dispensed by the Philmont Infirmary.

### Refunds

Cancellation/Refund Policy – Please notify Philmont immediately if your crew intends to cancel. Fees are not refundable or transferrable to a subsequent year.

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 and Fees are non-refundable or transferable.

Philmont must commit financial resources to employ staff. Purchase food and supplies, and to prepare for camping 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.

- \$500 Winter Adventure Crew deposit is not refundable or transferable.
- Crew canceling between deposit and final payment will forfeit deposit.







## WINTER ADVENTURE GEAR LIST

Plan to bring what you have of the equipment below. Items with an \* can be purchased at the Tooth of Time Traders, items in **bold** are not available for loan from the Winter Adventure Program supplies.

PERSONAL EQUIPMENT	HAVE	NEED	PERSONAL EQUIPMENT	HAVE	NEED
<b>HEAD</b>			<b>MISC. GEAR</b>		
1 stocking cap*			0 degree sleeping bag, not down fill		
1 Facemask (balaclava)*			Full length insulated foam sleeping pad		
1 Scarf			Sunglasses* 100% UV protection		
<b>HANDS</b>			Insulated cup*		
1 pr glove liners (polypropylene)			Plastic spoon*		
2 pr mittens (preferably wool)			Toiletries (soap, tooth brush, towel)*		
1 pr windproof glove shells			Sunscreen* SPF 30 or higher		
			Lip balm*		
<b>UPPER BODY</b>			1-2 one qt. water bottles*		
2 pr polypropylene underwear tops			BSA Annual Health & Medical Form. Completed in last 12 months.		
2 wool or fleece sweaters* or jackets*					
Wind and water proof jacket*					
<b>LOWER BODY</b>			<b>OTHER RECOMMENDED ITEMS</b>		
2 pr polypropylene underwear bottoms			Insulated vest*		
1 pr wool or fleece pants*			Bandana*		
1 pr wind proof pants			Pocket flashlight*		
<b>NO Blue Jeans or Carharts</b>					
			\$50.00 spending money per person		
<b>FEET</b>			<b><u>ELECTRONIC DEVICES WILL BE LEFT IN BASE CAMP</u></b>		
2-3 pr wool socks*					
2-3 pr polypropylene sock liners					
1 pr hiking boots (Insulated boots are better)					
-or- 1 pr insulated winter boots					

### CREW GEAR provided by Philmont

8 qt pots with lids  
 Coffee pots with lids  
 Stoves and fuel  
 Matches  
 Hot pot tongs  
 Bulk water Jugs  
 Campsuds  
 Condiment kit (salt, pepper etc.)  
 Tents and stakes  
 Gear sleds  
 Snow Tubes & Sleds  
 Cross country skis and poles

### MISC GEAR available for loan

Backpacks  
 Zero degree sleeping bags  
 Closed cell foam pads  
 Fleece sleeping bag liners  
 Water flasks with covers  
 Wool mittens and windproof over mitts  
 Wool shirts  
 Fleece Jackets  
 Wind pants  
 Fleece Pants  
 Insulated winter boots (Limited Qty. available)  
 Fleece booties



## Winter 7-Day Treks - Equipment Lists

### Your Personal Equipment

#### 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 & as extra warmth while sleeping.	T	
Rain Pants	1	Lightweight & sturdy	T, A	
Long Pants	1	Pants needed for spar pole climbing, horseback riding, cold weather, and conservation project. No heavy jeans		
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, synthetic or wool. Used for cold mornings or evenings & as extra warmth while sleeping.	T	
Middle Layer	1	Wool sweater or fleece pullover	T	
Top Layer	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 a 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. Warmth layer for cold mornings or evenings.	T	
Sports Bra	2	Synthetic blend	T	

#### 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	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 the sun.	T	

#### Packs and Bags

EQUIPMENT	QTY	COMMENTS	CODE	CHECK
Backpack	1	Internal frame 75L (4600 cubic in) External frame 65L (3966 cubic in) Rental available w/pack cover = \$30	T	
Summit or Daypack	1	For side hikes	T, S	
Lashing Straps	1	To hold sleeping bag or other gear on pack.	T	
Gallon Ziploc Bags	6-12	Keep your gear dry and clothing organized.	T	
Pack Cover	1	Waterproof; make sure it fits over the pack when full and any external items.	T, A	
Small Stuff Sacks	2-3	Pack personal items and keep organized.	T	
Ditty Bags	2-3	Put all personal smellables in one bag to and raise in the bear bag at night.	T	

