

# Selecting A Great Trek

January Advisor Briefing

# Selecting A Great Trek

- The November presentation was designed to introduce you to Philmont and its history.
- Tonight we will discuss the process of choosing a trek that satisfies the needs and desires of your crew.

# Selecting A Great Trek

- In March we will discuss how to finalize your trek choices and the online selection process.
- During the Watchu Mountain Adventure in May a Trail Planner will help your crew optimize your trek to get the most out of it.



# Background

- Some homework and research on your part is required to give you a head start.
- First we will provide an overview of background information for all treks.

# Background

- Second we will show you tools to research the previous year's treks.
- Finally we will tell you how to work with your crew to begin choosing five treks that meet your crew's desires.

# Trek Information

- There are 35 pre-planned treks.
- Treks range in distance from about 50 to over 100 miles.
- Each trek offers a variety of program opportunities.
- Treks also vary in the physical challenge they present.

# Trek Information

- Treks are classified as:
  - Challenging
  - Rugged
  - Strenuous, and
  - Super Strenuous
- Treks are numbered, with lower numbers rated Challenging while the highest numbers are Super Strenuous.



# Trek Classification

Classification of treks is largely based on

- Total miles, and
- Elevation changes



# Trek Classification

Other factors are considered, such as:

- Long hikes on individual days
- The need to carry water to dry camps



# Camps at the Ranch

There are two types of camps on the ranch:

- Staffed camps, with people in residence. There are currently 31 staffed camps.
- Trail camps, which are simply a place to spend the night.

# Program Information

- Activities called "programs" are offered at staffed camps.
- Popular programs include
  - Horse rides
  - Shooting events
  - Rock climbing
  - Gold panning
  - Mountain biking

# Program Information

- As a rule, the higher numbered treks leave less time for program due to mileage and difficulty of your daily hikes.
- Lower number treks, while still challenging, allow more time for programs.
- Your crew must decide what is more important to them.



# Program Information

- In general, higher numbered treks may be better suited to crews with older youth and very fit adults.
- Lower numbered treks may be better suited to crews with younger youth.
- Each crew must evaluate their capabilities.

# Program Information

Balancing the program opportunities with the demands of your hike is what this session is all about.



# Program Information

Programs are available:

- Where you are spending the night at a staff camp
- When you are passing through a staff camp on your way elsewhere, or
- With a side hike to a staff camp.

# Program Information

- With the exception of horse rides and burros, both which must be scheduled at Logistics in Base Camp, crews can participate in any program they are willing to hike to.
- *Caution - crews scheduled for a program always get priority but this is usually not a problem*





# Selecting Your Trek

- Materials to select your trek will be mailed to each Lead Advisor in March.
- Your crew should prepare in advance in order to be ready when the package arrives.
- Without some advance help with planning, your selection process can be delayed or difficult.
- This presentation provides tools to assist you.

# Selecting Your Trek

The trek selection process has three phases.

## Phase 1

Learning about the outdoor experience of your crew and gathering information on the previous year's treks that we provide and from other sources.

# Selecting Your Trek

## Phase 2

Hold a crew meeting to discuss crew desires, compare and choose programs, and discuss trek difficulty

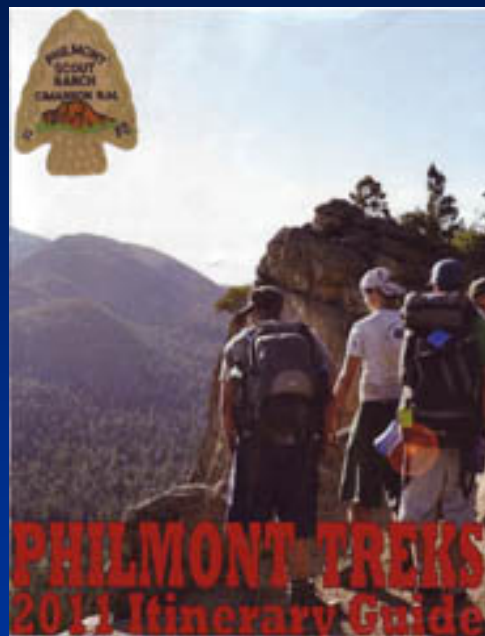
## Phase 3

At the same crew meeting, or a follow up meeting, select and rank your crew's top five trek choices

