

PHILMONT AMBASSADOR UPDATE

New Adventure Program Lets Scouters and Families Play Together

Have you ever wanted to go to Philmont Training Center, play hooky from classes, and have fun all week with your family? This summer you can! The Philmont Scout Ranch Family Adventure program will be offering a unique opportunity to Scouters and their families during the last half of June, 2018.

The Philmont Scout Ranch Family

tomize their experience based on their interest. Here are some of the adventures being planned for you and your family.

Inspiration Point Hike: Guided by a Program Counselor team from the training center, this is a chance to spend a day hiking to this spectacular point on the side of Urraca Mesa as a family. A Philmont trail lunch will be

Rock Climbing in the Backcountry:

This is an all-day session beginning with a mild hike from Cimarroncito turnaround to the Cimarroncito Backcountry staff camp. Once there, families would receive a safety briefing and climbing demonstration. That would be followed by a chance to climb several different routes on natural rock.

Philmont Living History Day: Are you interested in learning about Philmont history from the days of the dinosaur to the present? This day would begin with a hike to the T-Rex Track, and to Indian Writings to learn about the early inhabitants on the north Ponil canyon from their petroglyphs. After this, they would tour the Chase ranch at the home of Manly and Theresa Chase, and enjoy lunch on the grounds. After lunch, at their own pace families could then tour the Villa Philmonte and the Kit Carson museum at Rayado.

Craft Center: The open program format at the craft center means that a family can show up for instruction of any of the activities offered. Families would have the chance to learn how to throw and fire a clay pot, to tool leather and use a welder.

Shooting Sports: As indicated on the schedule below, shooting sports will be offered in two ways. First, in the Archery blocks the emphasis would be on teaching Archery and safe use of

slingshots and tomahawks. In alternating sessions, the focus would be on air guns/BBs, .22 rifles and shotguns. Participants could try their hand at learning fundamentals or, for the more experienced, shoot at the 5-stand and be challenged by aerial targets.

COPE: This program will be offered in afternoon blocks to the Family Adventure participants and will provide a great chance to experience high and low course challenges together. The setting will be at our newly completed COPE tower, complete with elements to challenge people of all ages and skill levels.

Horseback Riding: For families interested in learning about the life in the saddle of a northern New Mexico cowboy, they can make the trip down to Cattle Headquarters. While there, they would get an introduction to saddles, tack and of course the opportunity to go on a trail ride.

Although we are offering a robust program throughout the week, it should be noted that families are not required to attend a scheduled event. They could wander over as a family

for a scoop of ice cream from the Tooth of Time Traders or would be free to choose other activities in the area such as a day in Taos or exploring Cimarron Canyon.

Family Adventures will offer both full week and half week programs. Half-week sessions will run from Sunday afternoon until Wednesday noon, and from Wednesday afternoon to Saturday morning.

Register on the Philmont web site www.philmontscout ranch.org/PTC. **P2**

Family Adventure Fees

Full Week
Adult—\$350
Child/Youth—\$150
Mountain Trek—\$430
Duplex Housing + \$450/family
Multiplex + \$300/family

Half Week
Adult—\$215
Child/Youth—\$100
Duplex Housing + \$225/family
Multiplex + \$150/family

Important Dates

June 1, 2008	2019 Participant 1/2 fee due
June 8, 2018	Treks begin
June 10, 2018	PTC Opens
September 16, 2018	Autumn conference week begins
November 15, 2018 (approx.)	2020 Lottery Opens

Half Week Schedules			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
	Family Programs to 11:20 AM	Family Programs to 11:20 AM	Check out 9:00 AM Departure
	Lunch	Lunch	
	Family Time 12:45-1:15	Family Time 12:45-1:15	
Arrive 2 to 4 PM 4:30 Services at Chapel	Family Programs to 4:20 PM	Family Programs to 4:20 PM	
Dinner	Dinner	Buffalo Barbecue on Villa Lawn	
Opening Program	Evening Family Activities	Den and Family Activities	

