

# Crew Member and Parent Guide



for the  
**Watchu Experience**  
and  
**2012 Philmont  
Expeditions**

**Patriots' Path Council, BSA**

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# Philmont

*This guide was developed by the Patriots' Path High Adventure Committee to support our Philmont contingent crew members and their families.*

*The links (underlined and blue) in this printed guide are "live" in the online version at [www.watchu.org](http://www.watchu.org).*

# Welcome to The Watchu Experience and Philmont

Philmont Scout Ranch - the Boy Scouts of America's premier high adventure base in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of the New Mexico Rockies. You and your entire family are about to embark on a once-in-a-lifetime adventure to this magical place.

The Watchu Experience is Patriots' Path Council's trail to Philmont - eighteen months of fun, preparation, training and teenage high adventure leading to your trek at Philmont. The Watchu Team, a large group of Scouts and Scouters with years of Philmont experience, has as its mission to assist all Philmont expedition advisors in their responsibility to prepare, train, and develop the team skills required to achieve a successful, exciting, healthy, and fun adventure.

Before you know it you and your crew will be on the trail in the Philmont backcountry, putting your training and preparation to the test. We know that you will be ready for that challenge! Welcome to the adventure!



## The Watchu Experience

*Patriots' Path Council's Trail to Philmont*

# The Watchu Experience

## *Patriots' Path Council's Trail to Philmont*

The 18-month Watchu Experience, Patriots' Path Council's Trail to Philmont, consists of five distinct phases:

- I. Starting the Adventure
- II. Getting It All Together
- III. Are You Ready?
- IV. Traveling and Touring
- V. Your Philmont Trek

We, the Watchu team, look forward to assisting you, your family, and your adult advisors as you and your crew prepare for your never-to-be-forgotten Philmont adventure. Philmont is a major challenge - it is NOT "just a hike!" Keep this guide handy - it provides the information you need to successfully prepare for Philmont.

You should have already completed an application and submitted it along with your deposit (a portion of which is non-refundable). If needed, applications can be downloaded from the [Quick Links](#) page of the [Watchu Experience](#) Web site, [www.watchu.org](http://www.watchu.org). **Failure to submit applications and deposits in a timely manner may result in your crew's place in a Patriots' Path contingent being revoked and given to another crew on the Waiting List.**

A letter confirming your registration will be mailed to you in June. Making subsequent payments per the schedule, using the coupons enclosed with this guide, is required for you to remain a member of the crew

## **I. Starting the Adventure (February to August)**

The first seven months of your Watchu Experience is the time to take care of financial matters, required training, and team building.

**Crew and Family Gatherings** - Your adult advisors should meet periodically with the crew to plan fund-raising and team-building activities, and to discuss participation requirements and training. Families should be included at these gatherings, when appropriate.

The [Watchu Experience Web site \(www.watchu.org\)](http://www.watchu.org) - The Web site has all the information about Patriots' Path Philmont expeditions. Pages 21 and 22 of this Guide provide an overview of what is available on the Web site. Check the site on a regular basis - there you will likely find the answer to any question you may have. In particular, the [FAQs](#) page has the answers to years of questions about Philmont and the Watchu Experience.

**Payments / Philmont Scout Account** - Each crew member has an individual Scout Account for Philmont with Patriots' Path Council. [Payment Coupons](#) are included in this booklet and are also available on the Watchu Experience Web site ([www.watchu.org](http://www.watchu.org)). Family and other benefactors can contribute toward your adventure using the [Gift Coupons](#) enclosed. You can also use these coupons for your own deposits from fundraising activities or summer employment. Two of the four \$400 payments are due during this first phase of Watchu, which is the time to be concentrating on fundraising.

**Fundraising** - The [Scouts Pay Their Way](#) section of the [Administration](#) page of the [Watchu Experience](#) Web site includes ideas for both you as an individual and your crew as a group to raise money to pay for the Watchu Experience and your Philmont adventure. Given the 18 months from initial sign-up for a Philmont trek until hitting the trail, the cost is less than \$4 a day. Start saving early for this life-altering experience - begin now planning and earning money for your adventure. Patriots' Path provides two opportunities to help Scouts "pay their way":

- Working at Summer Camp as a [Watchu Camp Staff Fellow](#) is a great way to both earn money and have fun. The only requirement is an understanding that a portion of your salary will be applied toward the cost of your Watchu Experience. Download an [application](#) from the [Watchu Experience](#) Web site.
- Participating as a crew or an individual in Patriots' Path's Fall [Popcorn Sale](#) is another great way to earn a significant portion of your Watchu Experience fee.

