

# PHILMONT HIGH ADVENTURE EXPEDITIONS

## ADULT LEADERSHIP - BSA POLICY\*

The best available adult leadership should be recruited to accompany each crew. In keeping with the policy of the Boy Scouts of America, there are no gender restrictions for adult leadership at Philmont except that each Coed Venturing crew must have coed adult leaders. **Each adult must be a registered member of the Boy Scouts of America.**

Each Philmont Expedition or group must have at least two BSA registered adult advisors for Boy Scout groups, one advisor must be at least 21 years of age; the second advisor must be at least 18 years of age. **Each crew is required to have a majority of youth participants, and the maximum number of adults (over 21) is four (4) per crew.** Participants 18 through 20 years of age may be counted as youth or adult crew members.

Coed Venturing Crews are required to provide coed leadership while en route to and from Philmont and while hiking the trails of Philmont. A Coed Venturing crew must have at least one male advisor and at least one female advisor, each of whom must be at least 21 years of age. Male and female youth participants will not share the same sleeping facility. Male and female advisors are required to have separate sleeping facilities. Married couples serving as adult advisors may share the same quarters if appropriate facilities are available. Female advisors must be responsible for the female participants; male advisors must be responsible for the male participants.

When staying in tents, no youth will stay in the tent of an adult other than his or her parent or guardian.

All advisors must be physically capable of hiking and camping in Philmont's high mountains for the length of the expedition. Each advisor is expected to reflect high moral standards established by custom, traditional values and religious teaching.

**Philmont recommends groups identify alternate leadership able to “step in” at the last minute in the event a leader is not able to attend. Philmont cannot provide staff to meet the BSA, two-deep leadership requirement.**

\* Refer to *Guide to Safe Scouting*, No. 34416, for additional adult leadership policy.

## YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

2009 PHILMONT PARTICIPANTS MUST BE AT LEAST 14 BY JANUARY 1, 2009, OR HAVE COMPLETED THE 8TH GRADE <b>AND</b> BE AT LEAST 13 YEARS OF AGE PRIOR TO PARTICIPATION. TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT, PLEASE DO NOT REQUEST OR EXPECT EXCEPTIONS! REQUIREMENTS FOR PHILMONT PARTICIPATION CANNOT BE RELAXED.
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In keeping with the policies of the Boy Scouts of America, rules for participation are the same for everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability.

Youth must be registered members of the Boy Scouts of America, and may participate in a Philmont expedition in one of the following ways:

- As members of a chartered unit - Scout Troop, Varsity Team or Venturing Crew.
- As members of a council contingent or district contingent with required leadership. (A coed crew must consist of all registered Venturers and not be a mix of Boy Scouting and Venture Programs. It must operate under the guidelines of the Venturing Program.)
- As individuals in the Rayado Men/Women, Ranch Hands, Trail Crew Trek, R.O.C.S. Men/Women (Roving Outdoor Conservation School), or the Order of the Arrow Trail Crew.

**Unregistered guests or family members are not permitted.**

## YOUTH PROTECTION

All registered adults must have current BSA Youth Protection Training for participation in any national event/activity. Because of the great concern the Boy Scouts of America has for the problem of child abuse in our society, the Youth Protection program has been developed to help safeguard both our youth and adult members. Verification of Youth Protection Training is required as part of the National and Local Tour Permit process.

Published and videotaped materials have been prepared to give professionals and volunteers information on the resources available for educating our membership about child abuse - how to avoid it, how to identify it, and how to deal with it. These materials and local council training programs are designed to give parents and their children basic information that will increase their awareness and sense of personal power to assist in their own self-protection.

Youth Protection training and documentation is available in the local council or online at [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org).

## HAZING - INITIATIONS - DISCIPLINE

Any form of hazing, initiation, ridicule, or inappropriate teasing is prohibited and must not be allowed.

### *A WORD ABOUT CONDUCT . . . .*

**The Scout Oath and Law should serve as the guide in all interactions with other participants and staff.** Philmont serves groups from many different backgrounds and it is important that each group respect the other. This includes coed and female crews and female staff. It is not acceptable to act in a manner which belittles, harasses or makes others uncomfortable.

Each group should develop a procedure regarding unacceptable behavior and/or conduct. The best method to accomplish this is to outline expectations before the trip, as well as consequences if a participant chooses to act in a way contrary to established guidelines. Parents/guardians must be informed of the guidelines. Remember, advisors are responsible for their participants at all times - Philmont cannot provide supervision should a participant be removed from the trail for discipline reasons, they must be sent home at their own expense. **An adult advisor will be required to come off the trail to provide supervision and assist with transportation arrangements in the event a participant is sent home.**

Philmont strongly recommends tobacco products not be used. Smoking and the use of smokeless tobacco is prohibited in all Philmont buildings, tents, vehicles and on Philmont trails. If tobacco is used it must be in designated areas.