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Breakfast	Breakfast	Continental Breakfast
	Family Programs to 11:20 AM	Family Programs to 11:20 AM	Check out 9:00 AM Departure
	Lunch	Lunch	
	Family Time 12:45-1:15	Family Time 12:45-1:15	
Arrive - 2 to 4 PM	Family Programs to 4:20 PM	Family Programs to 4:20 PM	
Dinner	Dinner	Barbecue on Villa Lawn	
Evening Family Activities	Den and Family Activities	Closing Program	

Full Week Schedule						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Continental Breakfast-Departure
	Family Programs to 11:20 AM	Family Programs to 11:20 AM	Family Programs to 11:20 AM	Family Programs to 11:20 AM	Family Programs to 11:20 AM	
	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
	Family Time 12:45-1:15	Family Time 12:45-1:15	Family Time 12:45-1:15	Family Time 12:45-1:15	Family Time 12:45-1:15	
Arrive 2—4 PM Services at Chapel	Family Programs to 4:20 PM	Family Programs to 4:20 PM	Family Programs to 4:20 PM	Family Programs to 4:20 PM	Family Programs to 4:20 PM	
Dinner	Dinner	Buffalo Barbecue on Villa Lawn	Dinner	Dinner	Barbecue on Villa Lawn	
Opening Program	Evening Family Activities	Den and Family Activities	Evening Family Activities	Den and Family Activities	Closing Program	

Who's Who at Philmont: Steve Nelson—Camping Director



Duties at Philmont: Responsible for all Base-camp and Backcountry programs for the Camping Program.

This also includes the Infirmary and the Chaplaincy. Also responsible for the Food Service, including Dining Halls and Commissary. In addition, I oversee the Human Resources for all full-time and seasonal employees.

Number of Years at Philmont: 10

Prior Positions at Philmont: Associate

Director of Program— Seasonal Personnel and Base Camp Operations 2008-2009, Director of Business Operations, 2009-2017

Prior Scouting Experience Outside Philmont: Senior Executive—Nevada Area Council, Senior District Executive—Las Vegas Area Council, NV, Senior District Executive—Tendoy Area Council, ID

Most Memorable Experience at Philmont: I spend a few house every year to celebrate my birthday on top of the Tooth of Time. Ten years in a row, now, looking forward to many more. I use that time to reflect on the many, many experiences that happen

every year when you get to work at Philmont.

Most Humorous Experience at Philmont: We got a radio call that came from Baldy Town late one afternoon. They had a Scout that had been hit on the back by a bear. They could see the marks of the paw on his back. When asked when it happened and if the bear was still around, the reply was that it happened early that morning. When asked why the delay in reporting it, the Scout said he didn't want to miss the opportunity to climb Baldy. You have to have your priorities straight! **P2**



“Never hike Philmont wearing your class A’s” is sound advice. Many Crews distinguish themselves with custom-designed clothing items instead.

Every single day in the Tooth of Time Traders, the staff thinks about the outdoor gear that helps Trekkers enjoy the trails at Philmont Scout Ranch. That’s why they are so excited to present their 2018 Custom Crew Apparel line, now in its 17th season! Not only have they added new designs, they’ve also added matching women’s tees, polo shirts, belt buckles and solar sleeves. The ToTT website allows for easy ordering at www.philmontcustom.com.

The following guidelines useful while outfitting crews:

- Order deadline is April 30, 2018. Please allow 6 weeks for delivery.
- Prices listed do not reflect shipping (\$20 per order) or taxes
- Minimum order quantity of 6 for each product (orders can include short and long sleeve shirts of the same color)
- “Troop Number Here” “City, State Here” are merely suggestions. **P2**

Making the dream possible

Scholarships Available for Treks and PTC

You can help potential Philmont goers by telling them about the many scholarships available. Many attendees do not realize that Waite Phillips provided money to assist deserving Scouts to come to camp and learn at Philmont. Generous donors throughout the country maintain these scholarships through ongoing donations, thereby keeping Waite and Genevieve’s legacy of giving alive in Scouting.

Philmont offers the Waite Phillips Scholarship to help make it possible for a youth member to participate who might not otherwise be able to experience Philmont. Application forms should be sent to the Unit Reservation Contact (usually the primary Adult Advisor) for each crew before final payments are due in the spring. The

application is filled out by an Advisor for a maximum of one youth member per crew. If granted, awards typically cover a portion of the total program fee.

