

PHILMONT AMBASSADOR UPDATE

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SERVING BOTH SIDES OF THE ROAD

Fall 2020

Philmont 2021 Programs Run Wide Gamut

From **Adaptive Special Needs** to the **Zia Experience**, Philmont Training Center (PTC) will be offering a full range of conferences in 2021 that will appeal to every level of Scouter. This includes every phase of the Scouting experience as well, from **Starting, Sustaining and Growing Units to Programs for Older Scouts**.

There is also a number of first time and one-time only conferences that will spark the interest of long-time Scouters as well as new members of the Scouting adventure.

Ambassador Seminars - (by invitation only) At least every three years, it's important for Ambassadors to refresh their knowledge about Philmont and find out about the ever-changing programs by attending a Seminar just for them. Newer Ambassadors will learn more about the history and programs at Philmont, while more experienced ones get an in-depth look at operations and backcountry visits. June 20-26

Inaugural Duty To God Pilgrimage at Philmont Training Center Scouts and Scouters of all faiths are encouraged to participate in the Inaugural Duty To God Pilgrimage program on July 28-August 2. You will have the opportunity to earn International Scouting Awards as well as your Religious Award. The Pilgrimage departs the Dallas-Fort Worth area July 28 and visits several southwest sites before arriving at PTC. For Adults and First Class+ Scouts 12 and up.



Like this view from Metcalf Station, the future appears bright for Philmont programs in the coming year.

Map My Camp Learn how to make a map of your Scout Camp useful for camporees, day camps, hiking/biking, trails, and more!! Camp & Council staff will find value in accurately planning upgrades to camp facilities. This course is intended to be a follow up to the Finding Your Way course. July 25 - 31

Philmont Acoustic Roots Music Camp Acoustic Music Camp is a week of fun and learning in a friendly, supportive environment. We offer classes in banjo, flatpicking guitar, mandolin, bluegrass and Texas fiddling, and bass. We have a world-class faculty who, along with being great musicians and teachers, are great people. Bring the whole family and experience Philmont Family Adventure Camp while you hone your skills, play in

instructor-led jam-sessions, and experience the awesome beauty of Philmont Scout Ranch. Each day will include an instructor-led jam. Each instructor will take a different level of jam, choose tunes and tempos, and keep the jam in-line and fun. July 8-14

Santa Fe Bi-Centennial Celebration 2021 marks the 200th anniversary of the Santa Fe trail! Philmont will be a part of the week-long celebration that will work its way down the Santa Fe Trail from Trinidad, CO and ending at the Kit Carson Rayado Museum and Philmont Training Center. Activities will include horseback rides on the Santa Fe Trail, historical Reenactments, and Western Activities. September 27 - October 2.

How to Engage and Support the New Wave of Female Scouters

Diverse teams are the key to high performing units, districts, councils, areas, regions, and our national council. Scouting is now for the entire family and the role of female youth and adults in the program has changed dramatically in the last decade. Scouting needs women leaders now more than ever. Join us at this thought-provoking session to learn how to successfully recruit, train, and support youth and adult female leaders. We'll look at how females learn and problem solve and the ways Scout-

ing can create a welcoming culture that supports them in developing and utilizing their leadership skills. June 27 - July 4

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Click here for a 2021 conference brochure.

2022 Lottery Dates Set: October 27 to December 1

2021 Slots Still Available

The 2022 Philmont Trek Lottery will be open from October 27 to December 1.

Getting the word out through in-person and virtual Roundtables and Unit visits as well as through Council publications will be key. Although many slots will be assigned to crews who missed out on the 2020 season, there will still be plenty of openings available. Infor-

mation will be posted as it becomes available at www.philmontscoutrance.org.

In fact, there are still openings available for the coming 2021 season for crews who are nimble enough to organize themselves. Philmont will waive the adult to youth ratio if Youth Protection guidelines are met to accommodate Scouts who will "age out" by the time they are rescheduled through 2022.

Philmont staff hope to repeat their success at accommodating crews after the 2018 fire season. 2019 was the most attended year ever.

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Click here for more 2022 Trek information.

Who's Who at Philmont

Dee Dee Montoya Energizes Scout Museum

Prior to assuming her current duties, Dee Dee was the Philmont Training Center Registrar where she got to know many of our Ambassadors.