Possession or use of alcoholic beverages or non-prescribed drugs (including marijuana) or abuse of prescribed drugs are expressly prohibited in the Philmont program. Groups or individuals found in violation of this policy will be sent home immediately as arranged with the responsible council or parent/guardian.

## OTHER REQUIREMENTS

### HEALTH AND MEDICAL RECORD

**Every camper and advisor is required to have a medical evaluation within twelve (12) months of their participation date** by a physician licensed to practice medicine. An examination conducted by a physician's assistant or a nurse practitioner will be recognized for states where they may perform physical examinations to students enrolled in public school systems. **The 2009 Philmont Health and Medical Record must be used.** **These forms will be available fall of 2008 and will be mailed to the contact person for your reservation at that time.** Advisors are to collect and hold the forms to be turned in at the Health Lodge upon arrival at Philmont. **Review each participant's medical form to be familiar with any health restrictions, that each individual – youth and adult – meets the height and weight participation requirements, check for parental and physician's signatures, and that a copy of participant's insurance card is attached.**

**An individual should always contact the family physician first and call Philmont at 575-376-2281 if there is a question about the advisability of participation. Philmont's chief medical officer and other medical staff of the Health Lodge reserve the right to make medical decisions regarding the participation of individuals at Philmont.**

Each crew must bring a first aid kit. The *2009 Guidebook to Adventure* will contain a recommended first aid kit supply list. Many "over the counter" medications are available at the Tooth of Time Traders.

## **RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND MEDICAL CARE**

The following is the policy of the Boy Scouts of America regarding medical requirements:

*Medical examinations for camp attendance are required of all campers for the protection of the entire camp group. The immunization requirement is waived for persons with religious beliefs against immunization. (Write or call Philmont for a copy of the waiver form.)*

## **IMMUNIZATIONS**

Verification is required that adequate Tetanus Immunization has been given within the last 10 years prior to arrival at Philmont. If this service must be performed at Philmont, you will be charged accordingly.

## **MEDICATIONS**

Each participant at Philmont who has a condition requiring medication must bring an appropriate supply. The pharmacy at the Health Lodge is limited and the identical medications may not be available. In certain circumstances duplicate or even triplicate supplies of vital medications are appropriate. People with an allergy to bee, wasp or hornet sting must bring an EpiPen or equivalent with them to Philmont. Participants will be charged for maintenance medications or medications that should have been brought to Philmont and dispensed by the Health Lodge.

## **FIRST AID AND CPR CERTIFICATION REQUIRED (Note: THE REQUIREMENT WAS NEW IN 2008)**

Philmont requires that at least **one person**, preferably two, (either an advisor or a youth participant) **in each crew be currently certified in American Red Cross Wilderness First Aid Basic or the equivalent\* and CPR from the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross or the equivalent.** The American Red Cross Wilderness First Aid is a sixteen hour course designed to help in situations when help is not readily available. Several hours may be required for Philmont staff to reach a remote backcountry location after a message is delivered to the nearest staffed camp. First aid and CPR training will result in proper and prompt attention being given to injuries and/or illnesses. **You must present current certification cards upon check in to verify this requirement.**

Equivalent training can be obtained from the following nationally-recognized organizations:

American Red Cross [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

American Safety and Health Institute [www.ashinstitute.org](http://www.ashinstitute.org)

Emergency Care and Safety Institute/American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons [www.ECSInstitute.org](http://www.ECSInstitute.org)

National Outdoor Leadership School (WMI) [www.nols.edu/wmi/](http://www.nols.edu/wmi/)

National Ski Patrol – Outdoor Emergency Care [www.nsp.org](http://www.nsp.org)

Stonehealth Open Learning Opportunities (SOLO) [www.soloschools.com/wfa.html](http://www.soloschools.com/wfa.html)

Wilderness Medical Associates (WMA) [www.wildmed.com](http://www.wildmed.com)

Wilderness Medical Society (WMS) [www.wms.org](http://www.wms.org)

Wilderness Medicine Outfitters [www.wildernessmedicine.com](http://www.wildernessmedicine.com)

Wilderness Medicine Training Center [www.wildmedcenter.com](http://www.wildmedcenter.com)

Wilderness Safety Council [www.wfa.net](http://www.wfa.net)

Wilderness Safety & Emergency Response (W.I.S.E.R.) [www.wiser-wfr.com](http://www.wiser-wfr.com)

The Boy Scouts of America and the American Red Cross have a national agreement, the primary goal of which is to help councils (with their districts and units) become self sufficient teaching Red Cross courses, including First Aid. *Wilderness First Aid Basic* is specified in the agreement. Through this agreement a local council can coordinate training of American Red Cross courses by providing BSA volunteers who are certified to instruct the course by the American Red Cross. The fees for the course taught by the BSA volunteers are dramatically reduced and include a \$5.00 administrative fee and the cost of materials. Visit with your council service center for more information about the American Red Cross National Agreement.