**Full Crew of 12** - Patriots' Path requires a full crew of 12. If your crew does not have 12 members, recruit in your unit or neighboring units for additional members to fill your crew - in fact, all crews should **over-recruit** to develop a waiting list of potential replacements. Be prepared - a sad fact is that every year several crew members must drop out of the contingents for a variety of reasons. Having people on a waiting list ready to replace someone unable to continue with your crew means your crew will minimize the disruption that occurs when a crew member is lost.

**BSA Registration** - Each member of the crew must be a

registered member of the Boy Scouts of America. There is no rank requirement for youth. Parents in the crew who are not already registered BSA members must complete and submit an application. All adults are required to complete the online [Youth Protection](#) training program.

**CPR and Wilderness First Aid** - At Philmont, each crew must have at least one member with current CPR and Wilderness First Aid training. The Watchu team recommends that three members complete the training. A pre-requisite for the WFA course is current CPR certification. Taking a CPR course after July means you will be ready both for the WFA courses offered in the fall and for Philmont next summer.

**Physically Fit** - Philmont is physically demanding - any crew member who does not meet Philmont's [weight for height](#) or [blood pressure](#) requirements for participation **must** start now to qualify. **Anyone failing to do so will not be allowed into the Philmont backcountry and will be sent home.** But simply meeting the weight for height and blood pressure requirements is not enough - every crew member must embark on an individual physical fitness program to meet the backcountry challenges of a Philmont trek. You and your doctor should review the participation advisories on the [Philmont Health and Medical Record](#). Admission to the backcountry is dependent on a fully completed and signed medical form, and no other form can be substituted for the Philmont *Medical Record*. The Record will give your crew advisors the medical information required for crew training events. Be assured your medical needs will be superbly administered during your stay at Philmont, as the Philmont Medical Department is a teaching hospital for the University of Kansas Medical School.

**Team-building** - A key to a successful Philmont trek is the crew acting as a smoothly functioning team. The Watchu Experience has partnered with Patriots' Path Council's Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience team at Mount Allamuchy Scout Reservation and staff at Sabattis Adventure Camp to provide special team-building opportunities for both advisors and crews:

- [Watchu Advisor COPE](#) - one day only, April 30, 2011. Learn team-building concepts on Mount Allamuchy's low COPE (Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience) course Saturday afternoon during the Watchu Mountain Adventure for 2011 crews. Stay for dinner with the Watchu Staff to gain insights about Philmont and the Watchu Experience.
- [Watchu COPE](#) - a full day low course COPE program at Mount Allamuchy, specifically designed to help your Philmont crew become a well-functioning team. A series of challenging scenarios require the crew to work together to achieve a common goal and provide opportunities for crew members to demonstrate their leadership abilities.
- [Watchu Canoe Trek](#) - Patriots' Path's Sabattis Adventure Camp has developed a week-long canoe trek specifically for Watchu crews, including special per person pricing and discounts for adult advisors.

Check out the brochures, the Watchu-specific inserts, and the [Watchu Experience](#) Web site for details about these programs and prices to participate.

## II. Getting It All Together (September to April)

The second phase of the Watchu Experience, the following eight months, is the time to assemble the gear necessary for your adventure and to learn Philmont-specific methods of hiking and camping. It is also the time for the crew's adult advisors to complete the administrative items necessary for your Philmont trek.

**The Watchu Experience *Advisor Guide*** - the [Advisor Guide](#), mailed to each adult advisor in late summer, outlines the responsibilities and obligations of the adult advisors related to training the crew for a successful Philmont trek.

**Lead Advisor Conference** - your crew's Lead Advisor will attend the [Lead Advisor Conference](#) in September (date to be announced) which will acquaint them with the [Watchu Passport](#) that lists all Patriots' Path and Philmont requirements for trek participation.