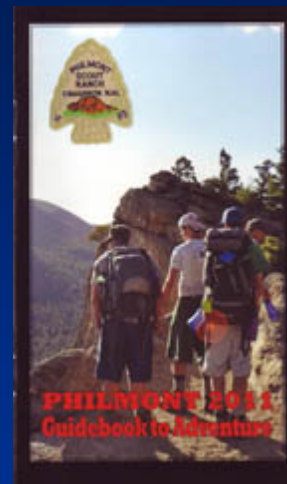
# Phase 1 - Tools You Will Need

- Start the processes by doing research with the materials we provide and from other resources on the Internet.
- Access the Trek Selection tab of the Trek Preparation page of the Watchu Web site  
([http://watchu.org/Trek\\_preparation.htm](http://watchu.org/Trek_preparation.htm))  
to download the following documents.

# Phase 1 - Tools You Will Need



*TREKS  
Itinerary Guide*



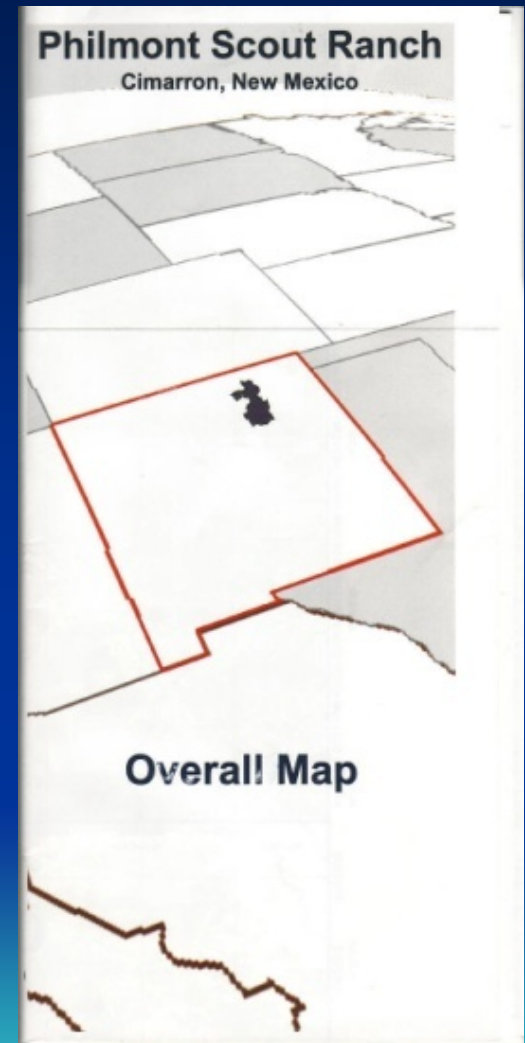
*Guidebook to  
Adventure*

*Caution - use the previous year's data with care, as it is likely some changes will be made.*

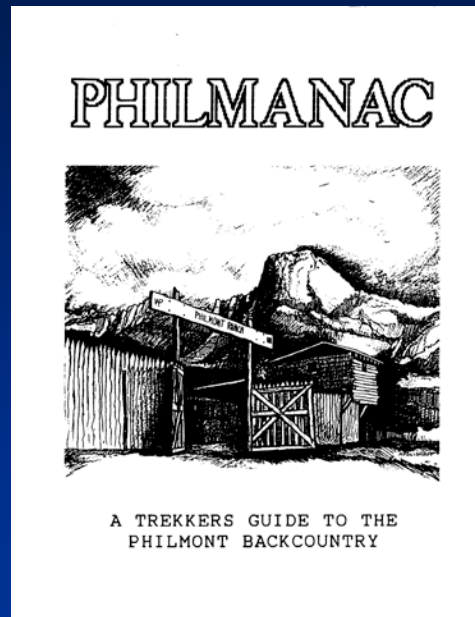


# Phase 1 - Tools You Will Need

- ✓ Outdoor Adventure History survey form
- ✓ Sample Program Ballot, and
- ✓ The North and South sections of the overall Philmont map.



# Phase 1 - Tools You Will Need



## *Philmanac*

Lists facilities at every camp, and provides historical background.

