



TRAIL MARKERS

2024 PHILMONT TREK TIPS

SHIP 1610

NEWS

Itinerary Guide Available Soon

Around December 16, the camping staff will post the 2024 Itinerary Guide on the Philmont website. This document contains all of the available pre-planned treks from which expeditions may choose. Starting on January 16, we can submit our 6 most preferred itineraries for the "fair" lottery system, with final assignment made by computer on February 16. We should make our final itinerary selections at the Scout Farm campout on January 19-21.

PROGRAM

Gold Rush

Gold is still found in almost all streams on Philmont, which was once the scene of lucrative gold-mining operations. Mine shafts, sluice boxes, and placer mines dot the mountainsides and valleys. You will tour a real gold mine. Not working now, the mine is carefully shored so you can tour the mine tunnel. Bring your jacket and flashlight for the tour. Learn about adventures that were experienced during the fascinating and colorful past as determined miners sought their fortunes in these historic mountains. When you find some "color", ask one of the staff miners for some cellophane tape so you can take your discovery home to show others your success. Gold pans are available for you to use.

PHYSICAL READINESS

What Will End Your Trek?

Every year a number of scouts and leaders have to be pulled off the trail by staff and sent to the infirmary for various ailments. With over 85 years of experience, the staff has much data about what the problems will be. These are the four leading reasons that treks end early:

Hypothermia - For some it might be a surprise to hear that it gets cold in New Mexico, but much of Philmont is at high elevation. Nights can easily get down to freezing. Add to that the likelihood for rainy conditions every day. The important points are: have good (durable) rain gear, keep your sleeping system absolutely dry, and eat your share of food.

Dehydration - While on the trail, you will experience heavy physical effort, at high elevation, with very low humidity. Start the morning by drinking water immediately after you wake up. Expect to drink at least a liter every hour. More on a tough hike.



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Stomach & Intestinal Illness - Unless certified by the staff, assume all water must be purified before drinking. Make sure your cooking water reaches a boil before making your dinner. Sterilize your dishes and silverware before every meal.

Falls - Many types of injuries can result from a fall. Minor strains, dislocations, cuts, and bruises are typical; but, serious ligament tears and broken bones are possible. Prevention is the ticket to trouble free trekking. Watch where you are walking, use trekking poles to help with balance, and don't engage in horseplay. Fatigue can be a contributing cause, so the best defense is to strengthen your legs before leaving Hampton Roads.

THE PHILMONT WAY

Philmont Nomenclature

The following is a list of place names and terms used at Philmont, many of which have unique meanings specific to that program.

Advisor, (crew) - adults in a crew, responsible for the health and safety of the members

Advisor's Coffee - after dinner gathering on the porch of the staff cabin at staffed camps where advisors from all crews spending the night at that camp can gather for coffee and tea, and perhaps cake or a similar treat, as well as fellowship with each other and the staff.

Advisor, Lead - primary adult advisor, responsible for administrative functions of the crew.

Arrowhead patch - distinctive arrowhead shaped patch awarded to each crew member for the successful completion of a Philmont trek, modeled after a rock formation on the north side of Tooth Ridge.

Backcountry - all of Philmont except for the area on the main road, including Camping Headquarters, the Philmont Training Center, the Seton Museum and Library, the Villa Philmonte, and various support facilities for both the camping and the ranch operations.

Baldy Mountain - highest point at Philmont, elevation 12,411 feet, located in the northwest corner of the ranch, always climbed as a side-hike.

Bear bag - an approximately 2' by 3' nylon sack issued at Philmont as crew gear (or similar crew supplied) used to store all smellables off the ground on a bear cable.

Bear cable - steel cable between two trees, about 20 to 25 feet off the ground, used to support bear ropes holding bear bags containing the crew's smellables; one corner of the



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'BEARmuda' Triangle.

Bear rope - a 100-foot length of 1/4 inch nylon rope, used to hoist bear bags up to the bear cable, included in the crew gear provided by Philmont.

'BEARmuda' Triangle - area within each campsite at Philmont defined by the three features most attractive to bears - the bear cable (food and other smellables), the sump (disposal of wastewater), and the fire ring (possible spilled food). The dining fly is set up within the triangle, all packs are kept within the triangle while in camp, and tents are set up at least 50 feet outside of the triangle.

Bushwhack - to hike cross-country, rather than on established trails, a practice that is prohibited on the ranch and encouraged in the Valle Vidal.

Camping Headquarters (CHQ) (also known as Base Camp) - location at Philmont that crews report to, perform all administrative functions, are provided with crew gear and initial food supply, and where all crews stay their first and last nights at Philmont.

Caterpillar (hiking) - hiking technique for steeper slopes that allows each crew member to alternately hike and rest, as opposed to the entire crew stopping. Named because from above the crew looks like the tread on a Caterpillar bulldozer (not the insect.)