**Advisor Briefings** - the adult advisors from your crew will participate in a series of four [Advisor Briefings](#) held in November, January, March, and June (dates to be announced). These briefings concentrate on the information that the advisors need to train and prepare their crew.

**The Watchu Network** - Chief Watchu communicates with the advisors of our expedition crews by e-mail. [Watchu Grams](#), issued on a regular schedule, provide timely information crew members need for a successful trek. Each crew should create a family e-mail network for forwarding Watchu Grams to all crew members and families, as well as for crew-specific messages about meetings, shakedown, family gatherings, etc. Watchu Reminders and Alerts, issued

less frequently and on an as-needed basis, include reminders about coming events as well as changes to information provided previously. There will also be occasional messages of a general nature.

**Equipment** - The necessary gear is described on Philmont equipment lists for both [individual crew members](#) and the [crew](#) as a group. The Watchu staff will provide [recommendations](#) and insights so that you have exactly what you need for your adventure. Crew members should first concentrate on the [Four Expensive Essentials](#) of boots, sleeping bag and mat, full rain suit with both jacket and pants, and a backpack.

**Monthly Gatherings** - Your crew will meet approximately once a month for training, fun, and fellowship. Shakedown hikes will allow the crew to learn about equipment and Philmont camping procedures. Your crew will also meet to discuss the activities they wish to participate in during their Philmont trek, and select the five Philmont trek itineraries that most interest them and meet their abilities. A few of the gatherings will include your entire family. These gatherings are the essence of your Watchu Experience. They will be focused on fun, anticipation, and the excitement leading up to your great adventure in the high mountains of New Mexico.

Do you have questions? The answers to years of advisor and parent questions have been collected in the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the Watchu Experience Web site, [www.watchu.org](http://www.watchu.org).

### III. Are You Ready? (May and June)

All crews and all crew members are expected to attend the Watchu Mountain Adventure, Friday May 4 to Sunday, May 6, 2012. This weekend will complete your crew's training and let you put it to the test. The staff of veteran Philmont Scouters will be available to answer all your questions. Please note carefully - **this will be an SAT weekend**. If you plan to take the SAT exams in 2012, schedule them for another time. You can reschedule now, but probably not later.

All crews gather on Watchu Mountain for a simulated Philmont experience, including camping, cooking, backpacking, and backcountry living. One of the highlights is a "rugged" 8-mile hike designed to test each crew's hiking readiness. Others are two evening multi-media shows and an individual trail planning session for each crew with an experienced Philmont trekker to help get the most out of your Philmont trek.

Often the Watchu Mountain Adventure is referred to as "a mid-term exam" because it serves to define the "gaps" between "where the crew is in it's preparation " and "where it needs to be" to be ready. It is a weekend of self-evaluation.

Each crew returns home with a concrete list of gaps which must be closed during the remaining weeks before leaving for New Mexico. These gaps define the final weeks of crew development and training. According to Chief Watchu, closing the gaps will assure a wonderful Philmont experience

## IV. Traveling and Touring (July)

You will fly to Colorado and spend two fun-filled and excitement-packed days and nights in the Front Range of the Rockies. Activities will include a visit to the Air Force Academy, riding the cog railway to the top of Pikes Peak, and whitewater rafting on the Arkansas River. You will spend the nights at the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs, with access to its pool and recreation facilities.

## V. Your Philmont Trek (July)

Time to put all your training and preparation to use! You will spend 12 days at Philmont Scout Ranch, the Boy Scouts of America's premier high adventure base. After a day of various check-in tasks, your crew will board a bus for a trailhead and eleven days / ten nights in the Philmont backcountry. In addition to spectacular scenery, your crew will work as a team to meet the challenge of summiting high peaks and will participate at staffed camps in western-themed programs such as rock climbing, black powder rifle, and horseback riding. Indeed, Philmont is much more than "just a hike"!



**"The only things we keep permanently are those we give away."**

**- Waite Phillips**

Waite Phillips donated most of the land that is now Philmont Scout Ranch to the Boy Scouts of America.

## What is a ...?

*Those new to Philmont need to know the definitions of these commonly used terms*

**Crew** - a group of 12 Scouts and Scouters who together train for and undertake a Philmont trek.

**Crew Number** - a unique designation for each crew, consisting of three numbers for the month and date of arrival at Philmont, a letter for each expedition arriving that day, and a number for the crew within the expedition. For example, 708E2 would be the second crew in the "E" expedition arriving on July 8. Note! - as crews often consist of individuals from more than one unit, troop numbers are not used to identify crews. The Philmont assigned crew number must be used.

**Advisor** - an adult member of a crew, responsible for training the youth members and their health and safety. At Philmont, the crew will be led by youth, not the adult advisors.

**Lead Advisor** - the adult member of a crew responsible for all administrative functions and the first point of contact for any of your questions.

**Expedition (or Contingent)** - several crews from one council who travel together and arrive at Philmont the same day. Patriots' Path Council sends five expeditions (contingents) of four crews each to Philmont each summer.

**Trek** - an eleven day/ten night backpacking trip on the trails of the Philmont back country.

**Itinerary** - one of 35 pre-planned routes through the Philmont backcountry with a variety of program opportunities.

## Payment Schedule

PAYMENT	DUE DATE	AMOUNT
Deposit	With Application	\$235
1	June 15, 2011	\$400
2	August 15, 2011	\$400
3	October 15, 2011	\$400
4	February 15, 2012	<b>\$400</b>
5	April 1, 2012	*
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$1,835*</b>

\* Note: Total subject to adjustment (if necessary) due to fuel cost or other factors

### Patriots' Path Council Refund Policy

For all of the High Adventure activities offered by the Patriots' Path Council, Boy Scouts of America, a great deal of planning and purchasing takes place well in advance. This includes plane and bus transportation, lodging, program activities, meal plans, brochures, etc.

As stated on the application, \$100 of the initial fee is non-refundable. When an individual cancels his reservation prior to departure, he risks losing some, if not all, of his balance paid to date. Only those monies which have not yet been committed to any of the above can be refunded. The Director of Program Services, who oversees High Adventure activities within the Council, will determine the amount of the refund, if any.

All requests for refunds must be made in writing and submitted to Patriots' Path Council, Attention: High Adventure Programs, 222 Columbia Turnpike, Florham Park, NJ 07932. It is possible that airline tickets may still be obtained for your personal use. It will be your responsibility to contact our travel agent to make this arrangement.

## Travel Dates

Expedition	Depart for Colorado	Arrive at Philmont	Return to New Jersey
630	June 28	June 30	July 12
702	June 30	July 2	July 14
711	July 9	July 11	July 23
713	July 11	July 13	July 25
715	July 13	July 15	July 27

### Patriots' Path Council Travel Policy

Travel arrangements for all participants in Patriot's Path Council sponsored High Adventure activities requiring group travel will be made by Patriots' Path Council. Everyone is expected to travel with the group - exceptions for individual special arrangements will only be considered and approved in unique circumstances and for compelling reasons. The alternate arrangements must be made by others. There will be no adjustment of the activity's fee for any portion of the program that is not utilized. In the case of disabled members, Patriots' Path Council will make special arrangements when necessary.

**Each Philmont trek is a physically demanding backpacking hike at high altitude and in a hot and dry environment. The goal of the Watchu Experience is to give you the information you need to prepare yourself and your crew so you can meet and enjoy that challenge.**

## Your Watchu Experience Fee Includes

Each crew member receives:

- One Patriots' Path expedition [\*Crew Member Guide\*](#)
- One Philmont *Guidebook to Adventure*
- Two Patriots' Path Council expedition patches
- One Patriots' Path expedition Base Camp T-shirt
- One Patriots' Path expedition tour (carry-on) bag
- One nylon bag and two luggage tags for transporting back-packs

Each crew receives:

- One Watchu Experience [\*Advisor Guide\*](#) for each advisor
- One Philmont *Council and Unit Planning Guide*
- One Philmont *TREKS Itinerary Guide*
- One *Philmanac: Guide to the Philmont Backcountry*
- One high adventure, youth protection, and training DVD
- Four 2-hour Advisor Briefings
- Wilderness First Aid training for three crew members
- Access to the Watchu e-mail network