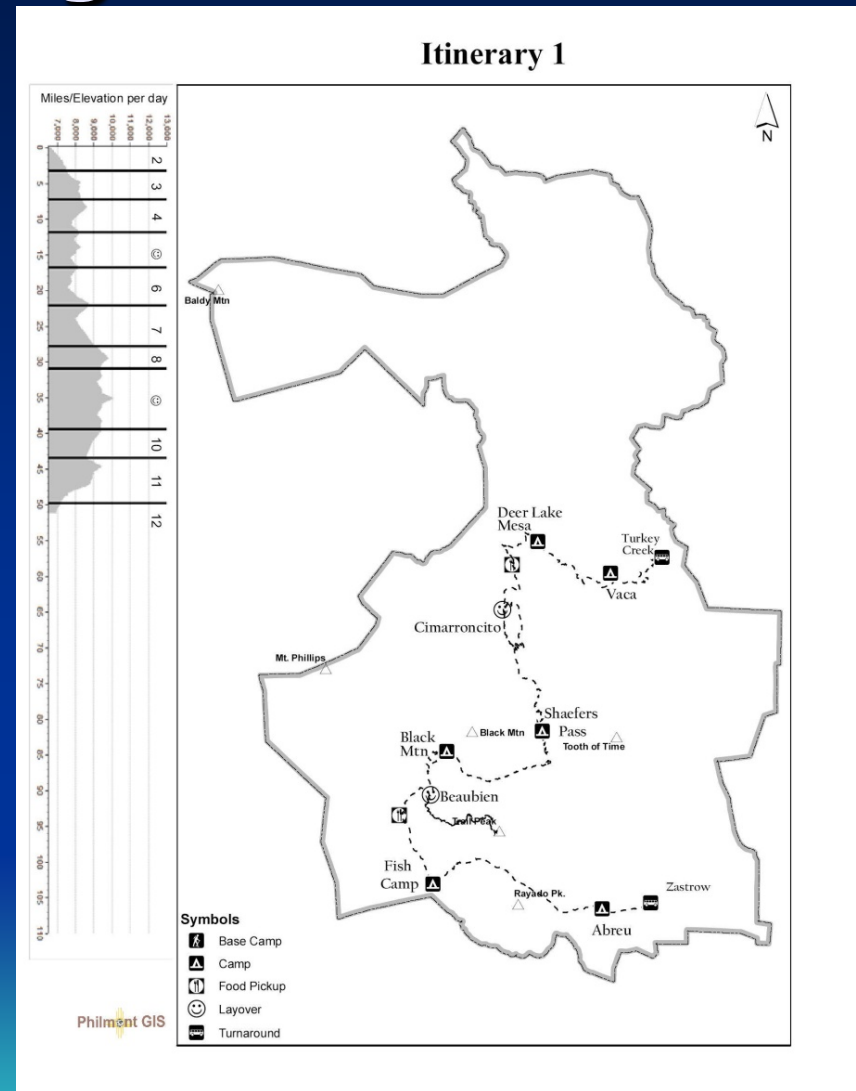


# Phase 1 - Using Your Tools

- Review all the information
- Make paper copies for your meeting
  - One for each crew member
    - Outdoor Adventure History form
    - Sample Program Ballot form
  - Minimum of one copy
    - *TREKS Itinerary Guide*
    - *Guidebook to Adventure*
    - Treks Summary.
- Printing the maps may not be practical

# Phase 1 - Using Your Tools

The *TREKS Itinerary Guide* contains maps of each trek giving a general idea of the route. Note the chart on the side that indicates mileage and elevation changes each day.



# Phase 1 - Using Your Tools

Opposite each map is a day by day breakdown of overnight camps, program opportunities, and food pick-up location for each itinerary.

Your days at Philmont.

Camps where you spend the night

Scheduled programs

Scheduled food pickups

Camp information and trek start point

**2010 PHILMONT ADVENTURE ITINERARY**

**Itinerary Number 1                      Challenging (maximum program time) - 51 miles**

*Towering ponderosa pine forests and teeming trout streams await your crew as you enjoy great programs in Philmont's breathtakingly beautiful central and south country. Outstanding programs offered along the trek are shotgun shooting and reloading, rock climbing, western lore, horse riding, branding, a chuck wagon dinner, black powder rifle shooting, and fly tying and fishing. Finish your trek with a visit to Abreu for a historic homesteading experience with root beer at the cantina and a delicious Mexican dinner.*