For those attending PTC, a small scholarship fund has been established to ensure that volunteer Scouters and professionals have an opportunity to participate in a summer or fall Philmont Training Center experience. Likewise, the National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience (NAYLE) - which provides a high level training experience for youth leaders—has funds available to assist attendees. Scouts considering Individual Opportunities such as R.O.C.S., Rayado, STEM and the Trail Crews can apply for financial assistance as

well. Each program has its own application form.

Not every individual program has assistance available. Ranch Hands and the OA Trail Crew do not have scholarships.

Individual Councils may also have Campership money available for deserving Scouts. Check with your Council to see what assistance it may provide. **P2**

Click here for scholarship application forms.

Philmont Staff Help Spark Interest at HOA Council’s Scouting 500 Jamboree

Having Philmont Staff at a large event can add a big boost to your display. Last fall, Dave Woodman, Ambassador to the Heart of America Council (HOAC) arranged to do just that at the Council’s “Scouting 500” mini-jamboree. Over 12,000 attended the weekend event held at a the Kansas Speedway.

A number booths were set up in the midway inside the racetrack representing OA, Venturing, Swamp Base, International Scouting Association and Woodbadge. The council High Adventure committee also had a booth set up, but because it was populated by Philmont Ambassadors, the focus and messaging was strictly about Philmont.

Given the scale of the event, Dave reached out to Philmont well in advance and arranged for Grant Reigelman to join them to help promote Philmont and PTC. Grant brought with him two electric branding irons, one with the cattle brand and the other with the horse brand.

Two distinct things came from having Grant there. First, the level of traffic was much higher. Branding is a quick activity to perform, so many people stopped by. Even though it moved at a brisk pace, Ambassadors were able to introduce Philmont and the PTC to a wide audience. Once Grant was done branding their items (hats were a popular choice, but belts and leather wallets were also a common item), Ambassadors were able



Ropers (girls 8-10) show their enthusiasm during a hike through the forest.

scouts who are mere infants and extend to young adults up to 21. Spouses, often feeling that they are going to be burdened with a week of child care, are astounded to find that their time at PTC is mostly theirs. All activities in their Silverado program are optional, so they can choose to relax on the Greensward or hike with the group to Window Rock or Lover’s Leap.

Age-appropriate activities for youth three and up are led by enthusiastic counselors whose love of interacting with children is contagious. After a short time, anyone who may feel a bit resentful at leaving their friends behind are just too busy having fun to miss them.

One of the most popular activities is Gaga ball, a variant of dodgeball played in a special area called a Gaga pit. It’s become one of the most popular activities among PTC youth.

Topping out the youth programs are optional Mountain Treks—seven day backing experiences for youth aged 14 to 21. Mountain Treks are led by Philmont Rangers and may be single-sex or co-ed depending on the number of participants. Participants are

equipped by Philmont or can bring their own equipment. Mountain Treks are an excellent experience for youth who may not otherwise get an opportunity to travel the backcountry.

Many non-Scouter spouses worry that they’ll be left out of the fun of Philmont. The Silverado program will dispel those fears by offering hikes, horse rides, museum tours, and rifle shooting.

Along with hikes, games, pony rides, archery, marksmanship and crafts, family members attending PTC find that they indeed have the time of their lives at Philmont. The only ‘bored’ ones may be their parents attending a conference, although they enjoy their own brand of Philmont fun.

Wednesday afternoons are family free time when you can explore the Urucca Mesa trail, venture into nearby Taos, visit the Rayado museum, have an ice cream treat in Cimarron or just enjoy time in the mountain air.

Thanks to Family Programs, many a pouty teenager will leave Philmont saying, “That was the best vacation EVER!” **P2**

Ambassador Profile

Pete Lane Just Keeps On Trekking

“I consider myself a Philmont junkie, because of my experiences on both sides of the road,” explains Pete Lane. It doesn’t take much to get Pete talking about all the experience he’s enjoyed in New Mexico.