May's Watchu Mountain Adventure, including:

- Demonstrations of Philmont camping techniques
- Five meals with Philmont trail food
- Rugged 8-mile shakedown hike
- Individual crew trail planning session
- Two multi-media shows



The Tooth of Time

A 15-day Rocky Mountain adventure including:

- Round trip air transportation to Colorado, the Rocky Mountain State, including checked baggage fees
- Bus transportation, room, and 6 meals during a [2-day tour](#) of the Front Range of the Rockies in Colorado, with:
  - ◊ A ride on the cog railway to the awe-inspiring 14,110 foot high summit of Pike's Peak
  - ◊ An exciting 9-mile, Class III and Class IV whitewater rafting trip on the Arkansas River
  - ◊ A chuck wagon dinner with a western musician
  - ◊ A visit to the spectacular Manitou Indians' "Garden of the Gods," including a hike and a multi-media show
  - ◊ Access to University of Colorado recreation center
- 550-mile round trip transportation to Cimarron, New Mexico on a modern motor coach, including a meal on the return to Colorado
- 12-day high adventure Philmont backcountry trek

## Emergency Contact Information

### Philmont Scout Ranch

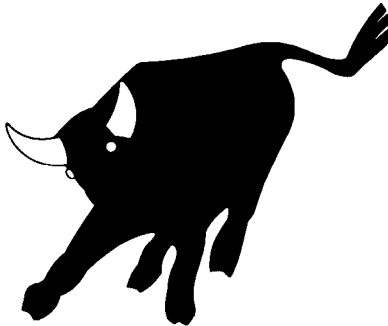
17 Deer Run Road

telephone: 575-376-2281

Cimarron, NM 87714

fax: 575-376-2636

*Note: The Philmont telephone number is answered 24-hours a day during the summer and during regular business hours at other times. For emergency contact, have the crew member's full crew number (for example, 706F5) available before calling*



## The Four Expensive Essentials

*These items make great gifts for any occasion.*

*Put them on your wish list.*

Philmont's [Guidebook to Adventure](#) contains check lists of the personal gear needed for a Philmont trek as well as crew gear provided by the crew or by Philmont. These check lists, developed with 70 years of Philmont-specific backcountry experience, are definitive - you need nothing more, nor should you have anything less. Review the [Personal Gear List with Tips](#) in the [Equipment](#) section of the [Trek Preparation](#) page of the Watchu Experience Web site ([www.watchu.org](http://www.watchu.org)) for the complete personal gear list from the *Guidebook*.

While you may have much of the personal gear needed already, you might need to buy at least some new gear, including one or more of the "Four Expensive Essentials." While good gear can be expensive, by shopping around you can outfit yourself with quality equipment at a reasonable cost.

**Hiking Boots** - a good pair of lightweight backpacking boots that fit well while wearing heavy outer wool socks and light inner polypropylene socks. Although not absolutely necessary, waterproof boots are nice to have if you can afford them. Boots, three pairs of outer socks, and three pairs of inner socks come to about \$150.

**Sleeping Bag and Mat** - a good synthetic sleeping bag rated for at least 25 degrees and weighing 3 pounds or less, with a mat. The bag should stuff into a small stuff sack. Don't forget to line the stuff sack with a plastic trash bag for extra protection against getting wet. A sleeping bag with stuff sack comes to about \$100. Excellent ground mats or pads can be purchased for about \$25. This combination will provide for a comfortable

sleep plus plenty of insulation from the ground.

**Rain Suit with Jacket and Pants** - a sturdy, lightweight rain suit, both jacket and pants, with plenty of ventilation. Good rain suits can be purchased for about \$50. A poncho **will not** do at Philmont - at higher elevations a drop of 40 degrees in only a few minutes with hail or even snow is not uncommon. The rain suit not only keeps you dry, it provides an insulation barrier to help keep you warm and prevent hypothermia. A poncho does not provide that protection.