Cathedral Rock - prominent rock feature next the Cimarroncito Reservoir.

Chaplain Aide - youth crew member responsible for the morale of the crew, who's specific duties are spelled out in a sheet provided in March, and at a meeting after dinner Day 1 at Philmont.

Cimarron - small, historical western town located approximately four miles north of Camping Headquarters.

Commissary - a backcountry location where food and fuel is obtained for the next several days of the trek. Most also include a small trading post where items such as film, first aid supplies, etc. may be purchased.

Conservation (Department) (also known as "Cons.") - responsible for the maintenance and repair of existing trails and facilities, the construction of new trails, and for organizing the conservation project each crew member must complete to earn the arrowhead patch.

Conservation project - a three-hour backcountry service project, typically either trail construction or maintenance.

Council contingent crew - a crew that is part of an expedition organized by a Boy Scout



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Council, rather than an individual troop or Venturing crew.

Crew - group of 7 to 12 individuals, majority youth, working together to complete a Philmont trek, with leadership positions including the Crew Leader, Chaplain Aide, and Crew Advisors.

Crew gear - equipment used by the crew in common, such as the dining fly or backpacking stoves, listed in the "Guidebook to Adventure," which indicates the items issued by Philmont and those that the crew must supply.

Crew Leader (also known as Crew Chief) - youth member responsible for organizing the crew who's specific duties are spelled out in a sheet from Philmont mailed in March, and handed out at a meeting after dinner Day 1 at Philmont.

Crew Leader's copy - a single page (identical to the page for the crew's itinerary in "TREKS") carried by the Crew Leader, used to track completion of the crew's conservation project, activities such as horse riding, commissary food pickups, and other information.

Crew locker - a secure storage space, approximately 2' x 2' x 3' (each crew usually gets two), at Camping Headquarters for gear that is left in Base Camp while a crew is on the trail in the backcountry.

Crew member - one of the participants in a Philmont crew, either youth and adult.

Day 3 Syndrome - the observed phenomenon that the third day on the trail (Philmont Day 4, which is the day the crew's Ranger leaves) has the most crew members coming off the trail for physical or emotional reasons.

Dining fly - a 12' by 12' nylon tarp issued by Philmont, which is set up low to the ground within the 'BEARmuda' Triangle and used both to store all non-smellable crew gear as well as to provide shelter from rain.

Dinner for lunch - a water management technique where the normal evening meal is eaten at lunchtime because water is available then but will not be at the evening's dry camp. The day's lunch is then eaten at dinnertime.

Dry camp - camp where water is not (or may not be) available.

"Eagles Soaring High" - a booklet of devotionals associated with the major religions for use by the Chaplain Aide and other crew members in the backcountry. A copy is given to each crew member upon arrival at Philmont.

Expedition - crews from the same unit arriving at Philmont on the same date, also referred to as a "contingent."



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Expedition number - identification number assigned to each crew, consisting of the arrival date, a letter sequence, and a number if the expedition contains more than one crew. For example, 622A1 would be the first crew of the "A" expedition arriving on June 22.

Fire ring - metal ring to contain campfires, one corner of the 'BEARmuda' Triangle. Meals are prepared and eaten in the vicinity of the fire ring.

GPS (Global Positioning Satellite) - navigation technique using coordinates established with a small handheld device and a number of orbiting satellites.

"Guidebook to Adventure" (GtA) - pocket-sized booklet issued to each crew member in March. Absolutely packed with information, including equipment lists, information on preparing for Philmont, health and safety issues, descriptions of the first three days at Philmont, descriptions of the programs available and at which staff camps they are offered, and much more.

Grizzly Tooth - a rock promontory between Shaefers Pass and Black Mountain, visible from the trail along the North Fork of Urraca Creek

Hidden Valley - a picturesque valley near Cimarroncito camp, "hidden" because the second ridge cannot be seen except while in it; Window Rock is near the southern end of the valley.

Homebound - crews in Camping Headquarters on their last full day at Philmont, and before departing the next morning.

"Is anyone NOT ready?" - traditional question asked by a crew leader to determine if his crew is ready to depart when breaking camp, after a break, and other times.

itinerary (or trek) - one of the pre-planned routes through the Philmont backcountry, each of which has a mixture of trail and staff camps, a variety of programs, and physical challenges such as mountain peaks.

Layover - two consecutive nights at one camp, which allows additional time to do the programs there or for sidehikes such as Baldy Mountain, Hidden Valley, or Trail Peak.

'Leave No Trace' (LNT) - various techniques to minimize the impact of hiking and camping activities on the environment, required in the Valle Vidal and encouraged elsewhere on the ranch.

