



# TRAIL MARKERS

## 2024 PHILMONT TREK TIPS

### SHIP 1610

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#### NEWS

##### Training Weekend at Scout Farm

Backpacking treks at Philmont are high skill activities. Without training and practice, a crew will struggle to get their camp setup or broke down, could increase chances of injury or illness, and will not have as much fun. On the other hand, a well-trained crew will work together, stay well fed, enjoy lots of program, and will have lots of fun.

Mark your calendar. January 19-21 Scout Farm Campout.

Philmont crews will be introduced to the Ranger training they'll want to practice on our backcountry trips as we prepare for Philmont.

Other Sea Scouts are invited and welcome. Permission slip will be published soon.

#### PROGRAM

##### Fly Tying and Fly Fishing

The Rayado and Agua Fria streams in the south offer excellent trout fishing. Though not large, these trout are wary and exciting to catch as a part of Philmont's catch and release fishing programs. Fly rods may be checked out at Hunting Lodge, Fish Camp, Abreu, and Phillips Junction.

At Fish Camp, a program counselor with material and equipment will show you how to tie your own trout flies. The thrill of catching a trout on a fly you have tied is hard to beat. Near Fish Camp, Phillips Junction, and Abreu a catch-and-release program is in effect. If you don't know how to remove the hook from your fish, a program counselor will demonstrate the correct methods. A tour of Waite Phillips' fishing lodge, including a narrative of area history is also offered. All fishermen are required to have a current New Mexico state fishing license.

Philmont has **youth** licenses that are \$2.00 and are good for your entire trek for anyone under the age of 18. Youth licenses can be purchased at the Tooth of Time Traders or in the backcountry at Abreu, Fish Camp, Hunting Lodge and Phillips Junction. Cash is required and the exact amount is encouraged.

**Adult** fishing licenses can be purchased at the Tooth of Time Traders or online from [onlinesales.wildlife.state.nm.us](https://onlinesales.wildlife.state.nm.us) (recommended). They can also be purchased ahead of time from any digital device. A one-day non-resident license is \$12 and a five day is \$24. Since these licenses are more time specific, you will need to refer to your itinerary and calculate



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the date you will be fishing. Day 1 on your itinerary is Base Camp. If you are expedition number is 622-A1 and Fish Camp Falls on day 8 of your trek. Then you would start with 6/22 as day 1 and then day 8 would be 6/30 and that is the date you would enter for a one day license. ADULT LICENSES CANNOT BE SOLD IN THE BACKCOUNTRY. They must be purchased online or at the Tooth of Time Traders. Don't forget to bring a copy of your license if purchased ahead of time. You can speed up the process to obtain your license at Philmont by obtaining their own Customer Identification Number (CIN) before arrival. Get your CIN at [www.wildlife.state.nm.us/fishing/licenses-permits/](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/fishing/licenses-permits/)

## PHYSICAL READINESS

### Stay Warm and Dry

Hypothermia is one of the leading reasons for removing a scout from their trek. Although we are hiking during the summer, we will be at higher elevation. Expect nighttime and early morning temperatures to drop to freezing. In addition, Philmont is not a desert - expect rain every day - and wet clothing conducts away heat from your body 33 times faster than dry clothing.

Some basic concepts for keeping warm and dry:

- Keep your sleeping bag dry - at all costs. Use a waterproof bag to store your sleeping bag in your pack. We have heavy-duty trash compactor bags that work well. Pack your sleeping bag while in the tent.
- Keep your sleeping clothes dry. Do not wear them outside the tent. Pack them in a dry bag or pack liner.
- Keep your insulation layers dry. That means do not expose your warm jacket to rain AND do not wear it when you start sweating.
- Keep your insulated gloves dry. Gloves are the most likely clothing to get wet. Cold hands will kill your morale. I'm bringing several pairs of gloves: insulated for warmth, and leather/synthetic for work.
- Use a buff and a stocking cap to keep your head warm. Both are useful at different temperatures.
- It is not necessary to get the most expensive cold-weather clothing. It is only necessary to get the right materials. No cotton! Make sure you dress in layers of fleece, wool and other materials that can insulate even when wet.
- Drink up! Drinking fluids is just as important in the cold as it is in hot weather. All



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Scouts should take a sip of water on a regular basis.

- Eat up! Your body is a furnace, and food is the fuel that feeds it.

## THE PHILMONT WAY

### Cooking and Washing Dishes

The cooking method that Philmont Rangers teach is an institutional/expedition-style of cooking that is more efficient for large groups and tailored to our western mountains. This may vary significantly from methods utilized in thru-hiking, solo/small-groups backpacking, or trips to other geographic areas. Philmont staff and administration have tested many different techniques, including those shared in forums, social media groups, and Philmont enthusiast websites in the varying landscapes and conditions throughout the ranch. However, the method taught by Philmont staff is the best for our overall operation and the Aims & Methods of Scouting. Rangers will teach the proper cooking and cleaning procedures to the crew at the beginning of the trek using pots, camp suds, hot water, and Philmont sumps. This is an important skill for crew members to learn and helps reinforce the Patrol Method on the trail by rotating this valuable position on the crew duty roster to all members of the crew.

### Cooking Procedures

Crews are required to use two pots in the backcountry. The eight-quart pot is used for boiling water and dishwashing while the second pot is for re-hydrating food. 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.

### Dishwashing Procedures

After each meal, scrape and wipe dishes, utensils, and pots as clean as possible. Wash using a mild, biodegradable soap in warm water. Use scrub pads to remove hardened food remains. Rinse dishes in boiling water. Before each meal sterilize dishes, utensils and pots in boiling water. This disinfects any contamination from being in a pack. Dishes and utensils will air dry quickly in Philmont's low humidity. Wash your dishes near a sump, not a water spigot which may contaminate the area. Proper washing, rinsing, and sterilizing of dishes



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and utensils will prevent diarrhea, dysentery and a host of other medical problems.

#### Use of Sumps

When disposing of waste water, drain it through a strainer provided by Philmont. The water should be disposed of in a provided sump or at least 200 feet from any campsite or water source. Carry solid matter to the next staffed camp for disposal.

#### Disposal of Trash and Garbage

Proper disposal of trash and garbage insures a clean camp and protects everyone's health. Do not bury garbage or dump it in latrines; bears and rodents will soon retrieve it. Put trash and garbage in a plastic bag and give to a staff member at the nearest staffed camp. Philmont asks that you consolidate your trash as much as possible to reduce the volume before giving it to a staffed camp. Your Ranger will explain the recycling programs available for some backcountry items.

## LEADERSHIP

### Crews Are Formed

#### Crew 622-A-1

Mai  
Kiên  
Alayna  
Madeline  
Chloe  
Mr. Carter  
Mr. Effinger  
Ms. Sixbey

#### Crew 622-A-2

Aidan  
Parker  
Jerome  
Séamus  
Ferdinand  
Trey  
Mr. Jennings  
Mr. Heard  
Mr. Murphy

Is Anybody Not Ready? - Hike On!  
[www.ship1610.org/philmont](http://www.ship1610.org/philmont)