Duties at Philmont: I oversee the daily operations of the gift shop located in the National Scouting Museum. I am responsible for deciding what items will be sold in the gift shop and I also work with our vendors choosing just the right things. (See Ad on Page 4.) I am also the librarian in the Seton Memorial Library. Our library is a resource library and is used for training our backcountry staff in their respective interpretive roles.

How Did You Come To Work At Philmont: I grew up in Cimarron



Dee Dee Montoya always has a smile for museum visitors.

with Philmont in my back yard. My first job at Philmont was the summer of '85 as an Assistant Cook in the Camper Dining Hall.

Number of Years at Philmont: Full time years 16

Prior Positions at Philmont: '85 CHQ Assistant Cook, '95 PTC Registration Clerk, 2004-2017 PTC Secretary

Most Memorable Experience At Philmont: In the spring of 2011, I got a call at PTC from a mom who said she needed to cancel her and her son's registrations. She said she had recently been diagnosed with cancer and they couldn't afford to come. She was disappointed because this was the icing on the cake for her and her two Eagle Scout sons (twins) and now couldn't make it happen. The boys would be attending NAYLE and she was taking a course. I said,

"well what if you all were to get scholarships?" She became silent and said, "give me details". So, I sent the scholarship applications and had her fill them out and get them submitted. They all were approved and were able to come as a family. The day they arrived is my MOST memorable moment. Meeting her in person and experiencing her beautiful spirit and dedication to not only her sons but to Scouting was the best feeling in the world. She said, "My dream was to experience Philmont with my sons and you helped us make that happen." I was merely doing my job, but it's what made my job at PTC worthwhile.

(Montoya, continued on page 3)

Ambassador Webinar Coming November 12

Mark your calendars for Thursday, November 12 at 6:30 MST for a Philmont Ambassador Webinar. Nick Hutchinson and Steve Nelson, Directors of Philmont Training Center and Camping, will cover news about the coming 2021 Season. Philmont staff will update us on fire recovery progress.

Details on connecting to the Webinars will be emailed to all Ambassadors closer to the November 12 date.



Trekkers get an up close look at the life of a hard rock gold miner deep within Philmont's backcountry.

Focus on the Backcountry

Cyphers Goes Deep Into Gold Mining

Elevation 9360 feet

Staffed Camp

Water – Nearby Stream

Showers

Cyphers Mine is a staffed camp in central country. The camp offers unique Adirondack "miner shacks" for crews to sleep in because the terrain is too steep to pitch tents.

Activities include a tour of the mine, gold panning, blacksmithing, and a campfire program with mu-

sic (The Famous Cyphers Stomp).

Crews staying at nearby camps like Lambert's Mine join in the fun at the Stomp.

Nearby Camps

Thunder Ridge, Lambert's Mine

Treks (2020)

1*, 4*, 5*, 8*, 10, 13*, 16*, 18*, 25*, 26*, 28, 30, 31

* = Program stop

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Philmont Trek Can Lead to a Congressional Medal

Reprinted from "Bryan on Scouting." Used by Permission

In Congress, it's the rare subject about which there's unanimous agreement.

It's the Congressional Award, the highest recognition Congress bestows on young people. To qualify, a young person must meet certain goals in four key areas: voluntary public service, personal development, physical fitness and expedition/exploration.

Are you thinking what I'm thinking? Yes, many of the activities young people enjoy in Scouting fit nicely into those four categories. Better yet, double-dipping is encouraged, meaning work on merit badges, rank requirements and Eagle projects counts toward the award.

This natural correlation explains why, in 1999, the BSA became partners with the Congressional Award Foundation, which remains Congress' only charity.

As jobs and colleges become increasingly more competitive, the Congressional Award — along with a young person's experience in Scouting — will look great on a résumé. That "something extra" is exactly what hiring managers and



A Congressional Gold Medal looks good in person and on a Scout's resume. [Click here for information.](#)

college admissions counselors want to see.

Scouts have been earning the Congressional Award ever since it was established in 1979. In 2019, at least 75 of the 538 Congressional Award Gold Medal recipients were Scouts. But I say it's time to raise that number even higher. The award is noncompetitive, meaning anyone who properly completes the requirements will receive the award.

Before you consider retroactively counting Scouting experience toward the award, let me point out one key statement from the Con-

gressional Award site: "This is not an award for past accomplishments. Instead, you are honored for achieving your own challenging goals after registering for the program."

That means your Scouts should register for the award as soon as possible after turning 13.5 years old, giving them the maximum amount of time to count Scouting requirements toward their progress.

But even if your Scout or Venturer is 16, 17 or older, all hope is not lost. They have until their 24th birthday to complete the requirements.

After registering, any qualifying activity — in school, Scouting or another extracurricular activity — can count toward the award. That fact is confirmed in the award's FAQs: "If you belong to groups such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Venturing, 4-H, etc., your activities may often be used to achieve a particular goal."

That was certainly the case for Eagle Scout Todd Christian, who earned the Congressional Award in 2019, at age 23.

"I completed all of the requirements for the program exclusively through the things I was already doing through Scouting," he says.

Christian earned the Gold Medal, which is the highest of the Congressional Award's six levels. That top honor includes an invite to the national award ceremony in Washington, D.C., where honorees meet other recipients as well as their congressional representatives. (Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's ceremony was held virtually.)

The Gold Medal requires at least 400 hours of volunteer time, 200 hours of personal development, 200 hours of physical fitness, and an expedition of at least five days and four nights.

"Essentially, anyone who completes a multiday trek as well as a comprehensive service project — what we call an Eagle project — has already overcome a major hurdle to receiving the top award," Christian says.

The entry-level award — the Bronze Certificate — is within even closer reach for most Scouts. It requires 30 hours of volunteer service, 15 hours of personal development, 15 hours of physical fitness, and a one-day expedition or exploration.

"Virtually every Scout has met these requirements many times over, just by being a Scout," Christian says.

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Mining Attracted Immigrants, Investors to Colfax County

The history of mining in Colfax County goes back to the years immediately after the Civil War. U.S. soldiers were stationed in the West after the war and found gold at what is now the Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico. Scores of gold mines were excavated in Philmont, and operated into the early 20th century.

By 1866 Lucien Maxwell controlled the land in all directions from Cimarron and it was then that gold was found near Baldy Mountain. This area became populated with miners and prospectors from all parts of the United States. Many new immigrants came from Italy, Ireland, Scotland, Spain, Germany and Mexico. These immigrants had skills and experience in mining from their native countries. Elizabethtown near Baldy quickly became the largest settlement in the area and had a remarkably diverse population.

Mr. Maxwell had mines on the eastern slope of Baldy and made a handsome profit from them and from leases that he made to prospectors on the western slope. In 1869 claims were filed on the Red Jacket and Gray Eagle mines in the Cimarroncito District but were not fully developed because of low productivity. In 1881 Knott and



Scouts can pan for gold just like old prospectors while on a Trek.

Welles (owners of the Blackhorse Mine near Baldytown) filed new claims on these same locations, now known as the Thunder and Contention Mines. These are located at the site now called Cypher's Camp.

Unfortunately, the partners lacked the capital needed to develop the mines. Investors from Chicago and Pennsylvania came forward, but it did not take long for the rich ore that had attracted the Eastern money to disappear, and with it went the investors. When rock became worth only \$5-\$10 per ton, operations were suspended until 1890.

The mines changed hands a couple of times to the Four Creeks

Mining and Milling Company in 1890. The Consolidated Verde Mining and Milling Company took over in 1894 when a vein 35 feet wide was discovered and valued at \$100 per ton. Copper sulfide was the most common mineral but there were also substantial amounts of gold, silver, and iron produced.

In 1902 Charlie Cyphers was hired for the mine manager of the Contention Mine. Residents of Cimarron dubbed him "an old mountain goat" who was known to carry 100 pounds or more of supplies back to the mines from Cimarron on his back. This was an eventful year in the history of mining.

In 1902, the United Mine Workers

went on strike, and the mine owners refused to recognize the unions. President Theodore Roosevelt stepped in and appointed a commission to negotiate the conflicts which had come to violence in many parts of the country and especially in Colorado in the West.

The next year the commission to settle the strike recommended shorter hours and a wage increase. In 1908 the St. Louis and Cimarron Company bought the Contention mine and retained Cyphers as the manager who was convinced that there would someday be a "bonanza" hit in the area.

In 1906 the St. Louis, Rocky Mountain and Pacific Railroad Company extended from Raton to Cimarron, and in 1908 the Cimarron and Northwestern Railway Company train began running in Ponil Canyon. These advances eased the chronic problem of how to transport ore out of the area, and in 1910 Cypher's and his crew were once again hopeful in its future.