Logistics (Department) - responsible for tracking each crew as they progress on their trek through the backcountry, and a stop on Day 1 at Philmont, where a staff member will review the trek in detail, including commissary food pickups, conservation projects, scheduling horse rides and burro packing programs, water availability, trail conditions, and



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other issues.

MicroPur - chlorine tablet water treatment system first used at Philmont in 2005, replacing the iodine Polar Pure system used in 2004 and prior years.

Minibears - chipmunks and squirrels.

Mount Phillips - the second highest peak in the Philmont, elevation 11,711 feet, located on the western boundary of the ranch, usually climbed with packs while hiking between camps.

Navigator - the crew member with primary responsibility for making sure that the crew is on the trails they planned to hike, though ALL crew members are ultimately responsible for backcountry navigation.

Phillips, Waite - the Oklahoma oilman who donated to the Boy Scouts of America the bulk of the land that is Philmont today.

Philmont Expedition Crew Roster - the multi-part form listing the adult advisors, youth crew leader, and youth crew members turned in during the administrative check-in at Philmont.

Philmont Grace - short thanks to be said by the crew before each meal at Philmont.

Philmont Health and Medical Record - six-page form documenting each crew member's personal medical history, the results of a recent physical, certification of a physician that the crew member is physically fit to participate, details of any medications, and contains discussions of many physical issues, such as cardiovascular diseases, hypertension, diabetes and asthma, which would affect a crew member's participation on a trek.

"Philmont Hymn" - song celebrating the splendor of the backcountry sung at all campfires and other times.

Philmont Training Center (PTC) - facilities located across the road from Camping Headquarters where weeklong courses on a wide variety of scouting topics are offered to Scouters.

'Philtent' - two person backpacking tent issued by Philmont, with a floor measuring 7'-6" by 5'6", using two shock-corded poles that form an inverted 'V' in the front and a single vertical pole in the rear, and guy lines for stability. Crews must supply both the tent pins and a groundcloth for the tent.

'Pilot-to-co-pilot' and **'pilot-to-bombardier'** - open air latrines with two seats, either side by side or back to back, respectively.

Program - activities offered at staffed camps, such as rock climbing, horse rides, or black



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powder rifle shooting.

'Oops' bag - secondary bear bag, hung on a separate line so that it can be lowered and raised by a single crew member, used on purpose for last minute smellables or if a smellable is inadvertently not put up in the regular bear bags.

Ranch - short for Philmont Scout Ranch, the official name. Philmont continues to be a working ranch to this day.

Ranger - a Philmont staff member who accompanies a crew for their first three days, including making sure all Day 1 preparations in Base Camp are taken care of and that the crew is familiar with and trained in all Philmont backcountry procedures.

Red roof inn - an enclosed latrine, generally with a red shingle roof.

Registration (Department) - responsible for financial and other administrative matters, including the safe-keeping of valuables while a crew is on the trail.

Services (Department) - responsible for issuing Philmont supplied crew gear (such as tents, dining flies, and cooking gear) at Camping Headquarters.

Seton Museum and Library - located across the road from Philmont Camping Headquarters, includes historical exhibits, a collection of wildlife paintings by Earnest Thompson Seton. Tours of the Villa Philmonte are scheduled at the Gift Shop in the museum.

Shakedown - used both for a detailed, item by item, review of all personal equipment as well as in general for a training activity, such as an overnight backpacking trip.

Side-hike - hike made with minimal gear, generally after the evening's camp has been established (or after smellables have been hung in bear bags).

'Smellables' - anything and everything that has a smell or might attract a bear to investigate whether it may be food. Such items are stored in bear bags while in camp and are noted on the equipment lists in the "Guidebook to Adventure" as (BB).

'Spreadables' - lunch items (chicken, ham, tuna) packaged in tins or pouches that are spread on crackers to serve.

'Squeezables' - lunch items (peanut butter, jelly, and cheese) packaged in individual servings that are squeezed onto crackers to serve.

Staff cabin - main cabin at each staffed camp, identified by an American flag flying in front of it. Upon arrival at each staffed camp, the crew reports to the porch of the cabin to be signed in by a staff member and given an orientation to the camp and its program. In



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the evening, an Advisor's Coffee is held on the porch.

Staff(ed) camp - camp with permanent buildings and staff assigned to it where backcountry programs are offered.

Sump - PVC pipe drywell used for the disposal of wastewater, one corner of the 'BEARmuda' Triangle.

Sump frisbee - plastic strainer (literally a Frisbee punctured with a number of tiny holes) used to strain solids from the wastewater being disposed of in the sump.

Swap box - a big box at each staffed camp where crews can trade uneaten (and gross) foods for better stuff. Most dumped: Gorp and beef jerky

Tent City - rows of tents used by trailbound and homebound crews while in Philmont's Base Camp.

Tent pins - term used for tent stakes on the list of "Equipment Provided by Crew" in the "Guidebook to Adventure."