Day	Camp	Program Features	Food Pickup
1	Base	Opening Campfire	
2	Vaca	Ranger Training	Camping HQ
3	Deer Lake Mesa	12 Gauge Shotgun Shooting & Reloading, Burro Racing @ Harlan, Trail Camp, Conservation	
4	s CIMARRONCITO	Rock Climbing & Rappelling, Conservation	
5	s CIMARRONCITO	Side Hike Hidden Valley & Window Rock, Cabin Tour @ Hunting Lodge	Ute Gulch
6	d Shaefers Pass	Trail Camp	
7	BLACK MOUNTAIN	Post Civil War Settlers, Blacksmithing, Black Powder Rifle	
8	s BEAUBIEN	Western Lore, Horse Rides, Branding, Chuck Wagon Dinner, Conservation	
9	s BEAUBIEN	Side Hike Trail Peak	Phillips Junction
10	FISH CAMP	Fly Tying, Fishing, Lodge Tour	
11	s ABREU	Mexican Homestead, Cantina, Mexican Dinner	
12	Base	Hike to Zastrow Turnaround Awards Campfire	

Departs from Camping Headquarters on Day 2 for Turkey Ck Turnaround to go to Vaca Camp  
Returns to Camping HQ on Day 12 from Zastrow Turnaround.

**Campsite Elevations:** 7,185' Minimum, 9,340' Maximum  
**Camps:** 5 Staffed, 3 Trail, 2 Layovers, 1 Dry Camp  
**Sectional Maps:** South

**NOTE:** (d) = Dry Camp  
 (s) = Showers may be available

# Phase 1 - Using Your Tools

The *Guidebook To Adventure* provides a description of each program offered at Philmont. Print enough copies so that everyone can review the descriptions.

are recommended to get the most benefit from your Philmont experience.

## Archaeology

The Ponil country in the northern section is rich in the prehistoric background of the American Indian. Your crew can help reconstruct Philmont history while participating in this fascinating program and learning about Indians who inhabited this area.

An educated archaeologist and staff explain and supervise the program in the North Ponil Canyon. Activities may include assisting with excavations or preparing specimens and artifacts.

**PLEASE NOTE:** You can assist the archaeology program by being observant as you hike the trails. You may discover an artifact that will lead to further discoveries. Philmont's antiquities rightfully belong to Philmont and are most meaningful when left where found. Others can then share the benefit of your discovery. Please report all finds to one of the staff archaeologists at Indian Writings or to the Philmont Museum.

## Black Powder

You will use powder, patch, ball, ramrod, and cap to actually load and shoot a .50 or .58-caliber muzzle-loading rifle. This exciting, historic program is offered at Black Mountain, Clear Creek and Miranda.

## Blacksmithing

The ring of hammer striking iron echoes through the mountains around French Henry, Black Mountain, and Cyphers Mine camps. Here staff blacksmiths will acquaint you with a working forge, blower, leg vice and hardie, and an array of tongs used to grip red-hot iron. They will discuss and demonstrate techniques for firing the forge, working metal, and tempering the finished product.

## Burro Packing

No animal is more closely associated with the colorful history of the Southwest than the burro. Burro packing methods are explained and demonstrated at Ponil and Miranda. Your tents and food may be packed on burros using a diamond hitch. Burros are available for use on the trail in the northern portion of the ranch, starting or ending at Ponil and Miranda. Burro traps (holding pens for overnight stops) are located at Ponil, Pueblano, Miranda, Elkhorn, Flume Canyon and Baldy Skyline. Hay for feeding is provided at these camps. If your itinerary provides for packing burros, take advantage of this unique opportunity to pack them just as the miners once did.

## Burro Racing

Thrills galore await you in catching, packing, and racing a burro in competition with other crews. At Harlan this activity provides a memorable experience.

## Cantina

Ponil and Abreu offer the opportunity for a thirst-quenching root beer in a Mexican or Western-style cantina. You can buy root beer for your whole crew or a cup for yourself.

## Conservation

Philmont offers opportunities for involvement, participation, and observation of conservation practices. Most conservation projects involve trail construction or repair, which is very important in controlling erosion.

Three hours of conservation work under the supervision of a Philmont Conservationist is expected of each camper to earn the Arrowhead Award. Ten hours of conservation work is a requirement for the 50-Miler Award. The 3 hours earned at Philmont can be applied—the other 7 may be acquired back home.

Philmont has a number of conservationists on its staff, each located strategically throughout the backcountry. Logistics will identify the best location for your crew to do your 3-hour project under the supervision of one of the conservationists who will help you qualify for both the Arrowhead Award and the partial of the 50-Miler Award.