Pete’s been an Ambassador since 2013 to the Mayflower Council (a combination of the Old Colony and Knox Trail Councils). Mayflower serves Boston’s western and southern metro areas.

The combination of the two councils has proved to be a challenge because one has a tradition of Roundtables and the other has not. Gearing up to do a Roundtable when less than 10 people show up, including the staff, is a challenge.

Pete’s also done promotions at Council lunches, but he finds word of mouth to be most effective. Just as much, hearing stories from others about the impact of Philmont on their lives means a lot to Pete.

Pete is an avid promotor of the Camping program. “I’m always promoting the Council contingent treks, usually with special Philmont information sessions - about three per

year – usually held at the Councils Nobscot Scout Reservation.”

“My Trek experiences have all been



Pete Lane’s experiences cover much of the Philmont Backcountry

great’, says Pete. “To me there are few things more fun than spending two weeks with a group of young adults who want to do it all. I enjoy backpacking anyway.”

“I’ve thru-hiked the Appalachian Trail and several other long-distance trails here in the East. More recently, I end-to- ended on the Colorado Train and did the John Muir Trail. But time in the Philmont backcountry is special because of the young adults that I am with and the multitude of programs offered in the backcountry.

Oh, and by the way, Pete is 70 years old and will be doing another Trek in the summer of 2018. **P2**

to talk to them to understand their background and interest level. PTC Family Program flyers were the most common handout at that point, but the other flyers were moving fast also.

The other advantage of having Grant there was the credibility it gave. There were a number of deeper con-

versations from people who had questions about Philmont. Once they understood the position Grant has with Philmont, they were confident that they were getting a credible answer to their questions.



Consider inviting Philmont Staff to help promote programs at a large-scale event in your council.

Philmont fire” that burns inside those that have been there before. They are a key source of excitement and motivation with each of the crews that decide to make the journey.

If you have a similar event in your Council, consider inviting Philmont to send staff to assist you. Contact Grant Reigelman at grant.reigelman@scouting.org to make your request. **P2**

Staff Changes

New Faces Fill Key Roles on the Ranch

Philmont Scout Ranch is excited to announce the following hires and promotions.

Keith Nelson - Associate Director of Camping - Backcountry/Program Administration Specialist - effective January 1, 2018 - Keith Nelson was born and raised in the DFW area of north Texas where his father first introduced Keith, his brother, and his twin to Tiger Cubs. After completing the rank of Eagle Scout, Keith went on to achieve a Bachelor of Arts degree in corporate communications and Bachelor of Science degree in geology from the University of Texas. Keith spent several seasons on the Philmont staff. Keith then travelled north to Ely, Minnesota, as a winter season and summer canoe guide for Northern Tier High Adventure. After joining the full-time team, Keith performed roles in administration and program staff most recently as the Associate Director of Program at the Ely Base. Aside from professional scouting, Keith has also worked in the oil and gas industry. In his free time, Keith enjoys



endurance sports, community band, and international travel.

Jesse Chollette - Cowboy/Ranch Technician - effective January 1, 2018 - Jesse is an Eagle Scout from Stephenville, TX. He grew up on a ranch raising cattle, driving tractors, building fences and welding. Jesse also has experience with horses including working with children in horsemanship programs on the Pine Cove/Crier Creek Ranch in Columbus, TX.

Bryce Goodrich - Accountant - effective January 16, 2018 - Bryce is an Eagle Scout from Grapevine, TX. He has served as a member of the Philmont seasonal staff team since May 2014 in the Tooth of Time Traders progressing from Warehouse Clerk to Snack bar Manager in 2017. Bryce graduated from Texas State University with a degree in Bachelor of Business Administration in May 2016.

Justin Cruz - Food Service Cook - effective January 16, 2018 - Justin joins the Food Service team as a Cook. He comes from Maxwell, NM where he worked for the Maxwell Housing Authority since 2001. Justin has been working on the Food Service seasonal staff since June 2017.

