

PTAC ANNOUNCES THE PHILMONT 2018 TREK:

SIGN-UP FOR PHILMONT 2018 Now!

What is Philmont Scout Ranch and what do you do there? Philmont is a BSA High Adventure Base located in Northern New Mexico– near the town of Cimarron. Scouts and Adult Advisors back-pack or “trek” around this high-adventure base for a 12 day backpacking expedition through the rugged Sangre de Christo Mountain range. Youth and Adult Advisors in crews of 8 to 12 typically hike 60 to 80 miles at elevations ranging from 6,500 feet above sea level (Basecamp) to 12,400 feet when at the top of Mt. Baldy – the highest mountain on the ranch.

Philmont Scout Ranch was donated to the BSA back in 1938 by a very generous oil tycoon by the name of Waite Phillips. Waite also donated his beautiful summer home, hunting and fishing lodges and was instrumental in setting up some of the hiking trails that Scouts still hike to this day. Philmont is not only a 2 week hike, but has 35 staffed camps, 770 trail camp sites and loads of program to do along your trek route. Visit a real turn of the century gold mine, take a horse ride, race the burros and/or do serious rock climbing at Philmont. Don't forget to visit the WW2 plane wreckage on top of Trail peak, climb the famous landmark the “Tooth of Time” or maybe even tackle Mount Baldy at 12,400 Feet Above Sea Level. Shoot 30-06, trap or Black Powder rifles, milk the cows at Crooked Creek camp and join in building a new trail for your 3 hour conservation project. Charlie Cyphers Stomp or the 7-Strings Campfire program at Crater Lake Camp are not to be missed!

One can only imagine the “extensive” training necessary to carry a 45 pound backpack over rugged, but beautiful mountainous terrain for 2 weeks, with all your food, water, clothes, tent, sleeping bag and cookware on your back. Wildlife abounds at Philmont Scout Ranch including bears, mule-deer, mini-bears (you'll find out what these are), rattlesnakes, etc..... so training is very important. Daily mountain thunderstorms, low humidity, high temperatures during the day, low temperatures at night, elevations up to two miles high where the air is thinner and 200 square miles of back country wilderness requires very careful planning, dedicated physical training, close crew bonding and the proper backpacking equipment.

If your Troop, Crew or Team has never gone to Philmont, the annual PTAC Philmont Contingent would be ideal for you. Consider plugging your high adventure trip for 2017 into your Unit's summer of 2017 schedule. Designed for solo Scouts, partial crews, co-ed crews or even full crews of up to 12 participants who have never hiked Philmont, the PTAC Philmont Contingent Training volunteers take you through the trip planning process, budget, medical forms, equipment selection, physical training and crew formation process. Adult Advisors who sign up for Philmont, supporting & representing the youth of the crew, take an active part in the different phases of the trip planning process. Monthly meetings start in September and end in June – just before you depart by Amtrak train for Philmont Scout Ranch.

The PTAC Philmont Contingent Committee and advisors spend many hours forming up the PTAC Contingent each year, putting together 3-5 Crews with similar program and hiking interests and making sure the PTAC participants are fully prepared to hike Philmont, safely, successfully and to have a great time. Hiking Philmont is truly the “Trip of a Lifetime” and a “Mountain Top” experience and many Scouts come home changed forever knowing they finished a challenging trek at Philmont. The Mom's always ask us... “What did you do to my son/daughter?” !!!

The PTAC Training Committee is made up of numerous volunteers, who have gone to Philmont multiple times, including the last 3 years. They are well versed in current Philmont procedures. 2018 participants will get comprehensive, hands-on instruction in hanging your bear bags, setting up your “Bearmuda

Triangle”, backpack & tent selection, water purification, cooking & use of backpacking stoves, back-country first-aid, mountain navigation, boot selection and much more. Philmont Rangers regularly complement our Council Contingents and how well prepared they are, as the skills taught by the Philmont Staff have all ready been covered by the PTAC trainers.

The individual crews will have their own shakedown camping & hiking weekends, typically in May and June, where they will practice the skills learned and put in many more miles with their boots, packs and gear. These weekends build the crew into a team as well as contribute to physical fitness. Throughout the training months, there will be practice hikes at local forest preserves, hiking paths and inside shopping malls. Crews regularly spend Sunday mornings at Woodfield Mall during the winter months. Two hours of stairs and ramps with a full pack gets the heart pumping and bonds the Crew together.

The cost of the 2018 Contingent trip is estimated to be \$ 1,850.00 and includes the Philmont Ranch fee, all trip transportation, meals, lodging, Shakedown Week-end, Taste of Philmont, 10 mile Shakedown Hike, Philmont belt & buckle, Philmont Tooth of Time Crew photo, side-trips and more. Departure date will be July 6th - returning July 20th, 2018. Due to LIMITED SPACE in the 2018 PTAC Contingent, excess Applications will be placed on a wait list.

2018 Registration closes April 30th, 2017 - NO EXTENSIONS WILL BE GRANTED.

Contact Tony Skiroock @anthonyskiroock@gmail.com for more information or questions.



Members of Troops 297, 496 & 198 after hiking down Tooth Ridge into Base Camp – they made it!