

PHILMONT AMBASSADOR UPDATE

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Promoting wilderness and learning adventures that last a lifetime November 2025

Adopt-An-Acre fosters Philmont preservation

Philmont Scout Ranch is Scouting America's largest National High-Adventure Base, covering 140,177 acres of rugged Rocky Mountain wilderness in northeastern New Mexico. For centuries, this land has shaped explorers, builders, and dreamers – and for more than 80 years, Philmont has delivered unforgettable adventures to more than one million Scouts and leaders. Every mile of trail through Philmont's forests carries stories of teamwork, determination, leadership, and resilience.

Stewardship in Action

Philmont's history includes challenges that require courage and commitment to overcome. Since the 2002 Ponil Complex Fire and, more recently, the devastating 2018 Ute Park Fire, donors have been vital in protecting Philmont's forests and ensuring its future.

Thanks to donor support, more than 1,400 acres have already been treated to reduce wildfire risk, including a 639-acre shaded fuel break along the Beaubien Road. Nearly 800 acres surrounding Crater Lake and Miners Park have been restored using advanced forestry equipment in partnership with Miller Timber. Yet the work is far from complete. More than 20,000 acres of ponderosa pine forest still require treatment to ensure Philmont's long-term health and beauty. With costs averaging \$3,000 per acre, the total project represents an investment of approximately \$60 million over the next 30 years.

We need your help to "Adopt an Acre"

This year, Scouts and Scouters can help through our new "Adopt an Acre" program. Your generosity will make a long-lasting impact, helping us continue this critical work to safeguard Philmont for generations to come.

Through the Adopt an Acre program, you can take a direct role in protecting Philmont's living landscape.

- Your \$3,000 investment to adopt an acre provides the resources needed to restore forest health, reduce wildfire risk,



It's counterintuitive to cut down trees to save the forest, but that's what needs to be done to preserve the Philmont backcountry from another devastating fire. (Philmont Photo)

and ensure this vital work continues year after year.

- Each acre you support helps create sustainable wilderness where Scouts can learn, grow, and lead.

- Every donor who adopts an acre will receive a special sticker and a map of Philmont as a thank-you for their support.

- Donors who adopt three or more acres will also be recognized with a plaque crafted from wood harvested during restoration work, engraved with the number of acres they have helped restore.

- There is no limit to the number of acres an individual or group may adopt.

- Gifts of every amount still make a difference! If adopting an acre isn't possible right now, you can still support Philmont today with any gift amount.

Every dollar raised through this campaign with the Foundation goes directly to Philmont, supporting efforts such as restorative thinning, fire mitigation, reforestation, road improvements, equipment, backcountry camp restoration, and staff resources.

Every dollar stays at Philmont, fueling

the mission of protecting this living landscape.

Your donation will help ensure the lessons learned through wilderness adventures at Philmont continue to pay dividends for generations to come.

If you wish to adopt five or more acres, please contact Philanthropic Advisor Joe Leisz (214-762-8125 or joe.leisz@scouting.org) for information on potential tax-savvy ways to make your gift.

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PTC will be launching its schedule and registration site on January 12. Check the Philmont Web site for details.

It's in the Guidebook

Plan tenting arrangements before your Trek



Editors note: Leaders frequently call Philmont asking questions about Treks. Most of these are answered in the Guidebook to Adventure and Advisors Guidebook. This series covers important topics from the guides so that Ambassadors can be familiar with them.

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

- 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 crew member 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.
- Philmont cannot provide stakes or ground cloth for tents.
- *(Editors note: If you forget to bring them, stakes and ground cloths are available from the Tooth of Time traders.) P2*

2026 & 2027 Treks

The coming summers of 2026 and 2027 offer Scouts some great opportunities to attend the National Jamboree at the Summit and the World Jamboree in Poland. Many Scouts which may have chosen to go on a Philmont trek may be going to one or both of these events. Therefore, recruitment efforts to encourage crews to sign up for a Philmont trek are going to be very important in the coming months.