Philmont would like to congratulate the following individuals on their promotions and title changes:

David O'Neill - Sr. Associate Director of Camping/Team Lead Backcountry - effective January 1, 2018

In this new role David will be accountable and responsible for and will give leadership to the backcountry operations, base camp operations and seasonal staff hiring operations.



Eric Martinez - Associate Director of Camping/Program Administration Specialist - effective January 1, 2018 - In this role Eric will continue to be responsible for the seasonal staff onboarding process and Base Camp management including the Ranger staff. Eric will also oversee the summer conservation education participant programs through a seasonal staff manger.

John Celley - Conservation Foreman - effective January 1, 2018 - In this new role John will be accountable and responsible for the Ranch conservation functions (trails, bridges, GIS...) including land management and wildlife management. John will report to Dave Kenneke in the Ranching Department.



Andrew Rankin - Cowboy/Senior Ranch Technician - effective January 1, 2018 - Andrew's promotion will continue his work in the Ranching Department and he will be responsible for the cattle and bison herds as well as assisting with other Ranching operations.

Denise Montoya - Museum Assistant/Retail Sales - effective January 1, 2018 - Dee Dee will move from the Philmont Training Center to her new and exciting role at the museum as Philmont welcomes the new National Scouting Museum at Philmont Scout Ranch. In this new role Dee Dee will be responsible for the museum retail sales counter as well as working with the jewelry buyers.

Charles Duran - Security Supervisor - effective January 1, 2108 - Charles will continue to support Philmont Scout Ranch giving leadership to all things related to security. He will work directly with Dave Kenneke, Director of Ranching in this role.

Alex Cordova - Senior Mechanic Technician - effective January 1, 2108 - This is a title change for Alex. He will continue his role as a mechanic working at the motor pool.

Jeremy Gruver - Senior Mechanic Technician - effective January 1, 2108 - This is a title change for Jeremy. He will continue his role as a mechanic working at the motor pool.

Philmont has a number of permanent positions like these filled with enthusiastic Scouters whose goal is to make each visit to the Ranch a memorable adventure. In addition, Philmont hires more than a thousand seasonal staff for the many camps and support facilities the Ranch needs. Be sure to include a "Seasonal Employment Opportunities" pamphlet in your presentation handouts. **P2**



Many Ambassadors include packages of trail meals in their displays.

Training with Trail Food

Many crews like to bring the same kinds of food they'll be eating in Philmont's back country on their preparation hikes and overnights. Fortunately, the Philmont Commissary uses many items you can find on grocery shelves or in outdoor supply stores.

"Using common food items helps us reduce costs and makes it easy for crews to duplicate meals for their own backpacking adventures." says Barry Harper, Philmont Commissary Manager.

Some crews purchase surplus meals from the Commissary to get the real deal. These are available as long as they last by contacting the Philmont Commissary.

Trail meals are designed to provide all the energy needed for hiking the high country, typically 3,000 calories per day. Meal packages are designed to be shared by two people for one meal, breakfast, lunch or dinner.

Packages are numbered 0 to 9 to correspond to the date they would be eaten, that is, meals marked '0' are eaten on the 10th, 20th or 30th of the month. Meals marked '1' are eaten on the 1st, 11th, 21st or 31st. Therefore, having a calendar is a little-known essential piece of Philmont camping equipment.

One alternative to ordering surplus meals is to make your own from commonly available supplies.

- Breakfast:
- Instant Oatmeal

- Pop Tarts
- Lara Bars
- Turkey bites
- Lemonade mix

- Lunch:
- Ritz crackers
 - Spreadable cheese
 - Beef and cheese sticks
 - Honey Stinger chews
 - Corn nuts
 - Gatorade

- Dinner:
- Mountain House Chili Mac
 - Bacon cheddar pretzels
 - Trail mix
 - Cookies

When assembling meals, it's essential to count calories so you provide the 3,000+ needed daily to sustain energy levels.

Advisors should be aware that Philmont does not provide coffee or other caffeinated hot beverages. Some choose to go without caffeine so they can get going early, and not wait for water to boil, though many would consider that uncivilized.

The menu for 2018 Treks will be posted after April 1st. **P2**

Click here to purchase Philmont Trail Meals from the Commissary.

