

Philmont Crew Member Slots Still Available For 2017

The 2016 Pathway to Adventure Council's 2016 Philmont Contingent has completed their High Adventure training and is packing to leave in just a few weeks for a July 4 arrival at Base camp.

PTAC is still filling the 2017 Contingent's two crews. One crew of twelve is complete and the second crew has only three members so far, which is not enough. We need add at least five people, preferably nine.

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 Cristo 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 will be supporting & representing the youth of the crew, taking 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.

Departure date will be July 1st via Amtrak- returning July 15th, 2017 via airline.

The cost of the 2017 Contingent trip is estimated to be \$ 1,800.00 and includes the Philmont Ranch fee, all trip transportation, meals, lodging, Shakedown Week-end, Taste of Philmont, 10 mile Shakedown Hike, Philmont belt & buckle, two contingent shirts, Philmont Tooth of Time Crew photo, side-trips and more.

For more details and/or to request an Application to sign up for the 2017 PTAC Contingent – go to <http://pathwaytoadventure.org/highadventure>

For more information or to schedule a Troop presentation, contact Tony Skirock at anthonyskirock@gmail.com.