

Hats and Sun Protection

We all know how important it is to protect our skin from the sun. From the time crews set foot in Colorado until the time you return home you will be exposed to more sun than most have ever experienced. For starters, Pikes Peak is more than 14,000 feet. At Philmont the crews will be at altitudes from 6,000 feet to 12,500 feet. When rafting in Colorado you will be on open water for a few hours.

So it is very clear. Everyone **MUST** wear a hat and use sun block - not only at Philmont, but also on the Colorado tour. The best hat option is an all around wide brim hat that serves as protection from the sun and rain. Some crews use baseball hats with bandannas covering the ears and back of the neck. Whatever the choice, all must cover up as much skin as possible. Sun block is essential. Cover your face, back of neck, legs, arms, and your ears.

The 2023 Itinerary Guidebook and 2023 Guidebook to Adventure now available on the Philmont website. First glance shows a number of major changes, including one fewer available itineraries. Again in 2023 there are limited treks that cross the 2018 burn area at Ute Park Pass - if you are considering either of those very popular choices, make sure you read the several pages of procedures specific to that crossing. Itinerary trek selection opens on January 16 using the online Philmont Camping Gateway; making your trek selections will be a topic at the January Advisor Briefing.

Crew T-shirts: How about designing your own crew T-shirt for use on the trail? [AM Embroidery](#) is a local supplier that can give you some ideas. The day you hit the trail you will see crews break out their special backcountry shirts. You will see some spectacular designs. The only requirement is that the graphics be in tune with the Scout Oath and Law. Get your Scouts started now on their version. Make no mistake; they will be very proud of the T-shirt they design and of the Patriots' Path base camp T-shirt included in your fee, not to mention the moisture-wicking backcountry and rafting T-shirt supplied by the [Watchu Mountain Outfitters](#).

Note from Chief Watchu: Nation-wide there are people on the Philmont waiting list. Likely there are Scouts or Venturers in our council who would desperately want to go to Philmont but for whatever reason, often financial, they do not sign up. We can help eliminate the financial gap and solve most other problems. Please help find those super

kids and fill our expeditions. We know they are out there, excitedly waiting for invitations. Call Andrew Joiner at 973-765-9322 x252 with candidates or for details.

BSA Field Uniform: The Philmont [Council and Unit Planning Guide](#) mentions that wearing the BSA "field uniform" is appropriate in Base Camp. "Field uniform" is another term for the official BSA uniform, commonly referred to as "class A."

Phil Fact: Charlie Cypher was a manager for The Colorado Consolidated Verde Mining and Milling Company, which operated several mines in the area around the turn of the century. Charlie stayed on after the company left, prospecting and operating the Contention Mine until being persuaded by Waite Phillips to leave. The nightly "Stomp" at Cyphers Mine is held in Charlie's cabin.

Mornings come late at the mine!

Charlie Cypher

Old Man of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains