

Philmont in 2020?

Pathway to Adventure Council is looking to hear from scouts and scouters interested in joining the Council Contingent to Philmont in 2020. This seems early to be thinking about 2020, but with 2018's expeditions getting cancelled due to wildfires, Philmont is going to book up fast! Unit leaders, please share this with your youth and parents.

Anticipated dates (not official): July 4 through July 18, 2020
Estimated cost per person: \$1950

Interested in attending? Please contact Council Contingent Coordinator Tony Skiroock at anthonyskiroock@gmail.com. This is not a financial commitment, just an interest survey.

OTHER TEXT

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 at the top of Mt. Baldy – the highest mountain on the ranch.

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 or Crew has never gone to Philmont, the annual PTAC Philmont Contingent would be ideal for you. Consider plugging your high adventure trip for 2020 into your Unit’s summer of 2020 schedule. Designed for solo Scouts, partial crews, co-ed crews or even full crews of up to 12 participants, 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 January. ending in June – just before you depart by train for Philmont Scout Ranch.

The PTAC Philmont Contingent Committee and advisors spend many hours forming up the PTAC Contingent each year, putting together 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 that 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 recent years. They are well versed in current Philmont procedures having completed sessions including Taste of Philmont, Lakota Shakedown training week-end, and multiple ten mile hikes. You too 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 compliment our 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.

The cost of the 2020 Contingent trip is estimated to be \$ 1,950.00 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.