

Proposal:
Troop 33 HA at
Philmont Scout
Ranch

July 22-August 3, 2019

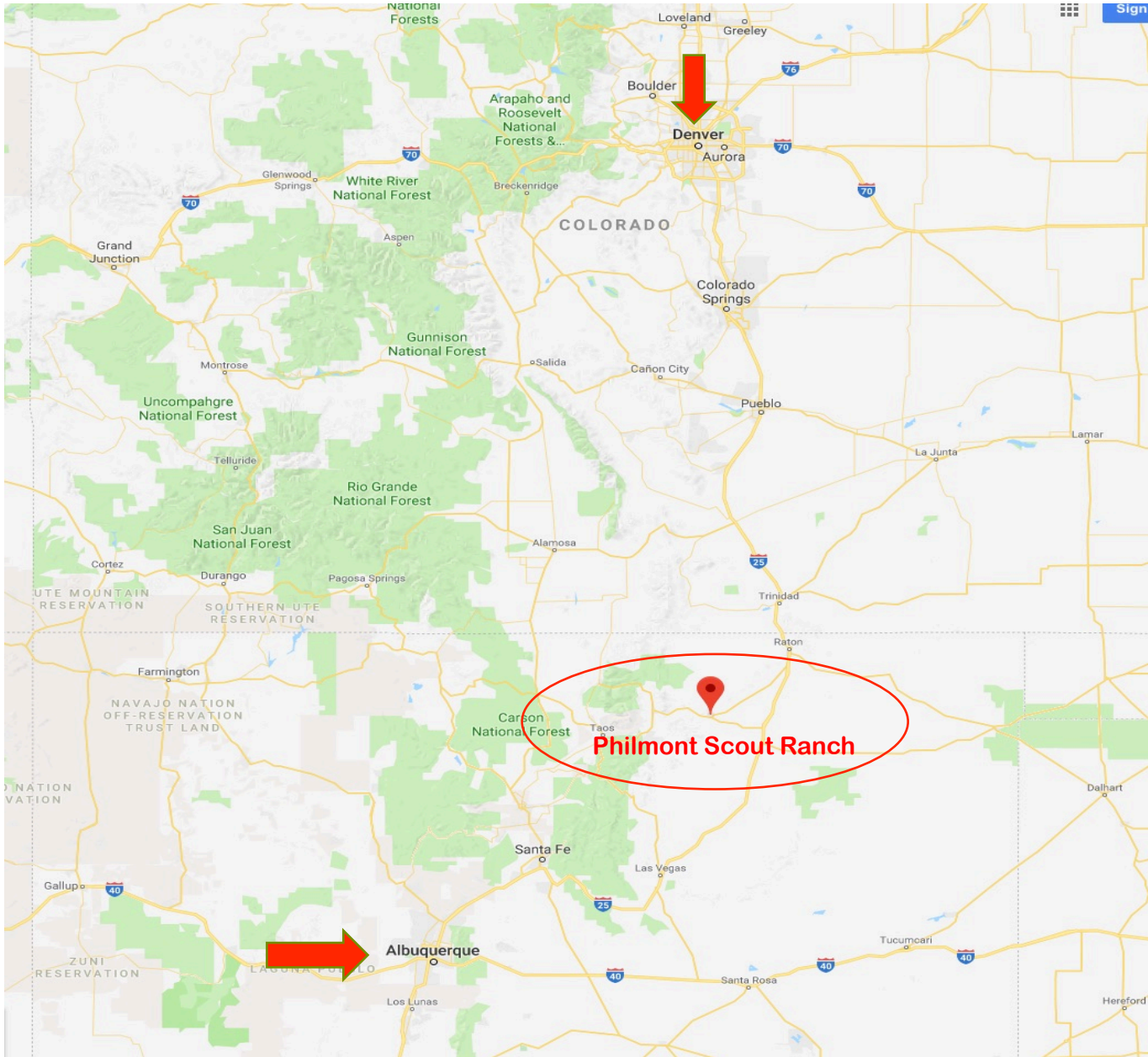


Disclosures

- I do not have any affiliations with Philmont Scout Ranch
- I am NOT an expert on Philmont Scout Ranch
- I am merely a parent, former Boy Scout, and ASM trying to help the Scouts in Troop 33 explore an alternative for high adventure camping. We have limited options for suitable HA sites here at home.
- Information from Philmont's website, other internet sources, SM's and ASM's who have been to Philmont, University of Scouting session.

Philmont Scout Ranch – Cimarron, New Mexico

- 137,493 acre ranch, mostly donated to BSA from private landowner to serve as permanent a national wilderness camping area. Elevation 6500-12,441 feet.
- Permanent BSA high-adventure site with a training center as well
- Camping season June through August
- High-adventure type backpacking treks
- Crews of 7-12.
 - Scouts minimum 14 y/o or 13 y/o and completed 8th grade
 - Minimum 2 and maximum 4 adults.
 - Boys 18-20 y/o can be listed as either Scouts or adults
- Trek itinerary lottery March/April 2019 – mileage ranges from 53-103 miles with varying activities at staffed campsites.



Location

260 miles from Denver

215 miles from Albuquerque

Why Philmont Scout Ranch?