**Backpack** - a rugged backpack with plenty of capacity for carrying your personal gear as well as water and your share of crew gear and food. External frame backpacks should have a capacity of about 4,000 cubic inches. 4,800 cubic inches for an internal frame backpack should do it. When selecting a backpack, the weight of the backpack itself is very important and should not be overlooked. Good backpacks weighing 5 pounds or less are available for approximately \$100. Philmont rents very good external frame packs for approximately \$20. If members of Philmont crews don't care to buy a pack, they can borrow a friend's for training and rent one at Philmont. If you decide to purchase a pack, keep in mind that external frame packs are designed for the kind of hiking you will experience at Philmont. However, if you already own or simply prefer an internal frame pack, it will serve you equally well.

The [Equipment](#) section of the [Training Videos](#) page of the Watchu Experience Web site ([www.watchu.org](http://www.watchu.org)) has a number of videos that show features to look for when shopping for the "Four Expensive Essentials" as well as other equipment needed for a Philmont trek.

## Watchu Mountain Outfitters

The Watchu Mountain Outfitters (WMO) provide quality Base Camp and backcountry/rafting gear to the members of Patriots' Path Council Philmont expeditions. **Your Patriots' Path Philmont fee includes one Expedition Base Camp T-shirt, suitable for use both during the day in Base Camp and on the trail, two Patriots' Path Expedition Patches for your uniforms, and one Expedition Tour (Carry-on) Bag.** But the Watchu Mountain Outfitters offer much more - check out the following page and the [Trading Post](#) on the Watchu Experience Web site, [www.watchu.org](http://www.watchu.org) for information on other products available.

Every purchase of merchandise from the Watchu Mountain Outfitters helps to contain costs for all Patriots' Path contingent crews. All profits go directly into the Watchu program; strictly for the benefit of the Watchu/Philmont participants.

Merchandise can be ordered either as an individual or as a crew, using the [Order Form](#) on the [Trading Post](#) page of the Web site. If ordering as a crew before the deadline of the January Advisor Briefing, the Hikers' Dozen discount is available on any Watchu Mountain Outfitters item - buy 11 and get one free!



Look for the logo on genuine Watchu Mountain Outfitters merchandise! You can visit the Watchu Mountain Outfitters at the Advisor Briefings, during May's Watchu Mountain Adventure, and on-line at [www.watchu.org](http://www.watchu.org).



**PPC EXPEDITION  
BASE CAMP  
T-SHIRT  
\$15.00**



**WMO PHILMONT  
BASEBALL CAP  
\$15.00**



**WMO SLING  
DAYPACK  
\$7.00**



**WMO  
BACKCOUNTRY/  
RAFTING T-SHIRT  
\$20.00**



**WMO 'BOONEY'-  
STYLE HAT  
\$25.00**



**WMO WATER  
BOTTLE  
\$10.00**



**WMO ZIPPER PULL  
THERMOMETER  
\$2.00**



**WMO BANDANA  
\$3.00**



**WMO HEADLAMP  
\$15.00**

Go to the Watchu Mountain Outfitters online [Trading Post](#) (or use the Quick Link) for additional information, to see other available items, and to download an [Order Form](#).

## The Watchu Experience Web Site

<http://www.watchu.org>

All information relating to the Watchu Experience is posted on the Internet at <http://www.watchu.org>. Bookmark this important site and refer to it often for information about preparing for a Philmont trek, copies of all Patriots' Path forms and documents, the answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), and an on-line version of this guide. The Watchu Experience Web site includes the following pages:

**Quick Links:** Fast access to the most frequently visited items on the Watchu Experience Web site.

**Quick Start:** General information about Watchu and Philmont for those new to the Watchu Experience.

**The Watchu Experience:** Who is Chief Watchu? What is the Watchu Experience? What is the Watchu Mountain Adventure?

**Calendar:** The schedule of Watchu and Philmont events, including the Advisor Briefings, the Watchu Mountain Adventure, and travel dates.

**Administration:** Communications from Patriots' Path with important documentation and forms as well as financial help and tips on crew and individual fund-raising.

**Crew Development:** Get your crew up and running like a Swiss watch. What is a Crew Leader? Chaplain Aide? Crew Correspondent? How should a crew be organized?

**Trek Preparation:** Well-tested suggestions to get the most out of your Philmont trek and the unique experience it provides.

**FAQs:** Do you have a question about the Watchu Experience or Philmont? Chief Watchu thinks you will find your answer here.