However, eventually the cost of operations outweighed the value of the gold, and mines in the area eventually played out in the 1930's.

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Backcountry Wisdom

Preventing Philmont Day Three Syndrome

After almost two years of planning, many months of fundraising, weeks of training, hours of traveling, the thrill of arriving, and two days of backpacking, IT hits. And IT can hit hard.

IT brings sleeplessness, short fuses, complaints, and frustration. IT can make or break the rest of a Philmont Adventure.

IT is the Philmont Day Three Syndrome.

After day three, your Ranger has left. The trails are harder and longer. Crews head up to elevations over 8,000 feet where oxygen is rarer. Muscles ache. Mistakes happen. Tempers flare. Squabbles erupt.

So what can be done? At this point it's too late to wish you had done more preparation. An adult advisor's primary job is to look after the health and safety of crew members. So the first thing to say after "Ask your crew leader" is "Drink more water." Water is the cure for more than thirst.

It is common knowledge that Philmont is prime territory for becoming dehydrated. Altitude, aridness and exertion all conspire to rob bodies of water. Most leaders are familiar with some of the symptoms of dehydration: headaches, muscle cramps, and over-

Leaders may not realize how dehydration affects the brain causing depression and anxiety.

heating. These in themselves cause physical problems that can ruin a Trek.

However, leaders may not realize how dehydration affects the brain causing depression and anxiety. Dehydration also causes brain function to slow down thus muddling thought processes. That can lead to all manner of things like a missed a cut-off trail, extra miles, forgotten duties, resentments, and arguments.

When the brain lacks water, the important neurotransmitter called serotonin level drops. Serotonin affects mood, appetite, sleep, memory, learning, and some social behavior. Does this sound like the challenges that crews start to face after day three on the trail? Be aware that it may also describe changes in adult advisors as well.

That's why "drink more water, drink more water, drink more water" is the Philmont mantra. However, it's not quite that simple.

Drinking your water means more than just having a bottle with you. It requires planning ahead. The Micropur tablets recommended by Philmont take 30 minutes to effectively disinfect water, so don't expect to be able to drink immediately upon arriving at a stream or spring.

Everyone needs to be carrying enough water bottles so they can drink during a rest break while allowing time for Micropur tablets to work on just-filled containers.

Crews have to have the discipline needed to drink water even if they aren't apparently thirsty at the moment. Adult advisors must check to make sure that everyone is drinking when they have the opportunity.

Water bladders may be convenient to carry and sip from, but they are harder to fill and leaders can't see how much is being consumed.

Knowledge is power, and just knowing that the day three frustrations that a crew can encounter prepares everyone to take the preventative measures needed to overcome them. In preparing for a Trek, adult advisors and crew leaders need to be aware of the challenges that can occur beginning on Day Three.

Before your Trek, you should already have all the backpacking experience and skills to overcome the physical difficulties. Many Scouts may not have had more than a weekend of true roughing-it camping. Veteran Trekkers know that long-term summer camp is not the same. Even a few long weekend backpacking trips may not have quite prepared your crew well enough.

Knowing that the mental challenges can be mitigated by keeping hydrated from day one will make the physical challenges easier to overcome. Day three will then be another great day in the backcountry.

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Philmont Ranger Trainer Hall demonstrates how to purify water using Micropur tablets. [Video available here.](#)

Montoya, from Page 1.

Most Humorous Experience at Philmont: One summer day as I sat at my desk, I could hear a ruckus outside my window - different than usual ruckus. So, I got up and stepped out back to see what was going on. There was a very scared bear up in the tree next to the back canopy, and there were about 10 people out there taking pictures and just making a huge deal about it. I asked them to go about their business and leave the bear alone.

They started to disburse but as soon as I stepped back into the

building to call the bear researchers to come and remove the bear before the morning program ended, they all came back for more photos. I was on the phone and heard screams. I looked out and the poor scared bear pooped, and it almost got all over the people at the bottom of the tree. Hey, I warned them all to leave the bear alone. It was pretty funny, gross but funny!!

What Do You Like Most About Working at Philmont? I have been blessed with the opportunity to meet some of the most amazing people. Many have become family to me. The seasonal staff that I

have had the pleasure of working with or like they are so fondly referred to as my Phil-Kids. Philmom is my favorite role! The volunteers that have crossed my path over the years from all walks of life who all have the same amazing love and dedication to the Scouting movement. And in all my years I've also been so privileged to work with outstanding professional staff who have all taught me so much. I am so thankful to them all.