Should your itinerary not provide for an area with a trail construction site, Logistics will identify an alternate project that can be done under the leadership of your Advisor.

## Continental Tie and Lumber Company

The exciting legend of the loggers with the Continental Tie and Lumber Company will come to life through the staff at Pueblano and Crater Lake. They will share their skills of spartree "pole" climbing and the use of wood tools and instruments. Competition in exciting logging events such as log toss, cross-cut sawing, and log tongs races will challenge your crew.

## Environmental Awareness

Become acquainted with some of the western birds, wildflowers, mammals, lizards, snakes, and insects in this natural outdoor wonderland. Discover what wildlife passed through camp by observing tracks and other signs—view how plant and animal species change as you climb higher into the mountains, and learn why these changes occur—walk past the timberline and observe the life that survives the rigors of this high-altitude environment.

At Cimarroncito, Miner's Park, Ring Place, and Dean Cow, a program of environmental awareness will be given to help you know and understand Philmont's flora, fauna, geology, and life zones; and how you can be a part of maintaining the natural order of things so others that follow may enjoy them too.

## Fly Tying and Fishing

The Rayado and Agua Fria streams in the south offer excellent trout fishing.

# Phase 1 - Using Your Tools

Be sure to completely review the *TREKS Itinerary Guide* and the *Guidebook To Adventure* in detail. These valuable documents contain much more information than we have pointed out or can discuss here.

# Phase 1 - Using Your Tools

- The Outdoor Adventure History form is designed to capture the outdoor experience of each crewmember. We think you will find it very useful, especially for crews from mixed units. Consider sending out the Outdoor Adventure History form early for crewmembers to fill out for your next meeting.
- The Sample Program ballot contains a list of all the available program opportunities at Philmont. It will quickly help your crew to figure out what the popular programs are that satisfy the majority of the crew's desires.



# Phase 1 - Other Tools

Use the internet for more ideas. Below are a few suggested popular links:

- <http://www.philsearch.org/> - click on the Treks icon for easy trek selection tools
- <http://www.lns.cornell.edu/~seb/philmont.html> - lots of links to just about anything related to Philmont
- <http://www.usscouts.org/lists/> - join a News Group devoted to Philmont

# Completing Phase 1

- Talk with others who have been to Philmont to get ideas and suggestions.
- When you understand the tools and the program and trek options, it is time to schedule a crew meeting.



# Phase 2 - Getting Started

- At your crew meeting discuss what your crew desires from your trek.
- There is a lot of information and the selection process can be confusing, so start early.
- Avoid the common mistake of trying to see everything on a trek.
- Turn this into a fun project for the crew. Have your crew members select a lead team to do the ground work.

# Phase 2 - Crew Discussion Items

- Evaluate the capabilities of your crew carefully when choosing how strenuous your trek might be. Crewmembers should discuss any limitations they may have.
- Use the Outdoor Adventure History evaluation form as a tool to understand everyone's capabilities and experience. Make this fun by reading someone's answers and trying to guess who's it is.
- It will be helpful to decide first how strenuous of trek your crew should work toward (Challenging, Rugged, Strenuous or Super Strenuous). Keep in mind that less time is available for programs in higher numbered treks.

# Phase 2 - Crew Discussion Items

- Use the *Guidebook To Adventure* to review details about programs. Discuss each program so that everyone understands what it is about.
- Identify the program activities your crew values the most. Use the sample Program Ballot to help your crew choose their most popular programs. We suggest that each crewmember choose and rank five programs they want and then comparing sheets to get a list of the crew's most popular programs.

## Phase 2 - Crew Discussion Items

- Use the *TREKS Itinerary Guide* and *Treks Summary* sheets to review the details about where programs are, camps where you will spend the night, mileage, elevation change, etc..
- Use the *Philmanac* and overall map to get more information about the various camps and trails.

# Phase 2 - Crew Discussion Items

- Focus on desired programs and/or the area of the ranch that interests your crew the most.
- Remember - there are no bad treks!

# Phase 3 - Choosing Your Treks

- At the same crew meeting as Phase 2, or at a follow up meeting, identify the crew's top five trek choices using the previous year's material and the programs they desire.
- Make sure your crew understands it may not be possible to capture every single program activity they want in the treks they choose.
- With your guidance, let the youth members rank the five potential treks.

# Phase 3 - Choosing Your Treks

The procedure for finalizing your trek choices and the online trek selection process will be discussed at the March Briefing

# Questions?