



Troop 339 Philmont 2012

Our Troop has once again been lucky enough to win a crew slot to Philmont Scout Ranch in 2012. The dates that we will be at Philmont are July 26 to August 7, 2012. Our actual departure date will be sometime between July 23 and July 25. Our actual returning date will be sometime between August 8 and August 9, 2012.

Philmont is **by far the Number One** destination for Boy Scouts all over the country, and as such the demand is very high for crew slots to attend each summer, with a limited number of slots available. Philmont is located in Cimarron, New Mexico, and is huge, totaling 138,000 acres. 32 staffed camps and 50 unstaffed camps are operated by the ranch. Philmont has high mountains which dominate rough terrain with an elevation ranging from 6,500 to 12,441 feet. **Scouts, Explorers and Adults must be in top physical condition.** Organized into crews of 7-12, including at least two adult leaders, participants hike Philmont's mountains for ten full days, 50-75 miles, spending nights at various backcountry camps. At staffed camps, crews can participate in a variety of programs presented by Philmont backcountry staff. Among these programs are horseback riding, burro packing, gold panning, rock climbing, 30.06 rifle shooting, archaeology, mountain biking and interpretive programs such as homesteading and mountain man rendezvous.

Philmont uses a computer generated random selection process to award treks to Troops that apply. In 2008 there were 20,000 participants, and a waiting list of 30,000. Our troop will strive to make this a bi-yearly outing.

Estimated cost to attend for 2012 will be \$ **2,000 - \$ 2,300, all expenses paid. This includes the Philmont camp fee, all meals, airfare, transportation, tours, etc.** To hold our crew slot, we must make a monetary commitment of \$ **100.00** per crew member. Our crew's next payment is due at Philmont on **February 25th, 2011.** To hold your crew slot, a financial commitment of \$100.00 is due by February 16, 2011. (non-refundable). Final cost will not be determined until sometime in 2012, since arrangements such as air transportation costs cannot be calculated until then.

We have reserved two crews, and have space for **18 Scouts and 6 Adults. If more than 18 Scouts or 6 adults apply for slots, the Troop Committee will determine the participants to make up our crew.** The committee will use several factors to determine crew participants, including, not in any given order:

1. Seniority in the Troop
2. Age and Rank of participant
3. Regular participation and attendance at troop meetings and camping trips
4. Past participation in service projects headed up by the Troop
5. Leadership roles undertaken by participant
6. Past participation in backpacking trip

Philmont's age requirement is stated as follows:

1. Age Requirement (from the Philmont website): **"Philmont participants for expeditions must be 14 years of age by the time of the trek or at least 13 years old and completed the eighth grade. To avoid disappointment, please do not request or expect exceptions! Philmont can make no exceptions to the minimum age requirements." This policy, plus other Troop policies listed below will be one of the deciding factors for crew participation.**

After the crew is formed, crew members will also be expected to **make additional commitments** to hold their slot, including:

1. **Regular attendance at Troop meetings and camping trips.**
2. **Participation on additional backpacking trips in the months preceding the expedition.**
3. **Participation in fundraising efforts by the Philmont crew to earn money towards the trip cost.**

If you are interested in this unique opportunity to be a part of what will be one of the highlights of your Scouting career, and are **willing to commit the extra time and effort required to prepare for a high adventure expedition, talk it over with your parents.** You may also want to discuss it first with Mr. Buttles or Mr. Lindsay before making a commitment.

After discussing it with your parents, both you and your parents need to fill out the attached application. If you are an adult interested in going to Philmont, please fill out a separate application.

Please contact Mr. Buttles directly at 410-384-7325 or e-mail at robertbuttles@yahoo.com with any questions you may have about the trip. Please hand in your application and deposit to Mr. Buttles no later than February 16th, 2011, so we have time to finalize the crew and send our money to Philmont to hold our Crew Slot. Your name will not be placed on the Crew list until the form and the deposit has been received.

Please remember that if we get more than 18 applications, your deposit does not guarantee a slot with our Crew. As mentioned above, the Troop Committee will determine the makeup of the Crew after all applications are received, after February 22, 2011. If we get to the point of a waiting list, Scouts have several options, such as Provisional Crews, or filling a slot in another Troop, or staying on our waiting list. The next availability for our Troop to send a crew to Philmont is **2014**. We will hold all deposit checks until the crew is finalized.

Please contact Mr. Buttles by phone or e-mail if you are interested in this trip so we have an idea of the potential interested scouts and adults.

Last year, our Troop sent 15 young men and 8 adult advisors to Philmont. Our experience there was fantastic. We covered around 75 miles of trails, camped at elevations ranging from 8,000 to 12,000 feet, visited some awesome camps while participating in activities ranging from rifle shooting, horseback riding, gold mine touring, sparpole climbing, and tomahawk throwing, to mention a few. Crew members have the opportunity to spend two weeks exploring beautiful country in the Rocky Mountains. **A big part of our success was each Crew Members commitment to making the trip a memorable one for all, by participating in all of the preparation, training, team building, and fund raising activities leading up to the trip.**

Our crew last year trained for over 14 months. A TOTAL COMMITMENT IS REQUIRED OF EACH CREW MEMBER.

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Scout Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ E-mail Address _____

I am interested in being a part of the Philmont Crew for Troop 339 between July 23 and August 8, 2012.

- I understand that being a part of the Crew will require additional commitments.
- I understand that I will be required to attend additional Crew meetings, apart from regular Troop meetings, at least once a month.
- I understand that I will be asked to participate in fundraising efforts to help earn part of the costs for my Trip to Philmont.
- I understand that I will be required to undertake backpacking-specific physical training, both on my own and with the Crew. This will include weekend and long weekend backpacking trips.
- I understand that the expedition will require backpacking-specific gear required for a mountain expedition that will have to be purchased or borrowed.
- I understand that I must make a \$100.00 non-refundable commitment now to hold our Troop's position at Philmont, and that this deposit is not necessarily a guarantee that I will get a slot in the Crew.

I have read and understand all of the above information

Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Section:

Parent or Guardian Name _____

E-Mail Address (if different from Scout address) _____

My son has discussed the Philmont expedition with me.

- I understand that being a member of the Philmont Crew requires additional commitments from my son, to be member of the Crew.
- I understand that I may be asked to help plan and participate in fundraising efforts by the Crew to earn money towards the cost of the trip.
- I understand that my son will be required to undertake backpacking-specific physical training, both on his own and with the Crew, including weekend and long weekend backpacking trips.
- I understand that the expedition will require backpacking-specific gear required for a mountain expedition that will have to be purchased or borrowed.
- I understand that the Crew will be meeting outside of regular Troop meeting times, at least once a month and more as the expedition date approaches.
- I understand that we must make a \$100.00 non-refundable commitment now, to hold our Troop's position at Philmont, and that this deposit does not necessarily guarantee a slot on the Crew for my son.

I have read and understand all of the above information

Signature _____ Date _____