#### Sleeping Gear

EQUIPMENT	QTY	COMMENTS	CODE	CHECK
Sleeping Bag	1	Rated to 20°F and less than 4 lbs. (Liners available for checkout.)	T	
Waterproof Stuff Sack	1	Alternatively, you can also use a compression sack lined with a plastic trash bag.	T	

Sleeping Pad	1	Provides padding/insulation from the ground. NOTE: Inflatables can freeze w/ moisture from breath.	T	
Sleep Clothes	1 set	Worn only in your sleeping bag; T-shirt and gym shorts are acceptable.	T	

### Footwear

EQUIPMENT	QTY	COMMENTS	CODE	CHECK
Boots	1 pr	Well broken in boots that are durable and fit comfortably.	T	
Socks	3 prs	Synthetic or wool.	T	
Liner Socks	3 pairs	Synthetic or wool; wicks away sweat from foot and can help prevent blisters.	T, O	
Camp Shoes	1 pair	Sturdy, lightweight, closed-toe shoes; Used in camp, on side hikes, for rock climbing, biking, etc.	T, O	

### Miscellaneous Items

EQUIPMENT	QTY	COMMENTS	CODE	CHECK
Bowl	1	Deep bowl; lightweight material	T	
Mug/Cup	1	12-20 oz.; measuring style recommended.	T, O	
Spoon/Spork	1	Lightweight	T	
Water Bottles	4+	Water bottles should have 1 quart capacity; any combination of bladders and bottles are accepted, but at least one water bottle is necessary; minimum total water capacity per person = 4 quarts	T, A, BB, E	
Pocket Knife	1	Small knife for opening food packages and water purification tablets.	T, A, S, E	
Matches or Lighter	1	Pack in waterproof container for lighting camp stove; can be shared w/buddy or among the crew.	T, BB, S, E	
Flashlight or Headlamp	1	Durable and lightweight; everyone in the crew should have a personal light source; bring extra batteries.	T, E	
Trekking Poles w/rubber tips	1 pair	Rubber tips prevent erosion of trails; can reduce impact on ankles and knees by up to 25%; improve balance especially on stream crossings.	T, O	
Philmont Sectional Maps	2 sets	Overall maps are not suitable for navigation; sectional maps provide more detail for accurate navigating.	T, A, S, E	
Compass	1	Liquid filled compass w/rotating dial is optimal.	T, A, S, E	
Bandana or tube headgear	2	Serves as a washcloth, hot pot holder, and a variety of other uses.	T, BB	
Money	\$20-\$50	ATM in base camp; small bills. For souvenirs or last-minute gear needs.	BB	
Lip Balm	1	Moisturizing balm with SPF 25+	T, A, BB	
Soap	1	Biodegradable; for body and clothes; small amount needed.	T, BB, S	
Toothbrush	1	Travel size	T, BB	
Toothpaste	1	Small amount needed.	T, BB, S	
Camp Towel	1	Quick drying and small.	T	
Tampons and/or Pads		Strongly recommended for all female participants to bring; enough supplies for duration.	T, BB	
Personal Medication		Enough for entire trek.	BB	
Sunglasses	1		T	
Watch	1	Several recommended throughout crew members; preferable with an alarm feature.	T, O, E	
Camera	1	Bring sufficient supply of batteries and memory cards.	T, BB, S	
EQUIPMENT	QTY	COMMENTS	CODE	CHECK
Whistle	1	To signal an emergency	T, E	
Fishing Equipment	1	Some itineraries have fishing opportunities.	T, O	
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> .	T, O	
Postcards	1+	Pre-stamped; Mailing available while 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	

**CODE:** (T)=Available at Philmont's Tooth of Time Traders; (A)=Easily accessible in pack or carried on person; (BB)=Packed in bear bag at night; (S)=Share with a buddy; (O)=Optional