What's Your Favorite Off Duty Activity? I love to cook and bake. I spend time with my family as often as possible. **P2**



The Plains of San Agustin near Double H Ranch are so remote that sensitive radio telescopes were located there .

Double H Offered Off-site Adventures

Philmont once operated a "portable" high adventure base for six summers at the Double H Ranch on the plains of San Agustin near Datil, N.M., about 120 miles southwest of Albuquerque, NM.

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) received the 135,000-plus-acre HH Ranch property in 2003 as a bequest in the will of the late Robert Torstenson, who had wanted the property to provide young people a hands-on experience with wildlife management and conservation practices. The RMEF and Philmont entered into a joint venture agreement to make that vision happen, and the resulting Double H High Adventure Base opened to Scouts in June 2004.

Double H was designed to provide crews with a unique and rugged high adventure back-packing experience. Crews arriving at Double H base camp are teamed up with a wilderness guide. The guide will spend the entire trek with the crew, providing training and program.

Crews were given opportunities to hike through canyons while navigating cross-country using a map and compass. Scouts also got the opportunity to use a GPS device while geocaching. Base camp was located at over 7,000 feet. Significant elevation changes occur as crews hike through the open ponderosa forest and participate in the program. In addition to ponderosa forests, participants had the opportunity to see many varieties of cacti, pinon trees, juniper trees and elk. The RMEF did not renew its pact with Philmont after six seasons, and the Double H hosted its last crews in 2009. The elk foundation told Philmont that it wanted to re-evaluate its use of the property.

It evidently decided that the property's best use was to make it some money. In 2014, the RMEF sold the ranch to Bobby Patton and Mark Walter, part-owners of the Los Angeles Dodgers. The

Wall Street Journal reported that the foundation earned at least \$30 million from the deal.

Sources:

High Country, the magazine of the Philmont Staff Association.

Wikipedia contributors. "Double H High Adventure Base." Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 19 Sep. 2019. Web. 14 Aug. 2020.

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Philmont Ambassador Newsletter

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This newsletter is published quarterly for the benefit of Philmont Ambassadors in the spirit of the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Every effort is made to provide accurate and complete information. However, the newsletter publisher does not guarantee that there will be no errors, nor does it make claims, promises or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the contents of the newsletter and expressly disclaims liability for errors and omissions in the contents of this newsletter. Scout's Honor!

Ambassador Profile

Salisburys Spread the Philmont Message to Families

Philmont is a Salisbury family affair. First Jim Salisbury trekked Philmont as a youth. Then after marrying Ann and starting a family, he got to experience it again on Treks with both his son and daughter. Their daughter, Christine, later worked on staff and served as Chief Ranger in 2011-13

"If the Family Adventure Program had been available when our kids were young, we would have been all over that. What fun the program is for young families! I always enjoy meeting new people and sharing Philmont and its great programs. Now even we get to do Family Adventure with our grandchildren," they say. "We found that it is the perfect way to introduce younger parents and scouts to exciting Philmont possibilities."

Now both Jim and Ann are Philmont Ambassadors.

The Salisburys are from the Heart of America Council which is fortunate to have five other Ambassadors. They all get together for quarterly meetings to talk about



Ann and Jim Salisbury (center and right) along with their daughter-in-law Sabrina and grandson enjoy attending Philmont Training Center as a family.

promoting Philmont through presentations at council events and other occasions. Because of this close cooperation and a supportive Executive, the team can bring the Philmont message to the Kansas City Area's 26,000 scouting youth.

They have had booths at the Order of the Arrow Annual banquet to generate interest in the OA Trail Crew as well as individual treks,

unit treks, and Philmont Training Center (PTC). At their Council Commissioner College, they hang out with commissioners to answer questions, update them on new programs and just network to help solve problems.

At the University of Scouting, they promote all Philmont programs so that attendees can take information back to their units and districts. In addition, they attend District

Roundtables, Courts of Honor, and High Adventure Parents Nights to promote Philmont at the unit level directly. Because they show up as a husband and wife team, Ann and Jim get to answer questions from both parents about PTC and Treks.

Promoting Philmont also goes on as the weather gets colder. "At Klondike Derby, we have some 500 plus scouts that come to this winter event. We set up so they can brand neckerchief slides and leather rounds with the Philmont logos while learning about the opportunities at Philmont."