Philmont Food Facts

This summer Philmont participants collectively consumed:

- ◆ Over 1.2 BILLION calories which is enough fuel energy to send a 747 jet on a 10-hour flight
- ◆ 7,020 pounds of bacon, which could reach 7.09 miles end to end
- ◆ 29,744 individual apples
- ◆ 79,632 tortillas, enough to cover 1.44 acres
- ◆ 4,130 pounds of cheese



For more information on Autumn Adventure, click here

Autumn Adventures in a Nutshell

Register: camping@philmontscoutranch.org **Fee:** \$50/person-day
Season: September-October **Length:** Variable
Age: Adults over 21. Youth; over 14 or 13 and in 8th grade
Crew size: 7 to 12 including adult leadership. Can have an all-adult crew.
Leadership: 2+ Adult leaders required per crew.
Registration: Anytime

Backcountry Beckons Fall Adventurers

Philmont's backcountry stays open long after the last Scout goes back to class. Scouters can take the trails during the autumn season to enjoy warm, sunny days, and cool, crisp nights. They will get to see the aspen trees changing to gold and witness the wildlife preparing for winter. A trained Philmont guide will accompany groups to areas where you can enjoy the splendor of fall color.

Autumn Adventure is open to crews of 7 to 12 participants accompanied by an Autumn Adventure guide. Larger groups will be organized into multiple crews (please call for approval). A crew may be assembled from an adult group of Unit, District or Council committee members. Youth can also come a Boy Scout troop, Venturing crew, Sea Scout ship, Varsity team, Exploring post. There are several programs offered through Autumn Adventure:

- **All-Adult Trek:** A great opportunity for team building and planning for your unit, district, or council. What better way to bring a group together than fly-fishing on the Rayado

River or taking in the changing aspens?

- **Rock Climbing Trek:** This "hands on" experience focuses on skills and interests related to rock climbing. Try your hand at climbing various types of rock including sandstone and dacite porphyry.
- **Mountain Bike Trek:** Cover more ground with this exciting program. Travel the backcountry roads and trails on two wheels. Must be comfortable spending extended time on a mountain bike.
- **Backpacking Trek:** A great experience for Scouts during fall break. This experience is for crews of 7 to 12 members with youth giving leadership to the crew. Go for your 50 Miler Award or enjoy the backcountry while focusing on rank advancement and merit badges.
- **Fly-Fishing Trek:** Tie some flies and cast away along the beautiful water features at Philmont Scout Ranch. This program focuses mainly on fishing and hopefully catching

- as well.
- **Council/Group Planning Retreat:** Gain familiarity with the ranch including pre-trek planning and training, remote locations in the backcountry, and the skills required to achieve success at Philmont. This program can be more focused in base camp or backcountry as desired.
 - **Family Retreat:** Strip away from the distractions of everyday life and spend some time getting to know your family and loved ones. This program is hosted by the Philmont's Training Center and caters to your family needs with roofed housing, activity centers, and transportation to scenic attractions nearby.
- Sessions are available from early September to late October. Reservations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations are confirmed upon receipt of a nonrefundable deposit of \$50/person and a completed reservation form. The balance of fees is due upon arrival. **P2**

Philmont Gear Tips Help Crews Lighten Their Loads

Ambassadors are often asked about what gear Trekkers should bring to on the trail. Here are pointers and suggestions straight from Philmont rangers on what crews should either bring with them or expect to be provided by the Ranch equipment supplies.

Their Ranger will cover a gear shake-down in Base Camp before Crews depart for the backcountry. The purpose of the gear shakedown is to ensure everyone has the appropriate gear and clothing before leaving for the wilderness and to make sure unnecessary items are stored in Base Camp to save weight and bulk.



Backpacks – Internal frame packs are highly functional and most commonly used. The pack needs to have a padded hip belt. Anything between a 65-85 liter carrying capacity will fit personal gear, crew gear, food, and water.

To properly pack an internal frame backpack, place the heavy gear along the spine and close to the hiker's back to keep the center of gravity forward and low. Lighter gear should be packed at the top of the backpack and on the outer edges of the main compartment. Sleeping bags usually fit at the bottom of the pack. Avoid having loose/dangling gear, as it is more likely to get caught in vegetation and requires you to exert more energy to offset its swaying motion.

