



TRAIL MARKERS

2024 PHILMONT TREK TIPS

SHIP 1610

NEWS

Next Payment is Coming Soon

The next Philmont payment is scheduled for February 18. This will probably be the last payment needed. Our fund raising efforts have paid off. The total value of this trip is estimated at \$2,938.25 per person (\$2,338.25 for Parker who isn't flying).

Fund raising, estimated at about \$32,000, has lowered your fees for the trip significantly. Your final bill will be based on our final count. We have extended the deadline to join a crew to February 11. After that, our numbers will be locked in. After that we will do the math and figure out the final bill for everyone.

There are only 16 participants, so we have room for 8 more.

PROGRAM

Before Arriving at Philmont

We intend to depart Norfolk on Wednesday, June 19. We are arriving in New Mexico early so the scouts can become acclimated to the elevation. Camping is the anticipated overnight accommodation - possibly at Albuquerque on June 19 (5,300 ft), Santa Fe on June 20 (7,000 ft), and finally a day early at Philmont on June 21 (6,500 ft). Our official DAY ONE at Philmont begins at 8am on June 22.

While in New Mexico, we want to participate in some fun activities and go on some interesting tours. Maybe we cycle along the Rio Grande and visit the aquarium and zoo. Maybe we go white water rafting in Taos. Here are few ideas:

Whitewater Rafting (Taos Box, Rio Grande)

Bike Tour (Rio Grande Park) with Aquarium + Zoo Combo

Anderson-Abruzzo Balloon Museum

Climbing Gym

Sandia Peak Tramway

Museum of Natural History and Science

Museum of Nuclear Science and History

At Philmont: National Scouting Museum, Villa Philmonte, Kit Carson Museum

We need everyone's help with these decisions.



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PHYSICAL READINESS

March Backpacking

The preparatory backpacking trips are VERY important. A high-adventure experience like Philmont (or long cruise) challenges the crewmembers in many ways, but particularly mentally. Rugged conditions and physical exertion can make teamwork and cooperation suffer. The best way to minimize that risk is knowledge and practice. The Philmont crews, particularly the youth, need time to practice Philmont backcountry skills as a team.

The concept of youth leadership dictates that the youth members will organize their duty roster and hold each other accountable for executing their plan. The adults are there for giving guidance and preventing emergencies.

Since we did not hold a January training camp out at Scout Farm, we have to catch up during the March 16-17 trip to Mount Pleasant. In preparation for the trip, we will conduct a "shakedown" at the March 10 Scout meeting to review equipment and introduce the crews to the Philmont backcountry skills. Crew Leaders will prepare for the trip by writing a duty roster. While on the backpacking trip, the lead advisors will provide the crews with "Ranger" training that demonstrates the skills that the crewmembers need to practice.

Don't miss the March 10 shakedown meeting or the March 16-17 trip.

The March 16-17 trip is to the Mount Pleasant Recreation Area in the Washington/Jefferson National Forrest. Two different loop hikes are available starting from a common parking area, each crew takes one. Each hike is about five miles total with the campsite about two and a half miles in. Both campsites have water, one is next to a river and the other has a spring about a quarter-mile away.

THE PHILMONT WAY

The Duty Roster - Revisited

In addition to the permanent leadership positions (Crew Leader, Chaplain, Wilderness Guia), many daily duties must be accomplished by the youth crewmembers every day.

Navigator (normally one scout per day)

Cooks (normally two scouts per day)

Cleanup (normally two scouts per day)

Water (normally one scout per day)



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Bear Bags (normally two scouts per day)

Tarp (normally two scouts per day)

Each crew has the option of either developing a rotating duty roster or making permanent assignments. The PROs and CONS of each option is found in Trail Marker #2.

No matter which option the crew selects, they need to work out the rules of engagement. It is important to know the order of chores when arriving and departing your campsite. A well-organized crew can finish quickly and have more time for fun. A dysfunctional crew will spend all their time cooking and cleaning up, and still have a visit by a bear because of poor housekeeping.

Crew leaders, you can ask for advice from your Lead Advisor about how to construct and execute a good duty roster using the crew you have.

LEADERSHIP

Day One at Philmont

As discussed above, our expedition will arrive at Philmont a day early. We will not meet our ranger and we will probably have to camp in backpacking tents, but we can explore at our leisure. This advance arrival makes our check-in the following day go much smoother.

Our first "official" day at Philmont is June 22 (hence our expedition number 622-A). The first day of your trek is very busy with many Base Camp stops to ensure you are all set and ready for the backcountry. Remember, the youth Crew Leader does all the talking, not the Advisor. The general order of the first day is as follows:

Arrive at the Welcome Center

- The earlier the better. Typically, crews that arrive before 10:00am get through the Base Camp procedures in one day. We will check in at 8:00am.
- Crew Leader and Lead Advisor check-in and receive tent assignments.

Meet your Ranger

- Your Ranger will be waiting for you at the Welcome Center and they will meet your crew right after you are done getting checked in.
- Your Ranger will be with you the entire day, guiding you through the Base Camp process to ensure you are ready to hit the trail the following day.
- He or she will go out into the backcountry with you for two nights and teach you



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everything you will need to know about having a safe and enjoyable Philmont trek.

Drop off gear at your tents (in Trailbound Tent City)

- Your Ranger will instruct everyone to bring water, raingear, and prescription medications with them through the rest of the stops in Base Camp.
- The Lead Advisor needs to bring the crew roster, medical forms, payment paperwork, and Wilderness First Aid and CPR certifications with them.
- The Crew Leader needs to bring an unmarked overall map and their Crew Leader Fieldbook with them.

Crew Photo

- Extra photos can be purchased in the Camping Registration office.
- Can be taken in field uniforms or crew t-shirts. We intend to get crew t-shirts.

Camping Registration

- Ranger and Lead Advisor go inside while the rest of the crew waits outside the building.
- Any outstanding payments are made, and certifications are checked.
- The crew roster is turned in.

Outfitting Services

- Receive gear such as tents, bear bags, bear rope, pots, dining fly, etc.
- Receive food for first few days of the trek.
- Purchase fuel needed for the trek.

Medical Recheck

- All crew members review their medical forms with Philmont Infirmary staff member.
- Bring all prescriptions in their original containers to be reviewed at medical recheck for expiration date and dosing, this includes emergency medications such as EpiPens® and inhalers.

Mail Room

- Any gear that was shipped ahead of time can be picked up. I doubt if we will have any.



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Shakedown

- Your Ranger will run through a gear shakedown with your crew ensuring all necessary gear is taken on trail and all non-essential gear is stored in Base Camp.

Logistics Trip Plan

- Crew Leader and Lead Advisor will be called into Logistics and will receive information about campsites, trails, program opportunities, water availability, horse rides, etc.
- The Crew Leader needs to bring an unmarked overall map and their Crew Leader Fieldbook with them.

Security

- Receive lockers if crew did not use personal vehicles for transportation. We will probably use our vehicles.

Museums

- Take a tour of the Villa Philmonte, Kit Carson/Rayado, and the Historic Chase Ranch. We will probably tour these museums the day before.
- Sign up at the Philmont Museum and Seton Memorial Library.

Dining Hall

- Lunch is at 11:30am
- Dinner is at 4:45pm
- Breakfast the following morning is at 6:30am

Crew Leadership Meetings

- The Crew Leader, Chaplain's Aide, Wilderness Pledge Guide, and Advisors all meet at the Hardesty Casa Central at 5:45pm for their respective meetings.

Chapel Services

- Begin at 7:00pm

Opening Campfire

- Meet at the Welcome Center at 8:15pm.

Is Anybody Not Ready? - Hike On!

www.ship1610.org/philmont