- Provides another option for high adventure camping, especially for Scouts who have already been to the previous sites.
- The spirit of the experience seems fitting of the rugged, outdoor focus of Troop 33
- Opportunity for Scouts to learn new and valuable camping skills in a different environment with a focus on utilizing the Patrol Method.
- Well-established and maintained camp sites, trails, and activities, staffed by trained camp personnel. Does not have issues with obtaining permits, other non-Scout campers competing for campsites.
- Considered a major highlight in many Scouting careers across the country.
- The focus is NOT on cranking out Merit Badges but rather on the high adventure experience.

On the Trail

- Treks 12 days in length (2 days at base camp for training + 10 days of backpacking in wilderness)
- Guide for 2 days of training at base camp and first 2 days of wilderness trek
- Backpack each day to next campsite. Some staffed with activities, i.e. rifle shooting, fly fishing, horseback riding, blacksmithing. Activities vary according to itinerary selected.
- Some unstaffed sites en route to staffed sites.
- Some dry campsites (Water relatively nearby but not at campsite itself)
- Need to use map and orienteering skills to reach next camp, otherwise trek gets longer!
- Camp sites set up with bear-hang lines for use with bear bags for “smellables.” Yes, there are animals in the wilderness.

On the Trail - Patrol Method

- Youth positions: Crew Leader, Chaplain's Aide, Wilderness Pledge Guia (Guide)
- Adult positions: Reservation Contact, Lead Advisor, Advisors.
- Cook as patrols using food (and utensils) provided by Philmont – combo of freeze dried and “real” food. Use of white gas stoves encouraged but canister stoves also acceptable. Fuel and food resupply at specified campsites.
- Cleanup of dishes and pots, handling of scraps, or “yum-yum’s,” using sump according to Philmont technique – low impact
- Boys encouraged to share 2-person tents to minimize pack weight as food for 3-4 days between resupply points is heavy.
- In addition to personal gear, everyone helps carry “Crew Gear”
- Temperatures 90's daytime, possibly down to 40's at night (possibly colder at higher elevations). Afternoon showers.

Equipment

- While certain Crew Gear can be provided by Philmont, internet sources suggest their equipment tends to be heavy
- Lightweight tents (<5 lbs): Scouts sharing 2-person tents encouraged to decrease pack loads
- Crew dining fly
- Warmer sleeping bags (20 degrees recommended) with sleeping pads
- Light but adequate capacity packs (75 L)
- Warmer clothes for layering and rain gear.
- Stoves – MSR WhisperLite type using white gas. Cannister stoves also acceptable but fuel needs to be attached remotely (i.e. hose) therefore not Jet Boil type stoves.

Getting Commitment

- Initial presentation at PLC 12/08/17 - 7-8 boys – expressed some level of interest
- Will need to get commitments from 2-4 ASM/adults to chaperone trip and to help organize trip. We can only go if there is adequate adult support! We need additional adults to help organize and chaperone. I cannot do this alone!
- Philmont requires 2 people/crew to be Wilderness First Aid trained (but will accept RN, MD, DO in its place) and 2 people/crew to be CPR certified.
- Scouts and adults would need to commit to doing HAV qualifiers and likely some training sessions for Philmont's cooking, cleaning, water filtration.

Lottery and Initial Deposit

- An entry was submitted into lottery November 2017 for Summer 2019 for 12-day trek, 12-person crew
- Notified December 5 regarding receiving an expedition slot for July 22-Aug. 3. (Private summer school likely ends July 20; DOE begins school Aug. 5)
- Deposit of \$100 per participant due January 31, 2018 via check along with Scout Executive (from Aloha Council) signature/approval on Invoice.
- \$435 per participant due 10/01/18
- Final \$435 due 03/01/19. At that time, Itinerary Selection and Lottery takes place.
- Total fees per participant: \$970
- Collect \$535 per participant (\$100 deposit + initial \$435 payment) in Jan. 2018
- Airfare approx. \$1000-1100. Plus ground transportation and possible hotel on either or both ends. Total likely approximately \$2500 per person.

Training/Meetings

- Work on team-building as group will need to work together every day for camp chores: break camp, navigate hike to next camp site, setup camp, cook, cleanup, hang bear bags
- Go over Philmont and trek requirements
- Learn strategies for lightweight backpacking, equipment necessary for camping at Philmont, use of equipment
- Discuss skills for personal care, bear awareness, Leave No Trace/low impact backpacking skills and principles
- Possible group purchases for equipment
- Sharing of information for Scouts and adults to review, i.e. Philmont YouTube videos
- Discussion of itinerary choices for itinerary lottery in March 2019

Who is This For?

- Likes the challenge of rigorous high adventure backpacking and experiencing a completely different outdoor environment
- **Wants to hike 50-100 miles over 10 days with a 35+ pound pack at elevation**
- Able to forego a normal shower for almost 2 weeks
- Enjoys helping his Patrol each and every day in camp tasks
- Willing to practice Leave No Trace principles in the backcountry
- **Available to travel approx. July 20-August 4, 2019.**
- Commits to meetings and training sessions to prepare for Trek
- Open to possibly acquiring some new gear
- **Writes a check in next 2 weeks for \$535 deposit payable to "Troop 33 Manoa Boy Scouts"**



QUESTIONS?