Philmont encourages each crew to have at least one person trained in American Red Cross Wilderness First Aid Basic or the equivalent. However, Philmont will accept the following advanced levels of training and a copy of the license or certification must be shared with Philmont during the registration process:

- Wilderness First Responder
- Outdoor Emergency Care
- EMT Basic, Intermediate, or Paramedic
- Military Corpman or Medic
- Registered Nurse
- Nurse Practitioner
- Physician's Assistant
- MD or DO

## ORGANIZE YOUR CREW

### CREW SIZE - 12 MAXIMUM - 7 MINIMUM

The Philmont Scout Ranch is designed to be a youth experience. The maximum crew size is 12 people and the minimum crew size is 7 people, including adult advisors. **These standards are strictly enforced. Each crew is required to have a majority of youth participants, and the maximum number of adults (over 21) is four (4) per crew.**

Experience, as well as wilderness emergency procedures, and Leave No Trace principles have proven that a group of 7 to 12 people is the best size for a Philmont crew. The itineraries have been developed for this number. You will find handling crew chores more efficient, food distribution best and program opportunities greater. Also, keeping the crew together on the trail will be easier. Campsites are designed to comfortably accommodate a maximum of 12 campers. Crews with the maximum of twelve participants receive a special recognition, La Docena Adventurado Award.

Council contingents and other large groups should organize their crews according to hiking and camping abilities. Each crew can then choose an itinerary that corresponds to its ability, and travel at its own pace. Should something happen to one of the Advisors, adult leaders need to be prepared to move to another crew within a contingent. This may be on the same itinerary or a different itinerary.

**Note: Philmont reserves the right to combine smaller crews within contingents or multi-crew groups to maximize staff resources.**

### CREW LEADER

A well qualified Scout or Venturer should be selected as crew leader before training begins. The crew leader is a key person for a successful Philmont expedition and the advisor must work closely with this person. The crew leader should:

- be elected by the crew.
- lead by example.
- be respected by the crew.

The crew leader responsibilities include:

- Discussing ideas with the entire crew to arrive at a consensus before taking action.
- Organizing the crew, assigning duties and making decisions.
- Choosing routes during the trek based upon the capability of the crew
- Setting up and breaking camp
- Checking that all "smellables" are properly stored
- Making sure the *Philmont Wilderness Pledge* is being upheld and that every campsite, fire pit and dish water sump is left clean.
- Guiding crew in conservation project.

## CHAPLAIN AIDE

Philmont strongly recommends one crew member be asked to serve as a Chaplain Aide. Someone who has earned or is working on their religious award should be considered. The Chaplain Aide will be asked to lead daily devotionals and other appropriate religious services. A kit of worship resources including the booklet *Eagles Soaring High* will be provided for use along the trail during a training session provided upon arrival at Philmont. The Chaplain Aide will certify completion of requirements of the *Duty To God* award for each crew member. (Awards may be purchased at the Tooth of Time Traders at the conclusion of the trek.)

## UNIFORMS

Philmont strongly recommends groups wear the BSA field uniform while in base camp, especially at chapel service, dinner and opening/closing programs. The uniform is also appropriate for traveling to and from Philmont.

The Philmont Tooth of Time Traders carries a variety of Scouting tee shirts and clothing. The use of Philmont Logos is permitted, provided they are manufactured by a BSA licensed vendor. You can check out the Tooth of Time Traders online at [www.toothoftimetraders.com](http://www.toothoftimetraders.com).

## EXPEDITION TRAINING

To ensure the success and enjoyment of a Philmont trek, each expedition should be thoroughly trained for the trek. Each crew should conduct several backpacking trips to prepare each member physically and mentally and to mold the unit into an efficient camping crew. These activities should include hiking with full packs and training in the use of map and compass.

Each crew member must be in top physical condition to enjoy the rugged, southwest experience. Personal physical conditioning should begin **months** prior to the trek. This conditioning should include regular aerobic activity. Please review the information on pages 19-20.

## ADVISOR'S KIT

Medical forms will be sent in the fall of 2008 in order to allow time for physical fitness training and conditioning. In mid-March 2009, each registered Philmont expedition Advisor will be sent a kit of materials for each crew. Included will be the *2009 Itinerary and Advisors Guide*, *2009 Guidebook to Adventure*, a Philmont map, insurance pamphlet, Tour Permit application, crew roster and talent release form. The Expedition Advisor's kit contains all the information needed for final preparation of your Philmont expedition.

Please notify Philmont if a change occurs in the contact person for your Philmont Expedition. Materials and information are mailed or emailed to the contact on record.