#### ITEMS PROHIBITED:

- Deodorant
- Radios/Bluetooth Speakers/Video Game Devices
- Hammocks
- Turkey Bags
- Bear Bag Pulley Systems
- Drones

#### 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		5 tent stakes per person for tents and dining fly.	T	
Water Container	2-3	Collapsible containers; 2.5 gallon capacity.	T	
Backpacking Stove	2	Ability to safely hold an 8 quart pot.	T	
Fuel Bottle	2	1 quart capacity	T	
Multi-Tool	1		T	
First Aid Kit	1	See recommended items in the <i>Guidebook to Adventure</i> or Appendix I	T, BB	
Duct Tape	1	For repairs on the trail	T, BB	
Spices		For cooking	T, BB, O	
Waterproof Ground Cloth	1 per tent	5' x 7'	T	
Nylon Cord	3	50 feet in length; 1/8 inch in diameter	T	
Sunscreen	2-3	6oz tubes; SPF 25 or higher	T, BB	
Insect Repellent	2	Small bottles, no aerosol spray cans	T, BB	
Water Purifiers or Filters	2-3	Optional; Philmont will provide Micropur water purification tablets; if using a water filter, you must still use a purifier to eliminate viruses.	T	
Trowel or Shovel	1		T	
Carabiner	1	Carabiner must be climbing rated for use rigging "oops" bag with bear bags.	T	

#### Equipment Issued by Philmont

Each crew of 7-12 persons is issued the following equipment free of charge (except for damage or replacement charges.)

EQUIPMENT	QTY	COMMENTS	CODE	CHECK
Thunder Ridge Shelter (Dining Fly)	1	12' x 10'; weight 2lbs, 3oz; Crews may bring their own; A wide/short dining fly is preferred over a tall narrow one.		
Collapsible Poles	2	For dining fly; weight 1lb, 5oz; Trekking poles are a convenient substitute.		
Philmont Thunder Ridge Tent	1 per 2 ppl	Weight with poles 5lbs, 13oz; Footprint 88" x 54"; Personal tents must be fully enclosed; Single person tents are NOT allowed due to larger overall camp impact, except in the event of odd numbered crews or male/female tenting needs.		

Cooking Pot	1	8-quart aluminum pot with lid; weight 1lb, 12.8oz; Must be large enough to cook for everyone in the crew; Must be large enough to fully submerge dishes and utensils for sanitizing before eating.		
Dishwashing Pot	1	8-quart aluminum pot without lid; weight 1lb, 4oz; Must be large enough to heat water for washing and rinsing.		
Large Spoon	1	3oz		
Hot Pot Tongs	1	4oz; Multi-tool with pliers or hook can be used instead.		
Plastic Trash Bags	10	Personal preference; multi-purpose	C	
Salt/Pepper		Personal preference for meals.	BB, C	
Dishwashing Soap	1	Camp Suds; a little goes a long way.	BB, C	
Hand Sanitizer	1	Personal hygiene	BB, C	
Scrub Pads	1	1 large piece that can be cut into smaller pieces for cleaning pot and dishes after dinner.	BB, C	
Water Purifier Tablets	10 per prsn	Crew will receive 1 sheet that holds 10 tablets for each person in their crew; 1 Micropur tablet treats 1 liter of water; save empty sheets for resupply at backcountry commissaries.	C	
Bear Rope	2-3	Nylon; weight 1lb, 3.2oz each; 100 feet in length, 1/4 in in diameter; We require that crews use Philmont bear rope or personal rope of equivalent dimensions; Smaller ropes are more difficult to hoist, can fray, and can either snap on bear cable or damage bear cable; 2 ropes on Philmont property, 3 ropes off Philmont property.	BB	
Bear Bags	5-8	For hanging food and other smellables; weight 1lb, 8oz; can hold up to 20 liters.	BB	
Food Strainer & Scraper	1	8oz	BB	
Toilet Paper		Please refrain from binging personal toilet paper—it could be considered smellable and may not be biodegradable.	C	

**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)=The Essentials for Hiking at Philmont; (S)=Share with a buddy; (O)=Optional



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