All these efforts have been fun and productive say Jim and Ann. "At the booths, we get to meet people from numerous programs as well as new scouters and scouts. Just talking and getting to know those in attendance works for us. It just takes a variety of presentations to keep the program going. When you get down to it, the conversation we have with those in attendance go a long way. You just

have to tell a story and it is shared many times over."

Attending Philmont Ambassador Seminars has also added to their enjoyment. "We get to meet people from all over the country who all have the same goal in mind, to promote Philmont."

Being experienced in the back-country helps in preparing Crews for the experience. Jim recalls, "I met an adult leader that had a crew going to Philmont. He asked me to do a shakedown for their unit so I could tell them how important it is to be in shape and for the adults to lose weight. Well, the shakedown was great as I could tell them the facts: Get in shape so you can have a great time. Losing junk food weight makes it easier on your body because those ounces become pounds. Take only what you need.

"They did get in shape. All went well and they had a great time."

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Learn to Overcome Winter's Challenges at Philmont

Participants in Philmont's Winter Adventure learn to camp comfortably in cold weather and enjoy Philmont's beauty in a way few get to do. Crews snowshoe into their camp, sleep in tents/snow shelters, and participate in winter activities including cross country skiing and snow shelter building. Scouts can earn either the Search and Rescue or Snow Sports merit badge.

Winter Adventure expeditions take place from late December through March, with discounted rates on holiday weekends and Spring Breaks. Opening weekend and holiday weekends fill up fast due to their discounted rates.

Winter Adventure is open to crews of 6 to 12 participants and are accompanied by a Philmont Winter Adventure guide. Larger groups will be organized into multiple crews (please call for approval). A crew may be assembled from a Boy Scout troop, Venturing crew, Sea Scout ship, Varsity team, Exploring post or an adult group of Unit, District or Council committee members.

Crews must meet the following requirements:

- All participants must be registered members of the BSA.
- All participants must have completed the [BSA Annual Health and Medical Record Parts A, B and C](#) within the previous 12 months and meet physical condition requirements.
- Youth participants must be at least 14 years of age/13 years of age and in the eighth grade at the time of participation.
- Each group must have at

least two adult advisors, both of whom must be over 21 years of age.

- Coed groups must have at least one male and female advisor (both over 21 years).
- Each group must have at least one member certified in CPR and First Aid.

After completing the Winter Adventure orientation, crews work directly with trained guides to tailor an adventure considering the weather and the interests of the group.

Program activities may include:

- ATV Rider Course (available during Spring Break weeks)
- Ice fishing
- Snow shelter building
- Snow and avalanche safety training
- Snowshoeing
- Sledding and snow tubing
- Cross-country skiing
- Snow sports Merit Badge
- Search and Rescue MB

Please note that availability of all programs may vary due to weather and space.

A typical Winter Adventure trek lasts three days scheduled over a weekend, but the length of the trek can be adjusted to fit the schedule of the group. Of course, shorter treks will have limited time for program activities.

Winter 7 Day Treks: Modeled after the summer 7 day program, crews will hike over 25 miles and enjoy the beauty of Philmont in the spring, complete a conservation project, and earn the arrowhead award at the end of the trek.

Casita Camping Package: This new program allows for crews to camp in the comfort of the back-

country cabins at Cimarroncito and still enjoy the variety of winter adventure programs during the day.

Cold Weather Camping Program: Participants learn how to camp comfortably in the snow, and are able to participate in various winter activities.

Holiday Weekend Package: Philmont offers a reduced rate for Winter Adventure during several periods—between Christmas and New Year's; Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend; President's Day weekend; and Spring Break weeks.

Downhill Skiing Package: Spend one or more days learning to ski or snowboard at a nearby partner ski resort (available through March 20), including a lesson and gear rental.

Cross Country Ski Package: Spend one or more days cross-country skiing at a local resort with trained instructors.

ATV Package: Offered during Spring Break weeks only, this program provides an exciting opportunity to learn safe and responsible ATV use.

Ice Fishing Package: Try your hand at ice fishing on Eagle Nest Lake, just 25 miles from Base Camp. All necessary fishing gear is included.

Sessions are available from December 28 to March 31. Reservations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Call 575-376-2281 or email camping@philmontscout ranch.org to request a reservation form and determine when space is available.

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