Backpacks are available for rent from Outfitting Services in Base Camp for \$30 (this includes a pack cover as well). This is a great option for youth who you know will outgrow a pack in a year or two.

Boots – Mid- to high-top boots are highly recommended for ankle support on rocky, uneven trails. Boots should be well broken in before a Philmont trek. Waterproof boots are recommended: keeping your feet dry is one of the biggest keys to a successful trek.

- o **Tents** – Philmont requires closed-walled tents to prevent rodents, snakes, scorpions, and spiders from entering your sleeping facility. Two-person tents are required, as it is often difficult to find a spot to set up a larger tent in forested campsites.

Mountain Safety Research (MSR) partnered with Philmont in 2012 and developed the Thunder Ridge tent specifically for use at Philmont. The MSR Thunder Ridge is a two-person, three-season tent and is available for crews to use free of charge while on their Philmont trek. Each MSR Thunder Ridge tent is washed using Nikwax Tech Wash® upon returning to Base Camp to ensure all Philmont-issued tents are clean and waterproof. Ground cloths (not provided) are required for use with the MSR Thunder Ridge tents and the dimensions of the tent are 88" x 54". Lightweight materials such as Tyvek work great as ground cloths and are affordable if purchased in bulk for the crew.

Sleeping Bags – Philmont recommends a 20°F temperature rating on sleeping bags. Synthetic bags are easier to care for than down bags but a synthetic bag will not compress as small and will weigh more than a down equivalent. If a down bag is used at Philmont, it is recommended that the person using it is very experienced in its care since down loses all insulation value once wet. Sleeping pads are also highly encouraged for added warmth.

Stoves – White gas stoves are most commonly used at Philmont. Models such as the MSR WhisperLite, MSR DragonFly, and the Optimus Nova are great stoves for a Philmont backpack-

ing trek. White gas stoves are preferred by most crews because they are more efficient at higher elevations and colder temperatures and the fuel bottles are refillable, making them more environmentally friendly than canister stoves.



Stream Crossing Shoes – Due to recent changes in annual weather patterns, streams at Philmont are running at their highest levels in 15 years. It is impossible to keep your feet dry in many stream crossings. It is highly recommended to bring camp shoes that can double as stream crossing shoes to prevent having to use hiking boots to cross knee-deep water.

Old tennis shoes work great for camp/stream crossing shoes because they are lightweight, closed toed, can pack up small, and don't cost anything since you already have them and can easily recycle them at the end of the trek. After crossing a stream, tie the stream crossing shoes to the outside of your pack to let them dry off. They will be dry by the time you get to camp and it will be nice to let your feet flex and air out while wearing these shoes

Pots – Philmont requires all crews to use at least two pots. Both pots must be at least eight-quarts in size. The purpose of having the second pot is for the dishwashing process which requires one pot for washing and one pot for rinsing. All utensils will be sanitized in the early stages of the following meal's preparation process. The full dishwashing process (wash, rinse, and sanitize) is very important in the backcountry in order to prevent sickness on the trail. Eight-quart pots are available for crews to use from

Outfitting Services in Base Camp free of charge.



Patrol Cooking Method – As mentioned above, crews are required to use two pots in the backcountry. The eight-quart pot is used for boiling water and re-hydrating food while the second pot is for dishwashing. Turkey bags or other bags used as a barrier between the cooking pot and the food are not allowed at Philmont due to the amount of extra trash created, which in turn requires extra use of gasoline for backcountry trash pickups. The purpose of the patrol cooking method is to give Scouts the opportunity to lead the cooking and cleaning processes during a meal in the backcountry by practicing servant leadership. By utilizing the crew duty roster, a Scout will be the assistant cook/dishwasher one night then the lead cook/dishwasher the following night.