'Thorns and Roses' - group reflection by a crew at the end of the day of each member's highs (roses) and lows (thorns). Sometimes expanded to include 'buds' - something the next day that is being looked forward to.

Tooth of Time (also the Tooth) - a prominent rock promontory on Tooth Ridge, visible from Camping Headquarters, and considered the iconic image of Philmont.

Tooth of Time Traders (ToTT) - the Philmont trading post at Camping Headquarters, a well-stocked outdoor store with a wide variety of Philmont merchandise.

Tooth (of Time) Ridge - a rocky, exposed ridge that generally separates the South portion of the ranch from the Central, and dominated by the Tooth of Time. All crews with a trek that has a hike return to Camping Headquarters cross the ridge. Some treks that have bus return include the opportunity for a sidehike across the ridge (and back) in order to climb the Tooth.

Trailbound - crews in Camping Headquarters on their first full day at Philmont and before catching a bus to their starting turnaround on Day 2.

Trail camp - unstaffed camp consisting of only campsites, each with a sump and fire ring, and sharing a bear cable.

Trail Peak - a prominent mountain in the southern portion of the ranch near Beaubien camp, elevation 10,242 feet, usually though not always climbed as a side-hike on a layover day, with the wreckage of a B-24 bomber that crashed in 1942.



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Trail readiness - where a crew is in their preparations and training compared to where they want and need to be when they leave for Philmont. Any gaps between the two must be closed prior to departure.

Trek - see "itinerary"

"TREKS Itinerary Guide" - booklet issued in January with details of all the itineraries that will be available that summer.

Turnaround - backcountry trailheads where all crews start their trek, and where those who do not hike back to Camping Headquarters get the bus for their return.

Urraca Mesa - located south of Camping Headquarters, a prominent mesa that allegedly is haunted and the location of a portal to the Anasazi underworld.

Valle Vidal (also the Valle) - the "Valley of Life," an area of the Carson National Forest north of the ranch, used by Philmont through an agreement with the United States Forest Service. 'Leave No Trace' camping is practiced throughout the Valle Vidal, and camps do not have the sumps, fire rings, or bear cables found at campsites on the ranch. Navigation by GPS methods in addition to traditional map and compass is also encouraged, as it is possible to move cross-country (bushwack) rather than staying on established trails.

Villa Philmonte (also the Villa) - the 16,000 square foot summer home of Waite Phillips, located across the street from Camping Headquarters and next to the Philmont Training Center. Tours may be scheduled at the Seton Museum and Library.

Welcome Center - building at Camping Headquarters where crews report upon arrival at Philmont and prior to departure, and which is also the staging area for all bus transportation.

Wilderness Pledge Guia (Spanish word for Guide) - This individual will help the crew understand the principles of the Philmont Wilderness Pledge and Leave No Trace. This person will help the crew focus on camping practices that will adhere to the wilderness ethics outlined in those two approaches.

Wilson Mesa - located north of the ranch in the Barker State Wildlife Area, an open mesa with unobstructed views west to Baldy Mountain.

Window Rock - rock feature at the southerly end of Hidden Valley, named because a circular window in the Villa Philmonte provides a view of it.

'Yum-yum' bag - a plastic Ziploc bag used to store and carry the food particles removed from the sump frisbee after the wastewater from cooking cleanup has been disposed of in the sump.



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Pronunciation Guide

Abreu - Uh-bray'-you

Apache - Uh-pa'-chee

Beaubien - Bo-bee-yen'

Bonito - Bo-nee'-tow

Costilla - Coe-stee'-yuh

Cimarron - Sim'-uh-roan

Cimarroncito - Sim'-uh-roan-see'-toe

Comanche - Coe-man'-chee

Hereford - Her'-ferd

Jicarilla - Hick-uh-ree'-yah

Miranda - Muh-ran'-duh

Moreno - Moe-ray'-no

Ponil - Poe-neeel'

Raton - Ra-tone'

Rayado - Ray-ah'-doe

Rodeo - Roe'-dee-oh

Sangre de Cristo - San'-grey day Cree'stow

Santa Fe - San'-tuh Fay

Taos - Tah'-ose

Urraca - You-rah'-cuh

Ute - Rhymes with "cute"

Valle Vidal - Vay'-yuh Vih-doll'

Vermejo - Ver-may'-hoe

Villa Philmonte - Vee'-yuh Fil-mon'-tay

LEADERSHIP

Choosing Leaders on December 10

On December 10, we will choose crew rosters and pick our Crew Leaders, Chaplain Aids, and Wilderness Guias. Don't miss this meeting, these are important decisions. If you need a reminder of what these leader positions are responsible for, then take a look at Trail Marker #1 from January 2023.

Is Anybody Not Ready - Hike On!

www.ship1610.org/philmont