There are well over 200 slots for 7-, 9-, and 12-day treks available as of this writing for 2026 treks. Crews which are considering a 2026 Trek should already have a solid foundation of camping and backpacking skills. They should start preparing now by keeping active through the winter months with rigorous indoor sports like basketball or outdoor sports like cross-country skiing. Come spring, they'll need to up their preparation with weekend hikes and backpacking trips.

Registration for 2027 treks is still going on and there are several hundred slots. Crews signing up now have the traditional 18-month preparation time, but they still need to start their preparation now. **P2**

TOOTH OF TIME TRADERS

**BLACK DIAMOND BEANIE****GREY TAOS BEANIE****OLIVE DIAMOND BEANIE****STRIPE PHILMONT BEANIE**

WHAT COLOR BEANIE ARE YOU GRABBING?

Scouting Insurance Covers Philmont Participants

High adventure trips like a Philmont Trek are not without risk, and this may cause parents to be reluctant to send their Scout out into the wilderness. Safety is a very important part of Philmont activities, but sometimes mishaps and illnesses do occur which require more than basic first aid. Health Insurance is important to have but also very expensive today. There are Scouts who may come from families struggling to pay for it.

Fortunately, Scouting America has insurance coverage for registered Scouts attending a High Adventure Bases which includes Philmont, Sea Base, Northern Tier and the Summit. This coverage is in effect while in attendance or participating in any

Scouting America High Adventure Base activity.

Seasonal staff are also covered during their off-duty hours, subject to the Workers' Compensation exclusion. The insurance also covers travel to and from official High Adventure activities.

The plan is an *excess insurance* plan meaning that it will pay all those eligible expenses incurred from a covered accident or sickness not paid by any other collectible insurance or existing pre-paid health plan. However, if the Philmont participant does not have any health insurance, the plan will pay all eligible covered expenses up to the plan limits. There is no deductible under this plan.

Philmont has excellent emergency response plans to deal with backcountry incidents, and the infirmary is well staffed and equipped to deal with the types of health

issues that may occur. In the event of an illness or injury, immediate aid will be given regardless of insurance status. Payment will be dealt with later.

As with all insurance, there is a lot of fine print regarding coverage and benefits. Philmont staff can assist with information about Scouting America insurance. All claims need to be filed with the administrator, Health Special Risk, Inc., (HSR). Claim forms can be secured from the National High Adventure Base online at www.hsri.com/claim-forms.jsp or received via email upon request from boyscouts@hsri.com.

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Philmont Ambassador Newsletter

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This newsletter is published bi-monthly for the benefit of Philmont Ambassadors in the spirit of the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Every effort is made to provide complete and accurate information. However, the newsletter publisher does not guarantee that there will be no errors, nor does it make claims, promises or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness or adequacy of the contents of the newsletter and expressly disclaims liability for errors and omissions in the contents of this newsletter.

ARBORWEAR PHILMONT
100% OF TIME TRAILERS
PHILMONT SCOUT RANGE

NEW PHILMONT FLANNEL
NEW PHIL-GREEN COLOR MADE EXCLUSIVELY FOR PHILMONT

‘Founders Ride’ recreates Waite Phillips’ travels

You may have heard of the Philmont’s Hut-to-Hut program that is a luxury adventure that literally takes the burden off the backs of individuals on a trek. There is now a similar program that will take the burden off your legs and back or for those who would just rather have a horse do all the walking for them.

“The Founder’s Ride” is a luxury cavalcade that traces the horseback trips of Waite Phillips who loved to explore the backcountry on horseback along with his friends and family. The five-night stay at Philmont includes 3 nights of glamping in cabins and canvas tents. Your gear will be transported for you between camps, and Philmont staff will prepare your accommodations.

Enjoy dining with fine cuisine in remote locations with scenic views! You’ll start your day with fresh-brewed coffee or tea. Chefs will prepare a hearty trail breakfast and have lighter continental options if preferred. Picnic style lunches are provided while on the trail featuring charcuterie boards and gourmet sandwiches made fresh on-site. Evening meals will be substantial Western fare prepared at camp with appetizers and desserts. Specific dietary requirements can be accommodated. This trip is not intended to be a Mountain Weight Loss Program!

Guests will ride from camp to camp with the expert guidance of Philmont Wranglers. Staff will match you with a trusty steed and care for saddling and unsaddling your mount daily. The itinerary follows the trails of mountain men, cowboys, and Waite Phillips as he led guests on mountain trails. Rides will vary from 4 to 10 miles a day. Philmont Wranglers are trained to assess riders’ needs, and trail adjustments can be made to ensure each guest’s enjoyable experience.

Cost for this unique experience is \$2900 per person and includes food, beverages, bedding, linens, guides and staff. Contact Reyna Myers at reyna.myers@scouting.org for more information.



Founders Ride participants will get to experience Philmont’s land as Waite Phillips once did on horseback, staying in cabins and tents the way he and his guests enjoyed the backcountry. (Philmont photo)

PHILMONT

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BACKPACKING TREKS
Over 140,000 acres & 30+ program camps to explore!

Rock Climbing Living History Campfire Shows
Conservation Shooting Sports Horseback Rides

PHILMONT SCOUT RANCH
Follow Our Socials
Scouting America

PHILMONT

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PHILMONT FOR THE WHOLE THE FAMILY
Family Fun at Philmont!

Unit Adventure Camp Family Adventure Camp
Museums Overnight Camping Trips Deluxe Tents

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INDIVIDUAL TREKS
Adventure Awaits—No Crew Required
Open to ages 16-20.

Rayado Roving Outdoor Conservation School
OA Trail Crew Ranch Hands Trail Crew Trek

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CONFERENCES
Training, Fellowship, and Adventure

Leadership Development Outdoor Learning
Unit Essentials Bring The Whole Family

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New Philmont Promotion Banners Available

Philmont has recently created PDF files for banners promoting Treks, Family Adventure Camp, Individual Treks and Philmont Training Center conferences. Unlike in the past when Ambassadors submitted a request for a banner which usually happened once per year, each Ambassador will need to order them from a banner vendor of their choice. In this way, you can get a banner any time you want throughout the year.

Download the PDF files by going to the Philmont site at ww.philmontscoutranch.org > More > Promote Philmont. Scroll down on the Promote Philmont page to the heading “Banners”. You will notice that there are two “Download” links, one for 24 x 62-inch and the other for 33 x 81-inch banners. In actuality, the banners are the same. Their final size will be determined by the size you order from a vendor.

It is suggested that you download files for the 33 x 81-inch size banners which are all PDF files. You can have them printed to whatever size you want as long as you keep the width to length ratio as 33 to 81 or 1 to 2.45. For example, if you want the length to match your current 72 inch long banners, specify the printed size to be 29 inches by 72 inches. If you want smaller banners to fit on a tabletop, you could order them to be made as 18 by 44 inches so all four banners would fit across a 6 foot table.

To get a banner, you will have to contact a banner vendor. There are many available online by searching for “Banner Printing” on your web browser. If you want to display the banner in a commercially available stand, it is suggested that you order a banner that uses 18-ounce heavy duty vinyl that is hemmed and has grommets placed every two feet. Your selected vendor may offer other options such as pole pockets or lighter weights. The choice is yours. The cost of the banner will vary by vendor, size ordered and shipping costs.

For more guidance on ordering banners, contact Newsletter Editor Tom Baltutis at tfbaltutis@gmail.com.



Most commercially available stands are adjustable to fit banners measuring 23”x 63” to 32” x 78”. You should order a banner size which will fit such a stand. Note that a 33” x 81” banner **will not** fit these stands.