Bear Ropes and Bear Bags – Philmont requires crews to use two nylon bear ropes measuring 100' in length and ¼" in diameter to hang all smell-ables (A smell-able is anything that might attract a bear. For a more detailed list, see the "Setting Up Camp" section). Bear ropes and bear bags are available for crews to check out from Outfitting Services in Base Camp free of charge. Crews are allowed to bring their own bear ropes and bags but the ropes must be the

Water Purification – Katadyn Micropur® tablets are issued to purify untreated water at Philmont. These tablets are lightweight, pack down to almost nothing, and are provided for free. They kill protozoa, bacteria, and viruses whereas filters are only effective against protozoa and bacteria. You may bring water filters if you would like but it is not necessary due to the Micropur tablets you will receive in Base Camp.



And when you're done. - Trek aren't complete until all borrowed equipment is returned to Philmont supplies. All pots need to be scrubbed thoroughly. Tents and tarps must be inspected and be in good condition for the next crew. This makes it doubly important to take care of all items provided by Philmont so that the next Trekker can head out on the trail prepared for the adventures ahead. **P2**

Philmont Videos Show How it's Done

The Philmont Web site has a number of videos you can refer Scouts to for advice. Programs include

- How to pack a backpack
- How to wash dishes
- Safe water treatment
- Choosing the right stove
- Choosing hiking boots
- Fitting a backpack
- How to hang bear bags
- Philmont backcountry cooking

These can be found on www.philmontscoutranch.org > Photos & Videos Tab > > Videos (link is under Tooth of Time photo) > Backcountry Trek Preparation (from list on left)

Focus on the Backcountry

Baldy Town

Staffed Camp

Commissary

Showers

Trading Post

Elevation: 10,000 ft.

Description: Baldy Town is located near old gold and copper mining sites next to Baldy Mountain. The original town was abandoned when the deposits were played out. It is a program camp teaching about geology, gold mining and assaying for the many treks making a side hike up Baldy.

Activities: Baldy Mountain Hike, Gold Assaying

Water: Potable spigots

Nearby Camps: Copper Peak, Ute Meadows, French Henry, Black Horse, Ewells Park, Miranda

Trails: North and South trails to Baldy Mountain can both be accessed from Baldy Camp. **P2**



The amount of gold taken from the Aztec Mine would be worth \$47,000,000 today.

Baldy Rewards Hikers with Spectacular Views

At 12,441 feet, Baldy Mountain challenges many Trekkers to scale its rocky cap to earn an unobstructed, spectacular vista. Over half of



Philmont itineraries include a climb up Baldy as the literal highlight of the Trek. The ridge up to the summit often has patches of snow well into July.

Treks including the climb usually have a two-day layover at a nearby camp so that the mountain can be scaled without carrying full packs. Ute Meadows, Miranda, Black Horse, Copper Peak, Maxwell, Ewells Park as well as Baldy Town itself are used for these layovers.

The distinguishing feature of Baldy, and hence its name, is its treeless peak made up of loose rock called scree. Scree is often formed from the break-up of mountain rock by the

freeze-thaw process. Baldy in fact is not above the treeline, but the barren rock top makes it look like it is.

The scree makes climbing the mountain more difficult, and staying on established routes is important for safety reasons. Scrambling on the loose rock is one of the reasons that the climb is best made with packs left at camp.

The southern approach to Baldy starts at Baldy Camp (El. 10,000 ft. and moves through aspens until the trees thin out a 11,700 ft. Then it's a scramble on the scree for the next 741 feet upwards. A new route from the north was opened in 2007 to prevent numerous injuries from heading straight up from Copper Park. It begins with a series of switchbacks through the forest to a ridgeline that offers spectacular views of the surrounding country as it heads to Baldy's top.

Climbers are rewarded by spectacular views, weather permitting, of the Sangre de Cristo mountains because Baldy is the highest peak in range. Climbers should try to be off the peak before afternoon thunderstorms arrive.

Mount Baldy was not part of Waite Philips' gift to the Boy Scouts of America. Norton Clapp, then president of Weyerhaeuser and vice president of the National Council of the BSA, donated the 10,098 acres that included Mt. Baldy in 1963. Mr. Clapp's generosity continued the legacy of Waite and Genevieve's original gift which enables Scouts to learn important values in God's country. **P2**