



Boy Scouts of America Northeast Georgia Council



2012 Philmont Scout Ranch Expedition June 14 – June 27

In 2012, the Northeast Georgia Council will field a contingent of up to 84 Boy Scouts, Venturers and adult advisors to Philmont Scout Ranch. Transportation for this expedition will be by commercial airline and chartered bus. Although this trip is some time away, it is time for parents and Scouts to start considering eligibility requirements, funding, equipment, physical fitness, and more. Perhaps the most important points are that Scouts and Advisors need to register for the expedition, begin an exercise program, and start saving money.

Walk-in and mail-in reservations will be accepted at the Jefferson Service Center during normal business hours beginning Monday, November 2, 2010. Reservations will **not** be accepted by phone, fax or e-mail. Applications will be received until and including April 15, 2011. A selection committee will review **all** applications received by April 15th in late April and notify all applicants of their status by the end of April. The Council's contingent is designed to take care of the need of youth that would not otherwise be able to attend with a direct unit contingent. When the contingent fills, a waiting list will be maintained, applications received after April 15th will be added to the waiting list as well as those not chosen during the selection process. **A non-refundable deposit of \$ 125 is due with the registration.** If your application is not approved you will receive a refund of your deposit.

The **estimated fee** of the Expedition is \$ **1675**. This fee includes airfare, ground transportation, meals en-route, Philmont fees, an extra nights lodging at Philmont and a tee shirt. Participants are responsible for the entire \$ **1675** fee and will be assessed an additional amount if the actual costs rise. We accept cash, checks, MasterCard, Visa, and Discover.

The payment schedule for the Expedition is:

\$125 at Registration	\$310	Jul 1, 2011	\$310	Sep 1, 2011	\$310	Nov 1, 2011
	\$310	Feb 1, 2012	\$310	Apr 1, 2012	Balance	Jun 1, 2012

Participants not meeting this payment schedule will be removed from the contingent after due notification. A very limited campership fund is available for youth participants. Make your inquiries to the Council Program Director.

Vacancies will be filled from the waiting list first. Participants finding it necessary to leave the contingent can recover their fees paid from the participant filling the vacancy, if any. All fees paid are not refundable.

All participants are expected to travel with the contingent. No fee reductions are available for participants that choose to travel independently. Participants may not use frequent flyer or discount coupons to pay for the airfare.

Participants must meet the Philmont age and physical fitness requirements. The contingent will be formed into crews beginning in mid-2011. All crews must conform to BSA and Philmont composition and leadership guidelines. A Philmont trek is a group activity, failure to participate in the crew or contingent training and preparation activities may result in a participant being asked to resign from the contingent. Please do not ask for exceptions to be made to these policies.



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Philmont: The Philmont Scout Ranch is 137,493 acres in the rugged Sangre de Cristo Mountains near Cimarron in northern New Mexico. There are 330 miles of challenging trails in this remote and historical area. Elevations vary from a 6,000-ft to 12,440ft; the average campsite is at 7,800 ft.

Weather conditions can vary from hot and dry in the desert to cool and wet in the mountains, it may even snow in the high mountains. Philmont is a working cattle ranch and offers rich natural beauty. Wildlife includes buffalo, deer, elk, coyote, antelope, mountain lion, beaver, wild turkey, black bear and more.

The Program: The contingent will be divided into crews of up to 12 members (at least two, but no more than four, of these are adult advisors). Each crew will explore the Philmont high country on a 10 day backpacking expedition. Along the way, crews will have a chance to participate in exciting and challenging activities like horseback riding, burro packing, blacksmithing, gold panning, archaeology, rock climbing, rappelling, .30-06 rifle shooting, and mine exploration. Philmont offers a variety of interesting and rewarding learning experiences.

Participants will be immersed in the fellowship and group participation that is a must to survive the 50 to 100 odd miles of trails covered during a typical expedition.

Who May Participate: Participants must be registered with the Boy Scouts of America, and be 14 years old by September 1 of the year of the trek or have completed the 8th grade by the date of departure.

Scouts must be under 18 years of age and hold at least First Class rank. Adult advisors for Scout crews must be at least 18 years old. Each crew must have at least one advisor that is at least 21 years old.

Venturers may be male or female and must be under 21 years of age. Venturing crews must have at least two advisors of 21 years of age or older. Co-ed crews will need co-ed advisors.

Be advised individuals with excessive weight or certain chronic illnesses will not be allowed to participate.

Equipment: Philmont will provide most of the crew gear required. Participants must furnish clothes, boots, sleeping bag and pad, and rain gear. Your gear must be sturdy and durable. The backpacking gear used by most Scouts is adequate. A complete list of personal equipment will be available from your crew leader at the crew information meeting.

Transportation: The contingent will be traveling as a group via commercial airline to a Rocky Mountain city such as Denver, Colorado Springs, or Albuquerque. The contingent will travel by chartered bus to the Philmont base camp outside Cimarron, New Mexico. All participants will travel with the contingent.

Fitness: Every participant needs to be in shape for Philmont! Steep rocky trails with 1000-ft climbs in a single day are common. There is 25% less oxygen in the air at Philmont elevations. Thin air coupled with 70 miles of trail and a 50-pound pack means a rigorous exercise program is imperative to a successful expedition. All participants should immediately begin jogging, running up-hill, hiking with a full pack and other aerobic exercise. Start slowly and gradually increase the duration of your exercise. Please consult with your physician before beginning any new exercise program. You will find that getting in shape for Philmont will work better if you use the buddy system. Being in top physical shape will make your Philmont experience more enjoyable and lessen the chance of injury or medical problems.

Crew Preparation: In the summer before the trek, the contingent will be formed into 5 or 6 crews of between 7 and 12 members (scouts and advisors). Each crew has at least 2, but no more than 4 adult advisors. Crews are formed based on unit membership, geographic proximity, and personal preference. An informational meeting for crew participants and parents will be held to provide detailed information and answer questions about equipment, physical fitness, logistics and other details of the trek. Each crew will select its own Philmont itinerary and develop a crew-training schedule. Expect the training schedule to include at least two shakedown backpacking trips to practice the Philmont methods and techniques. Training for crew leaders and advisors on topics specific to Philmont expeditions will be held in the fall.

Additional materials to support planning and training will be provided to each crew.

Cost: The cost includes Philmont fees, airfare, bus charter, a contingent tee shirt, and meals in route. The exact fees and payment schedule are outlined on the registration form. Because reservation and transportation fees are paid throughout the year, participant fees are not refundable, but are fully transferable to an alternate participant. Equipment costs and souvenirs are not included.