**Training Videos:** A series of videos to assist you in learning about equipment and Philmont camping techniques.

**Photos:** Super pictures of the Watchu Mountain Adventure, the Colorado Tour, Philmont, and Autumn Adventure.

**Favorite Links:** Lots of places to visit for extra information.

**Site Map:** Includes both an alphabetical list and a listing by topic of the site's contents.

**Help:** Do you need to check with the Watchu Administrator? Do you need financial help? Do you need to call Philmont? Or would you simply like to pass on your thoughts about the Web site?

**Search:** Having trouble finding information on a particular topic? You can search for it by keyword(s).



The Villa Philmonte, at Philmont, was Waite Phillips' summer home. It is located across the road from Camping Headquarters. Have your Ranger help schedule a tour while you are in Base Camp.

## Uniform Fact Sheet

**At Watchu events and while traveling:** During all Advisor Briefings, May's Watchu Mountain Adventure, on the day of departure, during the flight, throughout the entire Colorado tour, most of the first and last days at Philmont, and the entire return trip, all Patriots' Path Council expedition members will be in full official BSA (unofficially called Class A) uniform, with no "look-alikes" or exceptions.

### Official BSA Uniform:

- BSA shirt with Patriots' Path Council expedition patch
- BSA belt
- BSA pants; short, long, or switchback ... your choice
- BSA socks; short or long ... your choice
- Boots ... the boots you intend to hike in
- Hat ... good sun protection hat required, crew design optional
- Neckerchief ... not required, but crew design, unit, or Watchu is appropriate
- Watchu name plate (advisors only)

**While in Base Camp at Philmont:** Council T-shirts, crew T-shirts, Philmont T-shirts, or scout T-shirts with scout pants and crew hats (unofficially called Class B uniforms) are appropriate. However, we expect all Patriots' Path Philmont crews to dress in official BSA uniform for dinners, religious services, and both the Opening and Closing Campfires.

**On the trail:** Your dress will be trail clothing. Until you return to Base Camp at the end of your trek you will be dressed for the trail.

## **.Re-live the Great American West at Philmont**

Philmont Scout Ranch and the surrounding area abounds in history. The Anasazi Indians first lived in the area. Crews visiting Indian Writings camp can participate in an archeology program and see petroglyphs (rock drawings) they left behind. The Apache, Ute, and Comanche came later; Apache Springs camp offers crews several Indian lore programs.

The first Europeans in the area were the Spanish. The opening of the Santa Fe Trail brought Americans interested in trade. The trail passed through Philmont and wagon ruts can still be seen. Crews visiting Rayado can tour a trading post run by mountain man Kit Carson that supplied passing wagon trains. The mountain men hunted, trapped and "rendezvoused" in the high country. Miranda, Clear Creek and Black Mountain camps have mountain man programs like black powder rifle, tomahawk throwing, and others.

After the Civil War, homesteaders settled the area. Abreu, Crooked Creek, Black Mountain, and Rich Cabin camps each have programs associated with those early settlers.

Gold was discovered on Baldy Mountain in the 1870's, setting off a gold rush that brought prospectors. Crews can tour mines and pan for gold at both French Henry and Cyphers Mine camps, and blacksmithing is offered at several camps.

The railroad came in the early 1900's and the Continental Tie and Lumber Company supplied timber for ties. At Pueblano and Crater Lake crews climb spar poles like lumberjacks.

Waite Phillips bought the ranch in the 1920's and constructed several back country cabins to entertain his friends hunting and fishing. Those cabins are open today for tours by crews.

## Tips for a Great Trek

*Years of preparing crews for Philmont have proved the following are keys to a successful trek.*

1. **A Philmont crew is youth led.** The advisors' responsibility is to prepare the youth to lead.
2. **Each crew member must be in excellent physical condition.** [Body weight](#) and [blood pressure](#) must be under control and well within the recommended ranges (not just below the limits). Of special importance is proper hydration - start now to improve your water drinking habits.
3. **Advisors must know the medical history of each crew member.** Even if you cannot schedule your physical when you get your copy of the [Health and Medical Record](#), complete the self-history section and give a copy of it and your most recent camp or sports physical to your crew advisor. As soon as your doctor has completed his portion, make a copy for your files, a copy to carry in your expedition travel bag, and give the original to your crew advisor.
4. **It's Not Just a Hike!** Philmont treks are much more than a walk in the mountains - many find the backcountry programs, based on the environment created by nature and the spirit of the people who populated the country, to be a life-altering experience.
5. **Hiking is a Team Sport!** Consistently rated the top Watchu tip, everyone must be trained to be committed to the success of the entire crew and to ask at all times, "What can I do to make this hike a success for my crew mates?"

## **The Philmont Hymn**

John Westfall, 1945

Silver on the sage  
Star-lit skies above  
Aspen covered hills  
Country that I love

Philmont here's to thee  
Scouting Paradise  
Out in God's country,  
Tonight

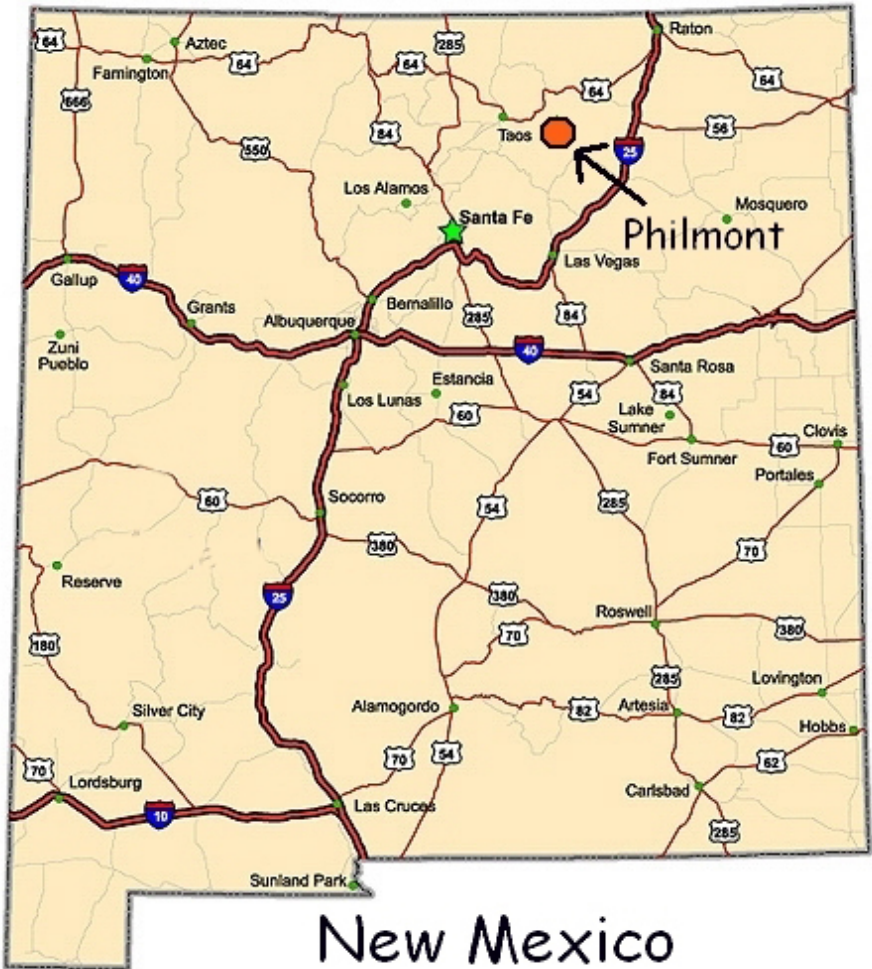
Wind in whisp'ring pines  
Eagle soaring high  
Purple mountains rise  
Against an azure sky

Philmont here's to thee  
Scouting Paradise  
Out in God's country,  
Tonight

## **Philmont Grace**

For food  
For raiment  
For life  
For opportunity  
For friendship and fellowship  
We thank Thee, O Lord  
Amen

# Where is Philmont?



Philmont Scout Ranch is located in the rugged backcountry wilderness of the Sangre de Cristo range of the Rocky Mountains near Cimarron in northeastern New Mexico